

# A COMPILATION OF TRANSCRIBED OLD NEWSPAPER REPORTS ON GRIFFYDAM, PEGGS GREEN, WORTHINGTON, GELSMOOR AND OSGATHORPE FROM 1814



TRANSCRIBED BY SAMUEL T STEWART – 2020  
Last updated May 2025

## INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

The reader will find many of these newspaper reports used in numerous publications written by the author Samuel T Stewart, which are free to download and read on his website [samuelstewart.com](http://samuelstewart.com)

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## GRIFFYDAM

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**GILBERT STEPHENS**

*Steward of the said Manor*

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

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

Hannah Varnam, Sarah Varnam, and Catherine Spencer, of Griffydam, were charged with assaulting Thomas Proudman, on the 13<sup>th</sup> instant. It appeared from the evidence, that on the day

in question, he went to Spencer's house to make a distress for a debt. As he seized the clock, Catherine Spencer laid hold of him, and the three defendants set upon him. Hannah Varnam hit him with a poker, and one got a piece of lighted coal. Witness said he was never so beaten in his life, and called a witness named Robt. Ayre, who corroborated his testimony. Ayre said he was beaten as well as complainant; he never saw such a scene before; "the battle of Waterloo was a fool to it". **Convicted in the penalty of £1 each plus costs.**

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

**Griffydam.** – On Sunday last, August 29<sup>th</sup>, 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 25<sup>th</sup> 1841**

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

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

Thomas Preston, of 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 31<sup>st</sup> 1842**

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

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

#### **Leicester Mercury – May 13<sup>th</sup> 1843**

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

#### **Leicester Chronicle – October 14<sup>th</sup> 1843**

.....Entire population of Breedon-on-the-Hill parish including the hamlets of Lount and Griffydam – 2,625 : area including Tonge and Wilson hamlets, 6,410 ; Eight persons have emigrated since 1840. Population of Worthington 1,143 ([presumably includes Newbold, Griffydam and probably Gelsmoor](#)).....

#### **Nottingham Review & General Advertiser for the Midland Counties – December 1<sup>st</sup> 1843**

**WESLEYAN MISSIONS.** – On Monday evening, the 27<sup>th</sup> instant, a most delightful missionary meeting was held in the Wesleyan chapel, Griffydam, in the Ashby Circuit. The chair was taken by J. Sowter, Esq., of Castle Donington, who after a few excellent introductory remarks, called upon the Revs. T. Staton, W. Bond, R. H. Hare, and A. Suter, Esq., of Halifax, to address the meeting. It is but just to say, that the speeches delivered by the various speakers, were of a very interesting and talented character. The crowded chapel and liberal collection clearly proved that the zeal for missionary enterprise is on the increase in that locality.

#### **Nottingham Review and General Advertiser for the Midland Counties – January 5<sup>th</sup> 1844**

##### **NOTTINGHAM IMPERIAL ORDER OF ODDFELLOWS THE SICK CLUB**

On Tuesday week, the sick club held at the house of Mr. John Nicklinson, the Waggon and Horses Inn, Griffydam, by virtue of a dispensation granted for the purpose, by the Nottingham

Imperial Order of Odd Fellows, was converted into a body of that order. Messrs. J. Sturgess, T. Ironmonger, and other officers from neighbouring lodges were in attendance, to direct and assist in the initiatory ceremonies of the day. The brethren, about fifty in number, afterwards partook of a most excellent dinner, and the evening was spent in a convivial manner.

#### **Leicester Chronicle – January 20<sup>th</sup> 1844**

##### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions, Saturday, Jan 13.**

Joseph Hewitt, of Griffydam, was charged by Mary Hickinbottom, of the same place, with an assault. It appeared that defendant overtook complainant near the workhouse at Ashby, on her way home; they entered into conversation, and at length began “hugging” each other. Complainant having allowed this, defendant thought he would be permitted a kiss, and in the struggle his elbow accidentally got into complainant’s mouth: consequently she applied for a warrant against him for indecent assault! **The magistrates were of the opinion that defendant was in the wrong, and he was fined 10s. and costs**

#### **Leicester Journal – July 19<sup>th</sup> 1844**

**FATAL ACCIDENT.** – On Friday last, as Hannah the daughter of Mr. John Nicklinson of the Waggon and Horses Inn, Griffydam, was leaving the cheese-room which is reached by a flight of steps on the outside of the building, and which are quite unguarded, the handle of the door having become rusty, came off whilst she was pulling it to, and she fell back wards to the ground, and falling on her head dislocated the vertebrae of her neck, but being quickly raised up, instant death was prevented. She remained in an insensible state, till Sunday, when she expired in the 42<sup>nd</sup> year of her age. The inquest was held on the body before J. Gregory esq., Coroner, on Tuesday the 16<sup>th</sup> inst, and a verdict returned accordingly.

#### **Leicester Journal – September 5<sup>th</sup> 1845**

##### **Ashby Petty Sessions**

William Haywood, carrier, of Griffydam, was charged with assaulting Thomas Henry Warner, son of the head English Master, at Ashby, on the 19<sup>th</sup> July last. It appeared from the evidence that the complainant was going home from the hayfield to his dinner about one o’clock, and when he got a short distance along the turnpike-road leading from Coleorton to Ashby, the defendant got out of his cart, and without the least provocation, commenced an assault upon the boy with the butt-end of his whip, and beat him most severely. Several witnesses were called, who confirmed the boy’s evidence. The defendant admitted the assault, but said, in extenuation, that he had been annoyed by boys getting on his cart behind, and he was determined to thrash the first he caught. The witness for the complainant being recalled, most distinctly proved that the complainant was never in the cart, and the assault was committed without the least provocation. Fined 30s., including costs, in default of immediate payment, one months imprisonment.

#### **Nottingham Review and General Advertiser for the Midland Counties – September 11<sup>th</sup> 1846**

##### **GRIFFYDAM**

On Sunday last, two sermons were preached in the Wesleyan Chapel, Griffydam, by the Rev. John Crawshaw, of Ashby de la Zouch, on behalf of the Sabbath schools connected with that and another chapel in the same locality. The collections, though ample, considering the present number of scholars, which from various causes are not so numerous as in past years, were considerably less than might have been expected from so large a congregation, and in a neighbourhood where Sabbath schools are so very popular.

#### **Nottingham Review and General Advertiser for the Midland Counties – October 16<sup>th</sup> 1846**

##### **IMPERIAL ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS**

The anniversary of the “Golden Fleece Lodge” No. 160, was held at host Nicklinson’s, the Waggon and Horses Inn, Griffydam, on Tuesday, the 9<sup>th</sup> instant. After the usual business of the lodge had been transacted, the brethren walked in procession, preceded by the Melbourne military band, to their parish church at Worthington, where an excellent sermon was preached by

the Rev. Close P.G.M., of Woodhouse Eaves, after which they returned to their lodge room in the same order, and upwards of seventy of them partook of a most excellent dinner. On the cloth being withdrawn, the worthy clergyman condescended to take the chair, and Mr. Tugby, manufacturer was called to the vice-chair. The usual loyal toast of "The Queen and the Royal Family" was given and duly responded to. As was also "Brother Lomas", our valued surgeon, "Brother Bostock", "Brother Massey", "P.G.M. Sturgess, and the visiting Brethren", "Our Worthy Host", "Prosperity to the Lodge", "The Past and Present Officers" &c. In the course of the evening's entertainment, brother Mee sung "The Brave old Nelson", with admirable effect, and brother Sturgess recited the soliloquy of King Dick, in good style. The proceedings of the day were marked by order and good fellowship, and will long be remembered by all present.

#### **Leicester Journal – May 21<sup>st</sup> 1847**

**MARRIAGE.** – On the 13<sup>th</sup> inst. At Breedon, in the county, Mr. Jessie Sketchley, Miller, to Harriet, youngest daughter of the late Mr. T. Nichlinson, Waggon and Horses, Griffydam

#### **Leicester Mercury – December 16<sup>th</sup> 1848**

**Griffydam – Providence Day School.** – The first anniversary of this school took place in the Wesleyan Chapel, at the village, on Tuesday. There was a public examination of the scholars in the afternoon, which spoke well for the system on which they are educated. At the close of the examination, a large number of friends of the institution sat down for tea, which was furnished gratuitously by a few friends, so that the whole proceeds was donated to the school funds. After tea, a public meeting was held, when addresses on the subject of education were delivered by several ministers and others of the Wesleyan body. The whole proceedings excited great interest in the neighbourhood, and there is no doubt the institution will be benefited by them.

#### **Leicester Journal – July 2<sup>nd</sup> 1852**

**LEICESTERSHIRE POACHERS.** – At the Stamford Baron, on Friday week, William Haywood and John Stinson, dealers in earthenware, from Griffy-dam, near Ashby de la Zouch, were taken before W. L. Hopkinson Esq., on a charge of trespassing in pursuit of game, at Wothorpe. They were both convicted, and fined, including costs, 15s. each, which they paid.

#### **Leicester Journal – February 11<sup>th</sup> 1853**

**Valuable freehold property, at Griffydam, Leicestershire  
TO BE SOLD BY PUBLIC AUCTION,  
In the Month of March next, unless previously disposed of by Public Contract**

ALL that substantial and Newly erected DWELLING HOUSE, comprising two parlours, Kitchen, Wash-house, Cellar and three lofty Bedrooms, with capital Soft Water Cistern, Garden and Croft, containing one Acre, or thereabouts, and now in the occupation of Mr. Grant and Mr. Hoult.

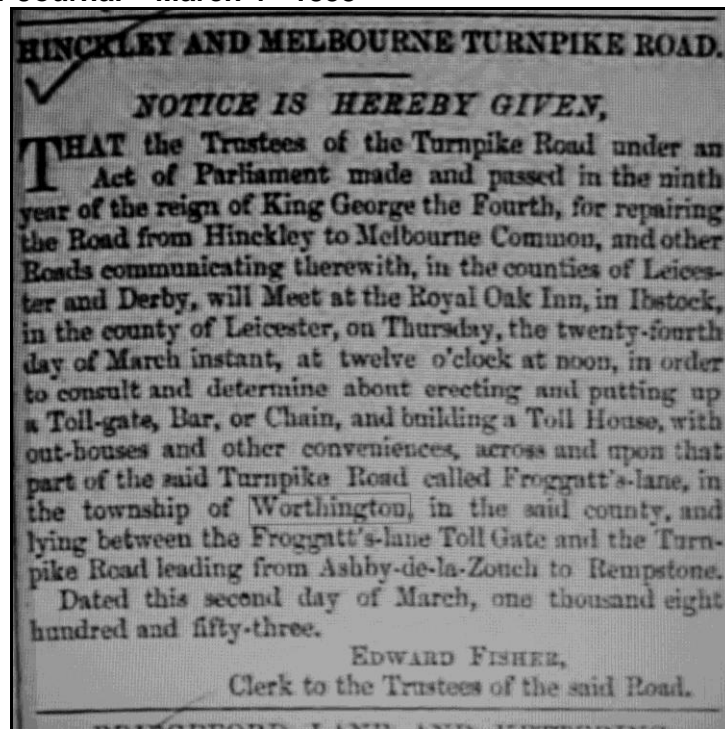
Also, all these two Well-built MESSUAGES adjoining, with all necessary Appurtenances thereto belonging, and now in the occupation of Mrs. Cartlidge and Mr. William Smith.

The above property is pleasantly situated in the centre of the village of Griffydam, is well built, and in good repair.

To view the same, apply to Mr. Cartlidge, on the premises ; and any further information may be obtained on application to

MR. DAVENPORT, Auctioneer, &c.  
Ashby de la Zouch

From Leicester Journal – March 4<sup>th</sup> 1853



**Leicester Chronicle – March 5<sup>th</sup> 1853**

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

Mary Robinson, a singular looking and diminutive young woman, of 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 12<sup>th</sup> of February. Her statement was corroborated by a female named Amelia Shaw, living near the place, who heard the complainant scream and call for help. Complainant admitted having a former acquaintance with the accused by whom she had a "little one". He made a lame attempt to prove that he was in another place at the time, but without success; **he was therefore convicted, and ordered to pay a fine of 25s., including expenses, half of which was paid down, and a fortnight allowed for the remainder.**

**Leicester Mercury – March 5<sup>th</sup> 1853**

**Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions February 26<sup>th</sup>**

**Before W. W. Abney, Esq., and the Rev. J. M. Echaz.**

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> 1853**

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

**Leicester Chronicle – August 20<sup>th</sup> 1853**

**Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions, August 13<sup>th</sup>. – Before W. W. Abney, and T. Mowbray Esqrs., and the Rev. J. Echaz.**

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 29<sup>th</sup> July, and he was ordered by the defendant to take the mule away. He did not do so immediately, and the defendant beat him severely with a thorn stick, the prickles of which stuck into his back; and when he got home, his mother drew them out. He did not know how many. Defendant also kicked him. Defendant stated that he was ordered to impound cattle trespassing on the road, and when he ordered the boy to take the mule away (which is a vicious and dangerous brute) plaintiff used most abusive and disgusting language to him; whereupon he pulled a twig out of the adjoining hedge, and gave him two or three strokes with it. The stick was produced; it was a small branch of an elm tree, of by no means formidable dimensions – not thicker than a carpenter's pencil. He was provoked by the filthy epithets applied to himself by the boy to chastise him. Defendant having just acknowledged the committing of an assault was convicted; but by reason of the extenuating circumstances only fined 6d. and costs. The lad's father and mother (who are travelling pot hawkers) were present, and were repeatedly checked on account of prompting him when he gave evidence.

### **Leicester Mercury – September 3<sup>rd</sup> 1853**

**FATAL COLLIERY ACCIDENT.** – On the 24<sup>th</sup> ult., an inquest was held at Griffydam, upon Jarvis Marshall, deceased. He was about twenty years old, and employed as a loader in Pegg's Green Colliery. On Saturday, the 20<sup>th</sup> ult., he was employed in loading the stone from a horse way, which was being made in the pit. The stone was blasted from the roof, and a great many shots had been fired in the course of the morning. About one o'clock a blast having been fired, deceased, who had no occasion to have done so, went to the place, and proceeded to try a stone which had been shaken in the roof with a pick several times. Another man took the pick from his hand, and, in less than a minute, the stone fell on the hip of deceased, and crushed him against a heap of stones on the floor. He was extricated as soon as possible, and taken home in a cart, but was so much injured internally that he died on the following Tuesday. **Verdict, "Accidental Death", and the jury recommended that Mr. Price, the manager, should give strict orders to the loaders not to go to the spots where shots had been fired, till the safety of the roof had been ascertained.**

### **Leicestershire Mercury – October 15<sup>th</sup> 1853**

#### **OPENING OF THE**

**NEW WESLEYAN DAY SCHOOL (GRIFFYDAM WESLEYAN METHODIST DAY SCHOOL,  
PEGG'S GREEN)**

#### **GRIFFYDAM (PEGG'S GREEN)**

On Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, Two Sermons will be preached in the **WESLEYAN CHAPEL GRIFFYDAM** by the:-

**REV. DR. BEAUMONT, OF BRISTOL  
AND ON WEDNESDAY OCT 26<sup>TH</sup>, BY THE  
REV. F. JOBSON, OF LONDON**

Services on both days to commence at half-past two, and at six.

A collection will be made after each service, in aid of the school.

### **Leicester Journal – January 6<sup>th</sup> 1854**

#### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

**Thomas Hermitage**, 23, pleaded guilty to stealing a pair of boots, value 8s., and a coat, value 1s., the property of Thomas Dolman, at Griffydam, on the 1<sup>st</sup> November last. **Three months hard labour.**

### **Leicester Chronicle – May 13<sup>th</sup> 1854**

#### **Ashby Petty Sessions, May 6<sup>th</sup>**

William Hurst of Pegg's Green was charged with assaulting Edward Boat, on the 29<sup>th</sup> April, by throwing him down and striking him several times while on the ground. Defendant admitted that he was upon the "spree" and gave complainant a slap on the face. **Fined 1s. and 13s. 6d. expenses, or one months imprisonment.**

## **Leicester Chronicle – May 27<sup>th</sup> 1854**

**Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions, May 20<sup>th</sup> – Before George Moore, Esq., and the Rev. J. M. Echalaz**

**Sheep Worrying. – Joseph Sharpe v. James Lord.** – This case had been twice adjourned at the request of the defendant's attorney, Mr. Brown, for further evidence. It will be remembered that the defendant was charged with wilful damage by sheep worrying, and also under Martin's Act for cruelty. Several witnesses were sworn, who denied the truth of the charges against Lord; one of them, John Massey was asked by Mr. Sharpe, jun., son of the prosecutor, whether there was not a club at Griffydam, the members of which had agreed to deny upon oath any accusation made against a brother member? An enquiry, which was of course answered in the negative. Mr. Echalaz, one of the Magistrates, made some pointed remarks on the cross-swearing of the witnesses for the defence. The magistrates having retired to deliberate, shortly returned into court, **and convicted the defendant, ordering him to be fined 2s. 6d. and £1 4s. expenses; in default, one months imprisonment with hard labour, at the same time the Bench suggested that the owner of the dog, a young man named Platts of Griffydam, should be sued in the County Court for the value of the sheep that had been worried.**

**Midnight Ruffianism at Griffydam** – James Lord, the defendant in the last case, with John Massey and William Handford, two of his witnesses, were then charged with a violent and brutal assault upon a woman named Hannah Hirst, on the night of Saturday, the 13<sup>th</sup> of May. The complainant, a respectably dressed woman, who appeared in the witness box with her left eye terrifically bruised and swollen, most of its surface being coated with extravasated blood, deposed that on the night in question, the three defendants came about twelve o'clock to her mother's house at Griffydam. The door was not locked, and they appeared to be drunk: Massey threatened her, and struck her on the face; he and Handford were both beating her at once; Massey hit her several times, his wife also being present; the dog belonging to Platts (the sheep worrier) was brought in by the defendants, and the family were afraid of being bitten by him. There was a young man named Ordish, sitting beside her on the squab when the defendants came into the house; her mother and father, who are aged persons, were both knocked down, and one of the defendants tried to put the old man on the fire, and he cried out "murder" several times: Handford wanted to pull the clock down. In cross-examining the witness, Mr. Brown asked if Ordish did not sleep with her that night, which she indignantly denied. – Mary Hirst, the mother, was next examined, who corroborated her daughter's evidence as to the violence of the defendants: she stated that she was knocked down by Massey, and also struck by the other two, and was some time in a state of insensibility. Mr. Brown asked this witness if Ordish did not sleep with her daughter that night, which she positively denied. She said the young man stopped in the house all night to protect them, but he slept with her son. (The magistrates informed the witnesses that they were not bound to answer such highly improper questions). – Edward Ordish gave confirmatory testimony: he saw the defendants come into Hirst's house on the night in question; Massey and Lord both struck Hannah Hirst; the old man was pushed near the oven, and Lord knocked him onto the fire. Has known all the defendants for several years. – John Platts, the constable, was in bed when the uproar began in Hirst's house, and was awakened by the noise, and cries of "murder": he hurried to the place, and met Lord running away; the mother and daughter were bloody, and the floor looked as if blood had been thrown over it from a basin!! Knows the parties well; persons may go to visit the daughter, and has not heard the best of characters given to the house. (Here the defendants retired with their solicitor, accompanied by P.C. Platts).; on returning into court, Mr. Brown said he was able to prove that the house was one of ill fame; other persons were present on the night in question, who had not been brought forward. George Ford was at Hirst's that night; Massey and he were both ordered to leave the house; and heard the old man cry out "murder". – Sylvia Massey, wife to the defendant of that name, was at Hirst's with her husband on the Saturday night; called in as they were going home; saw many blows struck; Hannah threw some water at one of her assailants. The complainant was recalled, and again positively declared that all the defendants struck her and her mother repeatedly, but the latter could only swear to being assaulted by Lord, as she was stuck senseless to the floor. – Mr. Moore addressed the defendants; the offence of which they had been guilty he considered to be of the most atrocious, cowardly, and unprovoked description: if persons were not of good

character they must be shamefully maltreated, and the law would not protect them. **The bench was fully convinced hat this case ought to be dealt with under the new Act for The Protection of Women; he should therefore sentence the defendants, Lord and Massey, to be imprisoned four months, and Handford three months, in the County gaol, with hard labour. The defendants were perfectly dumb-founded by this decision, and when they were handcuffed and marched off to the lock-up, they truly looked “unutterable things”. – The magistrates recommended that the dog which had figured so prominently in the last two cases, should be forthwith destroyed.**

#### **FURTHER REPORT**

##### **Leicestershire Mercury – May 27<sup>th</sup> 1854**

**Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions, May 20<sup>th</sup> – Before George Moore, Esq., and the Rev. J. M. Echaz.**

Hannah Hurst charged James Lord, John Massey, and Wm. Handford with an assault at Griffydam. This case was taken under the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Vict., cap.30. Complainant said, she lived at Griffydam, and on Saturday night the 13<sup>th</sup> inst., she was at home. About half-past twelve the defendants rushed into the house. Massey went up to the clock and tried to pull it down, and then struck her over the shoulders. She told him to go away, and he threatened to knock her head off. He struck her over the head and side many times. Lord then went up and struck her over the eye, and she became senseless. – Mary Hurst, mother of complainant, corroborated the statement made, and said Massey struck her several times. – Mr. G. F. Brown appeared on behalf of the defendants, and called two witnesses; but the evidence given by them did not in anyway tend to lessen the defendant's guilt. **Lord and Massey were sentenced to four calendar months hard labour, and Handford to three months.**

##### **Leicestershire Mercury – March 3<sup>rd</sup> 1855**

**Ashby de la Zouch Pety Sessions, February 24<sup>th</sup> – Before W. W. Abney and George Moore Esqrs., and the Rev. J. M. Echaz.**

James Lord, labourer, Coleorton was charged with assaulting Francis Elliot, at Griffydam, on February 10<sup>th</sup>. – **Fined £1 10s., including costs; in default of payment, one months hard labour.**

##### **Leicester Mercury – June 23<sup>rd</sup> 1855**

**Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions, Saturday June 16<sup>th</sup> – Before Rev. J. M. Echaz and E. A. Holden Esq.**

Sarah Miller charged Mark Richards and George Hewitt with assaulting her on June 4<sup>th</sup>. Complainant said she was a married woman, and lived at Pegg's Green. On June 4<sup>th</sup> she was returning from the post office at about half-past nine o'clock at night, and passed by the defendants. They bid her good night, and then ran up to her. Hewitt took hold of her and behaved very indecently. Richards also conducted himself in a similar way – **Convicted and fined 10s. each including costs; in default, fourteen days imprisonment.**

##### **Leicestershire Mercury – May 3<sup>rd</sup> 1856**

**Ashby Petty Sessions**

George Smith, a labourer, in the employment of Mr. W. Kidger, of Griffydam, was charged with stealing, on the 24<sup>th</sup> instant, a quantity of oatmeal, barley meal and bean meal, the property of Mr. George Smith, of Stretton Mill. From the evidence adduced before the committing magistrate, it appeared that Mr. Kidger and Mr. Smith had severally taken portions of a farm at Snarestone lately held by Mr. John Fowkes, sen., the scene of the recent murder there, and for which crime John Fowkes was executed at the County Gaol, Leicester on Ash Wednesday last. The prisoner, it seems, was sent by Mr. Kidger to manage his land, as there was no building on that portion of the farm, the prisoner was allowed by Mr. Smith to sleep in his house, where his bailiff, Joseph Wright also lived. Mr. Smith had a large quantity of oat, bean and barley meal mixed in his granary for the use of his cattle, and, suspecting from the appearance of the cattle that all was not right, he, on the 24<sup>th</sup> instant, at an hour when he was not expected, went to a stable over which the prisoner had sole control ; the prisoner reluctantly gave Mr. Smith the key, and in the manger where a horse was feeding was found a quantity of meal, which Mr. Smith identified as part of his.

The prisoner said his master had given it to him for some calving beast, and he was then given into custody. – Mr. Kidger proved that he had never given the prisoner meal of any description, nor had he authorised him to procure any. – P.C. Wilson searched the prisoner's room, and amongst other articles of a suspicious nature found a skeleton key, which unlocked Mr. Smith's granary door. – The prisoner, who it appeared had before been convicted of felony, was committed for trial at the next sessions.

#### **Leicester Journal – May 22<sup>nd</sup> 1857**

##### **Ashby Petty Sessions**

William Gibson was charged by John Haywood with assaulting him at Nicklinson's Public House ([Waggon and Horses](#)) at Griffydam, on the 16<sup>th</sup> of April. The parties were drinking together, and some discussion taking place as to a "boxing match". Haywood accused Gibson of an improper interference, and struck him. Further blows ensuing, a general scuffle took place, after which the defendant wanted to heal all further differences by giving a jug of ale, but the complainant avowed his intention to "have law", and, according to his account, the defendant again assaulted him severely. Mr. W. Smith appeared for the defendant, and called several witnesses, who completely "turned the tables" and proved that the plaintiff was himself the aggressing party, - The magistrate dismissed the complaint.

#### **Leicester Chronicle – June 17<sup>th</sup> 1857**

##### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions, June 13<sup>th</sup> – Before the Right Hon. Earl Ferrers, T. Mowbray Esq., and the Rev. J. M. Echalaz.**

Frederick Heywood was charged by Charlotte Robinson, of Griffydam, with being the father of her illegitimate daughter, born on the 4<sup>th</sup> of May. It appeared by the evidence of the complainant that she lived alone, and the defendant "kept company" with her; in an evil hour she listened to his seductive tongue and the little stranger intruded herself to interrupt their happiness. There being no confirmatory evidence, the case was dismissed

#### **Leicester Chronicle – May 23<sup>rd</sup> 1857**

##### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions, May 16<sup>th</sup> – Before the Right Hon. Earl Ferrers, T. Mowbray Esq., and the Rev. J. M. Echalaz**

John Heywood of Griffydam, was charged with assaulting William Gibson of that place, on the 6<sup>th</sup> of May. They had a dispute respecting some parish affairs. Mr. Smith of Ashby, conducted the defence. **The bench dismissed the charge, ordering the complainant to pay costs.**

Mr. William Kidger, farmer of Thringstone, was charged by a man named Thompson, the pounder of Griffydam, with having twelve cows upon trespass, in Green Lane. The complainant impounded the cows, but the pinfold being too small, he sent ten of them back again, lest they should be injured by overcrowding; keeping two as security for the expenses. **The defendant refused to pay the amount demanded, and still persisted in refusing in respect of the two detained.**

#### **Leicester Chronicle – June 20<sup>th</sup> 1857**

Several attempts have lately been made by the Mormonites of the neighbourhood to propound their audacious mummeries near the Wesleyan Chapel, Griffydam, but without success. On Sunday last, one of the elders from Nottingham mounted the rostrum, and began what would doubtless have proved a polygamic oration; but the crowd, drawn together by the nasal tones of the prophetic seer, would not allow him to proceed, but pelted him and his foolish followers with rotten eggs, and they speedily beat a retreat, with an odour less fragrant than roses, lavender or honey-dew. Should they make another attempt, it is to be feared that some substantial artillery may be employed, than nest eggs from the neighbouring roosts.

#### **Leicester Journal – 31<sup>st</sup> July 1857**

##### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

Thomas Heyward of Griffydam, complained that his haystack had been maliciously set on fire, on Thursday last. The police were ordered to search out the guilty parties.

Mr. Heyward, was the prosecutor in a charge at the late Assizes for the stealing of hosiery good, the offenders being sentenced to three years penal servitude.

### **Leicester Chronicle October 3<sup>rd</sup> 1857**

#### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions – Appleby House, September 30<sup>th</sup> – Before the Rev. J. M. Echalaz.**

Benjamin Platts (Alias Bendigo) , was charged by Sarah Weston, of Griffydam, with non-payment of £1 10s., on a bastardy order; the defendant had been very troublesome, and seemed to set the Law at defiance. **Apprehended by P.C. Earp, and remanded till Saturday.**

### **Leicester Journal – December 4<sup>th</sup> 1857**

#### **Ashby Petty Sessions**

John Richards of Griffydam ws charged by P.C. Carter, of the Leicestershire police force, with a violent assault at Ashby de la Zouch, on the 28<sup>th</sup> inst. From the evidence of Carter, it appears that there was a street row in Ashby, on Saturday night, about eleven o'clock, and finding it necessary to take one of the men into custody, and being about to put the handcuffs on him, the defendant came up, snatched them out of his hand, knocked the officer down, and ran away. Carter pursued the defendant, who turmed round and struck the officer in the ribs, using a coarse expression, and saying the man should not be taken by him. The defendant seized the officer, and being a powerful man, threw him down, a violent struggle took place, but Carter succeeded in mastering the defendant, and conveyed him to the lock-up. – Mr. W. E. Smith appeared for the defendant, and admitted the offence, and pleaded intoxication in extenuation of it. – **The magistrate convicted the defendant, and fined him £5 including costs, at the same time highly complementing the officer upon his conduct. – It was remarked that the officer wore a Crimean medal with three clasps.**

### **Leicester Mercury – March 6<sup>th</sup> 1858**

The major portion of the Sheepshed Choral Society, combined with some of the leading vocalists from Loughborough, gave a performance of a choice selection of sacred music, in the National School ([Griffydam Wesleyan Methodist Day School, Pegg's Green](#)) Griffydam ([Pegg's Green](#)), on Tuesday evening last, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, when notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, the place was densely crowded by a highly respectable audience, an extensive neighbourhood contributing the elite of its population. The programme comprised overtures, choruses, anthems, quartets, trios, solos, &c., judiciously selected from the works of the great composers; and the performance was most deservedly eulogized by all present. Several of the pieces were rapturously encored.

### **Leicester Chronicle – May 8<sup>th</sup> 1858**

#### **Ashby petty sessions, May 1<sup>st</sup> – Before W. W. Abney Esq.**

John Robinson, better known by the name of Dr. Robinson, Griffydam, was charged by John Holyoak, labourer of the same place, with wilfully breaking his window on 6<sup>th</sup> of April. This was a paltry case; Holyoak had an empty house, and the doctor having furniture, he became his tenant without any rent being stipulated. **Case dismissed, and the defendant ordered to pay costs.**

### **Leicester Mercury – July 17<sup>th</sup> 1858**

#### **Ashby de la Zouch petty Sessions, Friday, July 9<sup>th</sup> – Before W. W. Abney Esq.**

**William Lager** – Collier, Griffydam (who did not appear), was charged with stealing a quantity of cherries, from a tree at Pegg's Green, on the 28<sup>th</sup> ult., the property of James Rance. – P.S. Moore proved the service of summons on defendant. – Louisa Draycott, a neighbour of complainant, stated in evidence, that she saw defendant in tree gathering cherries, about 3 a.m. in the morning in question, and also spoke to him offering her a branch from the tree, with some of the fruit upon it through the window, to say nothing about it. She called the complainant up, and defendant ran away. **Fined including costs, £1. 18s. 6d., or one months imprisonment.**

### **Leicester Journal – July 16<sup>th</sup> 1858**

#### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions, July 10<sup>th</sup> 1858**

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

**John Lager** of 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 23<sup>rd</sup> 1858**

#### **Association for awarding prizes for schools in the mining districts.**

Do to the length of this report it is not possible to include it all, but a brief synopsis is attached due to its social history importance.

The second annual distribution of prizes to the successful candidates taught in the schools in this association, being the children only of miners or persons employed in connection with mines, took place last Saturday in the Trinity Church school room, considerably lent by the Rev. E. M. Wade for that purpose.....Sixty three candidates (41 boys, 22 girls) presented themselves from the under mentioned schools:-

	Boys	Girls
Riddings	4	2
Ironville	11	11
Ilkeston	1	2
Coalville and Snibstone	1	1
Coleorton	2	
Claycross	6	8
Ravenstone	4	
Griffydam	1	
Wastwood	11	1
Total	41	22

.....the new regulations restricts that all candidates must be the children of parents being actually coal miners or workmen employed about such mines: the children, therefore, of farmers, tradesmen, artisans, and labourers not connected with the above mentioned works, were excluded from competing for the prizes. The average age of the boys was 11 years 6 months; that of the girls 12 years 1 month.

Their conduct during the whole of the examination was highly satisfactory, no attempts were made at copying, all were very neatly dressed, and their behaviour everything that could be desired. The appearance presented by the children was that of a number of candidates for pupil teacherships.

Of these 63 candidates, 20 had obtained a prize in 1857.

They were examined in reading, writing from dictation, and in simple and compound rules; the girls were examined in needlework: those who competed for the higher prizes were expected to work sums in the higher rules of arithmetic, in grammar and in geography.

The prizes were distributed in the following proportions:-

Riddings	£8
Ironville	£25
Ilkeston	£1
Coalville	£1
Snibstone	£1
Coleorton	£1 10s.
Claycross	£13
Ravenstone	£1
Griffydam	£1
Eastwood	£16

.....With the exception of Coleorton, all the schools who have furnished candidates are under inspection, and have been for some time; we are therefore acquainted with their condition.....The successful candidates were then called up, and money prizes given to them, amounting in the aggregate of £75, together with a beautiful card (which no doubt will adorn many cottage home, and be pointed at with a feeling of pleasure and pride), signed by the Chairman. Thirteen smaller cards, certificates of merit, were also given out, the Chairman, in

presenting them, saying he hoped they would be a prelude to success next year. The prizes were distributed as follows:-

**Local Children Only**

Coalville	Martha Massey	£1
Coleorton	Robert Lakin	£1
Coleorton	George Bacon	£1
Ravenstone	George green	£1
Ravenstone	W. H. L. Lakin	£1
Griffydam	Abner Webster	£1

**Leicester Mercury – November 6<sup>th</sup> 1858**

**Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions, Saturday October 30<sup>th</sup> –**

**Before T. Mowbray Esq.**

**Monday November 1<sup>st</sup>.** – Henry Kinsey (Alias Bird), collier, Griffydam, and William Hickling (Alias Butt), Belton, apprehended on Saturday night by Sergt. Moore, on a warrant, charged with poaching and seriously assaulting, the keepers of Sir George Howland Beaumont, bart., on Sunday night, October 24<sup>th</sup>, in the parish of Worthington, were remanded, in order to give time for other parties concerned in the affray to be apprehended. The facts of the case are, that on the night in question, about 9 p.m., two of Sir G. Beaumont's gamekeepers were out watching, when they saw some men setting a net, and that they also had a net with them. The keepers tried to get possession of the nets, when they were attacked by three men with bludgeons and stones. One of the watchers, named Cooper, was struck just above the temple, and on the back of the head, and was very seriously wounded. All the poachers ultimately made off, leaving their nets and two caps behind them. One of the men drew a knife, and swore that if either of the keepers offered to take him, or follow him, he would rip them open. Information was at once given to Sergt. Moore, and an inquiry set on foot, which has led to the apprehension of the above prisoners, who have been identified by the keepers. The other man, who is known, but has absconded, will no doubt be apprehended in the course of the week.

**Loughborough Monitor- March 10<sup>th</sup> 1859**

**Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

John Hodges, of Griffydam, was charged by Superintendent Platts with being drunk and disorderly, at Pegg's Green, on February 14<sup>th</sup>. Case was proved by Sergeant Moore, and the defendant, who it appears is an habitual drunkard, was fined 17s. including costs.

**Leicestershire Mercury – March 12<sup>th</sup> 1859**

**TREACHEROUS ASSAULT UPON A WOMAN**

William Hurst (labourer : 23) was charged with feloniously assaulting Mary Johnson, at Thringstone, on Jan. 15, with intent to rob her. Mr. Merewether conducted the prosecution. – Prosecutrix said, she lived at Griffydam. On the day in question, she received 19s. 61/2d. from the landlady of the "Anchor", at Thringstone ([Pegg's Green](#)). Prisoner knew she was about to receive the money. Saw prisoner in the evening on the road from Whitwick, when he walked about a mile and a half along the road with her. They were talking together, and she knew prisoner well. She was crossing four fields, and in the third field, was knocked down by prisoner who pulled her about and tore her clothes. She called out "Murder". When she raised herself up, he struck her on the head, and she fell on the ground again. She felt prisoner's hand on the side of her dress where her pocket was. Her money was in the basket. – The landlady of the "Anchor" corroborated as to prisoner's knowing that prosecutrix had received the money. – The learned Judge directed an acquittal, on the grounds that there was no proof of any intention, on the part of the prisoner, to commit a felony.

**Leicestershire Mercury – July 23<sup>rd</sup> 1859**

**FATAL ACCIDENT.** – On Monday, an inquest was held at Thringstone, upon Mary Ann Marshall deceased. It appeared that she was the daughter of John Marshall, collier, Griffydam, and two and a half years old. She had been staying a short time with her grandmother, Mrs. Horn, at Thringstone. In the neighbourhood was a well, the pump of which being out of order, a cover had been substituted for some time, and on Saturday, this cover having thoughtlessly being left open,

deceased fell in. Her grandmother being told of what had happened by a little boy, made an alarm, and one of the neighbours, William Butler, a shoemaker,, got down by the pump, so that he could reach deceased with his foot, and tried to hold he up by it. She struggled off, however, and sunk in the water, and he had to procure a drag to get her out, when she was quite dead. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental Death", and recommended that the pump should be put into immediate repair, and the well completely closed, which Mr. Price, the owner, promised should be done.

**Leicester Journal – April 1<sup>st</sup> 1859**

***Cottages and Gardens at Griffydam in the Township of Worthington, in the County of Leicester***

**TO BE SOLD BY PUBLIC AUCTION**

**BY MR. T. DAVENPORT**

At the house of Mr. T. Holt (**Hoult**), called THE RED LION INN, in Griffydam (**Peggs Green**), on Wednesday, the 6<sup>th</sup> of April, 1859, at six o'clock in the evening, in one lot, and subject to conditions of sale to be there produced

All those four well and substantially built COTTAGES, or TENEMENTS, with the gardens and Apputenances thereto, situate near to Griffydam Chapel (**must be bottom chapel**), in Worthington aforesaid, now in the several occupations of W. Marlow, J. Wardle, Widow Platts, and Widow Ault.

The tenants will show the property and further information may be obtained of Mr. William Kidger, Thringstone, or of the auctioneer, and Messrs. E. and T. Fisher, Solicitors, Ashby de la Zouch.

**Leicester Chronicle – May 21<sup>st</sup> 1859**

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

**Before T. M. Mowbray and G. Mowbray Esqr's., and the Rev. J. M. Echalaz.**

Isacc Ward, Joseph Mee, Joseph Richards, and William Edwards, all of Griffydam, were brought up in custody of Sergeant Moore and P.C. Fardell, charged with fighting cocks on the morning of the 11<sup>th</sup> instant, at 1 a.m., at the house of Mr. John Nicklinson, the Waggon and Horses, at Griffydam. **Convicted and fined £1 10s.**

**AN ALTERNATIVE REPORT**

**Leicester Mercury – May 21<sup>st</sup> 1859**

Isaac Ward, Joseph Richards and William Edwards and Joseph Mee, were charged with unlawfully and wilfully aiding and abetting in the fighting of two cocks, at Griffydam, at 2 o'clock in the morning of the 11<sup>th</sup> inst. Mr. Brown of Ashby, appeared for the defence. – Sergeant Moore said, on Wednesday morning about 1 o'clock, I was passing the Waggon and Horses public-house. It was moonlight. I heard a conversation relative to making a match to fighting cocks. Mee said that his cock should fight that night. I remained some time, and in a little while they came out at the back door with candles to commence the fight. It was Ward and Mee. They commenced fighting the cocks. I and the other constable who was with me got over the wall, and got close to them. There was a great noise, and the betting was "two to one" on the old cock'. Richards I apprehended, and he was very violent. I had great difficulty in apprehending him, and was compelled to use my truncheon, and he called out to his comrades to come back and give it to the.....The landlady was at the door with a light, and said, on our appearance, "Oh dear: I thought how it would be". I found the dead cock I now produce in the yard (cross-examined): I was standing in the garden, about twenty yards from them. They had candles. There were seven or eight present. I found the dead cock in the yard. We secured a man each, and were not able to secure more. I struck Richards three or four times with my staff. I will swear I did not strike him 18 times. I have not seen his arm since. I might poke him in the ribs. (By the Bench): I used no more violence than was necessary to secure him. I know Richards. I know all that were there. They blew the candles out. I saw the cocks fight. I do not know whether the cock in my possession has a broken leg. The fight came off in a small yard, not far from the public road. The whole of the parties were stooping down, witnessing the fight. Ward said he hoped I would be careful of the cock, as he would sooner we hurt him than that cock. – P.C. Fardell spoke positively to three of the parties, but not so distinctly to Edwards. His evidence generally corroborated that of the first

witness. – Mr. Brown urged that Mee was not present, and also that the police used undue violence. – Inspector Ward wished to say that they had been at a good deal of trouble after these affairs, for some time; and also that Richards never complained of any ill-usage when he came before him, nor when he went before the Magistrate. – The Bench were unanimously of opinion that it was a bad case, but as it was the first that had come before them, they would not inflict the greatest penalty, but if ever the parties came before them in the future, they would be very severely dealt with. – **Fined 30s. each, or one month's imprisonment.**

#### **Leicester Chronicle – June 4<sup>th</sup> 1859**

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

#### **Leicester Chronicle – June 25<sup>th</sup> 1859**

**Ashby de la Zouch Petty Session before W. W. Abney, Esq.**

James Ward *alias* Edwards, collier, Griffydam, brought up in custody of Sergeant Moor, charged with stealing three fowls on Monday night, the 12<sup>th</sup> inst., the property of Mr. Richard Orton, surgeon, Thringstone, **was committed for trial at the next sessions.**

##### **ALTERNATIVE REPORT**

James Ward, *Alias Edwards*, collier, of Griffydam, was charged with stealing certain fowls, the property of Mr. Richard Orton, surgeon, Thringstone ([Pegg's Green](#)). – Mr. Orton stated that on examining his roost on Monday morning, the 13<sup>th</sup> inst., he found that three fowls had been stolen during the night, of which he gave information to P.C. Moore. He stated that on making inquiry he received such information as to cause him to go to prisoner's house, and on searching it, he found concealed under some straw the three fowls produced, which were skinned, their heads and legs also being cut off. – Prisoner made contradictory statements as to the possession of the fowls, also as to being at home on the night of the robbery at eight o'clock. – Jonas Knight stated that he saw prisoner leave the Anchor ([Pegg's Green](#)) public house, which is near Mr. Orton's premises, about eleven o'clock. Prisoner's boots were compared by Serg. Moore with some impressions found near the roost, and also against the wall in Anchor Lane ([Pegg's Green](#)), and were found exactly to correspond. On prisoner being asked if he wanted to say anything in answer to the charge, he made a long rambling statement to the effect that he saw a man with a bundle near Mr. Orton's, and that when he saw him he threw the bundle down and ran away; and on picking it up he found it to contain the fowls, which he took home. **Committed to the Sessions.**

William Hodges, collier, Griffydam, was charged with taking the cap off the head of George Thompson, of Tonge, and stealing it, at Breedon, on Wednesday, the 15<sup>th</sup> inst. **Discharged with a caution.**

#### **Leicester Mercury – July 23<sup>rd</sup> 1859**

**Fatal Accident** – On Monday, an inquest was held at Thringstone, upon Mary Ann Marshall deceased. It appeared that she was the daughter of John Marshall, collier, Griffydam, and 2 ½ years old. She had been staying a short time with her grandmother, Mrs. Horn, at Thringstone. In the neighbourhood was a well, the pump of which being out of order, a cover had been substituted for some time, and on Saturday, this cover having been thoughtlessly left open, deceased fell in. Her grandmother, being told of what had happened by a little boy, made an alarm, and one of the neighbours, William Butler, a shoemaker, got down by the pump, so that he could reach deceased with his foot, and tried to hold her up by it. She struggled off, however, and sunk in the water, and he had to procure a drag to get her out, when she was quite dead. **The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental Death", and recommended that the pump should be put into immediate repair, and the well completely closed, which Mr. Price, the owner, promised should be done.**

**Derbyshire Advertiser and Journal – August 26<sup>th</sup> 1859**  
**MARRIAGE**

**PLOWRIGHT – WARLE.** –At Coleorton, on the 16<sup>th</sup> inst., by Rev. F. Merewether, Mr. R. H. Plowright (Wesleyan School Master, Griffydam), to Sarah, eldest daughter of Mr. John Wardle, Worthington Fields.

**Leicestershire Mercury – October 22<sup>nd</sup> 1859**

**Ashby Petty Sessions**

**John Smith (alias Navy Jack)** was charged with assaulting Christopher Siddons, of Pegg's Green, on the 8<sup>th</sup> inst. Complainant, a little boy 13 years old, was questioned by the Chairman as to the nature of an oath. He said he could not read the bible. He stated that he worked for defendant, and on the day in question, something was wrong with one of the horses, which defendant said was his (witness's) fault, and beat him very much, and also kicked him many times. – Reuben Smallwood was called but failed to prove anything. – Defendant, in a very elaborate manner, laid his case before the Bench, and was extremely anxious they should have a "right understanding". He called Ralph Waterfield, who stated that he was present, but did not see defendant beat or ill-use complainant. – The Bench dismissed the case.

**Leicestershire Mercury – February 11<sup>th</sup> 1860**

**GRIFFYDAM (PEGG'S GREEN)**

On Wednesday, the 1<sup>st</sup> inst., a meeting of the Griffydam Mutual Improvement Society was held in the new school of that place ([Griffydam Wesleyan Methodist Day School, Pegg's Green](#)). In the afternoon, a tea meeting took place, which was numerously attended; after which a lecture was delivered by Rev. Mr. Doughty, of Ashby, his subject being "Energy". We are glad to observe that this most excellent lecture was numerously attended, and highly appreciated by the audience. Mr. Tucker, a gentleman from the Cape of Good Hope, was appointed chairman, and gave a graphic description of the commencement of the Caffre War in 1851, at which time he was in the colony. After a vote of thanks to the lecturer, the audience departed.

**Leicestershire Mercury – June 16<sup>th</sup> 1860**

**DEATHS.** – On the 4<sup>th</sup> inst., at Newbold Juxta, in this county, aged 82, Susannah, wife of Mr. John Poxon, who for upwards of fifty years was a member of the Wesleyan Society at Griffydam.

**Leicester Mercury – June 16<sup>th</sup> 1860**

**Market Bosworth Petty Sessions**

Titus Harris charged William Mee, collier, Griffydam, with stealing a steel, of the value of 1s., his property. This case was heard under the new Criminal Justice Act, and the depositions of several witnesses were taken at length. – **Committed to three calendar months hard labour.**

**Leicester Mercury – October 6<sup>th</sup> 1860**

**Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions (before W. W. Abney Esq.)**

Hannah Phillipps, a young woman of Griffydam, was charged with wilfully damaging some barley, in a field at Pegg's Green, value 6d., the property of Joseph Lagor. – The case was adjourned from last court day, in order for complainant to produce a witness, which he did; **but the evidence not being sufficient to convict, the case was dismissed.**

**Leicester Mercury – December 8<sup>th</sup> 1860**

**Ashby de la Zouch Magisterial, Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Before W. W. Abney Esq.**

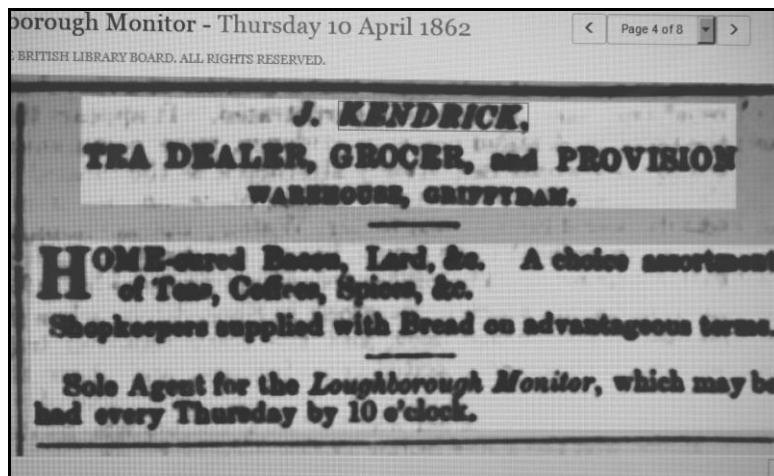
**Wm. Mee**, of Griffydam, was charged with being upon the premises of the Snibstone Colliery Company for an unlawful purpose. He was apprehended on the charge of breaking into an office and stealing some coppers from a till; but there was not sufficient evidence to convict him of that, and **he was committed for two months hard labour on the first indictment.**

**Loughborough Monitor – April 10<sup>th</sup> 1862**

**J. KENDRICK  
TEA DEALER , GROCER, AND PROVISIONS  
WAREHOUSE, GRIFFYDAM**

.....

**HOME** – cured Bacon, Lard, &c. A choice assortment of Teas, Coffees, Spices, &c  
Shopkeepers supplied with Bread on advantageous terms  
Sole Agent for the Loughborough Monitor, which may be had every Thursday by 10 o'clock.



**Leicester Journal – May 23<sup>rd</sup> 1862**

**County Court**

**SPENCER v HOLT.** – This was a claim for an amount of loss sustained by an exchange of horses. Mr. Giles appeared for the plaintiff who is an earthenware dealer residing at Loughborough, the defendant being a butcher residing at Griffydam. It appeared that the plaintiff's horse being too big for him, took it into the fair held on the 28<sup>th</sup> of March, for the purpose of selling it. Meeting the defendant and explaining of his wishes to dispose of the animal, the latter proposed to make an exchange, which was ultimately arranged, and paid plaintiff £1 10s. to boot, both parties warranting their animals to be sound and quiet. The plaintiff, however, found that the defendant's mare was addicted to kicking every time she was put to the cart, and consequently quite useless for the purpose. He wrote to the defendant, informing him of the fact, and stating that unless he took his mare back again, and returned his horse, he should sell it by auction, and sue him for the loss. To this he made no reply. The mare was consequently sold, and realised only £2 9s. 10p. Plaintiff valued his horse at £7 10s., and called witnesses in corroboration of that estimate, and in proof of a warranty being given by the defendant. The latter, however, denied warranting his mare to be quiet, although she was a good worker. – His honour was quite satisfied that the defendant had represented the mare to be quiet in harness ; in fact, he knew that unless she were so, she would be of no service to the plaintiff, who is a potter, and would probably do him serious injury if he ventured to use her. The defendant had therefore practised an unjustifiable species of deception, and made a most absurd defence. – He would give a verdict for the amount sought, with costs.

**Loughborough Monitor – August 21<sup>st</sup> 1862**

**OSGATHORPE**

The quiet little village of Osgathorpe was enlivened on Tuesday, the 12<sup>th</sup> instant, by a tea party being held on the pleasure ground in front of the hall, kindly lent for the occasion by Mr. Field. About 130 sat down to tea. The trays were gratuitously provided by ladies in the neighbourhood, and upwards of £4 was realised, which was appropriated to the defraying of expenses. After tea,

the youthful part of the company enjoyed themselves with rural sports in a field adjoining, until nearly seven o'clock, when all adjourned to a shed comfortably fitted up. The chair having been taken by Mr. Clarke, of Castle Donington, speeches were delivered by the Re. T. Crosby, of Ashby de la Zouch ; Mr. Attwood, of Castle Donington ; Mr. Kendrick of Griffydam ; and other friends. After a unanimous vote of thanks to the ladies, who so kindly presided at the tea tables, and to the Chairman of the meeting, the company broke up, each one evidently satisfied and delighted with the proceedings of the day.

#### **Leicestershire Mercury – October 18<sup>th</sup> 1862**

##### **STEALING BOOTS AND TROWERS**

Thomas Marshall, collier, was indicted, and pleaded not guilty to stealing one pair of boots and one pair of trowsers, value, 12s., the property of John Smith, of Worthington, on the 11<sup>th</sup> of September last. – Mr. Palmer prosecuted. – John Smith said he lived at Griffydam ; he put in his room the articles above named. That was on the night of the 10<sup>th</sup> of September ; prisoner slept with him. When he left the room the prisoner was in bed ; when he returned at dinner-time, the prisoner was gone, and the articles also. – P.C. Peberdy, of Whitwick said, having heard of the robbery he went into Staffordshire to Wednesbury, and apprehended him on the charge of robbing Smith, but he denied it ; he had got the trowsers and boots at the time, and said he brought the boots at Whitwick for 8s. 6d., and the trowsers at Ashby, and he did not know John Smith. – Prisoner was found guilty, and sentenced to three months hard labour

#### **Loughborough Monitor – January 1<sup>st</sup> 1863**

##### **GRIFFYDAM**

On Monday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>, some of the inhabitants of this neighbourhood were entertained in the Wesleyan Reform Chapel by a very historic, amusing, and instructive lecture given by Mr. Frere, a resident of Leicester. The attendance was moderately good, considering the rather unpropitious state of the weather, and all present seemed highly gratified by the lucid remarks made by the respected lecturer. Mr. Kendrick, a resident of Griffydam, occupied the post as president. At the close of the lecture a vote of thanks to the lecturer was proposed by Dr. Wale and carried unanimously. As this was a novel thing in the neighbourhood, it is hoped, and was expressed at the time that such meetings should be of more frequent occurrence.

#### **Leicester Chronicle – January 10<sup>th</sup> 1863**

**Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions – Saturday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

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

Daniel Kirk of 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.**

#### **Derby Mercury April 29<sup>th</sup> 1863**

##### **LEICESTERSHIRE**

**APPREHENSION OF A NOTORIOUS HORSE STEALER,** - A very cleaver apprehension of a horse stealer, who has been very troublesome to the county, took place on Thursday, at Birmingham, by Sergeant Peberdy, of the county force stationed at Whitwick. Information was forwarded to the Chief-Constable (F. Goodyer, Esq.,) that a grey horse had been stolen from a lane at Griffydam, and he gave the necessary instructions to Sergeant Clarke and Sergeant Peberdy to endeavour to trace the offender. The robbery took place on Sunday, and a set of cart harness was at the same time stolen from a stable. On Wednesday the horse was traced by Peberdy and found in the market at Wolverhampton, having been sold by a man named Green ; the clue was followed up and Haywood was captured by Peberdy in a lodging-house at Birmingham with some of the stolen harness in his possession. Several horses have been stolen from this and the adjoining counties during the past year, for which the prisoner has been "wanted", and a warrant was issued for his apprehension so long ago as May, 1862, when he was seen carrying off a black entire donkey and harness, from a lane in the parish of Woodhouse. The prisoner is a pot hawker, a native of Coleorton, but residing some time back at

Markfield. The horses stolen have generally belonged to poor persons in a humble position – the pony stolen on Sunday belonged to Edward Gough, a butcher, of Thringstone. It is very satisfactory that the efforts of the Chief-constable and the officers under his direction have resulted in securing the prisoner, who, it seems, for some time has pursued his depredations with impunity, through his knowledge of the county, and then his somewhere in the neighbourhood of Birmingham. He will be examined at Ashby.

#### **Leicester Chronicle – May 9<sup>th</sup> 1863**

##### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions, Saturday May 2<sup>nd</sup> – Before W. W. Abney Esq.**

John Haywood, remanded from last week, was again brought up, charged with stealing a grey horse, the property of Mr. Edward Gough, butcher, Thringstone, on the 19<sup>th</sup> ult., value £5. – Prosecutor identified the horse as his property. – Mrs. North, keeper of the toll-gate at Normanton le Heath, proved that the prisoner passed through the gate about six o'clock on the morning of the 20<sup>th</sup> ult., with the horse and harness in his possession. – Joseph Green, horse dealer, also proved purchasing the horse off the prisoner for 30s., he asked 55s. for it. – Sergeant Peberdy found the horse in the hands of the last witness at Wolverhampton fair, and apprehended the prisoner at Birmingham, with part of the harness in his possession, and he was committed for trial. – Prisoner was further charged with stealing a set of harness, the property of Joseph Lager, at Griffydam, on the same night. Part of this harness was found in prisoner's possession. **He was committed for trial on this charge also.**

#### **Loughborough Monitor – July 2<sup>nd</sup> 1863**

**TO BE LET**, in a populous village, a **GROCERS SHOP**, with immediate possession. – For particulars, apply to MR. KENDRICK, Grocer, Griffydam.

#### **Leicester Chronicle – July 11<sup>th</sup> 1863**

##### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions, July 4<sup>th</sup> – Before W. W. Abney Esq., chairman, T. Mowbray, G. Moore, and H. E. Smith, Esqrs., and the Rev. J. M. Echalaz.**

Mr. J. Reed, overseer of Worthington, summoned R. Stacey of 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.**

#### **Leicestershire Mercury – October 10<sup>th</sup> 1863**

##### **COUNTY PUBLIC OFFICE**

**LEICESTER ABBEY.** – George Walker, Griffydam, and Henry George Kirby, Thringstone, colliers, were charged with having in their possession at Leicester Abbey, on September 28<sup>th</sup>, when searched by P.C. Jabez Widdowson, four nets and net pegs, also 61 rabbits and six hares, which had been unlawfully obtained by going on land in search of game. Defendants did not appear. P.C. Widdowson stated that on the 28<sup>th</sup> ult., he met defendants in Abbey lane, and his suspicion caused him to search them. Nine other men were with them, but they ran away. On Walker he found nine rabbits, two hares, a net, seven net-pegs, and a stick. Told defendants he suspected they had been poaching. They said, "It is a .....hard case to be out all night, and have it taken from us". Kirby called out to the others to come back, and not to be taken in that way. He said also that they were a frightened lot, and he would never go out with them again. It was half-past five o'clock when he met them. The nets appeared to have been recently used, as they were wet. They were nearly new and made of good material, and they had on them bits of fur, briars, &c. The game he found was warm. – P.C. Lyner corroborated. He helped to search defendants. They had both been previously convicted of poaching at Ashby, under the new Act. Two poaching dogs were with them, which got away. Kirby gave the name of Henry Stevenson, Mountsorrel, which he afterwards found was wrong. – P.C. Farmer, of Ratby, stated that Walker said his name was John Ratcliffe, of Loughborough. Knew that that was false, and told Walker, and he afterwards gave his right name and address. – Superintendent. Burdett said defendants were most desperate characters. – Fined £5 each and costs, or three months' hard labour. The game to be sold and the proceeds handed to the county treasurer, and the nets to be destroyed, so as to be unfit for night poaching purposes.

## **Loughborough Monitor – December 10<sup>th</sup> 1863**

### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

W. Hodges and G. Platts, of Griffydam, were charged with breaking a number of windows in the house of a woman named Stacey, on the 8<sup>th</sup> of November last. Mr. W. P. Dewes defended. Eliza Buckley, daughter of the woman Stacey, stated that she was awoke by hearing a great noise of glass being smashed, and stones and bricks falling on her bed. She got up and saw the two prisoners in her garden, and two others at the gate. She went up to them when Hodges made use of a disgusting epithet, and took hold of her frock. Cross-examined by Mr. Dewes : Never saw the prisoner break the windows as she was in bed at the time. The magistrates said there was no evidence that prisoners broke the window, and the case was dismissed. This is the second time this unfortunate woman has had her windows smashed within the last three months.

## **Leicester Journal – August 12<sup>th</sup> 1864**

**GRIFFYDAM. – DIABOLICAL ACT.** – On the night of the 4<sup>th</sup> inst., some miscreant or miscreants spoiled a well of beautiful water by pouring into it a quantity of gas tar. The well belongs to Mr. Price, and now in the occupation of Mr. J. Walker, and in consequence of the long drought, it was the only well in the neighbourhood where the inhabitants could procure good water, and it was freely open to all, so that it is in fact a serious loss to the whole neighbourhood. The Police are on the look out, and we trust the dastardly perpetrator may yet be discovered

## **Leicester Journal – October 7<sup>th</sup> 1864**

### **Ashby de la Zouch police Court**

#### **Murderous Assault at Osgathorpe**

At the Police Court on the 29<sup>th</sup> September, before W. W. Abney and H. E. Smith, Esqrs., Benjamin Platts, of Griffydam (a man well known to the police), Jesse Hodges, of Pegg's Green, and Aaron Stewart, of Coleorton, were charged by Wm. Gilbert, parish constable of Osgathorpe, with assaulting him whilst in the execution of his duty, on the night of the 24<sup>th</sup> instant. It appeared from the evidence of Gilbert, that he was sent for by Mr. Rennocks, landlord of the Royal Oak, to quell a disturbance an fight which had arisen there, Stewart being the ring leader. This he did at the time; but it being the wake, there were many people assembled in the village drinking, amongst whom were the prisoners, companion's of Stewart, who immediately sent for the "Griffydam lot", who were at another public house drinking. They immediately repaired to the scene of action, and declared that Stewart should fight in the defence of everyone. Gilbert again attempted to interfere, and drew his staff. The three prisoners, with others not yet in custody, immediately seized him and dragged him out into the street, and while Platts took his staff and held him, the other prisoners brutally beat him about the head and face, kicking him also on other parts of his body, when he was rescued by his brother constable and others, who at once sent to Whitwick for the police. They were soon on the spot, but the prisoners had been decamped, after in vain attempting to gain an entrance into Rennock's house, where Gilbert had been taken. A warrant was immediately 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 15<sup>th</sup> 1864**

### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions, Friday October 7<sup>th</sup>**

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

## **Leicester Journal – November 4<sup>th</sup> 1864**

**SERIOUS ACCIDENT AT No. 2 COLEORTON PIT (CALIFAT).** – On the 26<sup>th</sup> ult., Thomas Coulson, a miner, of Griffydam, met with a serious accident whilst at work in the above pit. He was engaged in loading a tub, when a large stone fell from the roof on his back, crushing him in a fearful manner. The poor fellow was extricated as soon as possible and taken home, where he still lies without the slightest hope of his recovery

**Leicester Chronicle – June 10<sup>th</sup> 1865**

**Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions. – Before W. W. Abney and T. Moore Esquires.**

Benjamin Platts of Griffydam, was charged by Thomas Richards, of the same place, with assaulting him on the 28<sup>th</sup> last. – **Defendant was discharged.**

**Leicester Journal – August 18<sup>th</sup> 1865**

**Ashby de la Zouch Police Court, August 9<sup>th</sup> – Before W. W. Abney, and H. E. Smith Esqrs.**

Thomas Hurst, of Griffydam, was charged by Jesse Atkins, of Belton, gamekeeper, with fishing, on the 15<sup>th</sup> of July, in private waters at Gracedieu, belonging to Ambrose Philips De Lisle, Esq., and taking therefrom fish to the value of 6s.- **The defendant, who did not appear, was fined 15s. 6d. costs, 6s. fine, and 6s. the value of the fish.**

**Cowardly Assault on Wife.** – John Jinks, labourer, Griffydam, was brought up in custody charged with assaulting his wife, Jane Jinks, at Griffydam, on the 6<sup>th</sup> ult. – Defendant denied the charge. – Complainant said her husband came home the worst for drink, and struck her in the face with his fist, which knocked her on the house floor. It was not the first time her husband had ill used her. – Defendant said, as he was entering some one threw a stone, which hit him in the face, making him 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 9<sup>th</sup> and December 16<sup>th</sup> 1865**

*The complete record of the trial of Eliza Adkins from Pegg's Green for the murder of her son by drowning him in a well is far too long to record here so just the beginning and end have only been recorded. However, in the December 16<sup>th</sup> edition a poignant story appeared about this case, the whole of which has been included because of its significance in terms of hardship and social injustice in those times.*

**MURDER AT THRINGSTONE  
TRIAL & CONVICTION  
OF  
ELIZA ADKINS from Pegg's Green**

Mr. Justice Mellor took his seat at a quarter to ten o'clock this morning. The case of Eliza Adkins indicted for the murder of her child did not appear to create so much excitement as might have been expected, the court not being more numerously attended than ordinarily.

Beginning

Liza Adkins (42) was indicted for the wilful murder of Zadock Adkins, her son, on the 29<sup>th</sup> of July. – Mr. Palmer and Mr. Graham prosecuted; and Mr. Merewether defended the prisoner. – The prisoner, a spare sorrowful looking woman, was dressed in a neat black gown and bonnet. On being arraigned on the indictment, she pleaded not guilty.

End

The clerk of the arraigns said:-Gentlemen of the Jury, are you agreed upon your verdict?

The Foreman; We are.

The clerk of the arraigns; Do you find the prisoner guilty, or not guilt ?

The Foreman; Guilty.

The clerk of the arraigns to the prisoner; You stand convicted of Wilful Murder; what have you to say why the Court should not give judgement against yourself to die, according to law?

The prisoner, almost inaudibly, "Nothing".

The Crier of the Court having commanded silence, his Lordship assumed the black cap, and addressed the prisoner in the following terms;- Eliza Adkins, after a careful investigation into the circumstances of this case, you have been convicted of the crime of wilful murder – the murder of your own son. I have no power to hold out to you any prospect of mercy, the prerogative of mercy rests with her majesty the Queen, acting under the advice of her Ministers; and I beseech you, therefore, not to indulge in any expectations which may turn out to be delusive; but I beseech you, with true repentance and with prayer, and supplication to that that great Being, who is long

suffering, rich in mercy, and ready to forgive,, and confess your sins, so that haply through the confession and intercession of Christ our Saviour, your sin may be pardoned, and that you may therefore be forgiven, as regards that sin before the face of Almighty God. I have only to pass on you the sentence of the law, and that sentence is that you be taken from hence to the place from whence you came, , and from thence to the place of execution, and that you there be hanged by the neck till you shall be dead, and that your body afterwards be buried within the precincts of the prison in which you were last confined after your conviction, and may God in his infinite compassion have mercy upon your sole.; - His Lordship was deeply affected during the delivery of these remarks.

The prisoner, who maintained a calm and equable demeanour throughout the trial, was then removed from the dock, apparently quite unmoved by the awful sentence which had just been passed upon her.

### THE THRINGSTONE MURDER

Stories are all the vogue now – Christmas stories, told on cream-tinted paper, with gold edges on it, and with ever so much crimson and green on the covers; stories all about princesses, giants, and fairies, and showing how, in that highly desirable world of fiction, the bad people always come to grief, and the good ones “marry and live happily ever afterwards”. No misery ever lasts very long in them; no ugly problems are left unsolved. The last pages, instead of being blistered with tears, as those of life are so often, wind up with a jolly settlement of everybody and everything. Let the little ones think it all true. Time enough for them to find out what a very different world they will have to deal with; and what agony, despair, and crime close the last chapters of many a story that God writes in the great book of Life which has Eternity on both sides of its covers. We have a little story to tell to the oldsters before they settle down to their Christmas dinners with that comfortable conviction which roast beef and plum pudding inspire, that everything has gone right since Christmas came. Our story is not very fit for Christmas, except to make the beef taste of tears, and the plum pudding stick in the throat with shame and pity. Before you set to work on these religious luxuries, good public, permit us to ask “if you have such a thing as two shillings about you”. Of course you have, and the multiple of that sum for a number of weeks. Well, spend them now as you like; but last summer you might have brought a child’s life and a woman’s soul for two shillings a week sterling. People ought not to complain that “things are dear” when such a bargain as that can be made in England. Now, we repeat, it is too late; for the child’s life – price one shilling – is gone to Him who in all his treasury of planets and suns has nothing richer or dearer than a child’s life; and the woman’s soul is so stained with murder, that the shilling is wanted now for five yards of hempen rope to choke it out of her on the gallows. In spite of these particulars, so tantalising to a commercial people, the story, we say again is *not* a nice story; the details are very unpleasant, the characters stale and vulgar to the last degree, and the chief personage a widow of forty-two, haggard and grizzled before her time. Such as it is, however, this is how it was told at the Leicester Assizes. Eliza Adkins was the widow of a farm servant, who died and left her with one child, aged four. Let us note in passing that the story-books would have made some provision or other for an honest woman in such a case. Reality didn’t. The mother went into service and put the child out to nurse; but that demands funds, and Eliza Adkins only just earned her own living; so she applied to the workhouse for two shillings weekly to maintain the child. The workhouse said she must come in with it, which she did. After she had been in Loughborough Workhouse a week, she left it, according to her own story, “because the treatment I received was so bad I could not stay, and because they dragged the child away and beat it, and I couldn’t bear it”. According to the story of the officials, confirmed by the guardians, she sent away because the workhouse was thoroughly comfortable, and because “these paupers” have a nasty way of liking to starve, and of bringing everybody into publicity and trouble.

Anyhow, Eliza Adkins, with the child tied on her back, and a basket containing a pair of little boots in it, some gooseberries, and a bit of rope, came forth. If the public prefers it, let us take the guardian’s view, and say that people of her kind like starving. The next scene is in a cottage at Pegg’s Green, where she called, and asked leave to sit down. There is nothing like direct narration in Christmas stories, so we will ask Sarah Castledine to go on here. She was the cottager, and she testified that “the prisoner had a child on her back, a boy about four years old,

and asked if she could sit down, and she and the child sat down for about half an hour. She said she had come a long way, and had a long way to go to meet a friend. She asked if the water was still in the pits. The water had broken into some pits some time ago. I told her I thought they were at work again. She asked if there was as much charity given away as there used to be. I told her I thought not. The boy began to look tired and faint, and she took him on her knee, and he went to sleep. She said it had very bad boots on; she had a better pair, but she had taken them off to ease its feet. She was all of a tremble while she was at our house. When she left I was going out on an errand, and my mother said I could carry the child a little way. She said 'Oh, no; I will carry it myself. When it awakes it will walk as well as ever'. She left our house between eight and nine, and went in the direction of Thringstone, and I saw her no more". You must dip, good public into the last part of our story to do full justice to this little bit of narrative, and we doubt if you then will find any other Christmas tale of the day so interesting. "The friend she was going a long way to meet" was the good old friend of the poor and broken-hearted, whom it is wicked to go to meet, and for whom we must all wait – Death. She meant to drown the child and hang herself; loving the boy so well, meantime – the story books never thought of this! – that she takes off the boots that pinch him, as he toddles by her side "to meet the friend". "Are the pits full of water"? "No! her Friends Death won't be met there; but the well at Thringstone will do! She passes that about nightfall; and having made up her mind, Eliza Adkins fall to casual topics. "Much charity given away here"? she asks; Sarah Castledine "thinks not". Eliza Adkin obviously "thinks not too", since, for lack of two shillings a week, she is going to send her son presently to heaven, and herself, if the "pulpits" are "all right", to hell.. And look at these paupers who murder, and cottagers that poach. What a brutal set they are! Sarah Castledine, instigated by her mother, wants to carry the woman's child, and the widow, with the well and the rope in her mind, is yet woman enough not to trouble the poor people. Well, we have spoiled our story by telling all the plot; but we do think that the little conversation at Pegg's Green reads the better for what's coming.

"What's coming", has of course been guessed; the summer night passed, and Eliza Adkins turns up in the morning, at another cottage, without the child. Having murdered him, and meaning to murder herself, a lie or two more or less can't improve the Devil's bargain; so she says he died of croup, and that the neighbours clubbed 1s. 6d. to bury him. She tells Ann Lacy that; and again we digress to observe what an ungrateful set the poor are to the nice workhouses and the generous overseers.

"Oh!" says Ann Lacy, "dead and buried, is it? What reason you have to be thankful for taking him from the frowns of the world, and the frowns of the parish?" If kind Ann Lacy had known how much closer her bad grammar came to the truth than good grammar could have done, Eliza Atkins would have missed that little bit of parochial philosophy. But meantime somebody going to the well for water finds the child there, and fishes it out, with some gooseberries and grass. The constables immediately seek the mother, and find her at her sister-in-law's. The well was kept locked; so Eliza Atkins, after all those incidents of changing the little shoes, and nursing the boy, and refusing to part with him for a minute to any body, had positively broken a hole in the well-cover by way of a gate to Death and Heaven. That was her view, and nothing else; witness her confession to the wife of the police inspector. She said to her, "I want you to see the magistrates. You will do it better than me, my heart will be so full. Then I shall feel more comfortable. It is trouble that has brought me to it. I wanted the parish to allow me two shillings a week. They would not, but said I must go into the house. I could have got my own living. I went into the house, but the treatment was so bad I could not stay. I went in on Saturday and stayed till the following Friday, and I did not know what to do for I had no home or friends in the world. I could have a place for myself, but I did not know what to do with the child. I could not bear to see it suffer any longer, and that made me do ill. God known I did not do it with any bad intent. I know the poor child is in Heaven now, out of all its troubles. If they had caught me that night they would not have had me, for I should have destroyed myself as well as the poor child. The poor child cried so much I could not bear to see it. I attempted to speak to it once, but was not allowed, and the child was dragged away and beat, and I was not allowed any supper, and it was more than I could bear". That's the workhouse, where "everybody was so kind", as the Loughborough Guardians say; and of course they spoke truly. To the magistrates the poor creature moaned out, "Through trouble I did it, because homeless and friendless; that is all I wish to say". On her trial she pleaded "not guilty", "in a low but firm voice", the reporters say, as if she did not expect the

gentlemen to understand her way of meaning it. She was tried; she was sentenced; she lies for death at Leicester Gaol; and that's our Christmas story. If we thought any judge would hesitate to recommend the commutations of her sentence, we would not say a word, for out-and-out the kindness thing to Eliza Atkins would be to borrow her own piece of rope from the basket and send her from a world which she has little reason to love, and which for her could have little happiness in store. But of course her life will not be taken. All the rest of her days, however, must be doomed to prison-toil, and all her nights must be devoted to memories of the summer evening when one of the two found "Friend Death" at the bottom of a well. We can't of course object to the punishment; but let us also remember what it is to sit down and see your baby die on your lap, or else go back to Loughborough workhouse. We wish that Loughborough workhouse could have some sentence passed upon it, and that the tariff of lives and souls would get cheaper, so that somebody could buy them; and, above all, we wish that some better moral could be found for our story than "God help of the poor, and be patient with the Christianity of the nineteenth century".

### **Leicester Mail – March 3<sup>rd</sup> 1866**

#### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions – Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup>. – Before W. W. Abney and H. E. Smith Esqrs.**

Jane Marshall, of Griffydam, charged Ambrose Barkby of the same place, with an assault upon her, at Griffydam on the 17<sup>th</sup> inst. From what complainant said, it appeared that on the night in question, she went to the Waggon and Horses public house to fetch some ale. Defendant was there, who began, as soon as she got up to the door, to pull her about and act very indecently towards her, at the same time using very disgusting language to her. Mr. W. Dewes appeared for the defendant, and called a witness named Lagar, who said he followed defendant out of the house to the doorway, and was sure no such insult was offered. It was certain bad language was used by defendant, but nothing more. – **Case dismissed.**

### **Leicester Journal – March 1<sup>st</sup> 1867**

#### **Ashby Petty Sessions**

John Richard's of Pegg's Green, and George Platts of Griffydam, were severally charged with being drunk and riotous at Coleorton on the night of the 18<sup>th</sup> instant. Found £1 each including costs.

### **Leicester Mail – March 23<sup>rd</sup> 1867**

#### **SWANNINGTON**

**SUDDEN DEATH.** – An inquest was held at Swannington, on the 18<sup>th</sup> inst., before the Coroner, J. Gregory, Esq., on the body of Frances Morley, deceased. – Sarah Morley said deceased was the child of her daughter, Mary Ann Morley, a single woman. It was a healthy child until about a week ago, when it appeared to take cold. On Friday she seemed in her usual health, but as her chest seemed affected, her mother went to Mr. Wale, druggist, Griffydam, for something to relieve her. She brought some powders, a little of which was given to the deceased without appearing to do her any good. When brought down stairs she seemed worse, and while she was being nursed by her grandmother, she died suddenly in her lap. – Mary Ann Morley said the child which was hers was three years of age. She awoke about 3 o'clock on Friday morning and complained of being stifled at the chest, and asked for some water, which was given her. She lay quietly till between 6 and 7 o'clock, when she seemed worse.. – Mr. Henry Toone, surgeon of Whitwick, was of the opinion that deceased died from congestion of the lungs. He examined the powders obtained from Mr. Wale, the principle ingredients of which were calomel, and could have no effect in causing death. The severity of the weather was quite sufficient to occasion the attack from which the child died. – Mr. W. Wale having given evidence as to the composition of the powders, and his telling the mother of the child that she had better get a doctor, as from the symptoms he did not think that it would live. – The jury returned a verdict of Natural Causes.

### **Leicester Mail – June 1<sup>st</sup> 1867**

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

On Tuesday, the 4<sup>th</sup> day of June 1867, at the house of Mr. Thomas Gostelow, the Waggon and Horses Inn, in Griffydam aforesaid, at Five o'clock in the evening, subject to such conditions as will be then produced.

All the four messuages, with the outbuildings, Gardens, and Appurtenances, situate at Griffydam aforesaid, now in the respective occupation of Thomas Weston, Thomas Massey, William Brooks and Stephen Smith.

And also all the two closes of very valuable old turf land adjoining the last described messuages, and containing another 2 Acres or thereabouts, and now in the occupation of the said Thomas Weston.

To view the property apply to the respective Tenants, and for further particulars to Mr. W. Knight, Willesley and Mr. John Knight, Stordon Grange, the Auctioneers or to Messrs. E. & T. Fisher, Solicitors, Ashby de la Zouch.

### **Leicester Mercury – August 1<sup>st</sup> 1867**

#### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions, Saturday July 25<sup>th</sup> (before Rev. J. M. Echalaz)**

Thomas Heyward, of Griffydam, complained that his haystack had been maliciously set on fire on Thursday last. The police were ordered to search out the guilty parties. Mr. Heyward was the prosecutor in a charge at the late assizes for stealing hosiery goods, **the offenders being sentenced to three years penal servitude.**

### **Leicester Journal – August 23<sup>rd</sup> 1867**

**Suicide at Griffydam.** – A labourer named King, aged 58, who had been oppressed with nervous debility during the last ten years, and more so than usual this summer, hung himself from one of the banisters of the house in which he lived at Griffydam, on Wednesday week, and effectually committed suicide. When he was discovered by the woman with whom he lived, he was quite dead. He left his work at the colliery about four months ago, and since then has not had more than a few days employment, and has been supported by the earnings of a woman named Marshall, who had lived with him for upwards of twenty years. On Friday, an inquest was held before J. Gregory, Esq., and evidence adduced to prove that since the deceased left the colliery, he had been lying a great deal in bed, and had been in a low way. – **A verdict of “Insanity” was returned.**

### **Leicester Mail – March 28<sup>th</sup> 1868**

#### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions, Saturday March 21<sup>st</sup> – Before G. Moore Esq., the Rev. J. M. Echalaz, Captain Mowbray, and H. E. Smith Esq.**

**Drunk** – Inspector Ward charged Geo. Earp, collier, Griffydam with being drunk and riotous at Griffydam on the 9<sup>th</sup> inst. – **P.C. H. Cheshire proved the case, and defendant was fined 13s., including costs.**

### **Leicester Chronicle – June 20<sup>th</sup> 1868**

#### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

**The “Fancy”.** – James Waring, a blacksmith residing at Pegg’s Green, charged Michael Richard, collier, of the same place, under the Criminal Justice Act, with stealing one live tame fowl, his property on the 30<sup>th</sup> ult.

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

### **Leicester Chronicle – August 15<sup>th</sup> 1868**

#### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions – Saturday August 8<sup>th</sup>**

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

**Leicester Chronicle – October 10<sup>th</sup> 1868**

**Ashby Petty Sessions, Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>. – Before George Moore Esq., chairman, Captain Mowbray. And H. E. Smith Esq.**

Benjamin Platts, of Griffydam, **was fined £1 and costs, or one months hard labour**, for having committed a trespass on Sept. 16, at Thringstone, in search of game.

**Leicester Journal – October 30<sup>th</sup> 1868**

**Loughborough Police Court, October 28<sup>th</sup>. – Before E. C. Middleton Esq.**

Francis Hurst, a collier, of Griffydam, was remanded on a charge of having on the 26<sup>th</sup> inst., at Castle Donington, unlawfully uttered a counterfeit half-crown. Evidence was given to show that on more than one occasion that night he had offered the money after being told that it was counterfeit. **To reduce the intrinsic value of (a coin) by increasing the base-metal content**

**Leicester Mail – January 1869**

**Ashby de la Zouch Police Station**

Thomas Bucknall, waggoner to Mr. Richard Knight, farmer of Castle Donington, was charged with stealing 70lbs of clover, the property of his master, and Matthew Bakewell, Shopkeeper, of Griffydam, was charged with feloniously receiving the same, knowing it to have been stolen, on the 15<sup>th</sup> Jan. – Both prisoners were committed to the Assizes for trial, Bakewell being admitted to bail.

**Leicester Mail – July 27<sup>th</sup> 1869**

**Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

Mary Burton, of Griffydam, charged Thomas Cliff, with stealing apples from her father's garden, at Griffydam, on the 21<sup>st</sup> instant. – Ordered to pay £1 including costs or seven days.

**Leicester Journal – October 22<sup>nd</sup> 1869**

**County Court, October 14<sup>th</sup> – Before Mr. Serjt. Miller, judge.**

Clemy Platts and Mary Platts, of Griffydam, Judgement summonses were issues against both these persons. The statements made in court respecting them revealed a grievous state of immorality. They are both young unmarried women, living at home with their parents; each of them has a child. – They have been to gaol once for the debt, which is yet unpaid, although an offer was made by some person to pay part of it so that they might not go, but they would not permit this kindness to be done them and preferred prison. And it was said that they were ready to go to gaol again sooner than pay. **The judge, however, took precautions to prevent having their trip together a second time, by ordering that they should go to gaol at different times if they still refused to pay.**

**Leicester Mail – November 20<sup>th</sup> 1869**

**Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions, Saturday Nov.13<sup>th</sup>. – Before G. Moore Esq., Major Mowbray, and H. E. Smith, Esq.**

Joseph Waldram, collier, Griffydam, charged by Harriette Cliffe with non-payment of an order in bastardy. – **Was committed to gaol for three months**

**Leicester Journal – December 31<sup>st</sup> 1869**

**Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions, December 24<sup>th</sup>. – Before H. E. Smith and G. J. Moore Esqrs.**

Thomas Knight, labourer, and Benjamin Plant, collier, both of Griffydam, pleaded guilty to trespassing in search of game, on land in the occupation of Earl Ferrers, on the 18<sup>th</sup> inst. Mr. Dewes, in stating the case, said the defendants, with three others, were, in the day time, in a plantation which abounded with all sorts of game, in the occupation of Earl Ferrers, beating it with dogs. **Fined £1. 1s. each and costs.**

**Leicester Mail – January 29<sup>th</sup> 1870**

**TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION  
BY MR. ORCHARD  
MRS GOSTELOW'S, THE NEW ENGINE INN, PEGG'S GREEN**

All that croft of valuable old turf land situate in Thringstone, fronting the Anchor Lane, and containing 1a. 2r. 0p., or thereabouts, late in the occupation of Mrs. Knight (Deceased). Possession may be had at Lady Day next.  
To view the land, apply to Mr. Jonas Knight, Griffydam

#### **Leicester Guardian – February 2<sup>nd</sup> 1870**

##### **Ashby Petty Sessions**

Joseph Platts of Griffydam, bricklayer, was charged with having, on December 30<sup>th</sup>, at Griffydam, stolen a horse rug, the property of Mr. Toone, surgeon. Mr. Toone proved being at Griffydam on the night of 30<sup>th</sup> December, and leaving his horse and trap at the door of one of his patients, and on coming out again, he found his rug was gone ; also that some little time afterwards he met prisoner, who abused him **for having sent the crier before his door to cry it.** – John Underwood, servant to Mr. Toone, proved that before following his master into the patient's house, he tied the rug to the harness of the horse to prevent it from blowing away, and the rug then produced by P.C. Cheshire was his master's property and the one that was stolen on the night in question, and pointed out marks on the rug which had been made by him for the purpose of fastening it onto the harness, **also to having given instructions to the crier to cry the same,** offering 3s. reward. – P.C. Cheshire proved searching prisoner's house, and finding the rug produced on prisoner's bed. – Prisoner, in answer to the charge,, pleaded not guilty, and made a rambling statement, about having thought his wife had taken the rug back. – Committed for trial.

**Platts was subsequently tried at Leicester Crown Court and received a sentence of one weeks hard labour**

#### **Leicester Journal – February 18<sup>th</sup> 1870**

##### **Ashby County Court**

***Knight v Cheadle.*** – The plaintiff in this action, who is a collier of Griffydam, sought to recover the sum of £5 from the defendant, head keeper to Earl Ferrers, the value of a dog seized by defendant. – It appears that at a Petty Sessions held at Ashby, in December last, the plaintiff pleaded guilty to committing a trespass in pursuance of game, and was convicted; and at the time of this trespass, the plaintiff's dog was taken possession of by defendant as a gamekeeper. – The judge said, the keeper had done perfectly right in taking the dog, and it would be well if the plaintiff would take to honest industry instead of following his unlawful pursuits. – **Verdict for defendant.**

#### **Leicester Chronicle – March 11<sup>th</sup> 1870**

##### **LEICESTERSHIRE SPRING ASSIZES**

##### **County Court**

Joseph Platts who had pleaded guilty to stealing a horse rug, at Griffydam, was sentenced to **one weeks hard labour**

#### **Leicester Journal – April 8<sup>th</sup> 1870**

##### **ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

##### **Elections of Parish Overseers and Constables**

**Worthington Overseers – J. Husbands and J. Atkins**

**Worthington Constables – J.Bird, J. Walker and John Kendrick**

#### **Leicester Journal – May 20<sup>th</sup> 1870**

##### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions, May 14<sup>th</sup> – Before Geo. Moore and H. E. Smith Esqrs.**

P.C. Cheshire charged James Upton, of Griffydam, with working a horse whilst in an unfit state in Worthington parish, on the 5<sup>th</sup> inst. **He was fined £1, or in default seven days imprisonment.**

Thomas Upton, of Griffydam, was charged with allowing his horses to stray on the highway at Griffydam, on the 26<sup>th</sup> ult, P.S. Fardell said the animals had their legs tethered together, and were completely crippled. **The defendant was fined 1s. for each horse and the costs of the summons.**

## **Leicester Chronicle – November 19<sup>th</sup> 1870**

### **ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

**DEATH FROM LOCK JAW.** – An inquest was held at Griffydam, in the parish of Worthington on Thursday last, before J. Gregory Esq., coroner, on the body of William Henry Hall. The case had caused some excitement in the neighbourhood, on account of rumours that lock-jaw, which was the cause of death, was the result of some ill usage the deceased had received at the hands of the parish constable and P.C. Ward. A considerable number of witnesses were examined, and F. Goodyer, Esq., (chief constable of the county), and Mr. W. N. Reeve, solicitor, were present to watch the proceedings on behalf of the County Police Authorities. The simple facts of the case appeared to be that the deceased who was a bricklayer, had been drinking a good deal on the 29<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> of October, and that on both days the parish constables had been called to him. On the Monday he was so disorderly in the street, that the police officer and parish constable were obliged to remove him to a barn, where they laid him on some straw. He had previously been found lying helplessly drunk in the street near a wall, from which it was presumed he had fallen. He had then a bad wound at the back of the head, which the parish constable bound up when he placed him in the barn. The deceased was so noisy while there, that he was removed, and ordered to go home, which he refused to do until followed some distance by the officers. On the 9<sup>th</sup> November deceased was attended by Mr. Trevor Morris, M. D., who found him in bed at a house in the village, evidently suffering from lock-jaw. Deceased died on Monday last. – **After hearing the whole of the evidence, the jury unanimously agreed that deceased had met with his death accidentally, whilst in a state of intoxication, and this exonerated the parish constable and the policeman from all blame.**

## **Leicester Journal October 27<sup>th</sup> 1871**

### **Ashby de la Zouch**

**Police, Monday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>.** – **Before George Moore Esq.** – George Brooks aged 9, and William Mellor, aged 10, both of Swannington, were charged with having on the 17<sup>th</sup> of October at Griffydam, feloniously broken and entered a certain School house their situate, called the Griffydam School, and therein previously stolen a hand bell and other articles the property of William Kidger and others, **remanded until Saturday next.**

## **Leicester Journal – November 10<sup>th</sup> 1871**

### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions, Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup> – Before H.E. Smith Esq.**

George Brooks and William Mellor, both of Swannington, two boys, were remanded on Saturday last until today, were charged with having broken into the School House at Griffydam, and stealing there from two slates and other articles, the property of the trustees of the school. **The prisoners, who are respectively nine and ten years of age, were now on account of their youth, discharged from custody.**

## **Leicester Journal – November 30<sup>th</sup> 1871**

**GRIFFYDAM.-** On Thursday last, an inquest was held before J. Gregory, Esq., Coroner, at Griffydam, upon Mary Anne Platts, deceased. – Hannah Hodges, wife of W. Hodges of Griffydam, said deceased was her sister, and the wife of Joseph Platts, a bricklayer and 31 years of age. Her husband works at Gresley Colliery, and goes there on Monday morning, and does not return home until Saturday night. She had seven children all living at home, the eldest being about twelve. Her sister expected her confinement in a month or six weeks. She had not complained in the least while being in the family way, and she seemed quite as well as ever last Friday. The last time she saw her was about seven that evening. The next morning, about eight o'clock, the children hooted from the bedroom, saying, "Come aunt, for we can't wake mother and her hands are cold". She ran to the house immediately, and Mrs. Walker, a neighbour, also followed her in. On going upstairs, she found her sister in bed, with the face off the pillow, but she was covered in the usual way with the bed clothes which were not in the least disturbed. Raised her up and Mrs. Walker rubbed her, but she was dead, and her arms and hands were cold. Sent for Dr. Johnson of Whitwick, who called and saw deceased. Her sister had exerted herself a great deal on Friday morning, by getting potatoes out of a camp in the garden and carrying them into the house. There was nothing whatever about the room to lead her to think for a moment that she had taken

anything to cause her death. – Jessie Platts gave corroborative evidence. – Dr. Christopher John Byron Johnson said, I was sent for on Saturday morning to see deceased, and I went and found her lying in bed dead, and she had been so some two or three hours. I examined the body and found no marks of violence, and there was no evidence whatever of anything injurious having been taken. She seemed far advanced in pregnancy. From the various circumstances connected with the death, I am of opinion that she died from apoplexy. – **Verdict, “Apoplexy.”**

#### **Burton Chronicle – December 28<sup>th</sup> 1871**

##### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

James Hurst, of Griffydam, collier, was charged by Frederick Jordan with having, on the 18<sup>th</sup> instant, at Breedon, done damage to a holly tree, to the amount of 6d. Defendant, who did not appear, was fined 6d. and costs.

#### **Leicester Journal – 12<sup>th</sup> January 1872**

##### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions, January 6<sup>th</sup> – Before the Rev. J. M. Echalaz, Major Mowbray, and H. E Smith Esq,**

Harriet Marshall, wife of Edward Marshall, of Griffydam, was charged with assaulting Eliza Atterbury, at Griffydam on the 23<sup>rd</sup> ult. Mr. Dewes appeared for Mrs. Marshall. – It appeared from the evidence that early on the morning in question, Mrs. Marshall was told by her husband, whom she thought at work, was with Mrs. Atterbury, at Eliza Haywood’s house, and had been for some time. She went there, and found Mrs. Atterbury sitting on her husband’s knee. Words ensued, and from words they got to blows, Mrs. Atterbury using the poker, and Mrs. Marshall the rolling pin; but the husband seeing Mrs. Atterbury getting the worse of it, held his wife’s hands whilst Atterbury beat her. Both parties bled very much. It was also proved that Eliza Haywood, although a single woman, had three children, and that Mrs. Atterbury had had one by Mrs. Marshall’s husband since she had been a widow; also that Mrs. Atterbury and Eliza Haywood led very immoral lives. **Case dismissed. –**

**Mrs. Atterbury to pay costs.**

#### **Leicester Journal – February 23<sup>rd</sup> 1872**

##### **Ashby de la Zouch County Court**

Frederick Johnson, of Griffydam, Fishmonger, was charged with having, on the 9<sup>th</sup> of February, at Worthington, stolen two iron corner plates, the property of Mr. John Bayliss. – Mr. Dewes appeared on behalf of the prisoner. – The case was proved by George Ball, a night watchman. – **Sentenced to 14 days hard labour.**

#### **Leicester Chronicle – June 1<sup>st</sup> 1872**

##### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

Thomas Bird, of Griffydam, and Michael Slattery, colliers, were severally charged with having, on the 19<sup>th</sup> of April, at Swannington, absented themselves from the services of Richard Worswick, and others, without lawful excuse.

#### **Leicester Journal – July 12<sup>th</sup> 1872**

##### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions, July 6<sup>th</sup> – Before Major Mowbray and Earl Ferrers**

Edward Marshall of Griffydam, collier, **was sentenced to one month’s imprisonment**, without the option of a fine, for assaulting his wife Harriet Marshall, on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July. This is not the first time the defendant has appeared before the Justices for assaulting his wife, and at two o’clock on the night in question, he struck her and knocked her down, and then dragged her down and beat her again.

#### **Leicester Journal – July 4<sup>th</sup> 1873**

##### **CRICKET**

**Ravenstone v Griffydam.** –This match was played on Saturday, the 28<sup>th</sup> of June, on the Ravenstone Ground, and resulted in favour of the former by an innings. Ravenstone scored 114 and Griffydam reached 29 in the first innings and 63 in the second. The players for Griffydam

were E. Domond, K. Knight, J. Smith, W. Lane, T. Bird, W. Haywood, D. Abell, J. Rowell, J. Knight, S. Haywood and ? Hutchinson.

**Leicester Journal – July 11<sup>th</sup> 1873**

**Ashby de la Zouch Police Court, 5<sup>th</sup> July. – Before Rev. J. M. Echalaz, Major Mowbray and H. E. Smith Esq.**

John Ison of Griffydam, grocer, pleaded guilty to having in his shop, three weights which were deficient. – **Fined 10s 6d. and costs**

**Leicester Daily Post – August 16<sup>th</sup> 1873**

**GRIFFYDAM SCHOOLS**

**(GRIFFYDAM WESLEYAN METHODIST DAY SCHOOL, PEGG'S GREEN)**

The annual examination of the Griffydam Day Schools was held on the 5<sup>th</sup> instant, when the children acquitted themselves most satisfactorily. After the examination the company sat down to tea in the schoolroom, and owing to an unusual number present, the public meeting was adjourned to the chapel. After singing and prayer, the chair was taken by Mr. Kidger, who has taken a warm interest in the schools from its formation. Addresses were delivered by the Rev'ds, I. Kendall and R. Odery, Messrs. Ratcliffe (of Derby), Hunt (of Measham), and Crabtree, referring especially to the services rendered by Mr. Plowright, who had held the position of master from the commencement to the present date, a period of 25 years. In acknowledgement of these services, a number of his pupils and friends determined to present him with a tangible expression of their esteem, and at the close of the meeting, on behalf of the subscribers, the Rev. H. Burton, B.A. of London (an old pupil), presented a testimonial, consisting of a beautiful casket, bearing the following inscription :- "Presented to Mr. R. H. Plowright, with £150, by a number of his pupils and friends, as a mark of their esteem. August 5<sup>th</sup> 1873". In acknowledging the gift Mr. Plowright referred to his long and happy connection with the school, and to the satisfaction he felt at the position to which some of his pupils had attained, both in the ministry and in the departments of law, medicine, &c. Mr. Gray read a number of testimonials from absent friends, including clergymen, ministers, &c., all speaking in the highest terms of Mr. Plowright's qualifications as a teacher and a Christian. The meeting closed by singing the Doxology, &c.

**Leicester Journal – September 5<sup>th</sup> 1873**

**Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions, 30<sup>th</sup> August. – Before Rev. J. M. Echalaz, and H. E. Smith Esq. – Annual Brewster Session for the division.**

Joseph Lager, of Griffydam, beerhouse-keeper ([Traveller's Rest](#)), was charged with having on the 11<sup>th</sup> August, at Griffydam, refused to admit P.C. Corner. – P.C. Corner said, on passing defendant's house about twelve o'clock, I heard some men talking, and went round to the back door. I rapped several times, but no one came for about ten minutes. The defendant then came, and said there was no one in except two men who had been having supper. I asked to see the men; when he said they were gone. I said I wanted to see through the house, and he said I should not. I told him the name of one of the men I had seen through the window, and he said, yes, he is here. Went to the parlour door and found it fastened, and defendant refused to open it for me, and put his fist in my face. I remained there some twenty minutes, and then said I shall summon you. I left the house, and defendant's wife and daughter came after me, and said I should look through the house, but I refused them. – Mr. Dewes appeared for the defendant, and said I shall not call my witness now, for some gross perjury was or had been committed. But this case will be brought before you in another form, and I shall now leave the matter in your hands. **There was another witness to be examined, but the bench said they were satisfied, and a previous conviction for an offence on the 12<sup>th</sup> October, 1872, under the new act, having been proved against defendant, a fine of £3 and costs was inflicted, and this conviction ordered to be endorsed on his license.**

**Leicester Journal – November 28<sup>th</sup> 1873**

**Ashby Petty Sessions, November 22<sup>nd</sup> – Before Major Mowbray and H. E. Smith, Esq.**

**John Kendrick, a grocer, at Griffydam, V Edward Crawford, oil merchant, Loughborough.** – Claim £50 damages – Mr. Argyle, Tamworth appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Deane of Loughborough for defendant. – The jury were Messrs. J. Boden, Duffin, G. Carruthers, T. Dunncliffe, and George Bryan. –

John Kendrick said he was a grocer at Griffydam. Defendant called on him on August 11<sup>th</sup>, and he ordered 12 gallons of the best petroleum. It came on the 13<sup>th</sup> in four three gallon tins. In a few days he opened one of the tins and poured the oil into one of his own cans, which was made for the purpose of selling the oil retail. His can was clean and there was a tap in it. When he opened the tin, he thought it did not smell as usual. On the 30<sup>th</sup> of August he was having his tea, and his wife went into the shop to trim the lamp, for he had no gas, and the shop was lighted by a lamp. She came back and took a candle to be able to see to draw some petroleum to put in the lamp. She had not been gone long before he heard shout out that the shop was on fire. He rushed in but could not get near to where the petroleum was, The shop was in flames, and filled with smoke. With difficulty he got out and fetched some water ; his face was burnt, and his whiskers singed off. The shop was spoiled, the window being burnt out, and the framework of the upper window also. He produced a detailed list of his loss. He wrote to defendant and told him what had happened, and he came over and wanted to take the oil back with him, but he plaintiff refused. Defendant told him if he would allow it he would have it examined, and if it were benzoline instead of petroleum, he would pay all damages. There was a little left in the tin, and he took it to Mr. Johnson of Ashby, to have it analysed, who said it was common benzoline. Mr. Johnson went over and examined the other three tins, and advised him to bury it and let no one touch it. Defendant again came over and wanted to see and examine the oil, and after some hesitation he allowed him. He poured a little into a pot and put a lighted match to it. The vapour ignited before the flame touched the liquor He asked the defendant if it was not benzoline, and he replied he could not understand it. Cross-examined by Mr. Deane : He did not allow defendant to take the oil because he thought he thought he was not the proper person to test his own oil.. For twelve months he had had oil from no one else. He had gunpowder in the shop. His wife took out two tins with her. It was kept at the other end of the shop on a shelf. The oil was kept on the floor in the corner.. – Hannah Kendrick, plaintiff's wife, said, on the 30<sup>th</sup> of August she left her tea and went into the shop to trim the lamp. She trimmed it and then went to the tin for some oil. She set the candle down about a quarter of a yard from the tin. She put the measure under and turned the tap, when all went off into a flame. She screamed and called her husband, and then got out of the shop, taking with her two tin bottles, which were half full of gunpowder. They were properly corked up. She believed the detailed list produced by her husband was correct. She saw the defendant try the oil ; when he put the match over it it flashed off. Cross-examined : A policeman called at night, but he did not ask how the fire originated. She did not say a spark dropped and caused it. Re-examined : She said no spark fell. She was very careful, and the flame did not touch the oil. – Thomas Haywood builder, said he lived about 100 yards from plaintiff. He was about fifty yards off when he saw the fire. He went and found the shop in flames, and many things were burnt altogether, There was not much that was not burned or scorched. He had since cleaned, papered and painted the shop.. His charges were included in the list. He never heard any explosion of gunpowder. He waited till the fire was subdued.. – Mr. S. E. Johnson, pharmaceutical chemist, Ashby, said the plaintiff brought a vessel containing about half a pint of oil, which he examined and found it was the light spirit of benzoline. It threw off a vapour, which would ignite. He sent some of it to Mr. Young at Leicester by passenger train. – Joseph Young, analyst to the borough of Leicester and Rutland, said, he had examined samples produced. It was light benzoline ; none of the samples were petroleum. – Defendant was called, and said he dealt both in petroleum and bezoline. By act of Parliament he was not allowed to keep more than a small quantity in his front shop. He had a large cistern which would hold several hundred gallons, in some out buildings, and it was connected with the front shop by pipes and taps. He

had a small cask of benzoline, containing about three gallons in the shop. He had also a large cistern, a long way off, containing benzoline, but these two were in no way connected. One would hold 40 gallons and the other several hundred. He got his oils from London. There was a test Society in London. He trusted to the firm he dealt with to send his oils genuine. He received the order for the 12 gallons of the best petroleum, and gave it to his daughter, who filled the tins in the front shop. He was in and out of the shop while she was filling them. The labels were his, and the writing on them his daughter's. The tins were similar to his. He was sure that there was not above a teaspoonful of oil when he tried it in the pot. He told plaintiff he could not account for it at all. It must have got changed, as all was drawn from one tap in the shop.. – Ellen Crawford, defendant's daughter, said, she assisted in the business. She put up the order on the 12<sup>th</sup> of August, among which was the plaintiff's order for petroleum. She drew it in the front shop from the petroleum cistern, into four three gallon tins. She did not leave the shop till the tins were filled. There was only two or three gallons of benzoline in the front shop. The taps of the petroleum and benzoline casks were two or three yards apart. She afterwards labelled the tins. She called over the orders with one of the men, and saw the tins put into the wagon in care of the waggoner. – George Pulford, waggoner, said he filled the cistern with the oil, which came in five barrels from London. P.C. Corner said Mrs. Kendrick told him she thought the oil caught fire from a spark. He found a tin in the shop which looked like a gunpowder tin. – Mr. Deane and Mr. Argyle having addressed the Court at considerable length, his Honour summed up, and the jury retired. On returning into court, they gave a verdict for the plaintiff for £30 and costs.

#### **Leicester Chronicle – January 10<sup>th</sup> 1874**

##### **Griffydam**

**The Weather** – The alternate frost and thaw of the past week have made it dangerous to use the powers of locomotion. One woman, a Mrs. Smith, whilst attempting on Wednesday evening to cross the yard in which she resided, came to grief, for, owing to the slipperyness of the place, she fell and broke her arm.

#### **Leicester Journal – March 27<sup>th</sup> 1874**

##### **ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

##### **Elections of Parish Overseers and Constables**

**Worthington Overseers – J. Husbands, J. Atkins**

**Worthington Constables – O. Sketchley, Griffydam – Joseph Smart**

#### **Leicester Journal – January 8<sup>th</sup> 1875**

##### **Ashby Petty Sessions**

William Knight, of Griffydam, Butcher, pleaded guilty to having on the 18<sup>th</sup> December last, assaulted Eliza Knight, his wife. – The wife stated that on the day in question, she had to run out of the house to save herself and child from his violence, and as she was escaping through the door, he struck her on the back of the head with a knife, and she had since lived with her mother. – It was proved that in July last he was sentenced to twenty one days hard labour for a similar offence, and he was now committed for two months hard labour.

#### **Leicester Daily Mercury – May 1<sup>st</sup> 1875**

##### **Griffydam**

**Conscience Money** – A considerable amount of amusement has been caused in this village by the following circumstances:- Shakespeare has said "Conscience doth make cowards of us all", and this has just received another illustration. As long as forty-six years ago, two lads in Griffydam were talking of birds nests, when the bigger one said he would tell the other of a nest if he would give him a halfpenny. The bargain made, and money paid, the younger of the two lads went off to fetch the contents of the nest, but the other one previous to the bargain had taken them. For forty-six years, the ghost of this "crime" has haunted him, and this year he has actually sent from Osgathorpe (where he now resides) an halfpenny, as a quietus to his conscience, to the man as a lad he deceived. It is needless to add that the greatest possible care is being taken of the halfpenny, it being an object of great curiosity.

### **Leicester Daily Mercury – February 29<sup>th</sup> 1876**

#### **Griffydam**

**Attempted Horse Stealing** – An attempt was made to steal a horse belonging to Mr. Thomas Heywood, hosier, Griffydam, on Friday evening, when it was lying in a field belonging to Mr. Dabell, farmer. Mr. Dabell was travelling up his fields at a very late hour, and although very dark, perceived someone struggling with this young horse, when he gave an alarm, and the perpetrators soon made their escape, leaving a newly-made halter on the horse, which was already fixed, and made all right for travelling.

### **Burton Chronicle – January 4<sup>th</sup> 1877**

#### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

Sydney Haywood, writing clerk, of Griffydam was charged with having on December 9<sup>th</sup>, at Thringstone, feloniously set fire to two stacks of Hay, the property of William Haywood. Mr. Hextall appeared for the prisoner. The chief evidence against the prisoner was that of Inspector Brewett, who compared footprints with the prisoner's boots for a distance of 150 yards from prisoner's house down the garden to a pass in the hedge which divides the garden from the field in which the stacks were situated, and which stacks were within a distance of six feet from the hedge and just opposite to a pass in the hedge where the footmarks stopped ; also that prisoner did not attempt to get up after the alarm was raised to help to put the fire out. – These footprints were recounted for by the prisoner going down the garden on Saturday morning to watch a woman named Jane Barfoot, who had gone down the road. – The woman was called, and said she saw prisoner near to the bottom of the garden, as if watching her. – A lodger, named Garton, also stated that the prisoner passed him on the Saturday morning, and as he was doing so said, "Jane Barfoot has gone down the road, and I am going to watch her". This witness also stated that he was lodging in the same house with the prisoner on the night in question, and did not hear any alarm. – Joseph Lager, father-in-law of the prisoner, said prisoner's wife went upstairs first, then prisoner, and he immediately followed ; that to get to prisoner's bedroom they would have to go through his (witness's ) bedroom ; said that he could swear that no one ever passed through his room after he was in bed ; also that he was not aroused, neither did he hear any alarm whatever given in the night. – The prisoner was discharged.

### **Leicester Journal – January 5<sup>th</sup> 1877**

Sidney Haywood of Griffydam, writing Clerk, was charged with having on the 9<sup>th</sup> of December, at Thringstone, feloniously set fire to two stacks of hay, the property of William Haywood. – Mr. Hextall appeared for the prisoner. – The chief evidence against the prisoner was that of Inspector Brewitt, who compared foot prints with the prisoner's boots for a distance of about 150 yards from prisoner's house. – Prisoner was discharged.

### **Burton Chronicle – May 10<sup>th</sup> 1877**

**Joseph Lager**, Jun., collier, of Pegg's Green, was charged with having, on the 26<sup>th</sup> uly., at Griffydam, stolen seven broccoli plants then growing in a garden belonging to Thomas Knight. On the evening in question, the plants were missed by Mr. Knight, who gave information to Police-constable Hancock, and suspicion having fallen upon the defendant on account of his having been seen loitering about, his house was searched and in the pantry eight plants were found, seven of which had been recently cut and had dew upon them. The seven were taken possession of by the officer, as were also the defendant's clogs, which were taken into Mr. Knight's garden, and the footprints made there exactly corresponded with defendant's clogs. The plants also corresponded with the stalks in the garden. The defence was that he had got them out of his father's garden on the 23<sup>rd</sup> ultimo. The defendant also called a child to give evidence on his behalf, but it knew nothing. The Bench said that the defendant had aggravated his case by putting the child in the witness box. **Fined £3 3s. and costs, or two months hard labour.**

### **Leicester Journal – May 11<sup>th</sup> 1877**

#### **LOUGHBOROUGH**

**FATAL ACCIDENT.**- Mr. Coroner Deane held an inquest at the Waggon and Horses, Griffydam, on the 7<sup>th</sup> instant, on the body of Joseph Bailey, who was 70 years of age. Mr. Crabtree, landlord of the Railway Inn, said the deceased came to his house about nine o'clock, and stayed till near closing time. Finding he could not walk very steadily he went out with him for a short distance, talking about some work he was to do for him. The deceased then went towards a wall for a certain purpose, and standing on something that was not very level, he reeled back about a yard and a half, over balanced himself, and fell with his head against an awkward projection on the wall. Dr. Donovan was called in, but deceased had been dead some time before he arrived. He made a superficial examination of the body, and found a wound in the back portion of the head near the occipital bone, dislocation at the junction of the spine with the skull, and that dislocation causing a pressure on the spinal cord caused his death. Verdict, "Accidental Death".

### **Leicester Chronicle – May 12<sup>th</sup> 1877**

#### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

Joseph Lager the younger, of Pegg's Green, collier, was charged with having, on the 26<sup>th</sup> ult., at 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 23<sup>rd</sup> of April. The defendant also called a child to give evidence on his behalf, and it soon became evident that the child knew nothing about the plants except what it had been told to say. – The magistrates said the defendant had aggravated his case very much by putting the child in the witness box, **and fined him £3 3s. 0d. and costs or two months hard labour.**

### **Leicester Chronicle – November 17<sup>th</sup> 1877**

#### **GRIFFYDAM**

**WAR AND WORKINGMEN.** – A public meeting was held in the Wesleyan Reform Chapel, Griffydam on Saturday evening, in connection with the Workingmen's Peace Association, when there was a fair attendance. Mr. W. Wale ([chemist Griffydam](#)) presided, and, in opening the proceedings, said he heartily approved of the principles of the association. Mr. G. Johnson of Leicester, read a paper on "War", which was well received, and applauded by the meeting. Mr. W. Colver, secretary to the Leicester branch, next addressed the meeting at considerable length in support of the principles of peace. He remarked that if those who brought about wars had to fight them out, long ere this, something would have been established by which national disputes might be settled by conciliation rather than by the sword. Votes of thanks to the chairman and the deputation brought the meeting to a close.

### **Leicester Journal – November 30<sup>th</sup> 1877**

#### **MARRIAGE OF LADY FLORA HASTINGS**

On Wednesday week a splendid banquet was given at Ashby de la Zouch, by Mr. Abney Hastings, to over 400 of his tenantry and tradesmen in celebration of the marriage of his eldest daughter, Lady Flora Hastings, with the Duke of Norfolk. The town was throughout the day en fete, and numerous banners were displayed in the principal street, while from the keep of the ancient castle waved a large white flag with the Hastings "maunch" in the centre of it.....***The poor had not been forgotten. Mr. Hastings had taken special care of this, for Mr. James Thompson, the indefatigable steward at Donington Park, had received Mr. Hasting's order to ascertain the names and addresses of every aged and infirm woman, not only in Castle Donnington, but in the villages around – Tonge, Breedon, Wilson, and***

*Griffydam – and to each of them, whether tenants or not, was delivered one pond of tea. The thanks of the poor and their well-wishes for the future health and happiness of the newly-married pair were not less ardent than thos of others.....*

#### Leicester Journal – December 7<sup>th</sup> 1877

##### Ashby Petty Sessions

Mary Ann Stanley (wife of Joseph Stanley) and Elizabeth Haywood (single woman), both of Griffydam, pleaded guilty to stealing 28lbs of turnips, the property of Samuel Peach of Griffydam, on the 14<sup>th</sup> ult. – It appears the turnips were placed in heaps in one of the prosecutor's fields, ready for camping, and prisoners were seen to leave the footpath, and go to one of the heaps and take a quantity of turnips. – Prosecutor said he had suffered considerably through his turnips having been stolen, and had been obliged to issue handbills offering a reward of £5 to anyone who could give information of any person having stolen his turnips. In this case he did not wish to press the charge. – The Justices said that prisoners ought to be much obliged to prosecutor for not pressing the charge, because if he had done so, they had no alternative but to send them to prison ; **but the charge not being pressed, the imprisonment would only be for one hour.**

#### Ashby de la Zouch Gazette – June 15<sup>th</sup> 1878

##### MARRIAGES

**MARRIOT – EARP.** –June 10, at the Register Office, Ashby de la Zouch ; John Joseph Marriot, of Coleorton, to Ann Earp of Griffydam

#### Tamworth Herald – September 30<sup>th</sup> 1876

Griffydam agent – William Wale – Chemist

*Tested by the Public Analytical Chemists.*

**JOHNSON & CO.**

**PURE TEA,**

SECURED IN TINFOIL PACKETS.

*Free from all mineral colour, or other adulteration — wholesome & invigorating — of great strength and delicious flavour — and cheaper and better than any other Tea.*

Qualities from 2/- to 4/- per lb.

Sold by upwards of Three Thousand authorized Agents throughout the Kingdom.

LOCAL AGENTS:—

Althwaite Brewery : Nottingham.	Farnley : Barratt, Grocer
— Grocer	— Wale, Chemist
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— Grocer	— Jam, Chemist
Alrease : Rotham, Grocer	Leckford : Harrington,
Barlow : Butterfield, Grocer	— Chemist
Beckwith : Linsley, Chemist	Market Bosworth : Bradbury
Birkham : Wale, Grocer	— News Agent
Burton : Lewis, Chemist	Nottingham : Poulis, Chemist
Cockfield : Boston, Post Office	— Lister, Bookseller
Colebrook : Innes, Boot maker	— Maclure, H. & J. H. & Co.,
— Chemist	—

### **Leicester Journal – July 5<sup>th</sup> 1878**

#### **Suicide at Griffydam**

An inquest was held at the Red Lion Inn, Griffydam, before Mr. Deane, coroner, on the 28<sup>th</sup> ult., on the body of Joseph Freeman, 53 years of age, who was found dead in a field by Sarah Haywood with his throat cut. – Mr. Donovan, Surgeon, stated that he had attended the deceased for general debility, and he was in a desponding state, suffering from congestion of the lungs. Upon examining the body, he found a wound extending the length of the lower jaw, but not deep, except across the larynx, which was about two thirds severed. From the appearance of the cut, he had no doubt it was self inflicted. Deceased kept the “Rising Sun”, Griffydam. – Sarah Haywood said, on going to the spring to fetch a bucket of water, she saw a hat and some blood on the ground in a field adjoining the road, and on looking about saw the body in the brook. Charles Smedley being at Griffydam that day, and hearing that a man was in the brook went thither, and found the body of deceased lying sideways in the water. He and another lifted him out, and found that his throat was cut, and a razor lying about a yard and a half off the bank side. - **The jury returned a verdict to the effect that the deceased cut his throat with a razor, not being at the time in a sound state of mind.**

### **Ashby de la Zouch Gazette – August 17<sup>th</sup> 1878**

#### **GRIFFYDAM & Pegg's Green**

**WESLEYAN SERMONS.** – On Sunday, two impressive sermons were preached in the Wesleyan chapel, Griffydam by Mr. H. Adcock, of Burton on Trent, in aid of the Sunday School ([held at Griffydam Wesleyan Methodists Day School, Pegg's Green](#)),. The singing of the children was, as usual, worthy of praise. Mr. R. Knight presided at the harmonium. – On Monday the children had their annual treat in the schoolroom ([Griffydam Wesleyan Methodists Day School, Pegg's Green](#)), and after tea indulged in the usual games in a field kindly lent by Mr. P. ([Price](#)) Kidger, all enjoying themselves thoroughly, the weather being beautifully fine. There were a good number of parents and friends present, about eighty of whom sat down to tea, being more than for many years past. The collections were equal to former years, and the anniversary was a decided success

### **Ashby de la Zouch Gazette – December 7<sup>th</sup> 1878**

#### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

William Cutler of Swannington ; Charles Griffin of Swannington ; Samuel Holmes of Hugglescote ; W. Holland of Griffydam ; Samuel Bradford of Coleorton ; and William Hincks, of the parish of Ashby, were charged with neglecting to provide efficient elementary instruction for their respective children. – Orders to attend school were made in each case.

### **Ashby de la Zouch Gazette – March 15<sup>th</sup> 1879**

**TO BE LET**, with immediate possession, a detached house, pleasantly situated at Griffydam, four miles from Ashby de la Zouch, containing kitchen, house, parlour, and three bedrooms, garden and out-door appurtenances.. – Apply John Kendrick, Grocer, &c., Griffydam, near Ashby de la Zouch.

### **Ashby de la Zouch Gazette – June 14<sup>th</sup> 1879**

#### **GRIFFYDAM**

**ODD-FELLOWS' GATHERING.** – On Whit-Tuesday, the members of the Lodge, Nottingham Imperial Order of Oddfellows, assembled at their Lodge House, the Waggon and Horses (Mr. Thomas Costelow), when about sixty sat down to a sumptuous dinner, which was served up in the respected hosts well known style, the waiting being excellent. After the usual toasts, the health of the host and hostess followed, and Mr. Costelow replied in feeling terms, expressing their pleasure that their efforts to provide a good dinner had been so fully appreciated.

### **Derby Mercury – August 13<sup>th</sup> 1879**

#### **COUNTY COURT**

**INTERPLEADER CASE.** – At a previous court Peter Jerrison, plasterer, Uxbridge Street, Burton, obtained judgement for a small amount against Messrs. Smart, Wildblood, and Co., brick and tile makers and builders, of Griffydam, and on an execution being levied Joseph Lager, beerseller, Griffydam ([Traveller's Rest](#)), put in a claim on the property and effects of the defendants under a bill of sale. The present action was therefore brought to try the validity of the bill. – Mr. E. B. Jennings appeared for the claimant, and Mr. Wilson for the execution creditor. – It appeared that the defendants commenced business on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January last, the claimant finding money for his Son-in-Law, Sidney Haywood, to become a partner. The defendant's soon found themselves involved in financial difficulties, and on the 4<sup>th</sup> of June, they applied to Lager for a loan of £100. In the same month they also borrowed from him two sums of £50 and £25. The claimant had to mortgage some property of which he was possessed to find the money, and on the 4<sup>th</sup> of June the bill of sale was given to him in consideration of the loans, the property assigned included that seized by the execution creditor. Mr. Jennings put in the bill of sale, which was objected to by Mr. Wilson. Mr. Jennings then proved the bill on oath, and in cross-examination he admitted that there was another interpleader action arising out of the same matter at Ashby County Court. Another party was the claimant in that action, which raised the question of the validity of the bill of sale in question. Mr. Wilson contended that there was no evidence before the court that the bill of sale was properly executed or registered. – Mr. Jennings urged that this production by him of the bill of sale, with the certificate attached to it, was sufficient evidence of the registration. – Joseph Lager, the claimant, then gave evidence of the loans by him to the firm, and of the raising of the money by the mortgage of his property. Part of the property assigned consisted of some house in course of erection in Shobnall-street, Burton, and he was finding money for the completion of these houses. Altogether, he had lent the firm £1,300 or £1,400. In cross-examination, he said he now represented the firm, and was carrying on the business under the bill of sale. – The judge held that there was not sufficient evidence as to the mortgage, and Mr. Jennings asked for a short adjournment so that he might produce it. This was granted, and at a later stage, on the mortgage being produced, it was agreed on both sides that the action should be adjourned till the next court, his Honour suggesting that the claimant should pay off the execution creditor. – Mr. Wilson said he should be happy to retire on those terms ; and Mr. Bright, who had been instructed in another case for the Park Foundry Company, Derby, said he should be glad to retire on the terms suggested by his Honour. – The matter was then adjourned.

### **Loughborough Journal – November 7<sup>th</sup> 1879**

William Knight, of Griffydam, butcher, was charged with having on the 17<sup>th</sup> October, at Coalville, exposed for sale beef which was unfit for food. The beef in question was seized by Mr. Samuel Heward, and shown to Dr. Donovan, who pronounced it totally unfit for the food of man. Mr. Heward then took the beef before a magistrate, who ordered it to be destroyed. Mr. Heward called as a witness on his behalf John Baker, of Pegg's Green, who said that about three weeks ago defendant purchased the cow from him and gave him 13s. 6d. for it. The cow was an old one but healthy. – Fined £6 6s. including costs, or two months imprisonment. – Mr. Dewes prosecuted on behalf of the Whitwick Local Board.

### **Public Ledger and Daily Advertiser – January 7<sup>th</sup> 1880**

#### **PARTNERSHIPS DISSOLVED**

**SMART, SMART** and Co., Griffydam, Leicestershire, brick makers.

### **Ashby de la Zouch Gazette – March 6<sup>th</sup> 1880**

#### **DIED**

**KENDRICK.** – Feb. 20, aged 21, at Plymouth, Elizabeth Ellen, daughter of John and Hannah Kendrick, of Griffydam. Deeply lamented.

### **Burton Chronicle – April 29<sup>th</sup> 1880**

#### **ASHBY DE LA ZOUCH COUNTY COURT**

**LEACH v LAGER.** – Mr. Jesson for plaintiff, and Mr. Deane for defendant. The plaintiff sort to recover £35 16s. 5d., for work done by him for the defendant in the making of bricks since the latter took possession of the property of Messrs. Smart and Co., of Griffydam, under a bill of sale, in June, 1879. There appeared to be some question as to whether all the bricks in question were made after the date of the bill of sale, or whether some of them had not been made before, though sold after that date. An adjournment until the next court was asked for and granted.

### **Leicester Journal – June 4<sup>th</sup> 1880**

#### **Ashby Petty Sessions**

**James Leach v Joseph Lager.** – Mr. Jesson for plaintiff, and Mr. Deane, Loughborough, for defendant. – Plaintiff is a labourer, living at Swannington and the defendant is a beer seller at Griffydam ([Traveller's Rest](#)). The claim was for £26 15s. 5d. for work and labour done in the making and burning of bricks since the 5<sup>th</sup> of June. The case was adjourned from a previous Court day in order that it might be ascertained how many bricks the plaintiff had made since the defendant took possession of the Brick yard. – The defence was that plaintiff had not made the number of bricks in respect of which he claimed. – Judgement for plaintiff for plaintiff for £15, payable at the rate of £5 per month

### **Leicester Journal – June 25<sup>th</sup> 1880**

**WORKING MEN'S PEACE ASSOCIATION,** - A very successful series of public meetings around the area in connection with the Workman's Peace Association was brought to a close on Saturday evening.....Amongst the addresses given was one from Kidger (Griffydam) .....Resolutions against large standing armies were passed unanimously at each meeting. Not less than 1000 persons have attended the meetings at the different villages, at which the best order has prevailed.

### **Ashby de la Zouch Gazette – July 3<sup>rd</sup> 1880**

#### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

Hannah Saddington, wife of John Saddington, collier, and Fanny Platts, wife of Benjamin Platts, both of Griffydam, were charged with having, on the 21<sup>st</sup> of June last, stolen 7lbs. weight of coal, the property of William Hout, in the parish of Breedon-on-the-Hill. – P.C. Hancock and prosecutor's wife proved the case. – The Bench pointed out the very serious position in which the two defendants had placed themselves, and expressed their regrets that two women of their apparent respectability and age should be charged with such an offence. They were willing under all the circumstances to deal as lightly as possible with the defendants, and fined them each 5s., the costs to be paid by the county.

### **Ashby de la Zouch Gazette – August 21<sup>st</sup> 1880**

#### **MARRIED**

**TERRILL-KENDRICK.** – Aug 17, at the Wesleyan Chapel, Griffydam, by the Rev. John Nate, the Rev.S. H. Terrill, Wesleyan Minister, to Miss Sarah Kendrick, of Griffydam, Ashby de la Zouch.

### **Leicester Chronicle – August 28<sup>th</sup> 1880**

#### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

#### **EXTRAORDINARY CHARGE AGAINST A FARMER AND OTHERS RESCUING A STACK FROM BAILIFFS**

*Sidney Heywood, farmer Griffydam; Oliver, his brother, Griffydam; William Hodges, labourer Griffydam; Arthur Draper, labourer, Griffydam; John Curtis, labourer and Thomas Haynes, Clerk, Ashby de la Zouch,* were severally charged with unlawfully removing a stack of hay, at Griffydam, on the 12<sup>th</sup> inst., whilst the bailiffs of the County Court were in possession of the same. Each of the defendants pleaded not guilty to the charge.

The court was densely crowded, and the case was evidently watched with much interest. Mr. Musson, Deputy Registrar of the Ashby County Court, appeared to prosecute, and Mr. F. Stroud, of Nottingham, for defendants.

Mr. Musson briefly stated the facts of the case, which are these – On the 11<sup>th</sup> inst., the bailiffs of the Ashby County Court were sent to Griffydam, in pursuance of a judgment of the County Court, to take possession of a stack of hay belonging to Joseph Lager. On the 12<sup>th</sup> inst., the defendant Sidney Heywood went and said the hay belonged to him, and he should take it away. Notwithstanding the caution given him by the bailiff then in possession, the defendant Sidney Heywood, assisted by the other defendants, did remove the hay. In closing his remarks, Mr. Musson said it was a serious case, and he asked for heavy penalties in the cases of Sidney and Oliver Heywood, as he (Mr. Musson) believed that they were the ring leaders of the party.

Nathaniel Timms deposed, I am a bailiff of the Ashby County Court. I had a warrant of execution put into my hands against Joseph Lager of Griffydam. The warrant was dated August 9<sup>th</sup>, and the amount was £17 12s. I and Thompson, the other bailiff, executed the warrant on the 11<sup>th</sup> inst. I remained there until August 13<sup>th</sup>. A regular distress notice was pinned on to the stack. Mrs. Heywood (Lager's daughter) refused to take it at the door. On Thursday, the defendant, Sidney Heywood, came into Chamber's public house, where I was staying, and said to me, "Nat, you're here, are you ; and have come to seize that hay, which is my property, and stands on my premises, and I shall take it away". I said "I hope you will not, for we have legally seized it, and if you do I think you will get into trouble ; if it belongs to you, there is a course of law for you to pursue. We have legally seized it and mean to keep it". He replied "I shall not interplead". Between five and six o'clock on the same evening, I saw Sidney Heywood and a man in the yard. Hurst did not stay. The other defendants came shortly after with a wagon ; Hodges mounted the stack, and began to throw the hay into the wagon. I requested them to leave the stack alone, and cautioned them. I can swear that the whole of the defendants assisted in removing the hay, and they entirely removed it away. They were at it during the night. I was watching them through a bedroom window in Chamber's public house. On the following Saturday, I and Thompson and P.C. Hancock saw the defendant Draper, and he admitted being there.

By Mr. Stroud : I got to the stack about three o'clock in the afternoon, and went into Chamber's public house ; I afterwards went to Sidney Heywood's, and saw Mrs. Heywood. I saw Thompson pin the paper on the stack while Mrs. Heywood was there. I swear I saw the paper on the stack. – In reply to Mr. Stroud, witness said he was not there whilst the hay was being removed. – John Chambers, landlord of the "Traveller's Rest", Griffydam, said he had lately taken to the house recently occupied by Joseph Lager.

He remembered the bailiffs Thomson and Timms coming to his house on the 11<sup>th</sup> inst. They asked him if Lager was there? He replied "No". They asked him where he lived, and he said next door. He then saw them talking to Mrs. Heywood. Timms remained at his house, and witness found food for him. He saw a party of men removing the hay, but did not see Draper there. Mrs. Heywood offered to sell witness the hay on Thursday morning. It was standing on the same land as that Lager occupied before him.

By Mr. Stroud : When he took the public house, Sidney Heywood came and asked him to allow the stack to remain, saying it was his. He consented and intended to buy it. He did not see Sidney Heywood take any part in removing the hay. He was there ; but he did not see him touch it. – William Platts, jun., a pork butcher, residing at Griffydam, spoke as to seeing the defendants Sidney Heywood and Arthur Draper with a load of hay on the day in question. – By Mr. Stroud : His father owned some land at Griffydam. Sidney Heywood rented a field of his father. Witness saw the grass cut, and it was stacked close to Sidney Heywood's house. It was the stack in question. –

John King, Clerk at the County Court Office, said, on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> inst., he went to Griffydam to see the bailiff in possession. He saw Sidney Heywood, and, calling him on one side, asked him how it was he had removed the stack of hay? He replied "it was mine". Witness said "if it was yours, why did you not interplead ; you knew how to proceed"? He replied, yes I knew how to

proceed ; but have been robbed enough, lately". Witness said "You'll get into bother". He relied "I don't care ; the hay was mine, and I meant having it".

John Bailey, another bailiff of the Ashby County Court, said on the 14<sup>th</sup> inst, he saw Oliver Heywood at the "New Inn", Ashby. He said "We've beat the Bums". Witness got 3s. 6d. for his days work.

This being the case for the prosecution, Mr. Stroud briefly addressed the Bench on behalf of the defendants. He admitted that the hay had been removed ; but contended that it was not so serious offence as Mr. Musson had represented. The stack of hay, undoubtedly, was the property of Sidney Heywood, and he thought the defendant was under the impression that he had a right to remove it. He (Mr. Stroud) hoped the Bench would deal as lightly as possible with the defendants.

William Platts, sen., farmer, Griffydham, was called for the defence. He said that Sidney Heywood was a tenant of his, and had been for four or five years. The stack in question was Sidney Heywood's property. He (witness) had known the defendant (Sidney Heywood) as a respectable man. He always paid his rent.

Elizabeth Eaglefield, cowkeeper, Worthington, said that she bought the stack of hay in question from Sidney Heywood on the 5<sup>th</sup> inst., for £14.

This was the case. The Bench retired to consult, and on returning into court, the Chairman said the Bench had found all the defendants guilty of the charge and that they were liable to a heavy penalty, but they had decided to take a lenient view of the case. Sidney Heywood who appeared to be the chief offender, would have to pay a fine of £2 10s. and 11s. costs, or one month ; the other defendants would be fined 1s. each and 11s. costs or seven days. The defendants were some little time in deciding whether to pay or go below, but eventually the cash was paid.

#### **Ashby de la Zouch Gazette – September 4<sup>th</sup> 1880**

##### **GRIFFYDAM**

**A CHILD CHOKED BY A BONE.** – On Monday a child, named John Horne Seamin, whose parents live at Griffydham, was sucking a small fowl bone, which accidently became fast in the throat, and before it could be extracted the child was choked. An inquest was held on the body last Wednesday evening, before Mr. A. D. Bartlett, deputy coroner.

#### **Leicester Chronicle – September 11<sup>th</sup> 1880**

##### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

**COWARDLY ASSAULT ON A WIFE.** – John Jinks, labourer, Griffydham, was brought up in custody charged with assaulting his wife, Jane Jinks, at Griffydham, on the 6<sup>th</sup> ult. – Defendant denied the charge. – Complainant said her husband came home the worse for drink, and struck her in the face with his fist, which knocked her on the house floor. It was not the first time her husband had ill-used her. – Defendant said, as he was entering someone threw a stone, which hit him in the face, making him insensible. If he had struck his wife it must have been while he was insensible. He did not remember striking her. – P.C. Hancock said defendant was a bad, worthless character, and had frequently ill-used his wife, who was a quiet woman, and one who worked hard to support her drunken husband and her family. – Prisoner was committed to Leicester Gaol for one month with hard labour, without the option of a fine

#### **Leicester Chronicle – September 11<sup>th</sup> 1880**

##### **Ashby Petty Sessions, Saturday – Before Major Mowbray and H. E. Smith Esq.**

Charles Springthorpe, of Pegg's Green, was charged with stealing two ducks, value 4s., on the 8<sup>th</sup> of August, the property of Sir George Beaumont, Bart. – The case was proved by Edward Radford and Joseph Lord, who saw the ducks in the prisoner's hands. – The defendant pleaded not guilty, and stated that he saw the ducks on the grass, but did not touch them. – **The magistrates sentenced the prisoner to two months hard labour.**

**Ashby de la Zouch Gazette – October 23<sup>rd</sup> 1880**  
**GRIFFYDAM**

**A DASTARDLY ACT.** – A most dastardly and cruel outrage was committed at Griffydam a few days ago by some person or persons unknown. Whilst a mare belonging to John Kendrick was lying in a field at the place named, some evil disposed person or persons maliciously cut out the animal's tongue. A reward has been offered for information that shall lead to the discovery and conviction of the inhuman perpetrators of the outrage, and it is to be hoped they will speedily be brought to answer for the cruel deed before the proper authorities.

**Ashby de la Zouch Gazette – November 27<sup>th</sup> 1880**  
**ASHBY COUNTY COURT**

**LEECH v LAGER, EAGLEFIELD claimant.** – This was an interpleader case adjourned from the last Court, Mr. Briggs appearing for the claimant, and Mr. Jesson for the execution creditor. – Mr. Briggs stated that Mrs. Eaglefield, the claimant, carried on a dairy business at Worthington. She purchased from a man named Sidney Haywood, a stack of hay which he represented as his property. She bargained for it on the fifth of August, and on the seventh paid the money £14 and received from Haywood a receipt for it. The stack was standing in the yard belonging to the Traveller's Rest Inn, at Griffydam. On the 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> of August, the County Court Bailiff's seized the stack under an execution from that court against Lager, who was the father-in-Law of Haywood, the man who sold the stack. Lager occupied the Traveller's Rest, and he and Haywood had the occupation of two pieces of land, from off which the hay in question came. There was some arrangement between them that the stack should be Haywood's property. When Mrs. Eaglefield heard that the bailiffs had seized the stack, she went to Haywood and demanded her money. Haywood thereupon went and rescued the stack from the bailiff's, for which act he was summoned before the magistrates and fined. – Plaintiff gave evidence in support of this statement. And in cross-examination by Mr. Jesson she stated she was asked by Haywood if she could buy the hay when it was lying about the field, but she replied that she would not buy it until it was properly done up. – Judgement for claimant

**Ashby de la Zouch Gazette – January 29<sup>th</sup> 1881**  
**MARRIED**

**CHESTER – BLOOD.** – Jan. 19, at the Wesleyan Chapel, Griffydam, by the Rev. S. J. Burrell. – Mr. William Chester, of Thringstone Mill, to Harriet, third daughter of Mr. John Blood, Alma House, Whitwick.

**Leicester Chronicle – August 13<sup>th</sup> 1881**

**Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

**A DISHONEST DOMESTIC.** – Jane Shaw (13), domestic servant, Griffydam, was charged with stealing 27s., the moneys of Charlotte Gostelow, on the 25<sup>th</sup> July. – The evidence showed that the prisoner had up to the 31<sup>st</sup> July been in the employ of the prosecutrix's uncle at Thringstone. About a week prior to the date, Miss Gostelow, who was staying with her uncle, went away on a visit. On returning she missed 10s. from her drawer, and shortly afterwards missed another 17s. Nothing was said at the time to the prisoner, but on the 31<sup>st</sup> ult., she absconded. Information was given to the police, and the girl was subsequently arrested, when she admitted, having taken the money While Miss Gostelow was away. She stated that a young woman acquaintance had had part of it, and that this person and herself each brought a pair of boots with the money. – Prisoner's father, who was in Court, stated that he had had a great deal of trouble with his daughter, and he feared he could do nothing with her if he took her home again. – **Prisoner, who continued sobbing during the hearing of the case, was sent to gaol for seven days.**

**Leicester Chronicle – December 10<sup>th</sup> 1881**  
**GRIFFYDAM (PEGG'S GREEN)**

**WESLEYAN DAY SCHOOL.** (Griffydam Wesleyan Methodist Day School, Pegg's Green) – The public examination of this school was held on Wednesday, and proved very satisfactory. A

public tea was then held and largely attended. An entertainment was then given by the friends, and several pieces were sung by the school choir, led by Mr. Barraclough, the master. The programme was well rendered. The instrumental part was sustained by a harmonium, played by Mr. Illesley (Coalville), bass viol by Mr. Vernon, and violin by Mr. Knight (Griffydham), whose excellent execution was loudly applauded. The vocalists were Miss L. Knight, Miss Coulson, Mr. Illesley, and Mr. Vernon, who displayed good taste, richness, and good expression, combined with clear articulation. Miss L. Knight was repeatedly encored. Mr. Plowright, formerly a schoolmaster in the village presided. Programme:- "Wedding March", Messrs. Illesley, Knight and Vernon ; song, "The children's home", Mr. Barraclough ; anthem, "I will extol thee", choir ; trio, "Forgive, blest shade", Miss Knight. Messrs. Vernon and Barraclough ; song, Miss L. Knight (encored) ; "The pilgrims of the night", choir ; song, "Far away yet ever near", Miss Coulson ; March, "Caliph of Bagdad", instrumental Messrs. Illesley, Knight, and Vernon ; song, "Poor old Joe", Mr. Barraclough ; "Grand March", instrumental, Messrs. Illesley, Knight and Bernon ; song, Miss Coulson (encored) ; school song "Ring the bell, watchman", choir ; song, Mr. Illesley (encored) ; song, "My old Kentucky home", Miss L. Knight.

### **Leicester Chronicle – May 21<sup>st</sup> 1881**

#### **Griffydham and Pegg's Green**

##### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

**DRUNK AND DISORDERLY.** – Thomas Peters, spar manufacturer, Pegg's Green, was charged with being drunk and riotous, at Griffydham on the 3<sup>rd</sup> inst. – Mr. Lawrence, Leicester defended. – P.S. Hardy and P.C. Hancock gave evidence. – Fined 10s. 6d. and 20s. costs.

### **Leicester Chronicle – February 11<sup>th</sup> 1882**

#### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions, Saturday – before Major Mowbray (chairman) and H. E. Smith esq.**

**Assault** – William Freeman, collier, Griffydham, was charged with assaulting Wm. Stinson, at Griffydham, on the 14<sup>th</sup> ult. **After hearing the evidence the Bench fined defendant 6s. and 24s. costs, but in default of payment, he was sent to prison for seven days with hard labour.**

### **Leicester Chronicle – March 18<sup>th</sup> 1883**

**BLUE RIBBON.** – A meeting was held in the Reform Wesleyan Chapel on Thursday, when addresses were given by Messrs. J. Vorley, of Leicester, Kendrick Barraclough, and others. Mt. J. Wale ([Griffydham chemist](#)) presided. Ninety seven pledges were taken.

### **Ashby de la Zouch Gazette – May 27<sup>th</sup> 1882**

#### **MESSRS.**

#### **AULT, SPRECKLEY, AND Co.,**

#### **AT THE WAGGON AND HORSES, GRIFFYDAM, LEICESTERSHIRE**

#### **ON MONDAY THE 5<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JUNE, 1882**

#### **AT 5 FOR 6 O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING PROMPT**

#### **SUBJECT TO THE CONDITIONS OF THE SALE TO BE THEN PRODUCED**

All that close of Valuable Pasture Land, with the Kiln, Brick and Tile Open Shed, and other buildings standing thereon, called by the name of "The Brick Kiln Close", containing by survey 5a. 6r. 26p., or thereabouts, situate in the parish of Breedon-on-the-Hill, in a place there called "The Brand". And now in the occupation of Mr. Henry Toone.

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

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

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

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

## **Derbyshire Advertiser and Journal – July 7<sup>th</sup> 1882**

### **DERBY COUNTY COURT**

#### **ALLEGED WRONGFULL SEIZURE OF A HORSE AND CART**

**CHAMBERS v DOVE.** – In this case, the plaintiff was John Chambers, publican, ([Traveller's Rest](#)) of Griffydham, Leicestershire, and the defendant William Dove, of High-street, Melbourne. – Mr. Hextall appeared for the plaintiff and Mr. Briggs for defendant. – The claim was for the wrongful seizure of a horse and cart valued at £23. The plaintiff stated that on the 11<sup>th</sup> of December, George Gregory, a farmer, at Woodhouse, Melbourne, went to his house with a horse and cart. He purchased the horse and cart on the following morning, the price being £23, and he paid £20 down receiving a receipt from Gregory. They remained in his possession for some time, and his wife chalked her husband's father's name on it. About the middle of January witness was at Gregory's house when defendant and Mr. Nutt arrived, seized the horse and cart, and told witness if he interfered he would be taken into custody. The horse and cart were subsequently sold by auction by Mr. Doughty, at the New Inn, Melbourne. – Cross examined : the transaction between witness and Gregory was an honest and straight forward one. – Mrs. Chambers, Charles Gregory, and other witnesses were called, who gave corroborative evidence. – Mr. Briggs, on the part of the defendant, contended that the alleged sale was a fraudulent transaction between plaintiff and Gregory, for the purpose of enabling the latter to behave dishonestly to his creditors. He then called the defendant and other witness's to substantiate this contention, and to show that the seizure was a legal one, in accordance with with a judgement made in the Borough Court of Record. – HIS HONOUR was of opinion that the alleged sale was a sham, and that no money passed between plaintiff and Gregory for the horse and cart. He therefore gave a verdict for the defendant.

#### **Conclusion**

[Gregory had debts in order to avoid his horse and cart being ceased, so he put it in the possession of Chambers. The judge believed the sale was a sham and no money passed hands and found for William Dove who Gregory was in debt to.](#)

## **Leicester Journal – July 14<sup>th</sup> 1882**

### **The School Attendance Committee for the Ashby Union**

Numerous people were charged with neglecting to cause their respective children to attend school as required by the by-laws. Included were Samuel Hinds and Benjamin Platts of Griffydham. Fines were inflicted in each case.

## **Ashby de la Zouch Gazette – January 13<sup>th</sup> 1883**

### **Ashby Police Court**

Thomas Freeman of Griffydham, navvy, was charged with having on the 23<sup>rd</sup> December at Whitwick, stolen one dead rabbit, the property of Selina Holloway. – Mrs. Holloway said, I am a beerhouse keeper, and on the day in question I had prepared a tame rabbit which I had killed that day for cooking, and at twenty minutes past four, I put in the oven of the tap room ; The defendant with others, was at this time in the tap room, and he said it was a fine rabbit and a leg would be nice. I noticed the defendant leave my house about ten minutes after this. He went out of my house sideways at a quarter to five. I missed the rabbit out of the oven and I gave information to P.C. Darby, and of my suspicion about the defendant, and in the evening P.C. Darby brought to me a rabbit, which I at once identified as the one that had been taken out of my oven. – P.C. Darby said : I followed the defendant to his brother's house at Griffydham, a distance of three miles, and at once he denied having been to Whitwick that day. On looking round I saw a partly cooked rabbit on a dish, and I then charged him with this offence, when defendant said "Let me go to Mrs. Holloway and beg her pardon. I am sorry I ever brought the rabbit home. I see her put it in the oven, and as soon as her back was turned, I took it out and put it in my pocket". – **Sentenced to 21 days hard labour.**

### **Ashby de la Zouch Gazette – February 3<sup>rd</sup> 1883**

#### **THRINGSTONE**

**SUDDEN DEATH.** – On Friday of last week, Mr. Coroner Deane held an inquest at the Beaumont Arms, Thringstone, on the body of Ellen Eagle, the wife of Samuel Eagle, grocer aged, aged 87 years, who died very suddenly on the previous Wednesday. It appeared that the deceased started to walk to her brothers, Mr. J. Kendrick, grocer of Griffydam, and on the way fell down seriously ill. She was removed into the house of Thomas Elliot, where her brother saw her soon after. She was quite conscious, and expressed a belief that she should die. She did not speak afterwards, and died in about half an hour. Mr. J. Hatchet, surgeon, Ravenstone, who had attended the deceased for some time, attributed death to failure of the heart's action (syncope) from some disease or weakness of the heart. – The jury returned a verdict of "Death from natural causes". [The Beaumont Arms would have been in Rotten Row, Coleorton which was part of the Township of Thringstone at the time as Samuel and his wife lived in Rotten Row.](#)

### **Leicester Chronicle – February 3<sup>rd</sup> 1883**

#### **GRIFFYDAM**

**AWFULLY SUDDEN DEATH.** – An awfully sudden death occurred in this village on Thursday. Mrs. Eagle, the wife of a baker of Coleorton, came on some business respecting a house which was undergoing some alterations, and was in apparently good health. On returning from the house, however, she felt very ill and went into a neighbour's – a Mr. Elliot's – and sat down. Her brother, Mr. John Kendrick, came immediately on being sent for, and Mrs. Eagle, turning to him, said "I am going to leave you", and expired in a few minutes.

### **Ashby de la Zouch Gazette – February 24<sup>th</sup> 1883**

**Ashby Petty Sessions.** – Sidney Haywood of Griffydam, hosier, was charged with having, on the 10<sup>th</sup> inst., assaulted P.C. Chapman while in the execution of his duty. – Mr. Rowlatt appeared for complainant, and Mr. Wilson for defendant. – P.C. Chapman said : At a quarter to eleven on the night in question I was on duty in Griffydam, and at the time was walking along the highway with Jonas Knight. I saw a man coming, and on my turning my light upon him I saw it was the defendant, and that he had a bag on his back. I said, "Sidney, what have you got"? He replied, "A hare", and I asked to see in the bag, and said, "I suspect you of having something unlawfully obtained, and I must search you". He then made as to run away. I caught hold of him and said I should search him. He immediately struck me with his fist on my right eye, and twice on my breast. I then said I should apprehend him for assaulting me. He became very violent, and threatened me. Defendant kicked me twice on the shins, and tried to bite me. I had to get a horse and cart and convey him to Ashby. – In answer to Mr. Wilson, Chapman said : He did not say he bought the hare at Nottingham until I got him to the police-station. – Jonas knight gave corroborative evidence as to meeting the defendant, but on Chapman seizing the bag and searching Haywood, a scuffle then ensued and he walked on. – In answer to Mr. Wilson, he said defendant told Chapman that he had bought the hare at Nottingham. – The defendant was fined £1 1s. and costs, or 21 days hard labour. – Elizabeth Haywood, wife of Sidney Haywood was also charged by P.C. Chapman with having assaulted him whilst having her husband in his custody. – Mr. Rowlatt said with the sanction of the Bench he should withdraw the summons, - The summons was accordingly withdrawn.

### **Melton Mowbray Mercury & Oakham and Uppingham News – March 29<sup>th</sup> 1883**

#### **GRIFFYDAM & [Pegg's Green](#)**

The annual love feast was held at the Wesleyan Chapel on Easter Monday afternoon, the building being filled to overflowing. The service was conducted by the Rev. G. Green, of Coalville, who preached a very impressive sermon at night to a crowded congregation. A collection was made at the close to defray the expenses incurred by putting two stoves in the chapel. Tea was also provided in the afternoon in the schoolroom ([Griffydam Wesleyan Methodist Day School, Pegg's Green](#)) for the friends who had come from a distance.

**Leicester Chronicle – April 7<sup>th</sup> 1883**

**KEEPING A DOG WITHOUT A LICENSE**

**Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

David Sketchley, butcher, Griffydam, was charged by P.C. Chapman with keeping a dog without a license, on the 20<sup>th</sup> of March. – Defendant produced forms of exemption for the years 1881 and 1882, and said that the excise officer had omitted to send the form for this year. The dog in question was a shepherd dog and used only for that purpose. – The case was dismissed.

William Refern, labourer, Griffydam, was similarly charged, and was fined 15s. and 14s. costs.

**Leicester Journal – April 7<sup>th</sup> 1883**

**ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

**Elections of Parish Overseers and Constables**

**Worthington Overseers – J. S. Knight and John Nicklinson**

**Worthington Constables – John Brid, Jonas Knight, jun., and Jos. Fletcher**

**Leicester Journal – May 4<sup>th</sup> 1883**

**DEATH OF TWO CHILDREN AT WHITWICK.** – On Saturday, Mr. Coroner Deane held an inquest at Pegg's Green, as to the deaths of two children. Thomas and Mary Ann Shakespear, aged four years and nearly two years respectively, who had died on Thursday night and Friday morning without having medical attendance, but both having been given some powders, obtained from Mr. [Wale](#) of Griffydam, It appeared from the evidence that both had been ill occasionally since they had measles two months ago, and Mr. Donovan stated that the boy had died from inflammation of the kidneys and pericardium, and the girl from inflammation of both lungs ; and that both probably might have been saved had they had proper medical attendance, but that the powders given had nothing to do with the fateful result.

**Melton Mowbray Mercury & Oakham and Uppingham News – August 16<sup>th</sup> 1883**

**DEATH**

**KENDRICK.**– On the 9<sup>th</sup> inst., Mary Maria (Pollie), third daughter of John Kendrick, of Griffydam, aged 21 ; Deeply lamented.

**Melton Mowbray Mercury & Oakham and Uppingham News – January 10<sup>th</sup> 1884**

**GRIFFYDAM**

**WORKMEN'S PEACE ASSOCIATION.** – A public meeting was held in the Wesleyan Reform Chapel, Griffydam, on Saturday evening, in connection with the above association, which was well attended considering the inclement state of the weather. Mr. William Colver presided, and able addresses were delivered by Messrs. S. Payne (Leicester), [William Wale](#), Griffydam, and J. Wale, (Borrowash, Derby). Hearty votes of thanks to the deputation and the friends for the use of the chapel brought the meeting to a close.

**Melton Mowbray Mercury & Oakham and Uppingham News – January 24<sup>th</sup> 1884**

**MARRIAGE**

**KENDRICK – SWINGLES.** – On the 9<sup>th</sup> inst., at the Wesleyan Chapel, Kettering, by the Rev. W. L. Lewin, John Kendrick of Griffydam, Ashby de la Zouch, to Sarah Swingle, of Lubbenham.

**Leicester Chronicle – February 9<sup>th</sup> 1884**

Griffydam Wesleyan Day School ([Griffydam Wesleyan Methodist Day School, Pegg's Green](#)), – The committee of this school, engaged the services of Mr. James Young, who preached two sermons on Sunday last to attentive congregations ([in the Griffydam Wesleyan Methodist Chapel](#)). On the following Monday evening Mr. Young delivered a lecture in the schoolroom ([Griffydam Wesleyan Methodist Day School, Pegg's Green](#)),, subject, "Humbugs". The chair was taken by Mr. B. Cheatle, of Ashby de la Zouch. Collections were taken to defray the current expenses of the day school.

### **Melton Mowbray Mercury & Oakham and Uppingham News – March 6<sup>th</sup> 1884**

#### **GRIFFYDAM (Pegg's Green)**

**CONCERT.** – A concert took place on Monday evening at the Wesleyan day schoolrooms (Griffydam Wesleyan Methodist Day School, Pegg's Green). A very good programme was performed, and the greatest satisfaction was expressed by the audience by the repeated encores given. The following contributed their services :- Misses Knight, Ploughright (Plowright), Churville, Coulson and Rowell, Messrs Salt, E. J. Kendrick, Tivey (Melbourne), and Mr. Husbands. Mr. Bull, the schoolmaster, ably officiated as pianist. Mr. R. H. Plowright of Coleorton presided. The attendance was very good, notwithstanding the inclement weather. The profits will be devoted to the school funds.

### **Melton Mowbray Mercury & Oakham and Uppingham News – March 20<sup>th</sup> 1884**

#### **GRIFFYDAM (Pegg's Green)**

**GOSPEL TEMPERANCE.** – On Monday an interesting entertainment was given in the day school (Griffydam Wesleyan Methodist Day School, Pegg's Green), in connection with the gospel Temperance movement. The chair was occupied by Mr. William Crabtree, who in an able speech denounced the drink traffic as the nation's curse and a hindrance to the spread of Christianity. He was supported on the platform by Mr. John Kendrick, Mr. David Sketchley, Mr. S. Towers, Mr. Fairbrother, and Mr. Shakespeare. The last two gentlemen gave able speeches, each advocating the necessity of at once arriving at a decision in favour of this great movement for the emancipation of mankind from the slavery of drinkdom. The choir rendered good service, Miss Starbuck presiding at the harmonium. Solos were rendered by Miss. A. Kendrick and Miss. Coulson, which were deservedly admired. Mention of Mr. S. Towers recitation must not be omitted. Several young members also gave recitations.

### **Leicester Journal – August 15<sup>th</sup> 1884**

#### **TO LET WITH IMMEDIATE POSSESSION**

**RED LION INN**, Griffydam (Peggs Green), near Coleorton, Leicestershire, with cottage and Butcher's Shop adjoining, - Apply Alton and Co., Wardwick brewery, Derby.

### **Burton Chronicle – September 4<sup>th</sup> 1884**

#### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

**ASSAULT ON AN OLD MAN.** – Jarvis Phillips, of Coleorton, was charged with assaulting an old man named William Houlst, aged seventy-eight, on the 4<sup>th</sup> August. – Mr. Musson prosecuted, and Mr. Jesson defended. – Complainant stated that on the day in question he was putting a fence round a stack, and was digging a post hole. Defendant came up and pushed him into the hole, hurting his shoulder. Complainant also said that defendant was drunk. – A boy named Henry Platts corroborated this evidence. – Both complainant and his witness said that the assault was committed between 11 and 12 o'clock a.m. – The defence was that defendant was at a public-house until after twelve o'clock on the morning in question, and that he was quite sober when he left. – William Reeves, of the Red Lion Inn, Griffydam (Pegg's Green) gave evidence in support of this statement. – The Bench were of the opinion that an assault had been committed, and defendant was fined 21s. and 23s. 6d. costs, or twenty one days.

### **Leicester Chronicle – December 27<sup>th</sup> 1884**

#### **MARKET HARBOROUGH MAGISTERIAL COURT**

**ALLEGED THEFT OF PONY.** – William Knight of Griffydam, horse breaker, was brought up on remand, charged with stealing from a field at Great Bowden on the 11<sup>th</sup> Dec, a pony, the property of William Burditt, grazier. – Prosecutor said he saw the pony safe in his field at four o'clock on the 11<sup>th</sup> inst. Went to the field about eight next morning, and found the gate thrown off the hooks and the pony missing. He tracked the animal through the gate and on to the road. Gave information to the police, and on the Saturday following was shown the pony at the Leicester police station.. He valued the animal at £15. – John Knight, groom of Market Harborough, said he saw prisoner at Harborough on the 10<sup>th</sup> and the 11<sup>th</sup> of December. On the latter day they had a pint of beer together at the Red Cow Inn, and subsequently went to the Talbot, where they had another. A second pint was ordered at the Talbot, when prisoner got up saying that he should be

back in two or three minutes, but he did not return. – John Doleman, of Groby, farmer, said at 9. 30. on the night of the 11<sup>th</sup> inst., he saw prisoner at the Stamford Arms Inn. He showed witness the pony, which was tied to a ring at the door, and said he had got it from a man against Rugby, and exchanged with him for another, drawing 10s. to the good. Prisoner told him he was going to take it to Griffydam. Prisoner, however, owing witness money on a previous transaction, the latter said, "I'll find you some work and pay you, and I'll keep the pony till you have paid off the old account you owe me. He thereupon took possession of the pony, and on the following Saturday drove it into Leicester. The pony was then identified by the police as having been the one stolen from Great Bowden. He handed it over to Inspector Wainwright. – The latter deposed to going to Groby and charging the prisoner with stealing the pony. He denied having stolen it, but said he met a man near to Rugby with a van and the pony, for which he gave him an old mare. – Committed for trial.

### **Ashby de la Zouch Gazette – February 21<sup>st</sup> 1885**

#### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

Cooper Platts and Thomas Platts, two youths, residing at Griffydam, were severally charged with having, on the 4<sup>th</sup> Feb., at Pegg's Green, assaulted Daniel Burton, a rag and bone gatherer, - Mr. Wilkins appeared for the defence. – The complainant said that on the afternoon in question he was collecting rags and bones at Pegg's Green, and he saw the two defendants, and six or seven other lads. He had his bag upon his back, and he was walking along the road. The two defendants threw stones at him, and pulled at his bag, and followed him. – P.C. Chapman, in answer to the magistrates, said the boys were continually ill using the complainant, and that the complainant had been compelled to leave two or three houses because of the treatment he received from the lads, and upon serving the summons on the defendant, Thomas Platts, he said : "I did follow him up to his house, and I am sorry ; but why not summons others? – Fined 5s 6d. each and costs or seven days hard labour.

### **Leicester Chronicle – May 2<sup>nd</sup> 1885**

**Sudden Death** – At the Rising Sun on Tuesday at Worthington ([Griffydam](#)), Mr. Deane held an enquiry into the death of Hannah Holland, aged nine months, daughter of Lucy and Jack Holland, of Griffydam. The child according to the evidence, had been ailing for several months. On Saturday night the mother noticed that she had difficulty in breathing. She applied an oatmeal and mustard plaster between the shoulders and on the chest. That seemed to relieve her. On Sunday morning a doctor was sent for, but as she was washing the child between ten and eleven o'clock she dropped her head and died. – Mr. J. J. Serrers, surgeon, of Osgathorpe, having made a post-mortem examination, said death resulted from tubercular meningitis, the lungs and the brain being covered with tubercles. – **Verdict accordingly.**

### **Derby Mercury – March 3<sup>rd</sup> 1886**

#### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

**SELLING DRINK IN PROHIBITED HOURS.** – Jarvis Phillips, landlord of the Griffin Arms, Griffydam, was charged with the above offence, and Aaron Lakin and Richard Mee for drinking after hours, and for assaulting the Police. The evidence showed that Lakin and Mee were on the premises after the hour for closing – 10 o'clock. The defence was that they were friends of Philips and his sisters and often stayed after 10, but no beer was consumed by them. The evidence for and against the alleged assault on the Police-constable (Chapman) who endeavoured to arrest Lakin on the evening of February 20, was very conflicting, and this charge was dismissed. On the minor offence, Philips was fine £5 and costs (£1 8s.), and Lakin and Mee each 10s. 6d. and costs (15s.)

### **Ashby de la Zouch Gazette – August 28<sup>th</sup> 1886**

#### **ASHBY COUNTY COURT**

William Haywood v Frederick Haywood. – Plaintiff and defendant are brothers, and reside at Griffydam. There were originally two actions, plaintiff in one being defendant in the other. The first was an action for ejectment. The second an equity action, in which the plaintiff prayed that the trust of his father's will should be carried out. By an order of the Court, held on the 6<sup>th</sup> of May last,

the two actions were consolidated and the Registrar requested to take the evidence of all witnesses in writing, and submit the same to the judge, with any or all the arguments with respect to the solicitors. This was done and the matter came on at the last Court at Ashby, but not being finished it was adjourned to Leicester. – His honour now gave his decision, finding for Frederick Haywood in both actions. Costs to follow.

**Melton Mowbray Mercury & Oakham & Uppingham News – September 2<sup>nd</sup> 1886**  
**Ashby de la Zouch General Petty Sessions**

**SERIOUS NIGHT POACHING AFFRAY**

Samuel Watson, collier, Swannington ; Joseph Shakespeare, collier, Griffydam ; Peter King, collier, Griffydam ; and James Springthorpe, collier, Thringstone, were brought up in custody and severally charged with poaching on the night of the 21<sup>st</sup> inst., at Staunton Harold, on land in the occupation of Mr. Thomas Bird. The case created considerable interest, and the Court was crowded. – Mr. W. A. Musson appeared for the prosecution. – The prisoner Watson pleaded guilty to the charge, and the other prisoners not guilty.. – Harvey Phuller, gamekeeper to Sir George Beaumont, said he was out on duty in company of several other keepers on the night of the 21<sup>st</sup> inst., about 1.30 (midnight). They were together in Lount Wood, where they had been watching for three or four hours. From something they heard, they all rushed out of the wood, and went into a field in the occupation of Thomas Bird. They saw a lot of men about a dozen yards off, and two of these men were doing something with a net. When they saw witness and the other keepers they ran away towards the gate, and in halting at the gate some of the men turned their faces towards witness and the others, and he plainly recognized the prisoner Shakespeare, and Shakespeare's dog came at witness. He had known Shakespeare for many years. They followed them through the gate for about 100 yards before they made another halt. Witness took the lead, and the other keepers were running behind. Some of the prisoners then began to throw stones and then made another start. They followed another hundred yards. The prisoners then wheeled round upon them. Seven of the men were ready to use sticks, and these were in the front. There were some others behind. Out of the seven in front four of them were directly opposite witness. The prisoner Watson was one, two others were not yet in custody, and he believed that the fourth man was the prisoner Springthorpe, but he could not swear to this. He recognized the prisoner King and Shakespeare amongst those behind. The four men with sticks came up, and witness was struck on the arm. The other men behind continued to throw stones. After this they again ran away, and the prisoner Watson was knocked down by his (Phuller's) dog, and he was then taken into custody. Afterwards several nets were found, and some rabbits and other things. – John Cox, gamekeeper to Lord Ferrers, said he was out with the other keepers on the night in question. He recognized the prisoner Shakespeare, who had a dog with him. He was also quite certain that Springthorpe and King were there. Witness was within three or four yards of the men, and could see them quite plainly. There were ten or twelve men there all together, and witness would swear that Shakespeare, King, and Springthorpe were part of the company. – William Whitmee, keeper to Sir George Beaumont, corroborated, and was quite positive that King, Shakespeare, and Springthorpe were among the other men. – William Keen, head gamekeeper to Lord Ferrers, said he brought Watson to Ashby on the night in question, and afterwards examined the field, and found there two nets (one of them partly set, some bags, and five other nets about 70 yards long, 42 net pegs, 27 rabbits and some sticks and stones. – This was the case for the prosecution. – Defendants had nothing to say, but Springthorpe called two witnesses, namely, William Wilton and Edward Morley, but they only spoke as to being in Shakespeare's company until 11 o'clock on the night of the affray. – The Bench retired, and on returning in Court the Chairman said they had decided to convict ; each of the prisoners would have to go to gaol for six weeks with hard labour, and at the expiration of that time to find sureties not to so offend again for twelve months, and in default of finding such sureties to be further imprisoned for six calendar months hard labour.

**Leicester Chronicle – December 25<sup>th</sup> 1886**

**ACCIDENT.** – An accident of a serious nature occurred at the Snibston Colliery on Tuesday morning. A man named Silas Pickering was driving a horse and a tub of coal down the pit, riding on the limmers. Suddenly the tracing of the horse broke, which passed over one of his legs,

instantly breaking it. He was conveyed to his home at Griffydam, where his injuries were attended to.

### **Ashby de la Zouch Gazette – March 19<sup>th</sup> 1887**

**CONCERT.** – On Wednesday (March 9) a very successful concert was given in the [Griffydam Wesleyan Day School at Pegg's Green](#) by ladies and gentlemen of the neighbourhood, when an excellent programme was rendered before a large and appreciative audience. Before the time announced for the commencement of the concert all the seats were occupied, those coming late being able only to find standing room. Several instrumental pieces were played by a band under the leadership of Mr. Illsley, of Coalville, the instrumentalists being:- First Violins, - Messrs. Franks and Starkey ; Second violins:- Messrs. Knight and Ball ; Violoncello, Mr. Cliberi ; Piano, Mr. Illsley ; Cornet, Mr. Geary ; Contra basso, Mr. Burton.

The concert opened with the overture to "Tancredi" by the band. This was followed by the song, "True till death" by Mr. Johnson. Mr. May then sang the "Tug of War", after which the vocal duet, "Gipsy Countess", was very ably performed by Miss Knight and Mr. Johnson, and was deservedly encored. "Robin Adair", by Miss Plowright, also received an encore. The band then played a selection from "Figaro" which was followed by "Once again", which was beautifully sung by Mr. Farmer, who on being encored sang "The thorn". Miss Knight fairly brought down the house with beautiful rendering of "Waking or Dreaming", and she was vociferously encored. During the interval, a debate was held by 20 scholars, the subject being, "What should be the chief aims in life"? The parts were rendered in a clear and masterly manner, the children stating their different ideas in a very intelligent way, and displaying the pains that had been taken by their teacher in its preparation. **PART II** opened with the overture to "L'Italiana" which was loudly applauded. The rest of the programme, which was encored all through, being:- Song, "Sally in our alley" by Mr. Farmer ; Song, "British tar" by Mr. May ; Song, "The best of friends must part" ; Piano Solo, "Martha" by Miss Plowright ; Selection, "Norma" by the band ; Song, "powder monkey" by Mr. Johnson.

The concert terminated by singing the National Anthem.

### **Ashby de la Zouch Gazette – February 18<sup>th</sup> 1888**

#### **Ashby Petty Sessions**

#### **SELLING BREAD WITHOUT WEIGHING**

Superintendent Holloway charged a number of bakers and sellers of bread with having, on the 27<sup>th</sup> of January, sold respectively to Dorothy Anne Holloway certain loaves of bread, otherwise than by weight such bread being not called "Fancy" or "French" bread or rolls. The defendants were.....Thringstone ([Rotten Row, Coleorton](#)) John Kendrick, Baker ; Herbert Rowell, baker, Griffydam.....All the defendants with the exception of Robinson and Underwood pleaded guilty. – Supt. Holloway stated that complaints had been made regarding the deficiency in weight of the bread, and the Chief Constable had directed that proceedings should be taken against the defendants. He accordingly obtained the assistance of Mrs. Holloway to make the sundry purchases. The case against Robinson was proceeded with first. – Mrs. Holloway stated that on the 27<sup>th</sup> January she went to the shop of the defendant, Robinson, at Coleorton. He was the seller of the bread. She saw the defendant and his wife, and asked for a loaf of bread, which the defendant supplied without weighing. Witness paid the defendant 2½d. for the loaf, which was not "French" or "Fancy" bread, nor rolls. It was a half quarter cake loaf. – John Underwood was then charged with having, on the same date, unlawfully sold to Mrs. Holloway, a loaf, other than by weight. Witness stated that she then went to the defendant's shop at Whitwick, and he sold her a loaf, and he sold her a loaf, for which she paid 4½d. Defendant did not weight it. The bread was not "fancy" or "French" bread, nor rolls. – Supt. Holloway said that he weighed the bread and the deficiencies varied.

A 4lb. loaf supplied by John Kendrick, of Thringstone ([Rotten Row, Coleorton](#)), was 1oz 2 drs deficient .....Herbert Rowell, Griffydam, 2lb. loaf, 10 drs. Deficient.....With the exception of Robinson and Rowell, who sold 2lb. loaves the loaves purchased were supposed to be 4lb. loaves. – Supt. Holloway observed that the bread got lighter after keeping, and within twenty-four hours after purchase, he found another ounce deficiency. The bread purchased he weighed in the presence of the defendants respectively.

Mrs. Biddle's bread, it was stated had not been baked that day ; the bread of the other defendants had. The defendants, with the exception of Robinson and Ward, bread sellers, were all bakers.

The Bench retired, and after consideration..... John Kendrick and Herbert Rowell were fined 5s. 6d., and costs amounting in all to 16s. 6d.,.....In each case the fine was paid, one of the defendants expressing her sorrow, and adding that she would never offend again.

#### **Ashby de la Zouch Gazette – March 17<sup>th</sup> 1888**

##### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

###### **UTTERING COUNTERFEIT COIN**

William Griffin, was charged with having, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> inst., uttered a counterfeit shilling at various public houses in the town, in payment for beer. – The Magistrates Clerk, addressing the Magistrates, observed that the procedure in this case would be to forward the Magisterial depositions to the mint authorities, who would decide the course the Bench should pursue in regard to the offence. – After consultation the Magistrates decided to accept bail in a sum of £10 for a fortnight, when the case will be decided. The witnesses were also bound to appear at the next sitting of the Court. – The prisoner was then liberated.

#### **Ashby de la Zouch Gazette – March 31<sup>st</sup> 1888**

##### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

###### **THE COUNTERFEIT COIN CASE**

William Griffin, collier, of Griffydam, on bail, surrendered to the charge of having uttered a counterfeit shilling at the house of Mr. David Field, at the Shoulder of Mutton Inn. – The facts of the case have already been reported. – The accused was now committed for trial at Leicester, on Tuesday, the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April. – Bail was accepted in three sums of £20 each, the father and brother of the accused offering securities.

#### **Leicester Journal – April 27<sup>th</sup> 1888**

**TO LET**, a SIX roomed HOUSE, good garden, with outbuildings, situate at Griffydam ; rent moderate ; also small field adjoining if required ; possession at once ; full particulars on application to J. Kendrick, Coleorton, Ashby de la Zouch

#### **Leicester Journal – April 5<sup>th</sup> 1889**

##### **ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

###### **Elections of Parish Overseers and Constables**

**Worthington Overseers – Joseph Atkin and Joseph Knight**

**Worthington Constables – Geo. Barker and for Newbold Geo. Crabtree, jun ; Griffydam, Herbert Rowell**

#### **Leicester Chronicle – April 27<sup>th</sup> 1889**

##### **Ashby Petty Sessions – Before Mr. E. Smith (Chairman), Lord Loudon, and Mr. I Joyce**

**REFUSING TO QUIT** – Charles Edward Preston, of Pegg's Green, Griffydam, was charged with being desired and refusing to quit the licensed premises, the prietress of which was Eliza Jackson at Pegg's Green, on the 6<sup>th</sup> of April (*this was the Engine Inn*). Eliza Jackson stated that the defendant went to her house, and after being there a little while became disorderly, when she requested him to leave, and he refused. He then went outside and wanted to fight. – William Wardle also gave evidence. – Defendant stated that he simply remonstrated with a man named Burton in the house who was talking reproachfully of the Royal family. As a loyal subject he interfered, and wrote down in a pocket book the remarks made by Burton. He had no witnesses and wished the case to be adjourned. Mrs. Jackson who wished for an adjournment and the magistrates granted the request. – The case will be heard at the next fortnightly sessions.

## **Burton Chronicle – May 23<sup>rd</sup> 1889**

### **Ashby Petty Sessions**

**FERRETING AT COLEORTON.** – Stretton Platts, a collier, appeared on an adjourned summons to answer a charge of trespassing in search of game., on the 17<sup>th</sup> April. – Mr. Wilkins appeared for the prosecution. – On the day named, George Alcock, as assistant gamekeeper, saw the defendant behind a bush with a ferret in his hand in the wood at Coleorton at half-past one in the afternoon. He dropped on his knee and put the ferret in a rabbit hole. Alcock ran up to him and asked him what he was doing there, and defendant picked up the ferret and put it in his pocket. The defendant gave his name as Lovatt, but the keeper told him it was false, and that his proper name was Platts. Defendant refused to give up the ferret, whereupon Alcock told him he would have it again, and followed Platts to Griffydam, where he lives. – In answer to the Bench, the witness said he had no doubt the man he now saw was the person he had seen with the ferret. – Joseph Lord, a woodman on the Coleorton estate, was called, and said two or three days after the affair he asked defendant how he got on with Alcock and he replied that he could kill all such men as him (Alcock). In a conversation which took place about the case, witness told defendant if he had been there he would have taken the ferret from him, but defendant replied “You wouldn’t”. – In defence, Susan Batson, said that on the day named defendant was in her house, the “Rising Sun”, Griffydam. He came between seven and eight in the morning, and again between eleven and twelve and stayed until between three and four in the afternoon. She had dinner with her children and gave the defendant a bit of bread and cheese. He left between three and four, and came in again between seven and eight, and had a pint of beer and then left. She saw nothing more of him till the next day. – By Mr. Wilkins : She saw defendant about a week after, and he asked her if she would come and tell the magistrates he was in and out of her house all day on the 17<sup>th</sup> April, as he had been summoned for game trespass, and that he was not the man. She remembered the occurrence, because the day after she went to Loughborough market, and had not been there before for three months. – In reply to the Bench, Police Constable Fox said the distance between the wood mentioned and the “Rising Sun” at “Griffydam was a mile and a half. – The Chairman said the Bench had decided to convict the defendant, and he would be fined 10s. 6d. and costs 15s. 6d, or fourteen day. – Mr. Beaumont did not adjudicate in this case. ([Being the Lord of the Manor and owner of the estate of course](#)).

## **Burton Chronicle – June 20<sup>th</sup> 1889**

### **Ashby Petty Sessions**

**ASSAULT AT GRIFFYDAM.** – Stretton Platts, collier, Griffydam, was summoned for assaulting Henry Pope, of the same place. – Mr. W. Wilkins represented the complainant, who is a cowkeeper, at Griffydam. It appeared that a club feast took place at the “Waggon and Horses”, Griffydam, on Whit-Tuesday, and on the following day, according to the usual custom, the landlord entertained his customers to a “feed” made up of what was left from the club dinner. Complainant and defendant were present at the latter event, and were drinking together. Pope had paid for a drink or two for Platts, and because he refused to pay for any more he was violently attacked by Platts on his way home, and sustained a black eye and other injuries about the face.- Defendant swore he was not present on the occasion and knew nothing whatsoever of the affair. The Bench, however, believed complainant’s story, fined defendant 10s 6d. and costs, 14s. 6d., or fourteen days

**A GRIFFYDAM TRADESMAN AND HIS WEIGHTS.** – Herbert Rowell, shopkeeper, Griffydam, was summoned by Superintendent Holloway for having an unjust weight for use in his shop. – Mr. Holloway said he went to defendant’s shop and found a 2lb weight 6½ drams against the buyer. Neither Mr. Rowell or his wife were there, but he afterwards saw the former, who told him he was very sorry for what had occurred, and made an excuse that he had borrowed the weight from another person. Thirteen other weights in the shop were alright. – Fined 5s. 6d. and 12s. costs.

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

**ATTEMPTING TO COMMIT SUICIDE AT GRIFFYDAM.** – Thos. Smith Bird, a labourer of Griffydam, was charged with attempting to commit suicide at Griffydam on the 14<sup>th</sup> June. – The prisoner had been conveyed from Leicester Infirmary during the afternoon, AND PRESENTED A HAGGARD APPEARANCE. He was evidently “unhinged” mentally, and indifferent to the

proceedings. – Joseph Richards, of Griffydham, said that on the 14<sup>th</sup> ult., the prisoner's daughter ran to his house, and asked him to go to her father. He went, and saw the defendant standing against the door. He saw a razor covered with blood. When asked what he had been doing, and if he had been using the razor, the prisoner tried to obtain possession, and said, "That is my tool". Witness sent for a doctor. – **The prisoner was remanded.**

**Burton Chronicle – December 5<sup>th</sup> 1889**

**MESSRS. BELLAMY AND SON  
GRIFFYDAM, NEAR ASHBY DE LA ZOUCH, LEICS**

**TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION** (by order of the mortgagee), by Messrs. BELLAMY and SON, at the Queen's Hotel, in Ashby de la Zouch, on TUESDAY, Dec 17<sup>th</sup> 1889, at Six for Seven o'clock in the Evening precisely, subject to Conditions of Sale then to be produced, and in the following or such other Lots as shall be determined upon at the time of sale :-

**Lot. 1.**

All that valuable FREEHOLD ESTATE known as the Griffydham Brick and Interlock House Tile and Earthenware Works, late in the occupation of Messrs. Lager and Lakin, comprising extensive Brick-and- Tile Drying sheds, with water Cisterns, Brick and Tile Work Sheds, Store Room, 3 large Kilns ; together with a Six-room DWELLING\_HOUSE, Out-buildings and Garden attached.

The above property covers an area of 2 acres 2 roods, or thereabouts, adjoins land belonging to Lord Donington, and is within easy distance of the Midland Railway. There is an inexhaustible supply of very superior Clay, specially adapted for the manufacture of House-Tiles and Earthenware Goods of the choicest quality, and to an enterprising firm this affords a rare opportunity for carrying on an extensive and lucrative business.

**Lot. 2.**

ALL that FREEHOLD COTTAGE and Garden, situate on Brand Hill, Griffydham, and now in the occupation of John Rowel.

**Lot. 3.**

ALL THAT old-established BEER HOUSE known as the "Travellers' Rest" situate at Griffydham, with Stabling for four Horses and Hay Loft over, Cow-House for four cows, Out-buildings and large Gardens. The House comprises Tap-room, Back Parlour, Front Sitting room, another Room, two Kitchens, six Bed-rooms, and large Cellar, together with a four-room COTTAGE adjoining. There is a good supply of hard and soft Water, and a very extensive frontage to the Highway leading from Griffydham and Hinckley.

For further particulars apply to the AUCTIONEERS

Burton on Trent and Ashby de la Zouch, or to

Messrs. JENNINGS, SON, and BURTON,  
Solicitors, Burton on Trent.

**Burton Chronicle – December 19<sup>th</sup> 1889**

**THE PROPERTY MARKET**

At the Queen's Head Hotel, on Tuesday evening, Messrs. Bellamy and Son offered for sale several lots of property situate at Griffydham, near Ashby. The first consisted of a freehold estate known as the Griffydham, brick, tile and earthenware works, late in the occupation of Messrs. Lager and Lakin, together with a six room dwelling house. The property covers an area of two-and-a-half-acres, underlying which there is said to be an inexhaustible supply of clay adapted for house tiles and earthenware. Not a single offer was made, and the property was withdrawn.

The second lot – a freehold cottage and Garden at Brand Hill, Griffydham – was withdrawn at £35, and the remaining lot was disposed of privately to Mr. Emerson of Belton, for £300 ; it comprised the "Travellers Rest" beerhouse at Griffydham, with yard, outbuildings, and stabling for four horses. Messrs. Jennings & Son, Burton were the vendor's solicitors.

**Leicester Daily Mercury – April 7<sup>th</sup> 1890**

**Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions – Before H. E. Smith Esq. (chairman), George Moore Esq., the Earl of Loudoun, Rev. C. T. Moore, and Mr. Ingle Joyce.**

1. John Bird, Wm. Bird, and Joseph Barkley, colliers, all of Griffydam, were charged with being on Mr. William Pepper's (licensed victualler) premises, Osgathorpe, during prohibited hours on the 16<sup>th</sup> March. – **They pleaded guilty, and were fined 2s 6d. and 10s 6d costs.**

2. Price Kidger, farmer, Pegg's Green, Griffydam, was charged with keeping a dog without a license on the 15<sup>th</sup>. – Defendant pleaded guilty, but said he was entitled to an exemption, which he had since obtained. – **Fined 2s 6d. and 12s. costs.**

3. Stretton Platts and George Knight, colliers, Griffydam, were charged with damaging a window, the property of Richard Radford, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March. – The damage was estimated at 5s. – Mr. Wilkins prosecuted on behalf of the owner. – Wm. Wilkins, a tailor, residing at Griffydam, said he saw the defendants pass his house just after ten o'clock, and shortly afterwards he heard a crashing of glass. He saw no one else pass. – Josiah Harwood said he was at the Waggon and Horses on the night in question. Defendants were there, and he thought both carried sticks. – P.C. Fox said he examined the window and found it broken. He also found on the sill some bark off a hazel stick, but he did not produce it. – For the defence, James Holland said he left the Waggon and Horses in on the night in question with Platts, and they both went home. They both passed by Radford's house together. – **The case was dismissed.**

**Derby Mercury – April 30<sup>th</sup> 1890**

**GRIFFYDAM  
VALUABLE OLD PASTURE LAND AND COTTAGES  
TO BE OFFERED FOR SALE BY AUCTION  
BY GERMAN, GERMAN AND COOPER**

**At the WAGON AND HORSES INN, Griffydam, on FRIDAY, the 9<sup>th</sup> day of May, 1890, at five for six o'clock in the evening, the following Valuable Freehold Property :-**

All these FOUR COTTAGES, situate in Griffydam, approached from the highway leading from Griffydam to Worthington, in the occupation of Messrs. Smart, Bird and two unoccupied, together with the Gardens adjoining and necessary out - ?????? and all those TWO CLOSES of Valuable OLD PASTURE LAND, in the rear of the cottages, approached from the above mentioned highway by an occupation lane, containing 2A. 0R, 0P., or thereabouts, in the occupation of Henry Pope, and adjoining lands belonging to the Right Hon. Lord Donnington and others.

To view apply to the tenants, and further information may be obtained from the AUCTIONEERS ; or from

Messrs. SMITH and MAMMATT,  
Solicitors, Ashby de la Zouch

**Burton Chronicle – October 30<sup>th</sup> 1890**

**DISTRICT NEWS – ASHBY DE LA ZOUC**

**WESLEYAN MUTUAL IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY.** – On Friday evening, a meeting in connection with the above society was held in the large vestry adjoining the Wesleyan Chapel. There was a good attendance. The chair was taken by the Rev. H. Gibson (superintendent Minister), and there were also present, Revs. C. Whitfield (Wesleyan), A. Johnson (Primitive Methodist), Messrs. Spencer, Adcock, Chadwick, Woodward and others. After the preliminaries had been gone through, Mr. R. T. Hance (head master of Griffydam Wesleyan Schools) read a paper on "Prejudice". After defining the term "prejudice" the essayist went on to show its wide-spread prevalence and the manifold evils which attend it. He likewise spoke of the effect of prejudice with regard to the reading of fiction, the opening of places of amusement on the Sabbath, the visitation of theatres, and the practice of card playing. Religious prejudice was also dealt with in a clear and concise manner, and its evil effect on the various sects of the Christian community was shown. The paper was written in a terse and original style, and was read with considerable vigour and force. At the close of the reading of the essay, several persons criticised the paper, speaking of its merits and demerits. The essayist gracefully responded to the various criticisms, and the proceedings were terminated by singing and prayer. This is the first paper of

the present session and it was generally acknowledged to be an able as well as an interesting one.

### **The Leicester Chronicle – December 20<sup>th</sup> 1890**

#### **Griffydam – Failure of a grocer –**

The first meeting of the creditors of Sydney Haywood, of Griffydam, grocer, was held on Tuesday at the office of the Official Receiver at Leicester. The summary of debtor's statement of affairs showed gross liabilities £71. 7s. 1d., and assets £7, leaving a deficiency of £64. 7s. 1d. The debtor explained his failure by saying: "I gave up my work at Messrs. Stableford and Co, Coalville, about five months ago, and took a grocer's shop which has not answered". The official receiver's observations were: The receiving order was made on the debtor's own petition. He started in business at Griffydam as a grocer five months ago, with a capital of about £30, having previously been in the employ of Messrs. Stableford and Co., of Coalville. The business done has been very small, and insufficient to pay expenses. At the date of the receiving order, the landlord seized a quantity of hay for a year's rent of two fields occupied by the debtor, but it is not worth more than the amount due. The above liabilities include £30 borrowed money, and £5 rent of a house formerly occupied by the debtor, the remainder being for trade debts, only one of which exceeds £10 in amount. No books have been kept, and no deficiency account has been lodged. There will be no offer of composition, and the debtor has been adjudged bankrupt. – **The matter has been left in the hands of the official receiver.**

### **Burton Chronicle – March 19<sup>th</sup> 1891**

#### **GRIFFYDAM**

**A LOCAL BANKRUPTCY CASE.** – At the Leicester Bankruptcy court last week, Sidney Haywood, grocer, Griffydam, came up for his public examination. His liabilities were named at £71, and assets of £7 8s. – Mr. Sharp appeared for bankrupt, who said that he was formerly a labourer in the employ of Messrs. Stableford at Coalville. In June last year, hoping to improve his position, he took a grocer's shop. He had about £30 capital, mostly saved by his wife. He did not thoroughly understand the trade, but thought in a small place much knowledge would not be necessary. About twelve years ago he had £400, and invested in a brickyard, which failed. In July last he found that the grocery business would not pay, and then asked his principle creditor to rake some of his goods back, which he did, and he soon afterwards shut up the shop – Examination closed.

### **Burton Chronicle – April 2<sup>nd</sup> 1891**

**ANNUAL LOVE FEAST.** – The annual circuit Love Feast was held at Griffydam Wesleyan Chapel on Easter Monday, commencing at half-past one o'clock. Wesleyan Methodists from all parts of the circuit were present, and the gathering was one of great spiritual blessing. At half-past four a large number sat down to tea in the school room, and a pleasant hour was spent; whilst at half-past six, services were held in the chapel, when the Rev. G. Barnley (supernumerary) preached an eloquent sermon suitable for the occasion. The Easter Love Feast is a time honoured institution, and is looked forward to with great interest by the Wesleyans in all parts of the circuit.

### **Burton Chronicle – April 2<sup>nd</sup> 1891**

**A LOCAL LECTURER.** – On Good Friday a lecture was given in the Wesleyan Reform Chapel by Mr. J. A. Haywood, of Griffydam, entitled "Heroes and Heroines of time past". The chair was taken by Mr. C. Frearson of Griffydam. The lecturer spoke about the heroes and heroines of the Bible first : moses as a military hero, and of Joshua finishing the journey to Canaan ; David as a man who possessed a cultivated spirit, who fought with a giant : and he also spoke of Gideon, Samson, Jacob, Daniel, and the three Hebrew children. This he followed by reference to the heroes of invention, Geo. Stephenson, Eddison, and many others. Having incidentally alluded to Mr. Wale, of Griffydam, as a hero, he alluded to the heroes of the Reformation – Luther, Wycliffe, and others ; of heroines like Ruth, Rachael, Mary (of the Bible), and Lady Jane Grey. The lecturer's style was much appreciated, and it was thoroughly believed that the lecture was

enjoyed by young and old. After the lecture a collection was taken, and the proceeds given towards the chapel debt, which, it is hoped, will soon be cleared.

#### **Leicester Daily Post – April 20<sup>th</sup> 1891**

##### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

**ALLEGED ASSAULT AT GRIFFYDAM.** – Sidney Haywood, of Griffydam, was summoned by Mary Ann Hill, single woman, for assaulting her on the 4<sup>th</sup> inst.,. – Complainant stated that defendant had thrown a bucket of water over her in the morning of the day. – By Mr. Sharp : Defendant lived at the bottom of a yard and witness lived at the top. She had not been in the habit of letting refuse down the incline on to the defendant's premises. – Deborah Haywood, defendant's daughter, said she was present at the time when her father was alleged to have assaulted complainant. She was positive no assault had taken place. – The Bench dismissed the case, and ordered the parties to pay their own costs.

#### **Leicester Chronicle – April 25<sup>th</sup> 1891**

##### **Griffydam School Sermons. ([Griffydam Wesleyan Methodist Day School, Pegg's Green](#)) –**

In connection with the Wesleyan Day School ([Griffydam Wesleyan Methodist Day School, Pegg's Green](#)), the annual services in aid of the school funds were held in the chapel on Sunday and Monday, when addresses were given by Miss ??rewater, of London. On Sunday afternoon Miss Brewster took as her subject "Ruth, or woman's influence", while the subject on Sunday evening was "The home at Bethany". The subject on Monday night was "The beautiful in the life of Joseph". The congregations were good.

#### **Burton Chronicle – June 4<sup>th</sup> 1891**

##### **GRIFFYDAM**

**SERVICE OF SONG.** – On Saturday evening last, the 30<sup>th</sup> ult., at the Wesleyan Chapel, the popular service of song, "For the Master's sake" or the "man with the white hat", was rendered by the choir and a few friends. Tea was provided at five o'clock, and the service of song commenced at seven. There was not such a large company as was expected or desired, but those present seemed to thoroughly enjoy the service. Miss Cooper presided at the harmonium, and Mr. Hance, of the school, gave the connective readings. A good collection was taken, which will go to the fund for purchasing a new harmonium.

#### **Daily Telegraph & Courier (London) – July 6<sup>th</sup> 1891**

##### **Part of a five column article headed London, Monday, July 6<sup>th</sup> in the above newspaper.**

.....Ashby de la Zouch in Leicestershire. It is only 115 miles from London ;and in the year of her majesty's accession it was deriving prestige and profit from the visitors who flocked to its recently-constructed "Ivanhoe" Baths – a splendid building in the Doris style – and dispensing water strongly impregnated with muriate of soda, containing by ten or twelve degrees a greater proportion of salt than sea water., and considered to be exceptionally efficacious in alleviating the agonies of rheumatism. **Then in the immediate vicinity of Ashby de la Zouch, there is a small but historic mineral spring called the Griffydam, the water of which was served at the table of MARY Queen of Scots when she was in the custody of the Earl of HUNTINGDON at Ashby Castle.** Another once renowned inland spa in Leicestershire, is Burton Lazars, which boasts a spring the water of which was formerly in high repute for curing leprosy.....

#### **Burton Chronicle – July 16<sup>th</sup> 1891**

##### **GRIFFYDAM & [Peggs Green](#)**

**SCHOOL SERMONS AND TREAT.** – The anniversary services ([at the Griffydam Wesleyan Methodist Chapel](#)) in connection with the Wesleyan Sunday School ([held at the Griffydam Wesleyan Methodist Day School, Pegg's Green](#)) were held on Sunday week, when two excellent and impressive sermons were preached by Mr. H. Dagger, of Derby. The weather was rather unpropitious, rain falling very heavily in the afternoon, but improving towards evening. The congregations were not quite so good as usual on this account, but the financial result was very satisfactory. Special hymns were sung effectively and heartily by the children. – The children had

their usual treat and tea the following Tuesday, there being a public tea in the school-room ([at the Griffydam Wesleyan Methodist Day School, Pegg's Green](#))

### **Burton Chronicle – September 24<sup>th</sup> 1891**

#### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

**ASSAULTING A GRIFFYDAM INNKEEPER.** – Jerimiah Rose, joiner, Belton, was summoned for assaulting Joseph Bradley, innkeeper, at Griffydam, on the 31<sup>st</sup> Aug. – Complainant's case was that defendant came to his house and called for some beer, with which he was served. He began to row about some change, which ended in his striking complainant with his fist. His conduct was so bad that he had to send for the parish constable to eject him. – Mr. Sharp, who represented the defendant, submitted that the dispute arose through the defendant being accused of taking up a shilling which he had previously put down to pay for some beer ; that, in fact, he had been "ringing the changes". This he denied, and also the assault. – The Bench fined the the defendant 5s. 6d. and costs or seven days.

### **Burton Chronicle – October 8<sup>th</sup> 1891**

#### **GRIFFYDAM**

**WAKE.** – The annual wake commenced on Sunday, and, according to ancient usage, should be continued during the present week. The exertions put forth, however, do not appear to have been very strenuous. A number of visitors entered the village on Sunday, and somewhat relieved the ordinary aspect of the place.

### **Burton Chronicle – October 15<sup>th</sup> 1891**

#### **GRIFFYDAM & [Pegg's Green](#)**

**DAY SCHOOL.** – The Wesleyan day school ([Griffydam Wesleyan Methodist Day School, Pegg's Green](#)) connected with this village have been painted and renovated. Various other improvements have been made, and buildings now present a neat and attractive appearance. The managers have accepted the Government proposals, so that the school is now free. We are glad to hear that the introduction of the new scheme has considerably improved attendance, and that a number of new scholars have been admitted.

**THE HARVEST.** – Harvest thanksgiving services in connection with the Wesleyan Chapel at this village were celebrated on Sunday, when two appropriate and forceful sermons were preached by My. Isaac Brooks, of Normanton. The chapel was very prettily decorated with flowers and corn, while on tables in front of the preacher were to be seen a profusion of the good things which God provides for His children. The arrangements of the fruits and vegetables, together with the ornamentation of the chapel, reflected great credit upon those who cheerfully laboured in the work and gave of their substance to render the services a success. – A public tea was provided on Tuesday, after which the gifts of fruit, &c., were sold. The proceeds of the sale and the collections on Sunday go to the trust fund.

### **Leicester Journal – January 22<sup>nd</sup> 1892**

#### **Ashby de la Zouch County Court**

#### **GRIFFYDAM – CLAIM FOR DAMAGES**

Joseph Ison, draper, claimed £13 damages from Thomas Knight, engine driver. Both parties live at Griffydam. – Mr. J. J. Sharp (Messrs. Sharp and Richardson, Coalville) appeared for the plaintiff and Mr. Jesson for the defendant. – Mr. Sharp in bringing the particulars of the case before the jury, he said the plaintiff travelled about with drapery. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> November, he was returning from a place called Barlestone, and on passing the house of defendant saw his greyhound bitch standing on the low wall in the front of the house. It began to bark, and jumping off the wall flew to the horse, frightening it and making it kick, with the results that it eventually broke off one shaft, smashed the splash board all to atoms, and the horse itself was very much injured. Plaintiff had brought the horse a month previously for 15 guineas, and just before the injuries it had received, he was offered £24 for it. The damage claimed by the plaintiff amounted to £13. – Plaintiff, in supporting this statement, added that he had a bull terrier dog under his cart, and defendant's dog went beneath to it. His horse then started kicking. – In reply to Mr. Jesson, plaintiff maintained that he was not mistaken as to the dog. If the dog (produced) belonged to Mr.

Knight, it was the same as frightened his horse. He (plaintiff) kept his dog to look after the cart during the time he was waiting upon customers. It was not a vicious dog, and had never bitten anybody. – Mr. Sidney Sturgess, veterinary surgeon, Ashby, who said he saw the horse twenty-one days after the accident, described the injuries it received, which were principally confined to the hind legs. There was now an enlargement of one leg, and the horse was permanently scarred. Its worth in the future would depend on whether it turned out a kicker or not. – Edward Handford, horse breaker, Griffydam, also spoke to the plaintiff's dog occasionally running after his horse barking. – John Siddons, farmer, Osgathorpe, gave similar evidence. – Jabez Henson, blacksmith and horse dealer, Thringstone, deposed that he offered the plaintiff £24 for the horse before the accident. He knew a "party" who wanted a horse of that description. – Mr. Jesson submitted that there was no case for the jury, contending that the plaintiff was guilty of contributory negligence inasmuch as defendant's dog if it came upon the road was brought about by the plaintiff's dog. – His honour was of opinion that there was a case for the jury, and Mr. Jesson in the course of his address, maintained that plaintiff was mistaken in the identity of the dog. It was always kept at home, and on the night of the 23<sup>rd</sup> November, was out of the house. – Defendant, his wife, and other witnesses having given evidence, and both counsel and Judge addressed the jury, the latter retired. After a few minutes absence they returned into Court with a verdict in favour of plaintiff for £5 damages

#### **Burton Chronicle – February 4<sup>th</sup> 1892**

##### **GRIFFYDAM**

**GOSPEL TEMPERANCE BUILDING.** – A gospel temperance meeting was held in the Wesleyan Chapel, Griffydam on Wednesday week. The chair was taken by Mr. H. Rowell, and stirring addresses were given by Messrs. Geary Kendrick and E. Armson. The evils of drunkenness and the dangers of moderation were pointed out, and earnest appeals were made especially to parents and young persons, to ally themselves on the side of a gospel temperance. A varied programme of readings, recitations, and solos by the children and friends added variety and interest to the proceedings. The male soloists were Messrs. J. Knight and and Allars, while a solo from Sankey's collection was well-rendered by a girl member of the Band of Hope – Sarah Astinds. A profitable meeting was concluded by the Benediction.

#### **Burton Chronicle – February 25<sup>th</sup> 1892**

##### **GRIFFYDAM**

**WESLEYAN CHAPEL.** – On Thursday a public tea was provided in the above chapel. Subsequently the choir, assisted by a few friends from Worthington, gave the service of song entitled "Elias Power", or "Ease in Zion". The musical portion of the service as a whole was effectively rendered by the choir. Solos were sung by Messrs. Allard, Freeman, H. Johnson, and E. Kendrick, all of whom deserve credit for their performances. In addition to those mentioned, the following took part in quartettes and duets : Messrs. G. Kendrick, and J. Johnson, and Misses Cooper and Adkin. Miss Cooper presided at the harmonium, and the connective readings were vigorously and expressively given by Mr. Hance. A collection was taken for the new harmonium fund.

#### **Burton Chronicle – March 17<sup>th</sup> 1892**

##### **MEETING OF BOARD OF GUARDIANS AN AGGRIEVED RATEPAYER**

The Clerk read a letter from the Local Government Board, enclosing a communication which had been addressed to them by Mr. Sketchley, of Griffydam, relating to the poor rate collector for the parish (Mr. Cooper) and requesting to be furnished with the observations of the Guardians on the subject. – The communication which had been sent by Mr. Sketchley to the President of the Local Government Board was as follows :- "Sir, - I write to inform you that I am a freeholder of houses and land in the parishes of Thringstone, Swannington and Worthington, in the Union of Ashby de la Zouch, residing at Griffydam, in the parish of Worthington, and we are just on the eve of choosing parish-officers for the ensuing year. I take the liberty to inform you that the collectors of the poor-rate have done their work honourably and satisfactorily. They are appointed by the

magistrates, except one – Mr. Thomas Cooper, of the Smoile, Worthington. He has not called on me or demanded a poor-rate for three years. Will you please be so kind to inform me if he can come upon me legally for the three years' rates or any portion of them ? I am , sir, yours truly, Jesse Sketchley, Griffydham. – The reading of the letter caused great amusement amongst the Guardians. – In reply to questions, the CLERK said that Mr. Cooper had accounted for all the rates in his parish, and they had been paid over to the overseers. He had met Mr. Cooper this morning, who admitted it was quite correct, he had not collected the rate mentioned by Mr. Sketchley, but since the collector did not complain, and as the money had been paid, there was no reason for Mr. Sketchley to complain – (laughter and Hear, Hear) – Mr. J. P. White : I only wish I could have the same attention from the collector – (more laughter). – In answer to a question, the CLERK said that in several instances Mr. Cooper had paid the rates out of his own pocket, trusting to the honesty of his friends to be recouped, but if he had not sent the necessary demand note it was questionable whether he would be able to recover it legally from the parties concerned. – Mr. WHITE : What does Mr. Sketchley pay to the poor rate ? – The CLERK ; Three shillings per quarter – 12s. a year – (Laughter), - Mr WARD : There is evidently an improvement in the farmers' prospects – (more laughter). – The CLERK was instructed to inform the Local Government Board that the rates referred to had been accounted for.

### **Burton Chronicle March 24<sup>th</sup> 1892**

#### **GRIFYDAM**

**GOSPEL TEMPERANCE.** – Two very good meetings in furtherance of this cause have recently been held in the Wesleyan Chapel. The first meeting was on Shrove Tuesday under the chairmanship of Mr. G. Kendrick. Vigorous addresses were given by Messrs. Rowell and Hance, and the following interesting and varied programme was well sustained by those who took part : Recitation, J.Reid; violin solo, Mr. E Armson; recitation, Mary Ann Stevenson; solo, Mr. E. Kendrick; reading, Mr. hance; recitation, Mr. Davies; solo, Mr. J. Richards; recitation, Mr. A. Chaplin; duet (instrumental), Misses Richards and Cooper; recitation, Mr . A. Hinds; conference and song, by five girls – E. Chaplin, A. Hodges, F. Reid, M. Cox, and K. Pickering; quartette, Messrs. Cooper and Richards and Messrs. G. Kendrick and E. Kendrick. – Another meeting was held on Wednesday, the 16<sup>th</sup> inst., when with a good congregation and excellent addresses from Mr. Pike and Mr. Starkie, of Ashby, a most successful meeting resulted. The chair was taken by Mr. Rowell, and the following programme was gone though ; - Recitation, N. Fowkes; solo, Mr. E. Armson; recitation, Nellie Rowell, recitation, J. Reid; quartette, Misses Cooper and Richards, and Messrs. G. and E. Kendrick; recitation, Alice Hodges; recitation, J. Knight; recitation, W. Fowkes; duet Mr. E. Harman and E. Kendrick; quartette, M. Cox, F.Reid, K. Pickering, and A. Hosges; recitation, W. Davis; recitation, J. Stacey; recitation, Mabel Cox. Both meetings were well attended, and a number of pledges were taken.

### **Burton Chronicle – May 26<sup>th</sup> 1892**

#### **GRIFFYDAM**

**WESLEYAN REFORM CHAPEL.** – The anniversary of the Sunday school in connection with the above chapel was celebrated on Sunday. Two sermons were preached (afternoon and evening) by the Rev. J. Dennis, of Wellingborough. The children and choir sang special hymns, and the juveniles also gave various recitations. On Monday a public tea was provided in the chapel in the afternoon. Previous to this the children paraded the village, and sang very sweetly at intervals, selections from their anniversary hymns. After they had been regaled with a good tea, they indulged in various amusements in a field kindly lent for the occasion.

### **Leicester Chronicle – April 2<sup>nd</sup> 1892**

#### **Reports of the Medical Officers.**

**Dr. Jamie (No.1. District)** - reported an outbreak of throat disease at Griffydham of a diphtheritic character, principally affecting children. The cases had not been officially notified to him as diphtheris, nor did the symptoms in most of the cases, correspond with the disease, but there was sufficient evidence to prove its infectious and dangerous nature, **several deaths** being attributable directly or indirectly to this cause. His enquiries led him to suspect a tainted milk supply, but the evidence of the origin of the outbreak was not conclusive

## **Burton Chronicle – June 30<sup>th</sup> 1892**

### **Mr. McLaren's MEETINGS**

On Thursday evening Mr. McLaren, with Mrs. McLaren, the Rev. T. Maine, Mr. J. P. Adcock, Mr. Pochin, and Mr. Biggs, agent, started on a tour from the Royal Hotel, Ashby, through Coleorton and Griffydham. At the former place, the party called at the school-room adjoining the Baptist Chapel on Coleorton Moor, where numerous workers in the liberal cause were met. A stay was made for about three quarters of an hour, during which Mr. and Mrs. McLaren addressed the workers. – Mr. McLaren in the course of his remarks asked the workers particularly to avoid during the contest any unfair proceedings by which the Corrupt Practices Act could be brought into force. – The workers each expressed themselves hopeful and, indeed, sanguine of the result of the coming contest, and one of the workers, in answer to Mr. Biggs, the liberal agent asserted boldly, that in the various mines the miners were on the side of Mr. McLaren, and there was every reason to be hopeful. – The party then drove to the Wesleyan School-room, Griffydham ([Griffydham Wesleyan Methodist Day School, Pegg's Green](#)), and at seven o'clock entered the room amidst loud applause. Mr. J. P. Adcock presided, and opened the proceedings with a short address. – Mr. C. B. McLaren, who was loudly applauded, said that he remembered the last meeting at Griffydham in that school-room, and the hearty reception accorded him on that occasion. He now had pleasure in firing the first shot at Griffydham – (applause). Miners had the intelligence to know who were their friends, and must know that in supporting a Liberal candidate they would be supporting one who would also support their own interests as well as the labour party. Let them vote for a man who would serve their interests, and thus benefit themselves.....The Liberal party always stood by the Nonconformists – Baptists, Wesleyans, and others – but on the other hand the Tory party had always supported the landlord interest in Parliament, and tended to suppress the growth of religious opinion, which they, (the Liberal party) valued so highly.....

## **Burton Chronicle - September 29<sup>th</sup> 1892**

### **GRIFFYDAM**

**HARVEST SERVICES.** – On Sunday, the harvest services connected with the Wesleyan Reform Chapel were held, when special sermons were preached by Mr. Bodell (Gresley). The customary harvest decorations had been made, and the sanctuary presented an attractive appearance. The hymns rendered by the congregation and choir were specially adapted for the occasion. The usual thanksgivings collections were made, and will be devoted to the funds of the society.

## **Leicester Chronicle – November 19<sup>th</sup> 1892**

### **GRIFFYDAM ([Pegg's Green](#))**

**TEMPERANCE MEETING.** – On Tuesday evening the first of the series of temperance meetings to be held during the winter months took place in the Griffydham Wesleyan schoolroom ([Griffydham Wesleyan Methodist Day School, Pegg's Green](#)). There was a good attendance. The chair was taken by Mr. Herbert Rowell, of Griffydham. Addresses were delivered by Messrs. R. T. Hance, of Osgathorpe, and G. Kendrick, of Coleorton, interspersed with songs, solos, readings, and recitations.

**WESLEYAN CHAPEL.** - The internal alterations are at last complete. The lofty pulpit has been taken down, and a substantial and ornamental rostrum constructed. A platform for the use of the choir has also been arranged, and the whole of the improvements have been carried out by Mr. George Pike, of Ashby at a cost of more than £20. The sacred edifice has also been further improved by increased lighting facilities, and by a quantity of linoleum for covering the floor. The recent additions and alterations will supply a long-felt want. During the alterations, services have been held in the Providence Wesleyan Chapel, about a mile distant. The re-opening services, conducted by the Rev. W. D. Johnson, were well attended.

## **Leicester Chronicle – February 4<sup>th</sup> 1893**

### **IBSTOCK BAPTISTS v GRIFFYDAM SWIFTS**

Good form was shown by the Ibstock forwards, and the game ended in a victory for the visitors by two goals to none, this result being largely attributable to the splendid play of J. Sharpe. Baptist team – F. Baxter, goal ; R. Woodward, S. Thompson, backs ; T. Wright, E. Mee, H. Haylett, half backs ; Forwards – J. Sharpe, E. Ward, (right wing), A. Griffin (centre), S. Beeson, and T. Cooper (left wing).

### **Leicester Chronicle – May 27<sup>th</sup> 1893**

#### **Sad Fatality at Swannington**

An enquiry was held by Mr. Deane, coroner, at the New Inn, Swannington (*Pegg's Green?*), on Thursday afternoon, into the circumstances attending the death of Edgar 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 17<sup>th</sup> inst., he went with his son to repair a pump, at the house of Mr. Johnson, Swannington Moor. About 11.30 a.m. deceased put a ladder down the well to the first stage and went down a distance of twelve feet. He saw his son try the stage. All at once he began to come up as quickly as he could. He had nearly reached the end of the ladder when he seemed as if all of his strength had gone. He loosed his hold of the ladder and fell backwards down the well. They did not try the air in the well before going down. Deceased said nothing to him. He (witness) had no experience of that kind of work, and only went to help him with the ladder. – Joseph Morley, collier, living at Pegg's Green, said that from what he heard he went to Mr. Johnson's house. He tried the air in the well by letting a candle down, and found there was "damp" (*known as choke damp in the coal mines which was fatal*) in the well up to within a yard of the top. He then went for the police, and with the assistance of James Leeson, a collier, of Griffydham, and a dad, the body of deceased was got out. He appeared to be quite dead. – Mr. Jno. James Serras, surgeon, Osgathorpe, who examined the body at the deceased's father's house, said there were no bones broken. There was only abrasions, doubtless caused by the fall. Death was due to asphyxia. – **A verdict of "Accidental Death" was returned by the jury.**

### **Leicester Chronicle – March 4<sup>th</sup> 1893**

**Griffydham Swifts v Shepshed Church of England.** – Played at Griffydham on Saturday. The visitors won the toss and kicked downhill, Griffydham 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. Griffydham Players :- C. Platts, goal; W. Fowkes and J. Johnson, backs; H. Johnson, J. Hodges and S. Johnson, half backs; H. Pickering, J. Turner, T. Oliver, J. Bradford, and S. Shakespear, forwards. Referee, Mr. Robey of Ashby; Linesman, S. Edwards.



**THE TRAVERLERS REST FOOTBALL TEAM, GRIFFYDAM 1904  
(WAS THIS GRIFFYDAM SWIFTS ???)**

**Burton Chronicle July 6<sup>th</sup> 1893**

#### **GRIFFYDAM**

**WESLEYAN SUNDAY SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY.**([Sunday School held in the Griffydham Wesleyan Methodist Day School at Pegg's Green](#)) –

Services ([at Griffydham Wesleyan Methodist Chapel](#)) in connection with the above were conducted on Sunday by Mr. J. D. Fern (Nottingham).

The weather was very fine, and a good congregation had the pleasure and benefits of hearing two thoroughly good sermons, combined with pleasant vocal and instrumental music, efficiently rendered by the children and an augmented choir and band. The collections were in advance of last year. – The following Tuesday the children had their annual tea in the day school ([Griffydham Wesleyan Methodist Day School, Pegg's Green](#)), and then adjourned to a field (kindly lent by Mr. Kidger). A public tea followed.

**Burton Chronicle – August 31<sup>st</sup> 1893**

#### **GRIFFYDAM**

**WESLEYAN CHAPEL.** – On Sunday the chapel anniversary was held in the Wesleyan chapel, when two excellent sermons were preached (afternoon and evening) by the Re. Henry Gibson of Ashby. Suitable and appropriate hymns were rendered by the congregation and choir, Collections on behalf of the chapel funds were made at the close of each service. The Wesleyan society of Griffydham is one of the oldest in the Ashby circuit, the chapel having been built at a much earlier date than many in the surrounding districts. It is famous throughout the Nottingham and Derby districts for its annual love feast, to which Methodists from all corners of the circuit. The interior of the chapel has been much improved, a comparatively new rostrum has been added, and various alterations have been made, and these, together with an efficient choir and a hearty congregation, tend to make the services attractive and successful.

**Leicester Chronicle – September 9<sup>th</sup> 1893**

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

Joseph Leeson, a collier, of Griffydham, was summoned for assaulting Thos. Bird, a collier of the same place, on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of August. – Mr. Wm. Wilkins (Finner, Jesson, and Wilkins) defended

Leeson, and attributed the result to a neighbour's quarrel arising out of the children. – Mr. Hall, the magistrate's clerk: and water butt. (laughter). – **Case dismissed, each party ordered to pay 7s. 6d. costs each.**

#### **Burton Chronicle – October 12<sup>th</sup> 1893**

##### **GRIFFYDAM**

**HARVEST SERVICES.** – Harvest thanksgiving services were held in the Wesleyan Chapel on Sunday, when two sermons were preached by the Rev. Simon Snowdon of Ashby. The weather was everything that could be desired, and the congregations were large and attentive. Suitable hymns were sung by the choir and congregation. The chapel was suitably decorated with corn, flowers, fruits, vegetables and berries. The usual collections were made at the close of the services.

#### **Burton Chronicle – December 14<sup>th</sup> 1893**

##### **GRIFFYDAM**

**WESLEYAN REFORM CHAPEL.** – The usual “pleasant Saturday evening” was held on the 9<sup>th</sup> inst. Mr. J. Haywood presided, and gave an interesting address. There was a very large audience, and it is very gratifying to notice that these meetings are becoming very popular among young men, many of whom are attracted there weekly. A reading was given by Mr. G. W. Platts, and was much appreciated, and solos were rendered by Miss C. Leech, Mr. J. Curtis, and Mr. Platts. Refreshments were served during the evening, and altogether the proceedings were most enjoyable.

#### **Burton Chronicle – January 4<sup>th</sup> 1894**

##### **GRIFFYDAM**

**WESLEYAN REFORM CHAPEL.** – On Christmas Day the annual tea meeting was held, there being a very large attendance. The usual entertainment was afterwards held, the programme including songs, addresses, recitations, and readings. Mr. West of Bath, occupied the chair. The proceedings were very enjoyable, not the least interesting feature being the anthems by the choir, a solo by Mr. H. W. West, and a reading by Mr. Henry Leach. Hearty votes of thanks were passed to the chairman and all who had taken part in the entertainment.

#### **Burton Chronicle – April 5<sup>th</sup> 1894**

##### **Ashby Petty Sessions**

**USING A GUN WITHOUT A LICENSE.** – Peter King, collier, Griffydam, was summoned for using a gun to kill game without a license, and Joseph Shakespear and Stretton Platts, also colliers, of the same place, were summoned for aiding and abetting King in committing the offence. – The complainant, W. Cox, gamekeeper for Mr. Everard, of Bardon Hall, gave evidence that he saw the defendants at Breedon on the evening of the 17<sup>th</sup> March. Shakespear took a gun to pieces and put it in his pocket. He took it out again and gave it to King who went into a wheat field occupied by Mr. Mugglesfield, over which Mr. Everard has the right of shooting. They afterwards went into another field in the occupation of George Tauser, Platts was with them. – Evidence was called showing that Platts was in bed at the time of the alleged offence, and King and Shakespear were fined 10s. 6d. and 11s. 6d costs each or seven days.

#### **Burton Chronicle – May 3<sup>rd</sup> 1894**

##### **GRIFFYDAM**

**ANNIVERSARY.** – On Sunday Miss Brewster (London) paid her annual visit to Griffydam Wesleyan Chapel for the purpose of preaching anniversary sermons in connection with the Wesleyan Day School ([Griffydam Wesleyan Methodist Day School at Pegg's Green](#)). There was an excellent attendance, both in the afternoon and evening, the spacious chapel being well filled. The subject of Miss Brewster's discourses were “The little captive maid”, and “Paul before King Agrippa” ; which were handled in a very impressive and intensely interesting manner. The platform was filled with children, who had been carefully trained by Messrs. Hance and G. Kendrick, the former officiating as conductor. The children sang in a pleasing manner, and did ample justice to their trainers. Mr. E. Kendrick presided at the harmonium with his usual skill. The

services throughout were interesting and profitable. A collection was taken at the close of each service on behalf of the day school funds. – On Monday evening a lecture, entitled “The Royal Parable”, was delivered in the Wesleyan Chapel by Miss Brewster, the chair being occupied Mr. G. Blakesley (Woodville). The lecture was very graphic, and was delivered in Miss Brewster’s inimitable style. The proceeds will be devoted to day school purposes. It is gratifying to know that the Wesleyan schools, which are the only ones in the village, are under the management of Mr. R. T. Hance, and are in a very prosperous condition.

#### **Burton Chronicle – June 7<sup>th</sup> 1894**

##### **GRIFFYDAM**

**OUTBREAK OF MEASLES.** – A somewhat serious outbreak of measles has occurred at this village. The cases are numerous, and are at present confined to children. It is hoped that the precautionary measures which have been taken will eventually stamp out the malady. The outbreak is seriously affecting the attendance at school.

#### **Burton Chronicle – July 12<sup>th</sup> 1894**

##### **GRIFFYDAM**

**WESLEYAN CHAPEL.** – On Sunday, the 1<sup>st</sup> inst, two sermons were preached in the Wesleyan Chapel, Griffydham, on behalf of the Sunday School, By Mr. J. D. Fenn, of Nottingham. The congregations were large and the financial result very satisfactory. The children under the conductorship of Me. Ernest Kendrick, sang special hymns very creditably, and anthems were also rendered by the choir. A public tea was provided in the day school ([Griffydham Wesleyan Methodist Day School at Pegg’s Green](#)) on Tuesday, the children having been regaled in a similar manner. A large number of friends gathered at tea, and the rest of the afternoon and evening was spent in sports and games.

#### **Leicester Chronicle – November 3<sup>rd</sup> 1894**

##### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

Thomas Hodges, collier, of Griffydham was summoned by Amy Smart, widow, of Griffydham, for the wilful damage to the extent of 1s. to the property of Selina Whirlidge, at Griffydham on the 29<sup>th</sup> September. – The defendant pleaded not guilty. – Mrs. Smart said that she saw a door, the property of Mrs. Whirlidge, which was damaged. She (prosecutrix) lived with the owner of the property, who could not attend owing to illness. – Wm. Toone of Pegg’s Green, a pit lad, said that he “heard” the defendant throw a stone. He did not see the stone thrown. Defendant had stone in his hands. He heard the defendant say in answer to a question put by him as to who threw the stone ; “I threw it”. It was dark at the time. – Defendant denied that he had admitted to witness that he threw at the door. – Case dismissed, and complainant ordered to pay 6s. costs.

#### **Nottinghamshire Guardian – November 24<sup>th</sup> 1894**

##### **A FRACAS AT HATHERN**

At Loughborough Petty Sessions on Wednesday, Benjamin Platts, William Holland, George Knight, John Bott, Thomas Hayward, colliers, and Frederick Cox, licensed Victualler ([Waggon and Horses](#)), Griffydham were summoned for being disorderly and refusing to quit the licensed premises of John E. Priestley, at Hathern, on November 10<sup>th</sup>. Defendants were further charged with damaging jugs and glasses at the King’s Arms Inn, Hathern, on November 10<sup>th</sup>. Bott was charged with having assaulted the landlord of that house, and the same defendant, together with Knight and Holland, were charged with having assaulted John Smith, draughtsman, Hathern ; Knight was charged with having assaulted, Mrs. Smith, and Platts was charged with stealing a dead rabbit belonging to Smith. – Mr. H. Deane prosecuted, and Mr. R. S. Clifford was for the defence. – In opening the case Mr. Deane stated that on the Saturday night of Loughborough Fair, the defendant’s came to the King’s Arms, occupied by Mr. Priestley. Just before they arrived Mr. Smith and his wife came to the house, having with them a couple of rabbits. At the landlord’s suggestion Smith put the rabbits on a ledge or bar of the window. The defendants when they came were apparently sober, although they were inclined in the first instance to be “larkish”, but the sort of lark they indulged in was a long way from respectable, or at any rate what respectable men would have indulged in upon such an occasion. Very shortly after the defendant’s arrived

one of the rabbits disappeared, and the landlord, who was in the room, made enquiry and investigation for it. One of the men was discovered endeavouring to conceal a rabbit by kicking it under a settee against which he was standing. The landlord endeavoured to get the rabbit, but the man said he would not give it up. Some words took place, until one of the men struck Smith a violent blow, and then all the defendants set upon him, attacking him in a most brutal way. The landlord protested, and asked the men to leave the house, but they refused to go. A general melee then ensued, and both Smith and the landlord were maltreated. Assistance was sent for, and Mrs. Smith, who had been out to obtain help, was attacked upon her return, someone striking her a violent blow in her ear. Great difficulty was experienced in obtaining the correct names and addresses of the defendants. They came in a cart, and upon the landlord asking for the name of the driver, he jumped in the cart and drove off. Considerable damage was done to jugs and glasses by the defendants, and a table was upset in the struggle. False names were given by the defendants, and it was only by the exertions of the sergeant of Police at Whitwick that the men were eventually traced and identified by the landlord. – Mr. Priestley was the first witness called, and bore out in evidence the statement of Mr. Deane. The damage done to utensils in the bar he estimated at 4s. – Cross examined : A table was knocked over, and witness had a difficulty in catching a paraffin lamp, which was upset at the same time. The defendants were not drunk when they entered the house. Mrs. Smith received a heavy blow, but witness could not say who from. The row took place about half-past nine at night. Bott struck witness. – John Smith, draughtsman at Hathern Terracotta works, said he went to the King's Arms, and about a quarter past nine o'clock the "Griffydam Tribe" arrived. Shortly after they came in he missed one of his rabbits, and noticing Platts trying to hide the rabbit a row ensued. Whilst he was struggling with one man, two more interfered, – For the defence, each of the accused gave evidence, stating that on the way from Loughborough Fair, they called at the house at Hathern "turn". The defendant Bott was the worse for drink. Platts denied attempting to steal the rabbit, Knight said he did not assault Mrs. Smith, and a general denial to the charges was given. – The Bench, however, decided to convict. The six defendants, for disorderly conduct and refusing to quit, were fined 20s. each, or 14 days in default ; for assaulting Mr. Priestley, the landlord, Bott was fined 20s., or 14 days ; Knight and Holland were each fined £1 for assaulting John Smith, the same charge against Bott being dismissed ; For assaulting Mrs. Smith, Knight was ordered to pay a further 20s., or undergo 14 days hard labour ; the charge against Platts of stealing the rabbit was withdrawn. – The fines in the aggregate amounted to £10.

### **Leicester Chronicle- December 1<sup>st</sup> 1894**

#### **Alleged Burglary at 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 4<sup>th</sup> – 12s. and a gold brooch, the property of Mrs. Henry Lakin. – The accused, a young woman, carried a baby in her arms, and was accommodated with a seat. The case excited much interest, and many persons of the neighbourhood of 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 effected in the living room. The police brought her the brooch on the 15<sup>th</sup> inst.,

and she identified it. She had had it a number of years. – By Mr. H. Deane: I know the defendant by sight; she lives not far away, and hitherto I have known her to be a respectable woman. It was only by the pattern and general appearance of the brooch that she identified it. – Mr. Deane: Was it brought in the neighbourhood? – Witness: You must ask those that gave it to me. It is years since I had the brooch. I never had it repaired, only by myself with a common pin. – Mrs. Maria Charville said she was Mr. Lakin's sister, and wife of John Charville, of the Beaumont Arms, Coleorton. She gave her sister the brooch produced about 20 years ago. – P.S. Derby of Whitwick, said on the 15<sup>th</sup> inst., he went to the house of Frank Broadhurst, a collier, in company with P.C. Saunders, and told defendant's husband he would be obliged to search his house. Broadhurst expressed willingness, and the prisoner was present at the time. Witness found a box in a chest of drawers, and prisoner observed, "Don't disturb that, they are bills". Witness lifted the bills, and underneath found the brooch produced. He asked the husband how he accounted for the brooch being there. – Mr. Deane: Did you caution her? – Witness: I gave her no caution at that time; I asked her how she accounted for it being there. She said, "My sister, Mrs. Draper, gave it to me over 12 months ago". The husband said "Yes, she did: a master gave it to her with whom she lived at service at Leicester". Witness told them he would go and see Mrs. Draper, whereupon the prisoner observed, "My brother George gave it to me". He showed it to Mrs. Draper, and she said that. – Mr. Deane: Now, hen! – Witness, proceeding, said P.C. Saunders showed the brooch to somebody, and eventually witness applied for a warrant on Friday. He cautioned the prisoner after reading the warrant, and she said, "I will go and suffer, but I shall suffer innocently, I will not say anything about anyone else as I know they'll suffer". She sent her little girl for her mother, but Mrs. Draper came, and when she saw Mrs. Draper she asked, "Has my mother heard from George?" and also whether he was coming. Mrs. Draper, replied, "Yes, she has had a letter this morning, and he says he shall not come, as he knows nothing about it – only what he has told P.C. Saunders". – By Mr. Deane: - Witness was in the house twice searching. Defendant's husband gave him permission both times. He did not see the brooch until he found it in the box. He believed prisoner's husband unlocked the drawers. Witness did not ask Broadhurst to account for brooch being in the box. He spoke generally to prisoner and her husband. – P.C. Saunders corroborated. – Mr. Deane, for the defence, said there was not a shadow of evidence against the woman of burglary. He thought she was not the person whom one would expect to break into a house, which required force. The woman, if any charge should have been brought against her, should have been charged with receiving stolen property, but she had not received the brooch, nor was she seen committing the burglary or near the house. The brooch was sworn to by the prosecutor and her sister because of its curious pattern. There was a question whether the brooch was in the chest in Lakin's house before she left to go to Coleorton. However, it was found in the drawer, of which Broadhurst (not 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.

#### **Burton Chronicle – April 18<sup>th</sup> 1895**

##### **GRIFFYDAM**

**WESLEYAN CHAPEL.** – The annual Love Feast, which has been held for a longer period than the oldest inhabitants can remember, was held in the Griffydam Wesleyan Chapel on Easter Monday, and was attended by friends from all parts of the district. At half past four a public tea was provided in the Wesleyan school-room, and in the evening a sermon was preached in the Wesleyan Chapel by the Re. S. Snowdon, of Ashby. The proceeds of the tea and services will be devoted to the chapel trust funds.

### **Burton Chronicle – May 23<sup>rd</sup> 1895**

#### **GRIFFYDAM**

**WESLEYAN REFORM CHAPEL.** – The Sunday school anniversary services were conducted on Sunday, when two sermons were preached by Mr. Evans of Youlgreave, Derbyshire. Special hymns were rendered by the children and an anthem by the choir. The congregations were good. – On Monday, the children as usual paraded the streets singing, and were afterwards regaled with a good tea. A public tea was likewise provided.

### **Burton Chronicle – June 27<sup>th</sup> 1895**

#### **GRIFFYDAM**

**SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY.** – The anniversary sermons in connection with the Griffydham Wesleyan Sunday school ([held at the Griffydham Wesleyan Day School, Pegg's Green](#)) were preached on Sunday last by Mr. J. Harrison, of Swadlincote, services being held at 2 and 6 o'clock. The preacher took as his afternoon text "Fight the good fight of faith : lay hold on eternal life", while the evening subject was "Discipleship". The children acquitted themselves very creditably, the augmented choir also contributing the anthems "The Lord is my shepherd", and "Ascribe to the Lord". This success is largely due to the energy and industry of the conductor (Mr. E. Kendrick) and also the accompanist (Miss Cooper). Other friends also assisted with various instruments. The children had their annual treat on Monday. After doing ample justice to a good tea, they adjourned to a meadow kindly lent by Mr. Waterfield, where the rest of the evening was spent in games of various kinds. A public tea was also held in the School-room, and a fairly good number sat down to the tables. ([The children's and public teas would have been held in the Griffydham Wesleyan Methodist Day School at Pegg's Green](#))

### **Burton Chronicle – July 4<sup>th</sup> 1895**

#### **WESLEYAN QUARTERLY MEETING**

On Wednesday the quarterly meeting of the Ashby Wesleyan Methodist Circuit was held at Griffydham. The local preachers meeting was held in the chapel when there was a fair attendance, the Rev. W. D. Johnson presiding, and Rev. S. Snowden officiating as secretary. Mr. Perry, of Whitwick, was examined, and unanimously admitted on full plan. There was a full discussion concerning the work in various parts of the circuit. An excellent tea, the gift of Mr. David Sketchley, of Griffydham, was provided in the school-room, a goodly number sitting down. Afterwards a hearty vote of thanks moved by Mr. Latham, seconded by Mr. J. P. Adcock, and supported by the Rev. W. D. Johnson, was unanimously presented to the donor, who suitably responded. Later on, the quarterly meeting was held in the Griffydham school-room, the Rev. W. D. Johnson in the chair. Among those present were Rev. S. Snowden, Messrs. Stathan and Adcock (circuit stewards) and representatives from all part of the circuit. The financial statement showed a deficiency of £35 9s. 5d., whilst the numerical returns pointed to an increase of eight members during the quarter, the increase being chiefly subscribed by the Thringstone Wesleyan Society. A discussion as to the adoption of offertories in the various chapels took place, and the general feeling seemed to be in favour of them, it being stated that the system had worked well in every instance in which it had been tried. The necessity for looking well after the class money was dwelt upon, and the tardiness with which some of the members meet their duties was regarded as a matter for regret. The Sabbath school returns showed a number of 1,656 on the books during the present quarter, whilst in the corresponding quarter of 1894 – 1,582 were reported, being an increase of 74 scholars. The necessity for increased labours in connection with temperance demonstration would be an effective means of arousing an increased interest in the movement. Messrs. G. R. Pike of Ashby, and W. Eggington of Ibstock, were, therefore, asked to see what means could be adopted for the furtherance of temperance work in the circuit. The question of securing the services of a district evangelist for certain places in the circuit was brought forward, but nothing definite was settled. The meeting was concluded in the usual way.

## **Burton Chronicle – May 2<sup>nd</sup> 1895**

### **Ashby Petty Sessions**

#### **DRUNK OR ILL – WHICH? –**

John Chambers, licensed victualler, Griffydham, was charged with being drunk on his own licensed premises there on 18<sup>th</sup> April. – Police-constable Sanders said that at 9-30 on the night in question he, in company with police constable Jesson, visited the Griffin Inn at Griffydham, and found defendant in the tap-room with ten or a dozen more men. They were shouting, and were very disorderly. Witness told defendant he wanted to speak to him, and as defendant came towards him he could scarcely walk, and quite staggered. Witness told defendant there would have to be an altercation as his customers were quite masters of them. Defendant said “Yes, they are ; I’ve been upstairs all today ; and if I come down they start on me and I have to go back again. There is a gallon of gin gone out of the cellar today, now”. Witness said “You are drunk yourself. You can’t look after the house if you get drunk yourself”. Defendant said it was his head, whereupon witness said “Yes ; it’s the drink that makes your head bad”. After telling defendant he was responsible for the conduct of the house witness left, but returned at ten minutes past ten. Defendant was then in the Tap-Room, and was talking very loudly. Witness again accused defendant of being drunk, and defendant’s daughter said, “Yes, he drinks till he does not know when he is having it. He was just going on with me because I fetched him a cup of milk and did not put any gin in it”. – Cross examined ; He made enquiries with respect to the gin, and found that the customers had been helping themselves. Defendant’s wife said he had been upstairs a long time. Defendant told witness that he had been suffering from Bright’s disease, with complications, for four months.. Although a member of the ambulance, he could not say what the effects of Bright’s disease would be upon defendant. The ambulance classes did not make doctors of them. Defendant said his head was bad. – Police-constable Jesson gave corroborative evidence. Cross examined. – Witness came to conclusion that defendant was drunk from his staggering gait and confused talk. – The defence was that Chambers was not drunk, but that he was suffering from Bright’s disease, the symptoms of which were mistaken by the police for the effects of drink. – Defendant was called and deposed that he was in bed part of the day in question, and came down about 9 o’clock. The men in the tap room were enjoying themselves, but were not behaving disorderly. He had never had any gin in his life ; but was drinking milk when the police came in, and invited them to taste it if they doubted his word. He had been ill for a long time and had been attended by Dr. Burkett. – Cross examined : He had been downstairs two or three times during the day. As to what he had to drink during the day, it was principally milk, but he had a little rum in it once. Dr. Burkett said he had attended Chambers for acute Bright’s disease and weak action of the heart. Witness first attended defendant on the 18<sup>th</sup> February., and he “signed off” on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April. Witness had told defendant that he must cease to have alcohol in any form, but that weak gin would do him least harm. His (witness’s) opinion was that if defendant had not followed his instructions he would not have been alive now. He also advised defendant to lie in bed as much as he could owing to dropsy. The evidence of the police as to defendant’s gait was quite consistent with symptoms of the complaint from which defendant was suffering. The effects of dropsy were always worse at night. In answer to Supt. Holloway, Dr. Burkett said defendant’s disease would not account for thickness of speech. Defendant did not stagger on the occasion of his visits to witness’s surgery at Whitwick. – Fined 5s. 6d. and costs.

## **Burton Chronicle – August 1<sup>st</sup> 1895**

### **BY GERMAN AND GERMAN GRIFFYDAM**

To be SOLD by AUCTION by GERMAN and GERMAN, at the ROYAL HOTEL, Ashby de la Zouch, on MONDAY, August 12<sup>th</sup>, 1895, at Four for Five o’clock in the Afternoon, subject to such Conditions as will then be produced, in One Lot or in such other Lots as may be determined upon at the time of Sale, the following valuable FREEHOLD PROPERTY:-

All that Full-licensed PUBLIC HOUSE known as the “OLD GRIFFIN” Inn, situate at Griffydham aforesaid, and now in the occupation of Mr. Walter Bradley, with the Garden and Appurtenances thereto belonging.

The House comprises Cellar, Kitchen, Taproom, Parlour, and three Chambers

ALSO ALL THOSE THREE COTTAGES with Gardens in the rear, in the occupation of William Hurst, John Cliff, and William Wileman.

The property has a frontage to the village street, and is bounded on both sides partly by land belonging to Lord Donnington and partly by land now or belonging to Mr. Thomas Massey.

For further particulars apply to the AUCTIONEERS, Ashby de la Zouch and Loughborough;  
or to

MR. W. HOLLIS BRIGGS  
Solicitor  
Bank Chambers  
Albert Street  
Derby.

### **Leicester Chronicle – September 7<sup>th</sup> 1895**

**Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions, Saturday – Before Rev. Canon Beaumont (in the chair) Mr. M. I. Joice, and the Rev. C. T. Moore.**

**Extraordinary charge of assault** – At the Petty Sessions at Ashby on Saturday, Arthur Marshall, collier, Swannington, was summoned for assaulting Alice Hall, single woman, of Griffydam, at the latter place, on the 17<sup>th</sup> August. – Mr. Musson appeared for the defendant. – The girl said she was under sixteen, and that the defendant assaulted her. He knocked at the door and walked in. She went upstairs and he followed her, threatening that he would assault her. He exposed himself. She screamed for help, and Mrs. Haywood came and ordered defendant downstairs, but he refused to go. Later he came down, and used bad language, and pushed Mrs. Haywood against the mangle and struck her.....**this report is too lengthy to include, and too many people are involved. However, the case was eventually dismissed and the girl was ordered to pay 9s.**

### **Burton Chronicle – November 21<sup>st</sup> 1895**

#### **GRIFFYDAM**

**WESLEYAN CHAPEL.** – On Wednesday evening, the 13<sup>th</sup> inst., a Gospel Temperance and Band of Hope meeting was held in this chapel. There was a large congregation present, and an interesting programme of recitations and solos were gone through, interspersed with addresses by Messrs. Freeman and Hemsley, of Ashby, and Mr. D. Sketchley. A very enjoyable evening closed with the customary votes of thanks, and a large number of pledges were taken.

### **Leicester Chronicle – November 23<sup>rd</sup> 1895**

**Loughborough Police Court, Monday – Before the Mayor (Councillor W. C. Burder)**

**Alleged Pocket-Picking at the Fair** – Walter Gilder, builder's labourer, Coalville, was charged with stealing half a sovereign and a handkerchief from the pocket of Maria Cliff, 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 – January 26<sup>th</sup> 1895**

##### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

Sarah Davey, wife of Arthur Davey, of Griffydam, was charged with stealing an umbrella, value 2s. 6d., the property of Hannah Eames, at Ashby, on the 5<sup>th</sup> inst. – Prosecutrix is a single woman, of Annswell, Smisby. – Mr. Thomas Jesson, of Fisher Jesson and Wilkins, of Ashby appeared for the defendant, and asked that the case should be heard at an early stage, since the prosecutrix he understood, had an idea, that the taking of the article was not intentional. – Prosecutrix, a girl, in answer to Mr. Jesson, said she desired to withdraw the charge. – The magistrates acceded to her request, and the umbrella was restored to its owner.

#### **Leicester Journal – March 27<sup>th</sup> 1896**

##### **ASHBY DISTRICT AND PARISH COUNCIL**

**ASHBY.** – The monthly meeting of the rural district council was held at the Workhouse on Saturday afternoon, when Mr. J. H. Joyce presided, - The Surveyor reported that he had received notification of three cases of Scarlet Fever and one of Perpetual Fever at Swannington, one of Scarlet Fever and one of Typhoid fever at Coleorton. The new sewer at Ravenstone was working satisfactorily, and progress was being made with the drainage at Mr. Garners cottages at Netherseal. **He had made a house to house inspection at Griffydam. The sewer from a house and shop belonging to the late Lord Donnington and from the four cottages belonging to Mr. Wale discharged into the road, and the sewage allowed to stagnate there. There was no system of drainage in this part of the village, There was a field about 150 yards away where a tank might be placed. At Pegg's Green the sewage from several cottages ran into a field near the roadway. A tank could be placed within a short distance of this field.**

#### **Leicester Chronicle – July 11<sup>th</sup> 1896**

##### **GRIFFYDAM**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY.** – The anniversary services of the Sunday School connected with the Wesleyan Methodist Church, were held on Sunday week. Two excellent sermons were preached by Mr. S. D. Fenn, of Nottingham, before good congregations. In the afternoon the preacher also read Psalm cxxxvi., the scholars taking up his refrain which occurs in each verse. Special hymns were well sung by the scholars, who had been carefully and ably trained by Mts. Johnson and Mr. Clarke. The choir also sang the anthem, "Cry out and shout, ye inhabitants of Zion". On Monday evening Mr. Fenn gave a powerfull address on "Our national drink bill, and what we got for it". Mr. W. F. Jones of Coalville, presided, and was supported by Re. R. Russell and Mr. S. Perry, of Whitwick. A good company sat down to tea on the following Wednesday, and in the evening the scholars enjoyed themselves with games in a field. The meetings were most successful throughout.

#### **Leicester Chronicle – October 31<sup>st</sup> 1896**

**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 guilded snare". Mrs. H. Johnson presided at the organ with her accustomed ability, and also rendered great service with the refreshments. The evening was brought to a close after a hearty vote of thanks to all who had taken part in it.



THOMAS HANCE'S GRAVE IN GRIFFYDAM CEMETERY  
(SCHOOL HEADMASTER)

#### **Leicester Chronicle – December 19<sup>th</sup> 1896**

**Coalville Police Court, Friday – Before Canon Beaumont (in the chair), Rev. C. T. Moore, Mr. Jno. P. White, Mr. Jas Smith, Major Hatchett and Mr. W. D. Stableford.**

James Springthorpe and Peter King, colliers, Griffydam, were summoned for neglecting to send their children to school. – Mr. Sale, school attendance officer, prosecuted, and **defendants were fined 5s. each including costs.**

#### **Leicester Chronicle – November 20<sup>th</sup> 1897**

**The fatality at Griffydam** – An inquest was held at the Waggon and Horses Inn, Griffydam, on Saturday evening, before Mr. Coroner Deane, touching the death of Benjamin Barton, a farmer of Gelscoe, near Breedon, which occurred on Friday as the result of injuries received on the previous Tuesday, by being run over by a cart laden with coal. - P.C. Adcock identified the body, and said deceased was 55 years of age. – Thomas Booth, landlord of the Travellers' Rest, Griffydam, said the deceased called at his house at 3.45 on Tuesday, Nov. 9, in charge of a horse and cart laden with coal. He was with a collier named Hodges, and they left about five o'clock. When he drove away, deceased was standing on the shafts, leaning on the front of the cart, and he remarked that he should ride because his feet hurt him. About a quarter of an hour later, witness was told that he had been run over. – Jonas Knight, a bricklayer, of Griffydam, stated that about 5.15 he was going to his field, and when near the Waggon and Horses, heard someone call out. He then saw a man who told him there had been an accident, and on getting into the road saw the deceased lying on his face. Witness raised him, and in reply to his questions, deceased said he did not know how he fell off. He said his horse was a fresh one, and had gone up the road. Assistance was obtained and deceased moved to Mr. Richards. – Dr. Villiers of Osgathorpe, who was called in, deposed that the deceased's right collar-bone, right shoulder-blade, and several of the ribs on the right side were broken.. The right lung had been injured by the broken ribs. Witness had attended the deceased till his death on Friday. He was conscious to the end, and told witness he was standing on the front of his cart, the horse was

restive, and to steady himself he placed his hand upon the coal, which gave way, and he fell under the wheel. When witness first saw him he was perfectly sober. Death was due to exhaustion through injuries. – **A verdict of accidental death was returned.**

**Derby Mercury – Wednesday April 27<sup>th</sup> 1898**

**THE TERRIBLE COLLIERY DISASTER AT WHITWICK  
THE FUNERALS**

An extraordinary amount of interest was shown in the burial of the unfortunate victims who were recovered from the pit on Friday.

The bodies recovered were :-

Charles Clamp, 27, unmarried

Joseph Shaw, 25, married

William Davis, 30, married – Pegg's Green, buried Griffydham cemetery

William Limb, 20, unmarried

John Elliot, 40, married

Joseph King, 30, married

William Belcher, 30, married

John William Platts, 23, unmarried – Swannington

One not identified

The bodies which had been enclosed in elm coffins, remained throughout Saturday and Saturday night on the bandhouse, and in order to facilitate matters as much as possible it was arranged that all the funerals should start from the colliery, and call for the relatives of the deceased on the way to the respective burial places. Crowds of people visited the colliery during the early morning and when at half past twelve, the first two coffins were brought out and placed in the open hearses waiting to receive them a large crowd had gathered in the vicinity of the bandhouse. The first two bodies were those of William Davies of Pegg's Green and John Platts of Swannington – encased in coffins made in elm, and ornamented with brass furniture, bearing an inscription stating their names and the date of their deaths – and with as little delay as possible the sad little procession was formed, with the two bearers in front, followed by carriages containing the officials and others connected with the colliery. Before the time came for the burial of the two Coalville victims, the crowd at the colliery has assumed enormous proportions and the preparations for the conveyance of the remains of the hero of the dreadful calamity "Tieh" Clamp were watched with the deepest interest. Through the delay of in the return of the officials from Swannington and Griffydham, the procession was over half an hour late in leaving the colliery but when it eventually it set forth led by the Coalville Town band playing the "Dead March" in Saul, an enormous concourse of people followed in its wake.

**Burton Chronicle – June 9<sup>th</sup> 1898**

**SALE AT GRIFFYDAM  
Lot 66  
All that Valuable  
FREEHOLD DWELLING HOUSE**

Now used as a Post Office and Shop, in the occupation of Mr. Herbert Rowell, together with two FREEHOLD MESSUAGES adjoining.

**Leicester Chronicle – August 27<sup>th</sup> 1898**

**Death from Convulsions** – An inquest was held at the New Inn, Pegg's Green, before Mr. Coroner Deane, on Friday, touching the death of Hilda Nellie Shakespeare, aged six months. The child had been in the care of the Grandmother, and on Tuesday, it was seized with convulsions. The grandmother carried it two miles to Dr. Crosby, of Osgathorpe, but the baby died on the way. On the medical evidence the jury found that the death was due to infantile convulsions.

### **Leicester Daily Mercury – December 17<sup>th</sup> 1898**

**Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions – Saturday – Before the Hon. Paulyn Hastings (in the chair), the Rev. Canon Beaumont, and Rev. C. T. Moore**

**Cross-summons** – Stretton Platts, collier, of Griffydam, was summoned for assaulting Wm. Hough, farmer, of Newbold, at Worthington, on the 8<sup>th</sup> inst. – There was a cross-summons, Platts charging Hough with assault on the same date. – Mr. William Wilkins appeared for Hough, and Mr. J. J. Sharp for Platts. – Mr. Wilkins in opening the case, said that Hough was the son of Mr. Hough, estate agent of Coleorton. – His client said that they occupied some land at Coleorton. On the date given, at about 4.30 p.m., he heard the report of a gun, and then he saw Platts, who was taking a gun to pieces. He was about 100 yards away, and placed the gun in his side pocket, and turned to Wardle's field, where witness overtook him and said that he wanted to know who he was. Platts turned round, and said, "I'll knock your.....brains out if you say that I shot". Up to the time, witness had not referred to shooting. He told Platts that he could not permit trespassing, and Platts caught hold of him by the collar, and took his (witness's) gun and threw him down, and knelt on him, while his (witness's) gun was lying down by his side. Platts said that he would murder him.. In the struggle to free himself, he (witness) broke his neckerchief. When he got up he saw two guns on the ground. Platts beat him about a dozen times with the stock of the barrel. The stock broke, and Platts then tried to put his gun together, and walked away towards Griffydam. – By Mr. Sharp: He (witness) had been shooting that day, but did not shoot at a partridge. There was a footpath leading to Griffydam on the field where he spoke to Platts. He (witness) did not dispute with Platts as to the possession of a partridge. He did not see a partridge in the possession of Platts. He did not strike him. Platts took his own and witness's gun away. He did not accuse him (witness) of striking him with the gun, and say that he would take it away. Platts had not been charged with trespass nor larceny of the gun. – By Mr. Wilkins: he did not see any partridge, and there was no reference to one. – This was the case for the prosecution. – Mr. Sharp for the defence, said that his client denied trying to strangle Hough, who struck him, and then he took the gun away from him. He could not say that his client had "a clean sheet", as he had been at the court before. – Platts, sworn, said that he had been to Worthington with a man named Hurst, and was on a footpath in Wardle's field when Hough fired two barrels at two partridges. He (Platts) picked up a dead bird, and Hough asked for it. He refused and said, "I'm going to take this for me". Hough followed him, and struck him with the stock of the gun and broke it. Then he turned round and gave him "a punch in the mouth as soon as he could". He did not attempt to strangle him as there was no necessity. He (Hough) walked away when he struck him, and said that the gun belonged to Sir George Beaumont. – By Mr. Wilkins: Hurst was with him when Hough hit him on Wardle's ground, and left immediately the row began. – **Witnesses were called for the defence, and after a long hearing, the case against Hough was dismissed, and Platts was fined 21s. and costs.**

### **Leicester Chronicle – December 17<sup>th</sup> 1898**

**Griffydam Mysterious Death** – An inquest was held on Wednesday evening, at the Griffin Inn, Griffydam, before Mr. Coroner Deane, touching the death of Louisa Jane Holland, the wife of a collier. – Jack Wm. Holland, the deceased's husband, said she was 54 years of age, and was in good health till Saturday when she had an attack of an old complaint. Next day she kept in bed, and complained of pain in her ankles and feet. She was also sick. On Monday morning she was worse, and the doctor was again sent for, but she died the same morning. – Dr. Crosby, of Osgathorpe, who was called in on the Sunday, said he suspected some internal irritation, as the symptoms were such as would exist as in a case of irritant poisoning. He was of the opinion that death was due to inflammation of the stomach and bowels, probably from poisoning from ptomaines. These were sometimes developed in the human body without any discoverable cause, and might also be developed from eating unwholesome or tinned foods. – Dr. Burkitt, who was called in consultation with the last witness, agreed as to the cause of death, but said that the food taken need not necessarily have been apparently putrid. – **The jury was agreed that death was caused by inflammation, probably due to ptomaine poisoning.**



THE GRIFFIN INN IN 1931

### Leicester Daily Mercury – December 17<sup>th</sup> 1898

#### Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions

**CROSS-SUMMONSES.-** Stretton Platts, collier of Griffydam, was summoned for assaulting Wm. Hough, farmer, of Newbold, at Worthington on the 8h inst. – There was a cross-summons, Platts charging Hough with assault on the same date. – Mr. William Wilkins appeared for Hough, and Mr. J. J. Sharp for Platts. – Mr. Wilkins, in opening the case, said that Hough was the son of Mr. Hough, estate agent of Coleorton. – His client said that they occupied some land at Coleorton. On the date given at about 4. 30p.m., he heard the report of a gun, and then he saw Platts, who was taking a gun to pieces. He was about 100 yards away, and he placed the gun in his side pocket, and turned to Wardle's field, where witness overtook him, and said that he wanted to know who he was. Platts turned round and said, "I'll knock you.....brains out if you say that I shot". Up to the time the witness had not referred to shooting. He told Platts that he could not permit trespassing, and Platts caught hold of him by the collar, and took his (witness's) gun and threw him down, and knelt on him, while his (witness's) gun was lying loaded by his side. Platts said that he would murder him. In the struggle to free himself he (witness) broke his neckerchief. When he got up he saw two guns on the ground. Platts beat him about a dozen times with the stock of the barrel. The stock broke, and then Platts tried to put his gun together, and walked towards Griffydam. – By Mr. Sharp ; He (witness) had been shooting that day, but did not shoot at a partridge. There was a footpath heading towards Griffydam in the field where he spoke to Platts. He (witness) did not dispute with Platts as to the possession of a partridge. He did not see a partridge in the possession of Platts. He did not strike him. Platts took his own and witnesses gun away. He did not accuse him (witness) of striking him with the gun, and say that he would take it away. Platts had not been charged with trespass nor larceny of the gun.- By Mr. Wilkins : He did not see any partridge, and there was no reference to one. – This was the case for the prosecution. – Mr. Sharp for the defence, said that his client denied trying to strangle Hough, who struck him, and then he took the gun away from him. He could not say that his client had "a clean sheet", as he had been at the Court before. – Platts, sworn, said that he had been to Worthington with a man named Hurst, and was on a footpath in Wardle's field when Hough fired two barrels at two partridges. He (Platts) picked up a dead bird, and Hough asked for it. He refused, and said, "I'm going to take this for me". Hough followed him, and struck him with the stock of the gun and broke it. Then he turned round and gave him "a punch in the mouth as soon as he could". He did not attempt to strangle him, as there was no necessity. He (Hough) walked away when he struck him, and said that the gun belonged to Sir George (Beaumont). – By Mr. Wilkins ; Hurst was with him when Hough hit him on Wardle's ground, and left immediately the row began. – Witnesses were called for the defence, and after a long hearing, **the case against Hough was dismissed, and Platts was fined 21s. and costs.**

### Leicester Chronicle – February 11<sup>th</sup> 1899

#### WHITWICK COLLIERY DISASTER

The inquest on the three bodies brought to the bank on Monday last will be held this Friday afternoon. These three bodies were found about 90 yards from the spot where lay the previously discovered bodies. One was buried under a fall, the other two of the bodies have been identified as Benjamin Wileman of Swannington, and Thomas Benistone, of Whitwick. The other body has

not been properly identified, but is believed to be that of John Edwards of Griffydam, Wileman was a Rural District Councillor and a Guardian.

### **Burton Chronicle – April 20<sup>th</sup> 1899**

#### **GRIFFYDAM**

**PROPERTY SALE.-** On Tuesday Messrs. Leedham and Harrison (Burton) offered for sale at the Waggon and Horses Inn the freehold property known as Griffydam Brickworks, occupied by Mr. H. Powell, together with the adjoining dwelling house. The purchaser was Mr. Samuel Hinds. The solicitors to the vendors were Messrs. Small and Talbot

### **Leicester Chronicle – September 2<sup>nd</sup> 1899**

#### **Ashby Police Court – Saturday – Before Canon Beaumont and F. Whetstone Esq.**

**Minor Offence** – William Platts, collier, Griffydam, was summoned for being drunk and disorderly at Griffydam on August 8<sup>th</sup>. – Mr. T. Jesson (Fisher, Jesson and Wilkins) defended. – P.C. Sharpe gave evidence of the state in which he saw defendant. – Mr. Jesson said defendant was in an excited condition on a consequence of a quarrel with his wife, but was not drunk. – **Defendant said he had had a row with his wife, but he was not drunk. – Fined 12s. including costs.**

### **Leicester Chronicle – December 9<sup>th</sup> 1899**

#### **Ashby Police Court, Saturday – Before Mr. Geo. Moore (chairman), Canon Beaumont, Rev. C. T. Moore, Mr. J. H. Joyce, the Hon. Paulyn Hastings, and Mr. J. Hassall.**

**Drunk on Licensed Premises** – Peter King and Arthur Edwards, colliers of Griffydam and Osgathorpe respectively, were summoned for being drunk on the licensed premises of William Batson, at Griffydam, on the 17<sup>th</sup> November. – P.C. Sharp stated that hearing a disturbance at the Travellers Rest, he went there, and found it was caused by King, who was using foul and threatening language outside. He then went in and witness following found him and Edwards were drunk. When Edwards came out he staggered. King and his wife afterwards came out, and King was beastly drunk. – Bramwell Hegwood, called for the prosecution, said he never told Superintendent Holloway that either of the defendants were drunk. – For the defence, Geo. Eyre, collier of Griffydam, who met defendants a little after eight o'clock, said they were sober enough when he met them. He did not know where they were going; it might have been to the Traveller's Rest. – **Defendants were fined 5. 6d. each, and costs 16s. 6d., distress, or seven days.**

### **Leicester Journal – December 20<sup>th</sup> 1889**

#### **Ashby Petty Sessions**

**BREAKING PUBLIC HOUSE WINDOWS.** – Cooper Platts and James Holland, both of Griffydam, were charged with doing damage to a window in a house occupied by William Batson ([The Travellers Rest](#)), a beer-house keeper, at Griffydam on the 30<sup>th</sup> November. - Prosecutor said that just before eleven o'clock, the defendants rapped at the door. He spoke to them from the window upstairs and he moved from the window a yard or two when two half bricks were flung through the glass, breaking two panes, and afterwards another missile damaged the woodwork. He was positive that the defendants were those that had committed the damage, as he heard them talk beneath the window. He placed the damage at 2s. – Mrs. Batson and Rowell, the Parish Constable, also gave evidence, after which Mr. Sharpe address the Bench for the defence, and also called witnesses who swore that the defendants were not at the house at the period stated. – **The Magistrates dismissed the case.**

### **Leicester Chronicle – November 20<sup>th</sup> 1897**

#### **THE FATALITY AT GRIFFYDAM**

An inquest was held at the Waggon and Horses Inn, Griffydam, on Saturday evening, before Mr. Coroner Deane, touching the death of Benjamin Barton, a farmer of Gelscoe, near Breedon, which occurred on Friday as the result of injuries received on the previous Tuesday, by being run over by a cart laden with coal. 0 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 Griffydham, stated that about 5.15 he was going to his field, and when near the Waggon and Horses heard someone call out. He then saw a man, who told him there had been an accident, and on getting into the road found the deceased laying on his face. Witness raised him, and in reply to his questions deceased said he did not know how he fell off. He said his horse was a fresh one, and had gone up the road. Assistance was obtained, and deceased moved to Mr. Richards. - Dr. Villiers of Osgathorpe, who was called in, deposed that the deceased's right collar-bone, right shoulder blade, and several of the ribs on the right side were broken. The right lung had been injured by the broken ribs. Witness had attended the deceased till his death on Friday. He was conscious till the end, and told witness he was standing on the front of his cart, the horse was restive, and to steady himself he placed his hand on the coal, which gave way, and he fell under the wheel. When witness first saw him he was perfectly sober. Death was due to exhaustion from the injuries. - A verdict of accidental death was returned,

#### **Burton Chronicle – January 25<sup>th</sup> 1900**

##### **Griffydham (Pegg's Green)**

#### **DAY SCHOOL. (GRIFFYDAM WESLEYAN METHODIST DAY SCHOOL, PEGG'S GREEN) –**

Various improvements in connection with Griffydham Wesleyan Day School have been made during the last year. A new floor has been laid in the upper schoolroom, and this, together with a supply of new desks, will render the teaching more comfortable and effective. The voluntary aid grant has proved a great boon to the school.

#### **Melton Mowbray Mercury & Oakham & Uppingham News – May 17<sup>th</sup> 1900**

##### **WANTED**

To purchase or on lease, land (near the railway) with good seams of clay for manufacturing purposes. - Apply, first instance, STINSON, Griffydham, Ashby de la Zouch.

#### **Burton Chronicle – April 12<sup>th</sup> 1900**

##### **GRIFFYDAM**

#### **DAY SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY. (GRIFFYDAM WESLEYAN DAY SCHOOL, PEGG'S GREEN) –**

The anniversary services were held on Sunday in the Wesleyan Chapel (Griffydham Wesleyan Methodist Chapel). The preacher was the Rev. H. J. Bannister, of Melbourne, who had large and appreciative congregations both afternoon and evening. Two eminently suitable, convincing, and forceful discourses were delivered. The services appealed especially to the youthful portion of the congregation. The basis of the preacher's address in the afternoon was "There is a lad here", and at night his text was "Give us pulse to eat and water to drink". Special hymns were sung by the children who acquitted themselves very creditably. Two anthems were also rendered by the choir in good style. The musical portion of the service was under the conductorship of Mr. W. Richards, with Miss Lakin at the harmonium. A number of instrumentalists assisted. The congregations were large and the collections good.

#### **Sporting Gazette – November 10<sup>th</sup> 1900**

##### **ESTATE SALES**

**MESSRS. GERMAN AND GERMAN.** - On Wednesday the 21<sup>st</sup> inst., an attractive property will be submitted for disposal by Messrs. German and German at the Royal Hotel, Ashby de la Zouch. It consists of a large and important section of the Donington estate, situate in Leicestershire, and which was the property of the late Lord Donington. The property will be sold in lots. For business men of means with a taste for country life and sport in their intervals of leisure or retirement, and who wish for a safe and fairly remunerative investment, we should say the compact and beautiful estate of nearly 1,000 acres to be sold as one lot between Castle Donington and Ashby offers a chance not lightly to be lost. Possessed of excellent railway facilities, one can reach the station from Nottingham, Derby Burton, or Leicester whilst scanning the morning news, and then a short drive through the crisp morning air lands one at the newly-built and roomy sporting lodge between the main woods. Few estates of moderate size can boost

finer views, or woodlands and farms better suited for rearing a good head of game. Whilst surrounded as it is by sport-loving owners, the expenses of preserving are lighter than on many less favoured estates. Although there is no residence beyond the shooting-box on this section, one of the farmhouses is well fitted for a gentleman's small residence, having been used before for that purpose, and enjoying a view across the greater part of Leicestershire. For a hunting man there are the Quorn, the Atherstone, the Meynell, and Lord Harrington's packs, offering the cream of the shires within easy reach. To the speculator, the small investor, the farmer, and the house hunter, the properties at Griffydam, and immediately round Ashby offer considerable attractions, for there are already signs of considerable development in the district, and Ashby de la Zouch appears not unlikely to become a place of considerable importance.

### **Leicester Chronicle – October 27<sup>th</sup> 1900**

#### **Ashby de la Zouch Police Court**

Isaiah Hodges, collier, Griffydam, was summoned for assaulting Hannah Saddington, wife of a collier, of Griffydam, at Worthington on the 10<sup>th</sup> October. Defendant was also summoned for assaulting Ada Allen, wife of a collier, of Hucknall Torkard, at the same time. Mr. Sharp appeared for the defendant, who pleaded guilty, and was fined 5s. 6d., and £1 6s 6d. costs.

### **Leicester Chronicle – December 8<sup>th</sup> 1900**

**COLLIERY BYE-LAWS OFFENCE.** – George Earp, collier, of Griffydam, was summoned for failing to comply with special rule, No. 72, in force at Coleorton Colliery. – Frank Tatham, colliery manager, of Coleorton, was complainant. – The offence was that of allowing overhanging coal to remain unspragged, and defendant pleaded guilty. – Frank Tatham, manager, who discovered the matter, said the offence constituted a dangerous risk to life, and the prosecution was instituted as a warning to other colliers. There were six or seven tons of coal overhanging in a length of sixteen feet, with about 4ft. 6in. of a hole under. If an accident had happened a claim might have been made against the colliery under the compensations act. – The chairman said that the defendant had been guilty of very gross negligence, and might have caused the death of more than one person.

### **Leicester Chronicle – December 8<sup>th</sup> 1900**

#### **COALVILLE**

**FUNERAL OF A TRADESMAN.** – On Thursday afternoon the body of the late Mr. Francis William Illsley, draper, of Belvoir road, who died on the 3<sup>rd</sup> inst., at Coalville, was laid to rest in the burial ground of the Wesleyan Chapel at Griffydam in the presence of numerous and sympathetic spectators. The following were the chief mourners : The widow of the deceased. Mr. B. Johnson, Mr. Knight, Mrs. Knight, Miss Illsley, Mr. J. Chambers, Mrs. Chambers (Derby), Mr. J. Coxon, <rs. Coxon, Mr. and Mrs. Elverston, Mrs. Sketchley, Mr. J. Fletcher, Mr. Scales, and Mr. W. Illsley. The service was conducted by the Rev. G. Wadsworth, Wesleyan Minister of Coalville. The oak coffin bore the following inscription : "Francis William Illsley. Died Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Aged 55 years". It was laid in a brick grave. Every respect was shown in Belvoir road by fellow tradesmen and residents, and there were 17 wreaths of choice flowers, many of which were sent by residents.

### **Burton Chronicle – April 11<sup>th</sup> 1901**

#### **GRIFFYDAM (PEGG'S GREEN)**

**TEA AND LECTURE.** – A public tea was provided in the Wesleyan School-Room ([Griffydam Wesleyan Day School at Pegg's Green](#)) on Good Friday. This was followed by a lecture entitled "Evan Evans", by Mr. W. F. Jones of Coalville. Mr. J. Kennedy of Coalville occupied the chair. Both tea and lecture were well patronised, and thoroughly appreciated, and the proceeds will be devoted to the renovation fund.

**ANNUAL LOVE FEAST.** – On Easter Monday the annual circuit Love Feast was held at Griffydam. Early in the day the usually quiet village was alive with vehicles of various kinds, and large numbers of visitors thronged the place., some having come from Leicester and Derby to take part in the annual gathering. At 1.30 the service was held in the chapel, presided over by the superintendent minister. The building was packed, and a time of great blessing was spent, many stood bearing testimony to the saving and keeping power of Christ whilst the emblems of the

feast were being distributed. Stirring hymns were sung, and the proceedings were marked by intense earnestness and enthusiasm. – At the close of the Love Feast tea was provided in the School-room. And the attendance was so large that several sittings were necessary. – In the evening, the Rev. G. W. Russell preached in the Wesleyan chapel to a large audience. The Love Feast, which is really a district one, is said to date back as far as the days of Wesley.

### **Burton Chronicle – September 19<sup>th</sup> 1901**

#### **GRIFFYDAM**

**WESLEYAN REFORM CIRCUIT QUARTERLY MEETING.** – On Saturday, the Wesleyan Reform Quarterly tea was held in Griffydam Wesleyan Reform Chapel. There was a large attendance. The weather was favourable, and representatives from all parts of the circuit were present. The Rev. A. Holland, of Ellistown, circuit minister, presided. At three o'clock the local preachers meeting was held. One candidate was admitted as a local preacher on trial and another was continued for another quarter. At five o'clock a very substantial tea was provided in the adjoining schoolroom, and was heartily enjoyed by all present. Afterwards the business meeting was continued. It was stated that a site for a chapel had been secured at New Swannington. The reformers were at present worshipping in a house, and were desirous that the Wesleyan Reform circuit should supply them regularly with local preachers every Sunday. An application to that effect was, therefore, made to the quarterly meeting. After a lengthy discussion it was decided to accede to the request on condition that the worshippers in question placed themselves entirely under the control and direction of the Wesleyan Reform Union, and agreed to the rules and regulations laid down thereby. – The numerical and financial condition of the circuit was regarded as satisfactory

### **Burton Chronicle – July 17<sup>th</sup> 1902**

#### **GRIFFYDAM (PEGG'S GREEN)**

**WESLEYAN SCHOOL.**([GRIFFYDAM WESLEYAN DAY SCHOOL AT PEGG'S GREEN](#)) – His Majesty's inspector's report on the above school is in hand, and the school staff is to be congratulated on the same, the highest grant being awarded. The report says : "The teachers deserve much credit for their painstaking efforts. The infants are under kind control and efficient instruction".

### **Burton Chronicle – January 1<sup>st</sup> 1903**

#### **GRIFFYDAM (PEGG'S GREEN)**

**HAM AND TONGUE TEA AND LANTERN LECTURE.** – Boxing day was the day chosen for the ham and tongue tea and lantern lecture in connection with the Griffydam Wesleyan Chapel, and the effort, which was in aid of the chapel fund, was successful in every respect. An excellent ham and tongue tea was held in the Wesleyan School-room ([Griffydam Wesleyan Day School, Peggs Green](#)), and, thanks to the effective catering of the lady friends, was thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated. The room presented an attractive aspect, and a goodly number of visitors sat down. – In the evening, in the Chapel ([Griffydam Wesleyan Methodist Chapel](#)), the Rev. G. A Lampard of Coalville, gave an excellent lecture, the subject of which was "The life of Christ". Mr. J. Hoult, of Aston-on-Trent, presided. The lecturer was aided by a powerful magic lantern, by means of which a number of very effective lectures, illustrating scenes, and miracles in the life of the world's redeemer were thrown upon the screen. These were greatly appreciated by the large congregation, and was also the lecture itself, into which Mr. Lampard threw much enthusiasm and energy. The proceeds of the tea and lecture, which were very satisfactory, will be devoted to the chapel funds.

### **The Lincoln, Rutland and Stamford Mercury – January 9<sup>th</sup> 1903**

#### **PLACES VACANT**

Young man (steady), 18 to 20, wanted on a small grass farm. Live in. One with knowledge of cutting and trussing hay preferred. Good wages to a steady young man. – Apply F. W. Cox, Griffydam, Ashby de la Zouch.

### **Burton Chronicle – November 5<sup>th</sup> 1903**

#### **GRIFFYDAM (PEGG'S GREEN)**

**GRAND CONCERT.** – On Wednesday evening, a grand concert in aid of the chapel funds was held in the Griffydam Wesleyan (Day) School. There was a very large and appreciative audience, and an excellent programme was most effectively rendered. Miss G. Lakin, A.L.C.M. made a very efficient accompanist, and the Coalville Adult School Glee Choir rendered invaluable assistance. Mr. Frank T. Bellward, the character singer, was well received. The programme opened with a piano solo. "Venetian Song" (Royston Smith), by Miss G. Lakin A.L.C.M. whose performance was very creditable. This was followed by a glee by the choir, "Fair Flora decks". Gordon Temple's sweet song, "O song devine" was given by Miss F. L. Amos, who responded to an encore with "O dry those tears". Next came an excellent mandolin solo, "British Boys" (Harry Dacre), by Miss J. Lakin. Mr. Baker then sang, in good style, "When your hair grows whiter", and in response to a redemand, gave "Come back to me". The next item was the song, "Love the pedlar", Miss L. Knight L.L.C.M. This was deservedly encored, and was responded to with "The style in the lane". Mr. Hewes's song, "Anchored" was followed by another glee by the chor, "Soldiers Chorus" (Faust). Mr. Bellward's humerous song, "take them off", was loudly applauded. Mr. Bellward responded with "I was on it". This brought the fist part of the programme to a close, and a short interval followed. Part 2 opened with a piano solo, "Les Gouttes d'Eau" ( Joseph Asher), by Miss Lakin A.L.C.M. The Glee Choir followed with the song, "With sighs, sweet rose". The next item was the song, "Killarney", well given by Miss Knight. Miss F. L. Amos then sang "Tatters" (Gerald Lane) with great effect. This was encored, and "The miller and the maid" given in response. Mr. J. Lakin then gave a mandolin solo, "De coon dat's got my heart", which was much appreciated. Mr. Baker followed with the song, "The little hero", and Miss Knight with the song "Twickenham Ferry". Mr. Hewes then subscribed the song, "Queen of Angles". The Glee choir's song, "Comrades in arms", provoked great applause, and in response to a well-merited encore, the glee "Sleep gentle lady" was most sweetly rendered. Mr. Bellward then gave a character song, "When I think of the days". This was loudly encored, and Mr. Bellward responded with a sketch, "Scene at a railway station", which provoked much amusement. A very pleasant and successful evening was spent.

### **Burton Chronicle – April 28<sup>th</sup> 1904**

#### **GRIFFYDAM (PEGG'S GREEN)**

**WESLEYAN DAY SCHOOL.** – On Saturday, the day school anniversary was held in the Wesleyan Chapel, Griffydam (Pegg's Green). The weather was all that could be desired, and as a result, the afternoon and evening services were well attended. The special preacher was the Rev. H. J. Bannister, of Melbourne, whose discourses were well adapted to the occasion. Special hymns were nicely sung by the children of the day school, and anthems by the choir. The afternoon anthem was "The heavenly War", whilst that in the evening, "From generation to generation", was well rendered by the children and choir. Mr. W. Richards was the conductor, and Miss G. Lakin accompanied. The collections realised £11 4s. 5½d.

### **Leicester Chronicle – October 22<sup>nd</sup> 1904**

**School Offence** – Geo Wardle, collier, Griffydam, was summoned for neglecting to send his child regularly to school. – Mr. Chas. Hart, school attendance officer, stated the case. – **A fine of 1s. and 1s 6d costs was imposed.**

### **Burton Chronicle – April 27<sup>th</sup> 1905**

#### **GRIFFYDAM**

**ANNUAL CIRCUIT LOVE FEAST.** – "Ye olde Love Feast" which has been celebrated every Easter Monday since the days of John Wesley, was held in the Wesleyan Chapel, Griffydam, on Monday last. The weather was beautifully fine, and the crowds of visitors included people from all the surrounding villages, as well as Nottingham and even Birmingham. A strong contingent connected with the Derby Wesleyan Mission was present, and took an active part in the days proceedings. Long before the appointed time for holding the Lovefeast the chapel was filled to overflowing. At 1.30 the Lovefeast began. The meeting was presided over by the superintendent minister (Rev. G. Hepplewhite) and a collection was taken up on behalf of the chapel funds. The

meeting was thrown open. People of all grades (including a returned missionary from India) boldly gave their religious experience. The proceedings were interspersed with the hearty singing of hymns, started spontaneously in various parts of the chapel. At 4.30 tea was provided in the Wesleyan School-room. Several sittings down were necessary. After tea, the Derby visitors, who had to return by an early train, held a very enjoyable service on Griffy Hill, vocal and instrumental music and bright practical addresses being the order of the day. At six o'clock a crowded service was held in the chapel. The Rev. J. Hudson Kay opened the service, after which the Rev. George Hepplewhite preached an excellent sermon based upon "The alabaster box of ointment". The service was immensely enjoyed, and was fraught with much spiritual blessing. The proceeds of Lovefeast, tea and sermon will be devoted to the trust funds.

### **Melton Mowbray Mercury and Oakham and Uppingham News – November 8<sup>th</sup> 1906** **COALVILLE PETTY SESSIONS**

**WORTHINGTON LICENSING CASE (GRIFFIN INN – GRIFFYDAM).** – George Knight, coal dealer, of Griffydam, was summoned for being drunk on the licensed premises of Harry Chivers, Licensed Victualler, Worthington (**GRIFFYDAM**) and Chivers was summoned for permitting drunkenness, on the 26<sup>th</sup> October. – Mr. Rowlett appeared on behalf of the police, and Mr. J. J. Sharp defended. – P.S. Fox stated that in consequence of what he heard he entered the licensed premises in question and saw George Knight drunk. There were five others including the landlord, in the tap-room. Witness spoke to Knight, and then called the landlord apart, and drew his attention to Knight. The landlord said Knight had not been in very long, and he (the landlord) did not notice that "he was like this" when he came in. He would have him out. Witness told the landlord that Knight was in when witness passed about 5. Knight, when he came out, was drunk, and used bad language. Witness saw him home, as they (P.C. Jesson was with him) thought he would fall down. – Cross examined : Did not speak to Knight outside. Had known Knight a long time, but could not recognise his voice. – P.C. Jesson gave corroborative evidence. Knight was staggering all over the road when he left the inn. – Cross-Examined: He was certain it was Knight's voice he heard at 5 o'clock. Knight, as a rule, was a quiet man, and it was his shouting in the house which induced witness to conclude he was drunk. – Mr. Sharp urged that the case would not have come before the Bench but for the belief that Knight was in the house from 5 o'clock. He would call evidence, however, to show that a few minutes before 8 o'clock he was not at the inn. It was a strong element in the minds of the police that he was in the house from 5 to 8, and hence in drink. The landlord was at the inn but 14 days before this alleged offence, and did not know the policeman. Knight was not in the house until three or four minutes before 8 o'clock. – Mr. Sharp called Knight to give evidence. – He said that his house would be from 300 to 400 yards from the Griffin Inn. He had not known Chivers until he came to the inn. He went to the inn just before 8 o'clock for the first time that day, and denied that, he was at the inn at 5 o'clock, Geo. Draper, Herbert Willton, and Martin Bott, entered the house about the same time that he did. He did not ask for anything to drink, being engaged in conversation. When he saw the sergeant he said to him, "Come in, and lets have a look at your face" and when he was asked to leave he did so quietly, and did not know that the officers were following behind. He was about the yard of his house all afternoon, and had tea between 4 and 5, and after reading the paper, fell asleep. – The landlord (Chivers) deposed that Knight came to his house a few minutes to 8 o'clock. He was not there at 5 o'clock. Knight and three young men went into the tap room. Witness was a stranger to the locality. Knight asked for nothing, and had nothing, but had he asked for anything he (Chivers) would have supplied him. There was nothing in his conduct to lead him (Chivers) to believe he was drunk. The sergeant told him that Knight had had enough, and he ordered him out, giving as his reason Sergeant Foxe's statement. He knew Knight in the fortnight as a respectable and honest dealer. – By Mr. Rowlett : he told the sergeant that Knight had been in only a few minutes, and he got the man out because the sergeant told him, and also for the sergeant to see him walk out. Knight was not drunk. As a landlord of 14 days, he did what the sergeant told him, thinking it right. – Joseph Dimmock, of Griffydam, son-in-law and assistant to Chivers, stated that he knew Knight. He was not in the house at 5 o'clock. He had nothing to drink, and asked for nothing. Witness served the other men who entered about the same time. Witness saw the police officers and his father go out, return, and order Knight away. Knight was

as sober as he was in Court. – By Mr. Rowlatt : There was not the slightest indication that Knight was drunk. He asked his father-in-law later in the evening why he was asked to leave. – Martin Bott, of Gelsmoor, collier, said Knight ordered nothing to drink at the inn, and when they had been in four or five minutes Sergeant Fox came in. Witness saw nothing in Knight's condition to lead him to believe that he was drunk. – Herbert Wilton, one of the party in the house, said he did not hear Knight ask for anything to drink and did not see him supplied with anything. In witness's opinion Knight was sober. – By Mr. Rowlatt : He told the police at the time Knight was not drunk. He did not know why Knight, a perfectly sober man, was turned out of the inn, and nothing was said when he left. – George Draper, collier, of Griffydham, who was in the house, also said Knight was sober. – By Mr. Sharp : Knight was not "turned out". The landlord said something to Knight, and the man left. – The Chairman said the case had been carefully considered. The evidence was so conflicting that it had been decided to dismiss the cases.

### **Melton Mowbray Mercury and Oakham and Uppingham News – May 28<sup>th</sup> 1908**

#### **GRIFFYDAM**

**A Guardian's Funeral.** – On Thursday afternoon the body of Mr. Price Kidger, a member of the Ashby de la Zouch Board of Guardians, and a district councillor, was laid to rest in the Wesleyan burial ground at Griffydham, in the presence of a large concourse of relatives and friends. – The deceased, who died at the age of 67 years, had been a guardian for thirteen years and was also chairman of Thringstone Parish Council, being appointed after the demise of the Rev. C. E. Crane, previous to which he was vice chairman. He served too, on the Osgathorpe Parish Council by request, having land in that parish. The body was enclosed in an oak polished coffin, with heavy brass mountings, and a breast-plate bearing the inscription : "Price Kidger. Died May 18<sup>th</sup>, 1908 : aged 67 years". The mourners included the widow and Mrs. G. Kendrick (daughter); Mr Edward Price Kidger (eldest son), of Peggs Green, and Mrs. J. Baker (daughter) of Leicester Forest West, Hinckley; Mr. John Kidger (son), Bakewell St, Leicester, and Mrs. E. W. Goodhall (daughter), Ockbrook, Derby; Mr. F. W. Kidger and Mrs John Kidger (daughter-in-Law) of Bakewell St, Leicester and Mrs. A. S. Sleigh (daughter), of Willoughby, Loughborough. Others at the funeral included :- Mr. Jepson Turner (Green Hill House, Whitwick); Mr. C. E. Crane (Coalville); Mr. F. H. Walker (Ravenstone); Mr. James Burthon (Pegg's Green); Mr. F. W. Cox (Griffydham); Mr. C. Gadsby and Mr. Charles Spencer (Swannington); Mr. Jacon Webb (clerk, Snibston Colliery); Mr. W. Franks (an Ashby Guardian and rural district Councillor); Mr. Jno. Charville (Coleorton), Mr. H. Davies (Griffydham) and Mr. C. Gadsby (Osgathorpe).

There were numerous floral tokens from relatives and friends

### **Melton Mowbray Mercury & Oakham & Uppingham News – April 30<sup>th</sup> 1908**

**SUDDEN DEATH.** – On Thursday, Susan Anna Batson, 57, wife of Wm, Batson, beer house keeper ([Rising Sun](#)), Griffydham, died suddenly. It appears that deceased had been in indifferent health for a considerable time, suffering from Asthma and pains in the region of the heart. Some months ago she was medically attended for chronic rheumatism.

### **Burton Chronicle – September 24<sup>th</sup> 1908**

#### **GRIFFYDAM**

**REFORM HARVEST FESTIVAL.** – This was held in the Wesleyan Reform Chapel on Sunday last, when two suitable sermons were preached by the Rev. A. Holland, of Ellistown. The chapel was suitably decorated with corn, fruits, flowers, and vegetables. Harvest music was rendered, and at the close of the afternoon and evening services a collection was taken up in aid of chapel funds.

### **Melton Mowbray Mercury & Oakham & Uppingham News – December 3<sup>rd</sup> 1908**

#### **CYCLING ACCIDENT**

Whilst John Knight, collier, of Griffydham, was riding home from Coalville, on Saturday night, with William Platts, another collier, he ran into another cyclist named Thomas Court, of Park Road. Court was knocked from his machine, and had his head cut and received other injuries. Knight, who was also thrown, was more severely injured, and the Midland Railway ambulance carriage

was requisitioned. He was taken to Dr. Jamie's surgery suffering from shock and concussion, and was afterwards taken to Griffydam in the ambulance carriage.

### **Derby Daily Telegraph – March 30<sup>th</sup> 1910**

#### **“The Love Feast” – Griffydam**

For a great number of years the “Love Feast” held annually at Griffydam has formed a rallying point for Wesleyans for a large district from places as far apart as Leicester, Derby, Long Eaton, Duffield, and many places nearer, such as Coalville, Whitwick, Breedon, Loughborough, Melbourne, Swannington etc. The “Love Feast” held on Easter Monday was again largely attended. The Rev. Mr. Maine, of Coalville, presided, and was supported by the Rev. Mr. Dalziell (Ashby) and the veteran preacher, Mr. John Harrison. The service began at 1. 30. and lasted till four o'clock, the chapel being crowded with a large and most enthusiastic congregation, members of whom gave spontaneous testimony to the Christian life, which was given to a running fire of interjected “Praise the Lord”, “Hallelujah”, and expressions of praise and approval. Some speakers, writes a correspondent, were lively, some were solemn, and some gave sacred songs, but all were obviously filled with great enthusiasm and earnestness. Some gave their testimony with tears running down their faces as they described their rescue from the depths of degradation. After some especially touching testimony, someone would burst out with a hymn, which was heartily taken up by the congregation, the refrain being sometimes repeated several times. These included “Amazing Love”, “Glory to the bleeding lamb”, when the roll is called up yonder”, “When I get home”, “I need thee”, “When I survey the wondrous cross”, “All hail the power of Jesu's name” etc. At four o'clock a public tea was provided in the schoolroom. There was a service in the evening when the preacher was the Rev. H. Westlake, of Handsworth College. The chapel is in the Ashby circuit, and was erected in 1778, enlarged 1791, and restored and enlarged in 1862. It is in the parish of Worthington. Although to an outsider, the “Love Feast” might appear lacking in the refinement of modern worship, yet the heartiness and earnestness of those who took part shows that Nonconformity is still robust and capable of doing good Christian work.

### **Melton Mowbray Mercury & Oakham & Uppingham News – October 27<sup>th</sup> 1910**

#### **THE LOUGHBOROUGH LEAGUE**

##### **DIVISION II**

Griffydam strengthened their position at the top of the chart by defeating Loughborough Ivanhoe by six clear goals. This is Griffydam's sixth consecutive victory, their goal average to date being 21 against 7.

### **Melton Mowbray Mercury and Oakham & Uppingham News – March 4<sup>th</sup> 1909**

#### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

Edward Thorley, labourer, Griffydam, and Mary E. Lowe, housekeeper, were summoned for using indecent language at Griffydam on the 13<sup>th</sup> of February. – Thorley pleaded guilty, adding that he was in a temper at the time, and did not know what he was saying. – The housekeeper did not appear. – P.C. Jesson said he heard the woman screaming “Murder” ! at 11 o'clock at night. She was drunk, and the disturbance was continued for some hours. – Thorley said he had been to Coalville, and had not tasted a drop of liquor, and when he got home he found the housekeeper intoxicated. It was the first time he had been before the magistrates in his life. – The Chairman said that defendant bore a good character, and he would be fined 10s. 6d., including costs. – The housekeeper was similarly fined.

### **Burton Chronicle – August 11<sup>th</sup> 1910**

#### **GRIFFYDAM**

**FROMER GRIFFYDAM SCHOLARS .** – At the prize distribution at Ashby Grammar School the three young pupils, formerly scholars at Griffydam school, and who gained free scholarships, were very successful as prize winners, carrying off six prizes between them, viz., Reginald Pickering, English, mathematics, science and drawing ; John Leech, English and language ; William Bird, mathematics and science.

[They would have been educated at the Griffydam Wesleyan Day School at Pegg's Green.](#)

**Meton Mowbray Mercury & Oakham & Uppingham News – November 10<sup>th</sup> 1910**

**CASTLE DONINGTON TOWN v GRIFFYDAM**

At Castle Donington. – The game opened fast, Griffydam forcing matters. Barker was twice tested. The Dons had several reserves, but corners repeatedly fell to them. Griffydam occasionally got away and scored after thirty minutes. The Dons renewed the attack, missing several grand openings. Staples and Hodkins kept banging at goal, but nothing resulted. The Dons, made a big effort just before the interval, but Haywood saved.

**HALF TIME**

In the second half the Dons set about their task in real earnest, and scored nine goals, the visitors responding with one goal.

**RESULT – CASTLE DONINGTON TOWN 9 – GRIFFYDAM 2**

**Burton Chronicle – September 22<sup>nd</sup> 1910**

**GRIFFYDAM**

**WESLEYAN HARVEST FESTIVAL.** – Harvest Festival services were held at the Griffydam Wesleyan Chapel on Sunday. The ladies had exceeded their decorative art with an excellent supply of foliage, flowers and corn, and fruits and vegetables were also well in evidence. The Rev. A. E. Gardner, the newly settled minister at Measham, presented excellent sermons afternoon and evening. Harvest hymns were sung with much feeling, and the services were well attended. A good number sat down to tea on Monday, and later the fruits and vegetables were disposed of by sale, the total proceedings, which were devoted to the chapel funds amounting to £6.

**Leicester Daily Post – March 28<sup>th</sup> 1911**

**WORTHINGTON**

**CONSERVATIVE “SMOKER”.** – A smoking concert in connection with the Conservative and Unionist Association, attended by members from Girls Moor (Gelsmoor), Griffydam, Newbold, and Staunton Harold was held at the Cross Keys Inn, on Saturday night. Mr. F. Tipetts, secretary of the Leicester Tariff Reform League, gave an address. Mr. J. H. Riley presided.

**Melton Mowbray Mercury & Oakham & Uppingham News – September 22<sup>nd</sup> 1910**

**LOUGHBOROUGH AND DISTRICT LEAGUE – DIVISION II**

**LOUGHBOROUGH OLYMPIC v GRIFFYDAM**

Played at Griffydam in fine weather. The home team won the toss, and set the “Brownies” to kick up the slope and face the sun. The visitors soon got going, and were very dangerous during the first few minutes, the ball hovering around the home team’s goal. One of the Griffydam players punched the ball out from a good shot, but the referee did not see the incident. The home team broke away on the left, and from a scrimmage, Brewin scored the first goal. Griffydam kept up the pressure, and they soon secured another goal. The “Brownies” were now playing a good game. Tolke sent in a hot shot, which the keeper saved. From this point the visitors forced several corners, which were of now avail. The home team’s defence were playing a good game. The centre-forward got away, and after beating nearly all the “Brownies” defence, passed the ball to the inside right, who appeared to be standing off-side. The player, however, shot the ball in the net and at the interval the score was:-

**GRIFFYDAM 3 – OLYMPIC 0**

On resuming the visitors could not get going, and a fourth goal was soon registered for the home team. A fifth point was disallowed. This livened the Brownies up, and Folkes, changing position with Jarram, began to worry the Griffydam defence, and from this point the home side did not get over the half way line again more than twice. The Olympic kept up the pressure with good staying power, which they found their opponents lacked, but bad luck dogged the visitors, and they could not score. Numerous corners were awarded to Loughborough, but it was wonderful how the ball was kept out of the net. Olympic kept up the pressure, and the ball was handled in the penalty area. Mitchell took the kick and scored. From this there was only one team (Olympic) in the game, and they gave the home defence a stiff task. Folkes centred the ball, and Jarram meeting it, banged it in the net. From the centre they pressed, and Mitchell just grazed the bar with a fast

shot, and later Jarram hit the bar when the goalkeeper had given up the shot. The home goal had some miraculous escapes, but time came with the result :-

#### GRIFFYDAM 4 – OLYMPIC 2

**Leicester Daily Post – March 22<sup>nd</sup> 1911**

#### LOUGHBOROUGH AND DISTRICT LEAGUE

##### MONTHLY MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE

Griffydham reported Sileby Victoria Reserves for not fulfilling a fixture at Sileby on March 11<sup>th</sup>. The correspondence between the two clubs was read by the secretary, and Sileby were fined 2s 6d. for breaking the fixture, and ordered to pay 7s. 6d. expenses.

Loughborough Olympic reported Griffydham for being an hour late on February 25<sup>th</sup>. – **The secretary of Griffydham club said they were delayed at Griffydham owing to their centre forward being married that day. As full time was played Griffydham were only cautioned.**

**Melton Mowbray Mercury and Oakham and Uppingham News – April 13<sup>th</sup> 1911**

#### LOUGHBOROUGH AND DISTRICT LEAGUE I

##### DIVISION II

#### SILEBY VICTORIA RESERVES v GRIFFYDAM

The visitors arrived late, and play was delayed nearly half an hour late. Sileby spoiled a good chance through offside play, but forced three corners, which were all cleared. The Vics. Continued to press, and many corners were given. Once the ball struck the ground in front of the net, and bounced clean over. Clarke, in the Sileby goal smartly fisted out, and the Griffydham custodian also saved very neatly on several occasions. A free kick for hands was given against the visitors, but the shot was well parried. Another corner fell to Sileby, but it was headed just wide. Another shot from a Sileby forward travelled wide, and then from a corner Taylor beat the visiting goal keeper. Immediately afterwards, the whistle blew for half time with score:-

#### SILEBY VICTORIA RESERVES 1 – GRIFFYDAM 0

Resuming, the wind was quieter for a little while, and play ruled even. The defence on each side was stronger than the attack. Offside spoiled a good opportunity for Griffydham, and a chance to Sileby was not taken advantage of. Griffydham pressed, and Clark fisted out, giving a corner, which was cleared. The wind was now giving the visitors a great advantage, but long shots always went wide or over the goal. Griffydham nearly scored, Clark saving splendidly at full length on the ground. The remainder of the play consisted in a bombardment of the Sileby goal, but the defence was grand, and the goalkeeper very safe. The end came with no addition to the score:-

#### SILEBY VICTORIAL RESERVES 1 – GRIFFYDAM 0

DIVISION II.								
Loughborough Ivanhoe 2, Woodhouse 3.								
Sileby Reserves 1, Griffydham 0.								
	P.	W	D.	L.	Goals			
					F.	A.	Pt.	
Espereth Victoria .....	15	11	2	2	61	18	24	
Griffydham .....	14	10	2	2	56	16	22	
Mathon Eselsing .....	16	8	3	5	53	37	19	
*Loughborough Olympic .....	14	8	2	4	51	25	16	
Castle Donington Res. ....	15	6	3	6	22	37	15	
Woodhouse Imperial .....	13	7	0	6	54	31	14	
Sileby Victoria Reserves..	14	6	1	7	39	43	13	
Loughborough Ivanhoe ...	13	1	1	11	17	45	3	
Bardon Villa .....	14	0	0	14	8	65	0	
*Two points deducted for playing non-eligible man.								

## **Leicester Daily Post – July 5<sup>th</sup> 1911**

### **FOOTBALL LOUGHBOROUGH AND DISTRICT LEAGUE ANNUAL MEETING**

.....In Division II, Kegworth Victoria and Griffydam tied for the top place, and a match to decide the championship was won by Kegworth Victoria. He understood that Griffydam wanted very badly to win the cup, and had subscribed weekly during the whole season to a fund which was to present £10 10s. to the Loughborough Hospital in the event of their winning the cup. The sum was raised, but the cup was not won, so the hospital lost £10 10s.

## **Melton Mowbray Mercury & Oakham & Uppingham News – November 9<sup>th</sup> 1911**

### **Ashby Petty Sessions**

**PUBLICAN CONVICTED.** – George W. Storer, publican, Griffydam, was summoned for selling intoxicating drink during prohibited hours on the 29<sup>th</sup> of October, at Worthington ([Griffin Inn, Griffydam](#)). – Mr. Jesson defended. – The case was heard in conjunction with a charge against Herbert Reid, collier, of Worthington, for being found on the licensed premises of Storer during prohibited hours. – Sergeant Fox said that in consequence of complaints, he and P.C. Collis secreted themselves near the Griffin Inn at about 5. 30. on Sunday morning. At about 10.15 they noticed Reid come and get through a fence, and go near the pig-stye's in Storer's Yard, and call out "Hello ! Storer, are you there? Bring us four bottles of special". He had a basket with him. Storer fetched the basket and in a short time returned with it and put it down near the pig-sty. Witness and P.C. Collis separated, going in different directions, Collis meeting Reid, and witness going into the yard, and accusing Storer of supplying beer. Storer replied that it was really supplied the previous evening, and paid for ; but the arrangement was that he was to send it out the next morning. When, however, he saw Reid in the garden he thought he would give it to him then, and save himself a journey. – P.C. Collis said when he and Sergeant Fox went to Reid's house about the matter, Reid said he was very sorry ; but he had not been to fetch the beer for himself. – The defence was that Reid entered the house (Griffin) a few minutes before 10 on the Saturday night, and asked for half a gallon of ale and four bottles of Shipton's special. Storer gave Reid the half gallon, and told him that he should have the four bottles on Sunday, because he did not want to go right down the cellar that night. – Storer was fined 21s. and 15s. costs, and Reid 2s. 6d and 15s. costs.

## **Leicester Chronicle – May 25<sup>th</sup> 1912**

### **A Whitwick Nonagenarian's – interesting Recollections.**

Mr. John Batson, who lived with his son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Bunce, in Brooks Lane, Whitwick, reached his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on Monday. He hails from Hardwick, Buckinghamshire.

### **Recollections appertaining to Griffydam –**

1. Prior to living at Whitwick he stayed with his son who was proprietor of the "Rising Sun" in Griffydam, until the public-house was permanently closed.
2. He was the first man to receive the old age pension at Griffydam Post Office

## **Burton Chronicle – August 1<sup>st</sup> 1912**

### **GRIFFYDAM**

**REFORM SCHOOL TREAT.** – On Saturday, the Wesleyan Reform Sunday school treat was held at Griffydam. Early in the afternoon the children and teachers assembled in the schoolroom and had tea and buns, after which they adjourned to a field kindly lent by Mr. Leech. Here cricket and games of various kinds were indulged in, after which each child was presented with nuts, sweets and gingerbreads and went home well pleased with the day's enjoyment.

**WESLEYAN CHAPEL .** – On Sunday the anniversary services were held in the Griffydam Wesleyan Chapel, when two very appropriate sermons were preached in the afternoon and evening by Mr. J. H. Butler, of Ashby-de-la-Zouch. Both services were well attended and the congregation were very interested. A pleasing feature in the day's services was the singing of special hymns by children and choir, who acquitted themselves with considerable vigour. At the

close of each service a collection was taken up in aid of chapel funds. Methodism was introduced into Griffydam earlier than the year 1792, and John Wesley himself preached in the village at least once during his visits to the neighbourhood.

#### **Burton Chronicle – March 27<sup>th</sup> 1913**

##### **GRIFFYDAM**

**YE OLD LOVE FEAST.** – The annual Lovefeast which has been held at Griffydam longer than any living person can remember, was held on Easter Monday. At an early hour, the usually quiet and peaceful village was astir with traps, brakes, bicycles, and vehicles of all descriptions, and the Wesleyan Chapel was crowded with people, not only from the immediate neighbourhood, but even from Derby, Long Eaton, Leicester and other distant towns. The circuit minister, Rev. F. H. H. Sabbett was present. The Lovefeast was opened with singing and prayer, after which the spiritual emblems of bread and water were distributed. The meeting was then open for personal testimony, and many people to the saving and keeping power of the Lord Jesus Christ. Bright and lively hymns were sung to old fashioned Methodist tunes. Tea was afterwards provided, a large number sitting down. In the evening the Rev. F. H. H. Sabbett, of Coalville preached a very earnest and appropriate sermon. The collection taken at the close, together with that taken at the Lovefeast, will be devoted to the chapel fund.

#### **Melton Mowbray Mercury & Oakham & Uppingham News – September 25<sup>th</sup> 1913**

##### **NEW SWANNINGTON**

**CIRCUIT MEETING.** – The quarterly meeting of the Ashby de la Zouch Wesleyan Reform Circuit was held at New Swannington on Saturday. Representatives were present from Ibstock, Ellistown, Griffydam and Moira, Rev. G. H. Brown presiding. – A vote of sympathy with the widow of the late circuit president, Rev. A. Holland, was passed, and, appreciation of the services deceased rendered to the circuit for a period of over twenty years was ordered to be entered on the minutes. – An invitation to the General Committee of the Wesleyan Reform Union to hold their next half-yearly meeting in the Ashby Circuit was confirmed. – Reports of the successful annual conference of the union, recently held at High Wycombe, were received. – Several items of business were referred to the Circuit Committee to consider and report. These had reference to the proposed scheme for the better training of local preachers and other matters.

#### **Burton Chronicle – April 23<sup>rd</sup> 1914**

##### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

**BAD LANGUAGE TO CYCLISTS.** – Frederick Francs (28), collier, Griffydam, was summoned for using indecent language at Worthington on March 27<sup>th</sup>. – In defendant's absence, Police constable Bown said that at 10-15, he was on duty at five lane ends, and the defendant used the language to a lady and gentleman passing on bicycles. – Fined 7s. 6d. and 14s. costs, or seven days hard labour.

#### **Coalville Times – Friday April 24<sup>th</sup> 1914**

Football in the second division. - Swannington Institute and Thornborough United have met twice, with no score on each occasion. The two Ibstock teams – Amateurs and Wanderers, also met without scoring on Good Friday. **Peggs Green have made two big wins, 10-0 against Whitwick Amateurs and 5-0 against Ashby and a draw 2-2 with Coleorton;** Swannington Robin Hood and Ravenstone United have met twice, a draw 2-2 at Swannington, and a win for Ravenstone 3-2, at Ravenstone, and Whitwick Amateurs suffered four defeats, being beaten 4-0 by Ibstock Wanderers, 3-0 by Ibstock Amateurs and 2-1 by Bagworth Town, in addition to the Peggs Green result.

#### **Burton Chronicle – June 25<sup>th</sup> 1914**

##### **GRIFFYDAM**

**WESLEYAN CHAPEL.** – The Wesleyan's held their Sunday school anniversary services on Sunday last., when the pulpit was occupied by Mr. J. H. Butler, of Ratby, who preached in the afternoon and evening. The services were well attended, and the audience were much interested

in the singing of special hymns by the children and choir, Mr. Ernest Kendrick presiding at the harmonium. The collections were in aid of Sunday school funds.

#### **Leicester Daily Post – February 8<sup>th</sup> 1915**

##### **GRIFFYDAM**

**PUBLICAN CONVICTED.** – David Else, publican Worthington, was charged at Ashby, on Saturday, with being drunk in charge of a horse and carriage at Thringstone on 25<sup>th</sup> January. – Mr. Jesson appeared for the defendant, who is the licensee of the Waggon and Horses at Griffydam. – According to the evidence, defendant was driving along the road from Ashby to Thringstone, when the “tub” was overturned near Mr. Hull’s Shop, ([just before Pegg’s Green / Swannington Island](#)) and defendant and a companion were thrown out. Defendant was stated to have been drunk. He admitted having had a number of “Whiskies” at Ashby, but denied that he was drunk. – Fined 21s. and 25s. costs.

#### **Leicester Journal – February 12<sup>th</sup> 1915**

##### **GRIFFYDAM**

The death occurred at his residence at Osgathorpe, on Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, of Mr. Robert T. Hance, who for 26 years had held the position of headmaster at the Griffydam Day School. The deceased had been in failing health for a considerable time, but his death was somewhat unexpected, and came as a surprise to a large circle of friends and acquaintances by whom he was highly esteemed. He was 53 years of age.

#### **Leicester Chronicle April 24<sup>th</sup> 1915**

##### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

**Poultry Raiders** – At Ashby Petty Sessions, on Saturday Maphali Smith, scissor grinder, and Absolum Smith, collier, both of Thringstone, were charged with stealing three live fowls, value 9s. the property of Mary Davis, at Breedon., on 16<sup>th</sup> of April and further with stealing three fowls, value 13s. 6d., the property of the Rev. G. Robinson, Thringstone, between 20<sup>th</sup> of March and 16<sup>th</sup> of April. – Defendants pleaded guilty. – P.S. Kirkland, Coalville, said together with P.C.’s Brown, Collis, and Jones. He saw the two defendants approaching noiselessly on the grass from the direction of the Waggon and Horses, at 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 16<sup>th</sup> inst., in company with P.C. Kirkland, he visited defendant’s fowl house, and saw three fowls, which defendants said they had brought from Billesdon six weeks ago. Witness took the fowls to the Rev. Greenwood Robinson, vicar of Swannington, who identified them as his property. The defendants, when charged at Ashby, had denied the theft. Keys found on one prisoner fitted locks of the Vicar’s premises. – **Superintendent Lockton deposed to receive numerous complaints, and prisoners were sent to prison for six weeks on each charge, the sentences being concurrent.**

John Edward Merriman of  
the “Sherwood Foresters”  
Born in Griffydam

**BEESTON GAZETTE AND ECHO – FEBRUARY 5<sup>TH</sup> 1916**

John was only 17 when he enlisted and for some time had lived with Mr. Blacknall, in West street, Hucknall but his birthplace was Griffydam, Leicestershire. He was wounded during the conflict and is currently being treated at the Woolwich Hospital



**The Coalville Times – May 1916**

**Coalville Police Court**

**Friday – Before Major Hatchett (in chair), Mr. H. J. Ford, Mr B.G. Hale and Mr J. W. West. The Chief Constable, Mr. E. Holmes, was present.**

***Bona Fide Traveller Question***

Thomas Price, Wm. Horrobin, Thos. Kenney, Herbert Lakin, John Roach, 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 23<sup>rd</sup>, and Else, the publican, was summoned for opening his premises for the sale of intoxicants during prohibited hours.

Mr George Rowlett (Leicester) prosecuted for the police, and Mr J. F. Jesson (Ashby) for the publican, pleaded guilty. Inspector Dobney stated that he went to the Waggon and Horses Inn, kept by Else, at 11.15 am on the date named (Easter Sunday). Twelve men were in the house, and a young lady, whom defendant admitted, was specially engaged for holiday times, was

playing on the piano a waltz, entitled "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.

#### **Leicester Daily post – January 30<sup>th</sup> 1919**

**An Order.** – William Else, collier, Griffydam, summoned by Hilda Dandy, of Shepshed, for an affiliation order, denied on oath that he had never seen or spoken to the girl. Several witnesses having stated that they had seen them together, the Chairman cautioned the defendant, but he adhered to his denial. The Bench made an order of 7s 6d. a week and costs. – Mr. R. Lancaster appeared for the applicant.

#### **Leicester Daily Post – April 14<sup>th</sup> 1919**

##### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

**DEAR WILD RABBIT.** – William Henry Bennet, dealer, Griffydam, was summoned under the Wild Rabbits Prices Order For selling a wild rabbit which weighed 2lbs 4oz. for 2s. 3d. (which was in excess of the above order), at Coalville. – Mr. J. F. Jesson prosecuted for the Coalville Food Control Committee, and Mr. J. J. Sharp defended. – Arthur Otty, Executive Officer, Coalville, said the price for wild rabbits brought : in the skin was 10d. per lb. – Mrs. Johnson said she purchased a rabbit from defendant, who said it weighed 2½lbs. with the skin on, and that there was a half penny a pound for carting. Witness paid him 2s..3d. for the rabbit, which he skinned for her, and he gave her a penny back for the skin. Witness had the rabbit weighed, and it was 2lbs. without the skin. – P.C. Bursall said rabbit skins fetched from 1s. 6d. to 2s. a dozen at marine store dealers. A skinned rabbit of 2lbs. would have a 5oz. skin. – Defendant produced the following notice fixed on his cart ; "Rabbits 10d. a pound in the skin ; 1/2d. extra for carting ; 1d. for each skin given back" The weight of the rabbit given sold to Mrs. Johnson was, he said, 2lbs. 9oz. The skin would weigh anything from seven to 12 ounces. – Mr. Sharp said that if the weight of the skin was as stated by defendant the price was correct. Defendant who had a previous conviction, was fined £5 5s., and ordered to pay £3 3s., advocate's allowance, and 5s. for witness. £8 13s. in all, or 14 days.

#### **Leicester Daily Post – May 12<sup>th</sup> 1919**

##### **Ashby Sessions**

**Food Control Cases.** – Mr. W. P. Musson prosecuted in several cases on behalf of the Ashby Food Control Committee. – Wm. Henry Bennett, dealer, Griffydam, summoned for selling rabbits above the maximum price at Coleorton, pleaded guilty, and said he was practically ruined in rabbit-selling. He had lost £80 by the drop from 5s. to 1s. 6d. a dozen for rabbit-skins when he had 4,000 in stock. – A conviction for a similar offence was recorded, and defendant was fined £7 8s. costs, and £3 3s. advocate's fee, the chairman remarking that it was doubtful if he ought not to have been imprisoned

### **Leicester Daily Post – September 15<sup>th</sup> 1919**

#### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

“SET PIECE OF THE DAY” Collapses. – The Magistrates’ Clerk referred to a series of summonses and cross-summonses for assault at Coleorton Wakes, as “the set piece of the day”. The principles were George H. Kilby and Joseph Kilby, colliers, Griffydam, who were summoned for assaulting George Henry Neville. – Joseph was also charged with assaulting Mrs. Neville, while there was a cross-summons against Neville for assaulting George H. and Norah Kilby. – Mr. J. F. Jesson appeared for the Nevilles, and Mr. J. J. Sharp for the Kilbys. – Mr. Jesson said it was a family feud arising out of the Wakes. – The case had been part heard when the question of an adjournment caused Mr. Sharp to suggest that the peace of the family might be better served if the case stopped where it was. – a suggestion to which Mr. Jesson was not opposed, but he pointed out that the Bench should give a decision on his summonses first against the Kilby’s. – After consultation, the Chairman said the Bench were prepared to dismiss the summonses against the Kilbys. – Mr. Sharp thereupon withdrew his charges against the Nevilles, and each side paid their own costs

### **Sunday Illustrated – July 10<sup>th</sup> 1921**

#### **DEAD MANS HOARD STRANGE COINCIDENCE LEADS TO DISCOVERY From Our Own Correspondent**

A remarkable story of hoarded wealth came to light today at Griffydam near Coalville.

In this mining village lived for many years a cripple who was supposed to eke out a scanty living as a barber, assisted by charitable neighbours.

Recently he fell ill, was taken to the workhouse and died. Notes and coins worth £45 were found on him.

After the cripple had been buried, a relative came and asked the workhouse master for the key of the dead man’s house. Almost at the same time appeared another visitor, also a relative with the same request.

His suspicions aroused, the master refused the key to the visitors but passed it to the relieving officer. A search in that house at Griffydam disclosed £102 18s. 6d. all in silver ; a war loan bond for £300 ; and a bank book showing £90 credit.

The whole sum, £537 has been banked pending a settlement with the relatives.

### **Hampshire Advertiser – June 10<sup>th</sup> 1922**

**Percy James Hall**, 13, of Griffydam (Leicestershire), who has been admitted to Leicester Infirmary with a broken arm, caused by a fall when running, broke the same arm in a similar manner only three months ago.

### **Derby Daily Telegraph – December 28<sup>th</sup> 1923**

**DERBY FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION- MEDAL SEMI-FINAL** Findern and Griffydam met on Boxing Day at Findern, and played on a heavy ground at a pace associated with ideal conditions. Griffydam from the kick-off went down in overwhelming fashion, but they found a rock-like defence. The defence eventually turned the game in the home team’s favour for some time ; then even play followed, and the visitors opened the scoring before the interval. On resuming, Findern made a great effort to pull the game out of the fire, and goals from Withers and Pagett put them ahead. By this time both teams looked tired. However, with about ten minutes to go, Griffydam rallied to such extent that they equalized four minutes from time. Both sides are to be congratulated on putting up such a clean hard game, and the return encounter should be worth seeing. Jack Pawley stood out as the man of the match.

### **The Nottingham Evening Post – April 29<sup>th</sup> 1924**

Nearly a month after his admission to the Burton Infirmary, Joseph Cooper Platts, a Griffydam miner, aged 26 succumbed to injuries received at Messrs. Hall collieries, Swadlincote, where he was knocked down by a coal tub.

## **Nottingham Journal – November 5<sup>th</sup> 1924**

### **WOMAN'S END**

#### **SAD STORY AT GRIFFYDAM INQUEST**

Deplorable conditions as to the housing of a collier's family were revealed at an inquest by Mr. H. J. Deane at Griffydham yesterday. The inquiry was in to the death of Phoebe Whyman (37) wife of Jack Whyman, collier, employed at Snibston Colliery.

The husband said he went to work on Sunday night at 9.30, and when he returned at 6.30 in the morning the child had been born and his wife was dead. They had eight children living and had buried three. Two children were living with his mother. The family occupied a home with one room upstairs and one down. He offered to stay at home with her on Sunday night, but she said she would be alright.

Harriet Emily Whyman, sister-in-law, said she was with deceased on Sunday night and they arranged for someone to call her. She was called and found deceased had given birth to a child and was downstairs.

Dr. Atkinson, Osgathorpe, said the woman was dead when he arrived. He attributed death to shock and inattention at birth.

The Coroner recorded a verdict accordingly, and said he came there intending to blame someone for this woman's death, but after the evidence he was unable to.

It was a scandal that people should be living in such a wretched hovel. There were two parents and six children living in two rooms

## **Lancashire Evening Post – November 5<sup>th</sup> 1924**

### **TEN PERSONS IN TWO- ROOM HOVEL**

Deplorable housing conditions were revealed at an inquest held by the North Leicestershire Coroner at Griffydham, near Coalville, last night, on Phoebe Whyman, the wife of Jack Whyman, a collier, who died after giving birth to her eleventh child. Eight children are living, and the family occupy a house of one room up and one room down, which the coroner described as a hovel. – A verdict that death was due to inattention at childbirth was returned.

## **Kington Times – November 8<sup>th</sup> 1924**

### **A GOLDEN WEDDING**

Sixty-five decendants attended the golden wedding celebration at Griffydham, Leicestershire, of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Morley, aged 73 and 71 respectively. Joe Bradford, of Birmingham Football Club, and William Bradford, who has played for both Birmingham and Brighton, are included among the grandchildren.

## **Nottingham Journal – September 9<sup>th</sup> 1925**

### **SURPRISE MEETING OF BROTHER AND SISTER AT HUCKNAL**

A meeting after a separation of 40 years occurred at Hucknall the other day, when Mr. Thomas Miller, from the United States, surprised his sister living in Yorke Street by paying her a visit unawares.

When he presented himself at the house, Miss Miller thought he was a pedlar, and twice attempted to turn him away with the usual, "not today, mister"! before he made himself known.

It is 45 years since Mr. Miller went to America, leaving work at Linby Colliery to take up a post in the anthracite mines in Eastern Pennsylvania, where he now occupies an official position. Originally the family hailed from **GRIFFYDAM, LEICESTERSHIRE.**

Mr. Miller praised the Hucknall authorities for the cleanliness of the town's streets, which he finds a striking contrast to the muddy roads that he knew 45 years ago.

**Lancashire Evening Post – July 12<sup>th</sup> 1926**

**A COUPLE'S SUICIDE**

A verdict of "Joint Suicide" was returned at the inquest at Ashby de la Zouch on Thomas King, a Griffydam, Leicestershire, collier and his wife, Lucy King, whose bodies, bound together by the man's leather belt, were recovered from the Willesley Lake. Domestic quarrels were stated to have led up to the tragedy.

**Sheffield Independent – July 12<sup>th</sup> 1926**

**DROWNED TIED TOGETHER  
COUPLE WHO HAD SEPARATE ROOMS  
WIFE'S FALSE ACCUSATION**

A distressing story was told at the inquest at Ashby de la Zouch, on Saturday, on the bodies of a young man and his wife which were recovered by dragging operations from a lake in the district on Friday. The deceased were Thomas King (32), a coal miner, of Griffydam, and his wife Lucy, aged 30. they were taken from the lake clasped in each other's arms, or as a police witness said, "Hugging one another". Mrs. King's feet were bound together by a man's necktie, and the couple's arms were tied together with a strap. A letter in the man's hand writing and some of the woman's clothing were found on the bank.

**ANOTHER CHILD**

The Coroner referring to the letter, said that the young couple had lived happily for a time, but on medical advice occupied separate rooms. When the husband learned that another child was expected he was considerably distressed. Mrs. King had said to her husband : "If I tell you you won't forgive me", and her husband had replied : "We will see".

She then made an accusation against another man, who, however, not only denied it, but threatened proceedings.

**ALLEGATION WITHDRAWN**

On Thursday, at her mother's house, the woman withdrew the allegation in the presence of the man, and said to her husband : "I had to say something because you threatened my life".

It was arranged that the parties should meet at a solicitor's office in Ashby. The young couple afterwards went out together that night, and were not seen again.

In the letter he left, the husband said : "Oh, mother : get someone to look after my children. I could not stay any longer. Give heed to my words, O Lord consider my meditation".

The Coroner said it was a case of joint suicide during temporary insanity, and observed that the action of the man who had been accused by the woman had throughout been such as he would expect from one who was wrongfully accused.

**Leicestershire Evening Post – July 13<sup>th</sup> 1926**

Hundreds of people attended the funeral of the victims of the Ashby drowning tragedy. – Thomas King, aged 26, a miner, and his wife, Lucy Maud, aged 27 – in the Wesleyan burial ground at Griffydam, Leicestershire, yesterday.

**Birmingham Daily Gazette – October 22<sup>nd</sup> 1928**

**GRIFFYDAM BABY SHOW**

At a baby show held in the Council School at Griffydam near Coalville, on Saturday, organized by district nurse Ingleson, Dr. A. Hamilton (Coalville Medical Officer) and Dr. Garry (Osgathorpe) being the judges, the following were the awards.

Under 6 months. – 1, Alec Bird (Coleorton); 2, Baby Wilton (Pegg's Green)

Six to twelve months. – 1, Baby Ford (Swannington); 2, Baby Reid (Pegg's Green).

Twelve to eighteen months. – 1, Baby Hucknall (Coalville); 2, Baby Cresswell (Coalville).

The event was in connection with a show and sale of flowers, fruit, vegetables, etc., in aid of the funds of the Loughborough Hospital.

**Leicester Evening Mail – March 16<sup>th</sup> 1929**

**Mr. J. Knight  
Death of 91 year old  
Appleby farmer**

By the death of Mr. Joseph Knight, a well known farmer, who was in his 91<sup>st</sup> year, Appleby (near Ashby de la Zouch) has lost one of its oldest inhabitants. Mr. Knight was well known in the Coalville district, having lived at Newbold for 80 years. The funeral service was held at Worthington Parish Church and the burial took place at Griffydam Cemetery. Many old friends attended the funeral.

**Leicester Evening Mail – January 20<sup>th</sup> 1930**

**COALVILLE CONCERT PARTY**

The Coalville Primitive Methodist Concert Party gave a concert in the old [Griffydam Wesleyan Day School](#) at Griffydam ([Peggs Green](#)) in aid of the renovation fund of the Griffydam Wesleyan Church.

**Dundee Courier – August 5<sup>th</sup> 1930**

**ELDERLY WOMAN AND CHILD KILLED  
STRUCK BY MOTOR BUS**

An elderly widow and a two year' old girl, whom she had unsuccessfully attempted to save, were both killed yesterday when knocked down by a motor bus at Griffydam, Leicestershire.

They were Mrs. Annetia Knight, aged 66 and Kathleen Mary Kinsey, who lived next door. The child after playing on the path outside her house, had crossed to the opposite side, and apparently, with the idea of preventing the child from recrossing the road, Mrs. Knight went over to her. As they were walking back, both were struck by the bus.

**Nottingham Journal – August 14<sup>th</sup> 1930**

**PERILS OF THE ROADS  
GRIFFYDAM TRAGEDY RECALLED  
£50 CHEQUE**

**PAID TO THE SON OF VICTIM  
“The Nottinham Journal” under the Free Insurance,  
has promptly paid the sum of  
£50**

**To Mr. Jonas Knight, in respect of the death of his mother  
Mrs. A. Knight.  
Top road,  
Griffydam,  
Nr. Leicester**

**Who whilst crossing the road near her home, was knocked down by a motor omnibus and killed. The late Mrs. Knight who was a widow, was a registered reader of the “Nottingham Journal” and therefore insured against every form of accidental death**

**Signing the registration form is the work of a moment**

**Leicester Evening Mail – July 25<sup>th</sup> 1931**

**GRIFFYDAM EXAM RESULTS**

Students of the Griffydam Evening Institute in examinations of the last session's work have obtained the following successes:-

St. John Ambulance certificates : J. W. Bird, A. C. Monk, S. Palmer, A. Sprinthorpe and S. G. Townsend.

Pitman's Shorthand elementary certificates : L. Leech, V. Marshall, W. E. Gould, and R. L. Williamson.

East Midland Educational Exams : Typewriting; Doris W. Foster (1<sup>st</sup> class), Louisa Leech and George Winston Fowkes (2<sup>nd</sup> Class).

Commercial arithmetic : Ross Walker (1<sup>st</sup> class), Eric Cusworth, George W. Fowkes and Vera Marshall (2<sup>nd</sup> class).

Prizes valued at 10s. each, have been awarded by the District Committee as follows : Commercial Course – Vera Marshall; Basketry and Canework – Hilda Stewart ([Author's aunty](#)); Woodwork – Divided between T. Francis and L. G. Townsend, Ambulance – John Weston.

#### **Leicester Evening Mail – August 24<sup>th</sup> 1931**

##### **GRIFFIDAM'S EFFORT FOR CHARITY**

The people of Griffydham and district, near Coalville, on Saturday made their annual effort for the funds of the Loughborough Hospital. This took the form of a fete and flower show in a field near the Waggon and Horses Inn, owned by Mr. George Kilby.

The opening ceremony was performed by Mrs. W. Taylor, of Ashby. There was a good exhibition of flowers, fruit and vegetables, and the attractions included various competitions. The proceedings were enlivened by selections by the Hugglescote and Ellistown Silver Prize Band. All the proceeds will be given to the hospital.

The results of the children's races were as follows:-

Girls, 6 to 8 years : 1, Peggy Smith, 2. Rose Robey.

Girls, 9 to 11 years : 1. Gwen Darby, 2. Lena Dawkins.

Girls, 12 to 14 years : 1. Phyllis Davies, 2. Lena Webster.

Boys, 9 to 11 years : 1. R. Fredson, 2. E. Francis.

Boys, 12 to 14 years : 1. S. Clamp, 2. M. Wilton.

#### **Leicester Evening Mail – May 2<sup>nd</sup> 1932**

##### **GRIFFYDAM WESLEYAN METHODIST CHAPEL**

##### **SUNDAY SCHOOL STONE-LAYING**

##### **METHODIST ENTHUSIASM AT GRIFFYDAM**

Saturday was a great day with the Wesleyans of Griffydham, Near Coalville where the ceremony of laying a number of foundation stones of a new Sunday School created considerable enthusiasm. The Rev. S. Atkinson of Coalville presided over a large gathering.

The event was also the occasion of a visit from the president of the Nottingham and Derby district, the Rev. J. Freeman, of Belper, who, in an interesting address, said the Methodist church stood for evangelical religion – the unqualified and indestructible love of God for mankind. He went on to say how the Wesley's rediscovered this when the churches of the country seemed to have forgotten it, and while John Wesley preached on it Charles Wesley sang about it. John Wesley preached it in Griffydham, but the people there did not accept it at first; they mobbed him, but they accepted it afterwards and built that fine old chapel which they were so proud of today.

Proceeding, the Rev. J. Freeman spoke of the importance of the class meetings and fellowship and of the part the Methodists had played in education.

##### **£816 BUILDING**

Mr. Herbert Rowell, who is aged 72, laid the first stone, for himself and his wife, and contributed £4.

Other stones were laid by, or on behalf of, - Mr. Walter Davies, superintendent for the Sunday School, who gave £20; Mr. & Mrs. R. Nichols, £5; Mr. & Mrs. W. Davies, senior £5; Mr. & Mrs. J. Knight, £5; the Misses E. and G. Davies, £5; Mr. & Mrs. J. Johnson, £3; Mr. & Mrs. L. Wesley Rowell, £3; Mrs. Walter Davies, junior, £3; Mr. & Mrs. Howkins, £3; Miss. A. Hodges, £3; Miss. May Johnson, for the Junior Guild, £3; and Miss H. Wilton, for the tennis committee, £3.

Mr. Joseph Rank, a Surrey miller, sent a cheque for £100. Altogether the sum of £736 had been raised towards the cost of the buildings, the contract price for which is £816.

After the stone-laying a public tea was held, and in the evening there was a great public meeting at which the speakers were the Rev. J. Freeman and the Rev. J. Scott, of Syston.

#### **Leicester Evening Mail – May 2<sup>nd</sup> 1932**

##### **GRIFFYDAM ANNIVERSARY**

Sunday school anniversary services were held yesterday at Griffydham Wesleyan Reform Church,

the special preacher being the Rev. G. A. Metcalfe, of Sheffield. The children and the choir sang hymns and anthems.

**Leicester Evening Mail – August 22<sup>nd</sup> 1932**

**SIX-A-SIDE FOOTBALL  
FEATURE AT OSGATHORPE FETE**

Griffydam and district made its annual effort for the Loughborough Hospital on Saturday, when a fete was held in Mr. T. Tivey's field at Osgathorpe.

The opening ceremony was performed by Mrs. Taylor of Ashby, who was supported by a number of influential people, including the Mayor and Mayoress of Loughborough.

Snibston Colliery Band played selections, and amongst the attractions were various competitions, including a six a side football contest for schoolboys.

In the final, Snibston School defeated Griffydam by three goals to one. Joe Bradford, the Birmingham and International footballer, referred and presented the cup and medals.

Prizes were offered for onions, the winners being Messrs. A Hartshorn (Barrow-on-Soar), C. Brewin (Loughborough) and T. Clifford (Sawley).

In the evening there was a carnival dance in the Osgathorpe school.

**Nottingham Evening Post – December 24<sup>th</sup> 1932**

**FIGHT FOR CHILD'S LIFE  
DEATH UNDER ANAESTHETIC AT LOUGHBOROUGH  
ENLARGED THYMUS GLAND  
CORONER AND SAD CASE**

"I AM SORRY TO HOLD THIS INQUEST, PARTICULARLY AS THIS INSTITUTION HAS SUCH AN EXCELLENT REPUTATION OF FREEDOM FROM DEATH FROM ANAESTHESIA. It may be distressing to you, and also to Dr. McQuat to know that you have lost a patient, but I do not want you to feel that the fact that an inquest is held is a reflection ; it is simply a statutory duty".

These remarks were to-day addressed to Miss Denham Young, house surgeon at the Loughborough Hospital, by the coroner for North Leicestershire (Mr. H. J. Deane) who held an enquiry into the death of Colin Johnson, 1 year 11 months, son of Benjamin Harry Johnson, Bottom-lane, Griffydam.

**SUDDEN COLLAPSE**

Dr. Hilda Denholm Young, house surgeon, said that the child was admitted to the hospital on Wednesday last for an operation for an abscess on its neck. The operation was to be made by Dr. McQuat administered the anaesthetic herself. Chloroform was used in preference to other, because the latter often caused bronchitis. She tested the child's heart and it appeared perfectly sound, but the child was anaemic and flabby.

The child was carried into the operating theatre and the operation commenced. A few drops of ether were administered as the child came out of the chloroform, but he turned pale and the doctor continued without the anaesthetic. The abscess had been opened when the doctor said : "The child has collapsed too much to go on". They dropped everything and applied artificial respiration and massage of the heart in an attempt to resuscitate him, but without success. The final resort, an injection into the heart muscle, failed also.

Describing the result of the post-mortem examination, Dr. Young said that the child had an excessively enlarged thymus gland, which weighed 28 grams against the average of 15 grams. An enlarged gland of this nature was liable to cause sudden death from the most trivial causes, and it was impossible to diagnose its presence before an operation.

The coroner said that had it been known that the child was suffering from a condition which made it more susceptible to the effects of anaesthesia it was possible that a different anaesthetic would have been used.

He was, however satisfied that the operation was necessary, that it was properly confirmed, and that the anaesthetic was given with all reasonable precautions. In spite of this the child had died from shock following the administration of the anaesthetic, and that the condition was complicated by the presence of the enlarged thymus gland.

**Leicester Evening mail – April 8<sup>th</sup> 1933**

**BIT OF “FOOLERY”**

William Hill, aged 22, miner, Griffydam, was at Ashby Police Court today summoned for wilful damage to glass value 3s., the property of Percy J. Hall, miner, Griffydam, on March 25, 1933. He pleaded guilty.

Police—constable Grant said he found the brick, which was produced, in front of Hall's window. He interviewed Hill, who admitting throwing the brick. He said he did not intend to throw the brick through the window. It was a bit of foolery.

He was fined £1 1s., and 5s. 6d costs.

**Derby Daily Telegraph – May 22<sup>nd</sup> 1933**

Councilor Albert Ramsden, of Castle Donington, on Saturday opened a new tennis ground in connection with Griffydam Methodist Church

**Leicester Evening Mail – Tuesday October 24<sup>th</sup> 1933**

**DEATH OF COLEORTON MAN WHO WAS POST MASTER FOR 34 YEARS**

The death has occurred at Coleorton of Mr. Ernest William Kendrick, aged 62, who was postmaster for 34 years. He was a member of the parish council. The funeral will take place to-morrow afternoon at the Griffydam Wesleyan Methodist Church, where Mr. Kendrick was organist and choirmaster for more than 30 years.

**Hull Daily Mail – February 3<sup>rd</sup> 1934**

**Posted in October at Griffydam (Leicester)**, an envelope containing a postal order and a request for a supply of fish, was received by a Grimsby fish merchant yesterday. A Post Office stamp on the letter indicated that it had been to Gisborne, New Zealand.

**Leicester Evening Mail – April 3<sup>rd</sup> 1934**

**GRIFFYDAM METHODISTS.** – The annual love feast was held in the Griffydam Methodist Church yesterday, conducted by the circuit ministers. A tea was held in the new school ([Sunday school](#)), and in the evening the Rev. G. H. Taylor, of Birmingham, preached.

**Leicester Evening Mail – May 12<sup>th</sup> 1934**

**NEW LOUNT HAVE A REAL SHARPSHOOTER  
MATT ROWELL SCORES 106 GOALS THIS SEASON**

Sportsmen in the Coalville district will join me in congratulating Matt Rowell, New Lount Colliery's 22 year old centre-forward, who lives at Griffydam a few miles from Coalville.

When the colliery completed their season's programme last Saturday, by defeating Snibston United

3 – 1, at Hugglescote, thus being runners-up in the First Division of the Coalville League, Rowell had obtained no fewer than 106 of their goals.

This is a remarkable scoring feat and it would be interesting to know if any other amateur player in Leicestershire can claim such a record. As far as I gather, such a feat has nothing to equal it in the district.

New Lount Colliery caused an end of the season sensation by defeating Snibston New Sports 10 – 0 in the final of the Swannington Charity Cup on the Station Hill ground, Swannington. Rowell also scored four of the goals in this match and so passed the hundred mark.

**Leicester Evening Mail – September 17<sup>th</sup> 1934**

**GRIFFYDAM'S ANNUAL FETE  
£133 FOR HOSPITAL**

Griffydam and district people held their fourth annual effort for Loughborough Hospital on Saturday, when the fete was opened by Mrs. Welch, of Loughborough.

Mr. J. Pargeter presided at the opening ceremony, and was supported by Mr. and Mrs. F.

C. Welch, Loughborough, and Mr. H. Pickering, Swannington.

Mr. Welch who is secretary of Loughborough Hospital, said that the expenses of the hospital were double what they were four or five years ago.

He was delighted to hear that Griffydam's efforts for the hospital had realized £133.

Mr. G. Martin is the Chairman of the committee; Mr. George Wilton secretary and Mrs. G. Killey treasurer.

Committee members were: Messrs. F. Francis, S. Driver, J. Horne, T. Hodges, C. Platts, F. Martin and D. Robey

### Leicester Evening Mail – October 1934



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

In October 1934, two year old Owen Johnson of Bottom Road, Griffydam, fell 32 feet down his grandmother's well and was dramatically rescued by Mick Upton and Jack Hill, two Griffydam miners. Mrs Joseph Wesley, the child's grandmother, ran into the garden shouting, "The child's in the well." Mick slid down the rope tearing his hands. He said, "The rope was only fastened to the roller by a staple so Jack held onto the rope like grim death. At the bottom, my right foot dropped inside the bucket and my left foot went down into the water, but did not touch the bottom. I felt the child cling to it so I grabbed his clothing with my left hand and Jack started to haul us up. When we got halfway up the boy started to cry.

*Owen Johnson reunited with his very relieved mother. 1934.*

It is really the most terrible thing I have ever experienced. I don't know how the child is alive." Owen's injuries were remarkably light, being just a cut on the forehead and a few bruises.

*Leicester Evening Mail. October 1934.*

*Flo Dimmock and her sister Alice at Griffydam. c.1930.*

### Leicester Evening Mail – November 13<sup>th</sup> 1934

#### GRIFFYDAM RESCUE

#### PROPOSAL TO HONOUR MEN WHO SAVED BOY

A movement is on foot to recognize in tangible form, the heroism of two Griffydam men who saved a two year old boy who had fallen down a 32ft well at Pegg's Green, Near Coalville, at the beginning of October.

The men are Mr. Mick Upton and Mr. Jack Hill, and an appeal, sponsored by the vicar, the Rev. Laurence W. Wray is being made to inhabitants of Griffydam and district for funds to make a presentation to the men.

The secretary of the appeal committee is Mr. E. J. Hinds, of Coleorton.

The rescued boy was Owen Johnson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Johnson, of Bottom Road, Griffydam.

Mr. Upton descended the well and managed to reach the child, and both were hauled to safety by Mr. Hill. The action of Mr. Upton has been brought to the notice of the Royal Humane Society.

**Leicester Evening Mail – December 29<sup>th</sup> 1934**

**LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL  
EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
GRIFFYDAM PRIMARY COUNCIL SCHOOL**

The committee invites TENDERS for the erection of the Griffydam Primary Council School to accommodate 100 children

Quantities may be obtained from the Architect, County Education Office, Grey Friars, Leicester, on Wednesday, the 2<sup>nd</sup> of January, 1935, upon payment of a deposit of two guineas. This amount will be returnable only if the Tenderer shall have sent in a bona-fide Tender and shall not have withdrawn the same. Conditions of Contract may be inspected at the Architect's office.

Tenders on the forms supplied, must reach the Office of the Clerk of the Council not later than first post on Saturday, the 12<sup>th</sup> of January 1935. No Tender will be received except in the plain sealed envelope provided. Such envelopes shall not bear any mark or name indicating the sender.

The successful contractor will be required to enter into a bond with an approved guarantee company in a sum amounting to 20% of the total amount of the contract.

The committee do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any tender.

**LUCAS E. RUMSEY**

**Clerk of the Council**

10, New Street, Leicester  
December 22<sup>nd</sup> 1934.

C.12.29.

**Birmingham Daily Gazette – June 18<sup>th</sup> 1934**

**BURTON METHODIST CHAPEL**

In connection with the Burton-on-Trent and District Young Methodist Council, a summer rally was held at Griffydam on Saturday, when there was a special visit of the Rev. George Allan, the connexional secretary.

Meetings were held in the Methodist church conducted by the Rev. G. R. Mallinson (Coalville), and Mr. T. S. Starkie (Castle Donington). There was a tea, outdoor games and rambles, and a demonstration in the field adjoining the chapel, at which there was community singing.

**Leicester Evening Mail – March 4<sup>th</sup> 1935**

**GIFTS TO HEROES AT GRIFFYDAM  
MEN WHO RESCUED CHILD FROM WELL**

The gallant conduct of two Griffydam miners in rescuing a three-year-old boy who had fallen down a 30ft. well containing over 10ft. of water was recognized at a public gathering in the Griffydam Wesleyan Methodist Day School on Saturday night.

The man who descended the well, Mr. Everard Upton, was presented with the Royal Humane Society's certificate for life saving and the usual gratuity of £1 accompanying it, and also a clock subscribed by the villagers.

Mr. Roland Hill, a friend of Mr. Upton's who was with him at the time, and pulled Upton and the child out of the well on a winding rope, was also presented with a clock by the people of the parish.

**NO TIME TO MAKE TEST**

The presentations were made by the Vicar of Swannington, the Rev. L. W. Wray, at a concert in the school.

Mr. C. H. Pickering who presided, said that as miners they knew something of the gases which were often prevalent in wells. To test these, the usual method was to light a candle, and lower it into the well to see if it kept alight, but there was no time for the process on this occasion.

As soon as he knew the child was in the well, Mr. Upton descended the well at the risk of his own life. Mr. Pickering added that he was glad to know that the child, alive and well, was in the room that night.

He added: "I am delighted to know that we have men in this district, men who, when the occasion calls for it, are prepared to risk their lives to save others."

### **Leicester Evening Mail – April 5<sup>th</sup> 1935**

#### **JOINT JUBILEE NEWBOLD, GRIFFYDAM AND GELSMOOR**

Owing to the Worthington village having decided to have their own Jubilee celebrations, Newbold, Griffydam and Gelsmoor have had to amalgamate, and in this connection meetings have recently been held.

It has been to call in all the people in the three villages to a free meat tea. The children under 14 years of age will be presented with a Jubilee china cup and saucer.

Proceedings will open on Jubilee Day at 1p.m. with a service in the New Lount Colliery athletic field and children's sports will commence. There will be a tea for the children in the Newbold Schools and afterwards the children will be entertained to a picture show at the New Hall, Newbold, kindly loaned by Mr. E. Martin.

Tea for the elderly people will follow the children's tea. There will be sports for the adults and a dance.

The committee would welcome offers to help at the tea. Names should be given in at the general committee meeting, held every Tuesday night at seven o'clock in the New Hall, Newbold.

### **Leicester Evening Mail – July 22<sup>nd</sup> 1935**

#### **VILLAGERS HELP THE HOSPITALS**

The hospitals of Derby, Leicester, Loughborough are to benefit by a fete on Saturday on the New Lount Colliery Sports Ground at Newbold (Gelsmoor)

It was the first annual effort to be organized by the villages of Newbold, Griffydam, Gelsmoor and Peggs Green. Mr. Frank Hodges, the managing director of the Leicestershire Colliery & Pipe Co., performed the opening ceremony, and Mr. J. G. Pickard said the Leicester Royal Infirmary would receive its 10,000<sup>th</sup> in-patient this year.

A fancy dress parade was headed by the Ibstock United Silver Prize Band and the Shardlow Jazz Band also took part in the parade of the district. A horticultural show, football match and ox-roasting were included in the programme.

### **Leicester Evening Mail – January 25<sup>th</sup> 1936**

#### **THEFT FROM CAR BY "GOOD SAMARITANS"**

##### **Griffydam men fined**

For stealing a dressing gown and a quilt tray from a suitcase on the back of a motor car at Griffydam on Christmas Eve, Lloyd George Townsend, a miner, and George Dimmock, farm labourer, both of Griffydam, were fined £2 and £1 respectively, and costs, at Ashby Police Court today.

They pleaded not guilty. Mr. H. Barnett Seravski, manager of a Birmingham furniture stores. Said that he was travelling in his car to Griffydam when he got stuck on an ice-bound hill. Several passengers and the driver of a bus which was also stuck on the hill assisted him to move the car.

##### **MISSING FROM CAR**

While they were doing so he looked round at the back of the car and thought he saw two men interfering with the suitcase on the luggage grid. He got out and two or three men ran away. At the top of the hill he examined his case and found that it had been tampered with and later discovered that a dressing gown and a quilt tray of English needlework were missing.

Arnold Shaw, the driver of the bus, said that the two accused men were passengers in his bus and assisted to move the car.

William Morley, a publican of Griffydam ([Waggon and Horses](#)), said that he found the dressing

gown and tray in some out-premises at the rear of his public-house. The two accused men came in and he said to them "What are you doing here"? One of them said "Those things belong to us". They took them away.

#### **TOOK THEM HOME**

Police-constable Grant said that he interviewed the accused and Townsend said "I've got them at my home", while Dimmock remarked "We found them in the outhouse". They admitted having had a lot of drink on the night in question.

In evidence Townsend said that when he saw Morley in the outhouse, Morley told him that the articles had been stolen and Townsend said "I will take them home". He took them and put them in a clothes box and said nothing to anybody until the constable inquired about them a week later. He then handed them over.

#### **Leicester Evening Mail – May 30<sup>th</sup> 1936**

##### **HOLIDAY BOXING AT COALVILLE**

##### **ERIC JONES TOPS THE BILL**

There is a big attraction for boxing fans at Coalville on Monday morning, when a good programme is being staged at the Palais de Dance, Owen Street. At the top of the bill is the local favourite Eric Jones, who appears in a twelve round contest with Les Haycox of Nottingham.

Another popular Coalville boxer, Harry Edwards, will be seen in a bout over six rounds with Jack Smeddon of Bagworth. Also on the programme is an eight round contest between Jim Ward, of Burton, and Stan Kirby of Measham, and another of six rounds between George Holland, of Griffydham, and Ike Hicklin, of Breedon.

The attractive programme commences at 11 o'clock.

#### **Leicester Evening Mail – November 3<sup>rd</sup> 1936**

##### **GRIFFYDAM'S NEW SCHOOL OPENED**

##### **COLONEL MARTIN ON COST OF EDUCATION**

.....  
The great advance made in elementary education during the last 30 years was commented upon by Mr. W. A. Brockington, County Director, in a speech at the opening of the new infants' school at Griffydham yesterday.

He said the infants' school should be on the model of a good home nursery. The most striking development was in the improvement in the education of the infants.

Referring to the friendliness between teachers and parents, he said the change was largely due to the bond of between them.

##### **PRESENTED WITH KEY**

Lieutenant-Colonel R. E. Martin, chairman of the Leicestershire Education Committee, unlocked the door of the school with a key presented to him by Captain E. G. Fowler, the architect. He said he had pleasure in declaring the school open. Mr. C. H. Pickering presided at a meeting held in the school

Colonel Martin said that since 1917, a scheme of reorganization in education had been going on in Leicestershire, and was now further advanced than in any other part of the country.

It was the intention of the Education Committee to extend to all children the advantages which the children of people with larger incomes had had at their disposal for so long. Ninety per cent. Of the older children in Leicestershire were attending modern schools.

##### **LOW COST**

The cost per head of education in Leicestershire was still substantially below the average for England as a whole. Thanks were accorded to Colonel Martin, on the motion of Alderman J. A. Goodman, seconded by Mr. R. Hall, and thanks to the chairman were moved by Alderman J. W. West, seconded by Mr. H. Johnson.

Among those supporting the chairman on the platform in addition to Colonel Martin and Mr. Brockington :-

Mrs. Charles Booth, Gracedieu: Mrs. J. German, Ashby; the Archdeacon of

Loughborough, the Rev. H. R. Canham, vicar of Worthington; Alderman J. W. West, Alderman J. A. Goodman, Alderman E. W. Tandy, Councillors W. Tapp, C. H. Parsons, J. G. Shields, Mr. T. Frith, Mr. H. Johnson, Mr. R. Hull, Captain Fowler, and Mr. R. H. Holt.

Others present included Messrs. C. F. Fox, J. M. Kidger, members of Ashby Rural Council; W. Smith, Worthington; J. Biddle, J. H. Webb, Thringstone; A. B. Moss, the contractor; C. V. Knighton, S. Elcock, headmaster of Griffydam Senior School; Miss Merrishaw, head mistress of the new school; and Mr. H. S. Johnson.

The school had been built to accommodate 100 children, with the possibility of doubling the accommodation if required in future years

### **Leicester Evening Mail – March 1<sup>st</sup> 1937**

#### **GRIFFYDAM LIBERALS**

Three hundred ??? attended a Liberal concert and meeting in the Miners' Welfare Institute, Pegg's Green, on Saturday evening, promoted by the Pegg's Green and Griffydam Liberal Association. The concert was given by the Loughborough Liberal Concert Party. Councillor W. G. E. Dyer (chairman of the Midland Liberal Agents) gave an address.

### **The Illustrated Leicester Chronicle – October 23<sup>rd</sup> 1937**

#### **ANOTHER FOOTBALL "FIND"**

The Coalville district has provided yet another footballer for a First Division Club, and must now have a record in this respect which is unequalled by any industrial district of its size. George Bramley, the 17 year old centre-half, of Whitwick White Cross, has been signed by Derby County, and on Wednesday played his first game for the Rams. He appeared for the colts against West Bromwich. He had a trial with Derby County 12 months ago, but was then too young to sign. After manager Jobey had travelled to Bramley's home at Osgathorpe and fixed him up for Derby, an offer was received by Bramley to play a trial with Leicester City this week.

Bramley is well known in Coalville. He attended the Coalville Grammar School for five years, and has lately been in the employ of Messrs. Marcroft's Wagons Ltd, Coalville. He has been keen on football since he was a youngster, and was **captain of the Griffydam village school team when he was only 11** years old. He played for Leicestershire as a schoolboy, and has a collection of cups and medals. He has played for Whitwick for the past three seasons, but not until this year did he appear in the first team.

### **Leicester Evening Mail – June 23<sup>rd</sup> 1938**

**GRIFFYDAM METHODISTS.** – Griffydam Methodists held special services yesterday in connection with the opening of the church organ. A public tea followed and Mr. Fred Garnet, of Long Eaton, gave an organ recital.

### **Leicester Evening Mail – June 27<sup>th</sup> 1938**

#### **NEWBOLD'S GOLDEN OX**

Newbold and District Hospital's Committee claim a national record for the amount of money raised for the first slice of a roasted ox. When their fete for Leicester, Derby, Loughborough and Ashby Hospitals was held on Saturday, the first slice realized £161 10s. 6d.

Over 2,500 people attended and the record of last year, £315, is believed to have been broken.

A feature was the crowning of the beauty queen, Miss Gwen Warrington, of Griffydam, by Mrs. Frank Hodges.

The parade prize-winners were Mrs. Kidger, Miss Adcock, Mrs. Bomlroff, Miss Freda Griffin, Kenneth Springthorpe and G. Townsend.

Mrs. Hodges, who opened the fete, started the bidding for the first slice of the ox by offering £10 10s.

Griffydam (13 for three) beat Newbold (11 all out) for the Griffydam and District Charity Cricket Cup. Newbold Social Club won the tug-of-war. In the evening, dances were held. Mr. Edward Martin is chairman of the committee; Mr. Idwal Taylor, hon. Secretary; and Mr. J. B. Mackie, hon. Treasurer.

**Leicester Evening Mail – May 16<sup>th</sup> 1939**

**POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS**

**MOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN**, pursuant to the provisions of the Telegraph Act, 1863 to 1926, that His Majesty's Postmaster General, having obtained the consent in that behalf of the body having the control of the public road described below, intends to place a Telegraphic line over and across the said public road, and for that purpose to erect and maintain posts in and upon the same under the powers conferred on him by the said Telegraph Acts.

**GRIFFYDAM**

**TOP ROAD AND REMPSTONE ROAD.** – From a point opposite the Telephone Kiosk to the junction of the Ashby – Rempstone road, along the south side of Rempstone Road for a distance of approximately 1,100 yards in a north easterly direction.

G. F. Findley

Telephone Manager, G.P.O.

**Leicester Evening Mail – June 12<sup>th</sup> 1939**

**NEWBOLD BEAUTY QUEEN**

A 16 year old brunette, Miss Caroline Knight, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Knight, of Griffydham was on Saturday night chosen by Mr. and Mrs. H. T. Plowman as the beauty queen for the Newbold and District hospital fete which takes place on the New Lount Colliery Athletic Ground on July 1<sup>st</sup>. The selection was made at a dance at Newbold. The queen's six small attendants will be Misses Joyce Carter, Nina Rogers, Susanne McNeish and Maurteen Richards, of Newbold, and Lorna May Ashbridge and Freda Wilton, of Pegg's Green.

**Leicester Evening Mail – July 1<sup>st</sup> 1939**

**“QUEEN” CROWNED AT NEWBOLD HOSPITAL FETE**

The big event of the summer for the villagers of Newbold, Griffydham, Pegg's Green and Gelsmoor, took place on the New Lount Colliery Athletic ground today, when Miss Caroline Knight, of Griffydham, was crowned queen of Newbold Hospital fete. This is usually one of the most successful village efforts in the county. In the last few years, the Newbold and District Hospitals' Society has contributed £1,150 to the four hospitals which serve the district. The contribution from last year's effort was £350.

**Leicester Evening Mail – May 6<sup>th</sup> 1940**

Mr. and Mrs. S. Johnson, of “Forest View”, Griffydham, celebrate their golden wedding anniversary this week. Mr. Johnson is 72 and his wife 71, and they were married at Ashby on May 8<sup>th</sup> 1890. All their married life has been spent at Griffydham. They had no children, seven of whom are living, and there are twenty five grandchildren and three great – grandchildren. Mr. Johnson worked as a coal miner for 40 years

Leicester Evening Mail – November 11<sup>th</sup> 1940



**LEICESTER'S NOVEMBER BRIDES.**—In this selection of wedding pictures taken during the weekend are (left to right) Miss M. D. Soutar, of Meynell-road, Leicester, and Mr. T. A. Smith, of Northampton, whose marriage took place at St. Barnabas' Church. The bridegroom is factory manager for Freeman, Hardy and Willis. Griffydam Platoon, "C" Company, Ashby Battalion of the Home Guard formed a guard of honour at the wedding at St. Peter's Church, Highfields, of Mr. E. F. Whyman, of Griffydam, and Miss E. Howe, of Baggrave-street, Leicester. Miss Margaret Bakewell, of Melrose-street, and Sergt. Joseph T. Owen, of the RAF, were married at St. Michael and All Angels' Church, Melton-road. The wedding of Gunner D. Putt, of Brunswick-street, and Miss F. Mee, of Eastbourne-road, took place at St. Barnabas' Church.

Leicester Evening Mail – March 13<sup>th</sup> 1941

#### **GRIFFYDAM HOME GUARD EFFORT**

As the result of a successful whist drive and dance organized by the Griffydam members of the Home Guard, the sum, the sum of £7 3s. has been handed to the Pegg's Green and Coleorton soldiers comfort fund.

Leicester Evening Mail – April 12<sup>th</sup> 1941

#### **BRICK BLOW ALLEGED**

**Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions.** – George Williamson and Ernest Hines, of Griffydam, we accused at Ashby of assault on Percy Joseph Hall at Griffydam on March 18.

Hall, a quarryman, said Hines threw a piece of brick at him, alleging that he (Hall) had previously thrown it at Hines' boy. This, hall said, was untrue. Hines denied throwing the brick, and said Hall's cut on the face was suffered when he fell against the door. The case was dismissed.

**Leicester Evening Mail – January 25<sup>th</sup> 1943**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**WAR CHARITIES ACT – 1940**

**PEGG'S GREEN & GRIFFYDAM COMFORTS FUND**

**NOTICE** is hereby given that it is proposed to apply to the Leicestershire County Council for the registration under the above mentioned Act, to raise funds for men and women of H. M. Forces of Pegg's Green and Griffydam, and the administrative centre of which is situate at the "Traveller's Rest", Griffydam. Any objection to the proposed registration should be sent in writing to the above named Council within 14 days from the date of this notice.

Dated 23<sup>rd</sup> January 1943  
p.25 J. R. Hill, Secretary.

**Leicester Evening Mail – June 16<sup>th</sup> 1943**

**CHURCH RAILINGS: LINK WITH WESLEY**

It was reported to Ashby Rural Council that during the recent book drive, the number of books collected in the rural district was 29,530.

Mr. Cooper said they were very concerned about the railings at the Griffydam Methodist Church, and would like to be assured that they would not be taken away.

The surveyor said he had written to the authorities pointing out the Council's wishes. The Chairman said the railings were at a place where John Wesley once stayed ?? (not true – visited and preached), and the Council hoped that the railings would not be taken away.

**Leicester Chronicle – July 22<sup>nd</sup> 1944**

L/ Corporal. Hodges, of Griffydam and Pte. Howkins, of Pegg's Green, have sent post cards home from Japanese prison camps, stating that they are quite well. They were obviously far from well as we know but clearly didn't want to upset their families

**Leicester Evening Mail – 12<sup>th</sup> April 1947**

**GRIFFYDAM MAN HURT**

After a fall at his home, Mr. Rowell, of Griffydam Post Office, was taken to Loughborough Hospital for treatment to his leg,

**Burton Observer and Chronicle – May 22<sup>nd</sup> 1947**

**GRIFFYDAM WOMAN SENT TO GAOL**

**CHILD TIED TO BEDPOST**

A sentence of 3 months imprisonment was passed by the Ashby de la Zouch magistrates on Saturday, on Connie Haywood (37), single, of Breedon Brand, Griffydam, for ill treating and neglecting her two and a half year old boy, which she denied.

Evidence was that the child and its mother were the occupants of a filthy bed and room, in which the dust was an inch thick ?? and there were between 200 and 300 empty cigarette packets on the mantelpiece ??

An inspector of the N.S.P.C.A. said the child was tied to a bed post with a strap and pieces of string. Although it was fairly well nourished and clean, the child appeared to be terrified, and while it was not physical cruelty, there was no doubt mental cruelty.

The woman's father created a scene in court on hearing the sentence, and tried to prevent his daughter being taken away. He was forcibly removed by the police.

The woman had declared in evidence that she loved her child, and that the case had been greatly exaggerated.

**Leicester Evening Mail – June 5<sup>th</sup> 1947**

**GRIFFYDAM CYCLIST MADE FATAL SWERVE**

A verdict of accidental death was recorded by the Leicester City Coroner, Mr. E. G. B. Fowler, at the inquest on Thomas Alexander Haywood (65), general handyman, of Griffydam, who died at Leicester Royal Infirmary on June 2<sup>nd</sup> following a road accident.

The coroner said Haywood was cycling home when he had to avoid children playing. He had rather a lot to carry on his machine, and this apparently caused him to fall. He sustained concussion.

P.C. Grant of Coleorton said that the accident occurred on Top road, Griffydam. The road was dry, and in good condition. He found a pair of shears and a 3lb bag of flour attached to the handlebars.

#### **Derby Daily Telegraph – April 11<sup>th</sup> 1950**

##### **CELEBRATION OF ANCIENT METHODIST LOVE FEAST**

An ancient and almost extinct festival of the Methodist Church, a love feast, was celebrated yesterday at Griffydam, Methodist Church, near Castle Donington, ?? one of the oldest Methodist churches in the Midlands.

The festival was attended by worshipers from London and all over the Midlands. Six sacramental cups, each 100 years old and containing about a quart of water, were used during the celebration. Twin brothers Mr. Walter Davies and Mr. Herbert Davies, who with Mr. John Johnson, have attended all Griffydam love feasts for more than 60 years, again took an official part in the celebration.

A local superintendent minister stated today that the love feast was a ceremony similar to those performed by the very early Christians, and was introduced into the Methodist church at its inception.

The service takes the form of hymn, prayer and testimony by members of the congregation. During the ceremony water and biscuits are handed to each worshipper, but these have not the same religious significance as the bread and wine of the communion service.

#### **Leicester Daily Mercury – March 15<sup>th</sup> 1950**



Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Haywood who played at Sunday school anniversary services in the district for many years, are today celebrating their Golden wedding. Mr. Haywood, who was a driver on the L.M.S. railway until retirement in 1938, was for 52 years the conductor of the choir at the Wesleyan Reform Chapel, Griffydam. He played the violin and his wife was the organist at the

services. Mr. Haywood has composed several anniversary hymns. Mr. and Mrs. Haywood are both 76 years old. They have two sons and a daughter and two grandchildren.

### **Leicester Evening Mail – February 2<sup>nd</sup> 1949**

A colleague passing through the hamlet of Griffydam tells me of his surprise on seeing a large Belgium flag flying from a mast near the village general store. His conviction that some quaint local festival was being observed was strengthened by the sight of an elderly man in a military cap and uniform. Nothing extraordinary was going on. Inquiry proved that the military-looking man was just a local resident. As for the flag, the explanation came from the store-keeper, Mr. Jack Harris. He has flags of all nations and it happened to be Belgium's turn that day. They are all flown in rotation.

### **Nottingham Journal – April 29<sup>th</sup> 1950**

#### **MR. HALL'S "PRETTY COTTAGE"**

MINEWORKER Percy J. Hall, of Top road, Griffydam, may lose the "prettiest cottage in Newbold", unless Ashby de la Zouch Rural Council withdraws a demolition order.

Surface worker at New Lount Colliery, Mr. Hall became the owner of the cottage and an acre of ground with a bid of £80 at a recent sale.

It was disclosed at the sale, however, that the Council might issue a demolition order and since then negotiations have passed between Mr. Hall and the Council, who have asked him to submit plans. In the meantime Hall has employed a Thatcher to put on a new roof and plastering and other work has also been done at a cost of about £200.

But he has had another warning from the Council that the work should be stopped as the demolition order still stands and so, unless the Council alters its decision, Mr. Hall's efforts to provide himself with a cottage home may have been in vain.

He has written to Dr. M. Follick, M.P. for the Loughborough Division, in which the village of Newbold is situated, seeking his help.

### **Leicester Evening Mail – January 16<sup>th</sup> 1952**

**Griffydam death.** – Mrs. Nellie Johnson, one of Griffydam's oldest residents has died at the age of 80. In her younger days she was well known as an organist at local churches.

### **Leicester Evening Mail – March 27<sup>th</sup> 1952**

#### **SIGNED BY CITY**

The 19-year-old Coalville Town centre forward, David Anthony Sketchley has signed amateur forms with Leicester City. He is 5ft 9in. fast and a goal getter who has been making his mark in recent weeks. Last Saturday he scored three of six against south Normanton. His home is at Griffydam.

### **Leicester Evening Mail – January 26<sup>th</sup> 1953**

#### **MEMORY OF VILLAGE SHOPKEEPER**

**Before Mr. Jack Harris, the village shopkeeper, died at Griffydam, Near Coalville, leaving an estate of £2,301 14s. 6d. gross, he made provision for his friends – the pets that had been his companions, and the villagers whom he had come to know and love in his 20 years in the district.**

In Griffydam today with the publication of his will, they are remembering Jack Harris, whose real name was Mr. Horace Holt, by carrying out his wish that his parrot, cat, dog and budgerigar should be cared for.

As a permanent tribute to the village of his adoption, Mr. Harris has provided, through his will, that the clock on his shop – the only public timepiece in the village – should be maintained "so that the public may tell the time of day therefrom"

He left his freehold home and shop equally between his partner Harry Weston, of Griffydam and David Arthur Else (on attaining the age of 21 years). David, son of Mr. Arthur Else, a miner, and

Mrs. Else of the nearby village of Newbold, is a 14 year old school boy at Coalville Broom- Leys School. He used to sit and keep Mr. Harris company in the shop and act as an unofficial assistant. The boy is also left Mr. Harris' one-seater car and some of his pets.

There were a number of other bequests – A grey African parrot was left to Mrs. Jackson, whose home is near the shop. Today she said, 'I am not a great admirer of parrots, but I am providing, and shall always make, a home for "Poly" because she was entrusted to me'.

Mr. Harris was known for his love of animals. In the garden at the rear of his shop he had a small cemetery with gravestones where the beloved pets which predeceased him are buried.

### **Transcribed from the Leicester Evening Mail - Monday 29th June 1953**

#### **A CORONATION SHIELD IS WON**

A **CORONATION** Shield was won by **Griffydham School** at the annual field day and sports for children organised by New Lount Collieries and Works Athletic Club. Results of sports and competitions held in connection with the field day were :-

##### **Girls, (First Prizewinners) :**

A Walker, S. Garner, P. Clayfield, D. Wesley, J. A. Wright, L. Hickling, E. Townsend, J. Whetton, E. Stanley, S. Wesley, G. Smith, E. Wesley.

##### **Girls Relay Races - Winners Griffydham School**

##### **Boys, (First Prizewinners) :**

G. Stanyard, J. Griffin, D. Haywood, M. Abbott, K. Osbourne, B. Lowe, R. Stacey, J. McKee, John Sketchley, Graham. Betts, R. Stacey, B. Townsend

##### **Boys Relay : Griffydham School**

##### **Boys Tug-Of-War : Ashby Manor House school**

##### **Whitwick beat Newbold 5-4 in a six a side football game for schools**

##### **Fancy Dress, Girls : 1, Margaret Bird, 2, Pam Wright, 3, J. Griffin**

**Boys : 1, A. Lowe, 2, G. Bonser, 3, M. Court**

##### **Sewing and Knitting : 1, Jill Wright, 2, Margaret Bird, 3, J. Hill**

##### **Drawing and Painting : 1,2, & 3 - D. Fairbrother**

##### **Wild Flower Bouquet : 1, Pam Barkby, 2, David Wilmott, 3, Colin Hodges**

##### **Men's Bowls : 1, Ernie Yates and Les Saddington**

##### **Women's Bowls : Mrs. Burnett**

##### **Tennis Competition : K. Iken and Miss R. Pringle**

**Runners up : Mr. V. Smith and Miss. S. Williamson**

### **Leicester Evening Mail – January 20<sup>th</sup> 1954**

#### **‘NO’ TO POST OFFICE AT NEWBOLD**

People living at Newbold, a small community near Coleorton, where pensioners have to travel by bus to either Worthington, Griffydam or Coleorton to collect their money, cannot look forward to the time when it will have a post office.

Following an appeal by Ashby Rural Council, a letter was received at their meeting from the Head Postmaster at Leicester stating that it was impossible to accede to the council's request to open a sub-post office at Newbold.

The Head Postmaster pointed out that a license was held in Newbold for the sale of stamps of stamps, and that regulations permitted old-age pensioners to nominate an agent to collect their pensions.

The council decided that details of the existing post facilities at Newbold should be sent to the local MP with a request that he should press for the establishment of a sub-post office

### **Leicester Evening Mail - September 28<sup>th</sup> 1954**

#### **FOUND CHAIR ON FIRE**

Miss Frances Davy, of Sun Hill House, Griffydam, left her home for a few minutes yesterday and returned to find an armchair near the hearth on fire.

With the help of neighbours, she put out the flames. Coalville County Fire Service were called, but the fire was out on their arrival.

### **Leicester Evening Mail – November 12<sup>th</sup> 1954**

#### **NEW JUNIOR SCHOOL HAS BEEN A SUCCESS – COALVILLE GRAMMAR HEAD**

An experiment which led to the establishment of a junior school of Coalville Grammar School more than three miles away from the main building in the village of Griffydam was mentioned by the headmaster, Mr. T. A. Evans, at the prize giving.

When this step was first proposed to solve the problem of accommodation, he felt apprehensive. After a trial period, however, he had formed the view that, as a temporary solution to the school's difficulties, it had been a success. As to the possibility of a new building to house his school, he thought it would not be commenced for another ten years, if at all. "The present building is at least a handsome one", he declared. "It is the home and source of tradition, and many happy memories".....

### **Burton Observer and Chronicle – March 7<sup>th</sup> 1957**

#### **MARRIED 60 YEARS AGO AT BREEDON CHURCH**

A couple who were married 60 years ago, in the year of Queen Victoria's diamond jubilee, 1897, celebrated their diamond wedding with a large party at Hugglescote, on Saturday. They are Mr. Freeman William Platts, aged 82, and his wife Rhoda, 79, who have occupied the same house, No. 1 Crescent Road, Hugglescote, for nearly 40 years. They have three sons and a daughter, eight grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Mr. Platts worked in Leicestershire coalmines for over 66 years and he recalls that when living at **Griffydam**, he had a daily walk of 12 miles to the South Leicestershire Colliery at Ellistown and back, besides having one-and-a-half miles to walk underground to the coal face. In those days all the coal was got with a pick. There were no coal cutting machines. When he retired at 75, he was working at Desford Colliery and was the oldest employee among 2,000 workers,

Mr. and Mrs. Platts were both born at Griffydam, near, Ashby, and lived there for some years after their wedding at Breedon-on-the- Hill Parish Church, before going to Hugglescote.

### **Burton Observer and Chronicle – December 10<sup>th</sup> 1959**

#### **TENDER**

#### **ASHBY DE LA ZOUCH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL**

.....

**DEMOLITION OF PROPERTIES KNOWN AS THE  
COTTAGE, ELDER LANE, GRIFFYDAM, WORTHINGTON  
AND  
EDWARD COTTAGES, GRIFFYDAM, COLEORTON ???**

.....  
Tenders are invited for the demolition of the above properties, clearance of the sites, and purchase of salvable materials there from.

Specifications and plans may be obtained from Mr. C. S. Curtis, Surveyor, Ashby de la Zouch Rural District Council, council offices, South Street, Ashby de la Zouch.

Tenders, in plain, sealed envelopes endorsed "Demolition of Properties", to be sent to the undersigned, not later than first post on Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> January, 1960.

J. E. R. WILKINSON

Clerk of the Council

**Leicester Evening Mail – September 5<sup>th</sup> 1960**

**STOLE £20 FROM INFIRM MAN, 86**

After a hearing lasting for six hours at Ashby Magistrates Court on Saturday, William Peter King (33), a bricklayer's labourer, of 32a, Main street, Long Whatton, was convicted of the larceny in a dwelling house of £26 belonging to James Hall (85) of 31, Top-road, Griffydham, near Ashby.

King who had pleaded not guilty was fined £20, ordered to pay £10 7s. costs and to make restitution of £26 to Mr. Hall, at the rate of 10s. per week. He was also placed on probation for two years.

Mr. E. A. Crane, prosecuting, said Mr. Hall, who was retired, was so infirm by reason of his age, that he would not be able to assist at the court.

Sharing the house with him were his son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Chadwick.

**IN TRUNK**

In a trunk in a bedroom was kept a wallet containing £26 including four £5 notes. Early last July, Mr. and Mrs. Chadwick went out for the afternoon, leaving Mr. Hall lying on a bed in the living room.. When they returned later in the day, they found the trunk had been disturbed, and that £26, including the four five pound notes were missing from the wallet.

Inquiries revealed that King, his wife and child had been seen in a small car near . Mr. Hall's home while Mr. and Mrs. Chadwick were away. King was seen by the police and denied that he was there at the material time. The police also discovered that the following day King had paid both his milkman and grocery roundsman with £5 notes.

One of these notes had been recovered, and the prosecution submitted that Mrs. Chadwick could identify it as similar to one missing from the trunk, by reason of a figure written on it. The two police officers then interviewed King again who said he had borrowed £10 8s. from his father-in-law.

The father-in-law, Mr Joseph Frederick Saunt, of 172, Leicester road, Ibstock, was then interviewed and made a statement. That statement, Mr. Crane told the court, "clearly shows in the submission of the prosecution, that what King told the police about the £10 8s. is palpably untrue".

Mr. A E. Chadwick told the court King was a frequent visitor to the house and had on a number of occasions given him driving lessons.

**Burton Observer and Chronicle – April 26<sup>th</sup> 1962**

**FORMER COLEORTON LADY IS 100**

**TAUGHT AT GRIFFYDAM SCHOOL FOR MANY YEARS**

A former Coleorton lady who taught at Griffydham School for many years has recently celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

She is Miss Mary Elizabeth Knight, of 48 Austen Avenue, Forest Fields, Nottingham, who

had her birthday party in the Sherwood Hospital, Nottingham, where she had been since last September.

It was a grand day for Miss Knight, with a telegram of congratulations from the Queen, and a visit by the Lord Mayor of Nottingham, Alderman J. Llewellyn Davies.

Miss Knight was born at the Outwoods Farm, Coleorton, on the estate of the late Sir George Beaumont, and lived there until she was 79. Then, on the death of her brother, Mr. James Knight, she went to live with a cousin at Melbourne, with whom she stayed for just over a year.

She then went to live with her niece, Mrs. F. S. Coxon, at 48, Austen Avenue, Forest Fields, Nottingham, and stayed with her for 20 years until last September, when she was admitted to Sherwood Hospital.

Miss Knight is keenly interested in politics and world affairs, but unfortunately has been blind for many years. Mrs Coxon taught her aunt to read Braille when she was over 80, and this has been a blessing to her. Until she entered hospital, Miss Knight regularly had a weekly newspaper in Braille.

While she was a teacher at Griffydham school, Miss Knight walked to and from Coleorton every day, and in the evening she took her share of work on the farm.

With the Lord Mayor at Miss Knight's tea party in the hospital ward was the Lady Mayoress, the matron, and the hospital secretary, and pride of place was given to the telegram from the Queen, which, unfortunately, Miss Knight was unable to read.

This and other messages were read by well-wishers and visitors who gathered for her party.

**Leicester Evening Mail – January 28<sup>th</sup> 1963**

#### **ANOTHER SCHOOL CLOSURE**

Another recommended closure is that of Osgathorpe C.E. School, where there are only five pupils and the head mistress's resignation took effect from August last year.

Transport will be provided for the youngsters to attend Griffydham School.

**Burton Observer and Chronicle – September 26<sup>th</sup> 1968**

**ALL THE VILLAGE** turned out for the wedding, at the Wesleyan Reform Church at Griffydham, near Ashby, of farmer's daughter Miss Judith Ann Wright, and Mr. Clifford Alan Darby, both of that parish. One of the reasons was that although the little brick chapel was built over a century ago, theirs was the first wedding ever to take place there. Miss Wright, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. Wright, of Brand Farm, Griffydham, and Mr. Darby, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. Darby, of Littlehalls, Griffydham, insisted on being married at the chapel because they are both associated with the Sunday School there. In order that their wish should be carried out, and because the chapel is not licensed for weddings, it was necessary for the registrar to attend. The religious part of the service was conducted by the Rev. A. Halliday, who travelled specially from Sheffield. The couple are pictured signing the register after their unique wedding.



**Leicester Chronicle – December 24<sup>th</sup> 1970**

**A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR  
TO ALL OUR CUSTOMERS OLD AND NEW  
BOB AND MARGARET  
WAGON AND HORSES  
GRIFFYDAM  
Tel. Osgathorpe 339**

**Burton Observer and Chronicle – May 20<sup>th</sup> 1971**

**Death of a well known Griffydam Farmer**

The sudden death of Mr. Joseph Henry Sharp, a local farmer of “Breach House”, Elder Lane, Griffydam, occurred at Groby Road Hospital, Leicester.

The funeral service was held at Worthington Parish Church, conducted by the Rev. H.. Dane, of Newbold.

**Burton Observer and Chronicle – March 7<sup>th</sup> 1974**

**HUNT KILLS CAT – AND DEER IS INJURED**

No foxes were caught when the Quorn Hunt met at Griffydam, but there were two casualties – a deer and a cat. The cat was killed near Cloud Hill quarry, near Worthington.

A quarry worker said “A cat ran out of a ditch as the hounds went by in pursuit of a fox. The cat was killed by the hounds and I understand it was buried in a field by members of the hunt”.....**appalling, enough said !!**

**Burton Observer and Chronicle – July 7<sup>th</sup> 1978**

**POP STAR BUYS PUB**

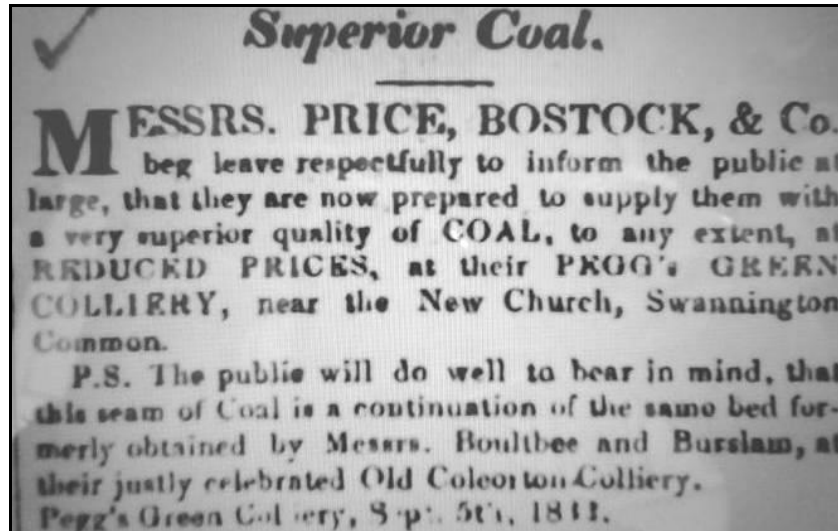
A member of Leicester’s top pop group, Showaddywaddy, brought a pub last week. Malcolm Allured, attended at auction and bid for the Travellers’ Rest Inn at Griffydam, near Ashby. It was knocked down to him at £36,750 and he paid a further £10,600 for a piece of land adjoining the inn. The sale of the pub, declared surplus to the requirements of the brewery who own it, attracted a lively interest in the area. Mr. Willoughby Garton, of Leicester, who was responsible

for the sale said: "There were so many people that they could not all get into the pub and the auction had to be held in the garden, bidding was brisk". The transfer of the premises has been fixed for July 24<sup>th</sup> when the present tenant, Mr. Albert Abbott, who has been there for 25 years, will leave. The takeover date is on his 63<sup>rd</sup> birthday. He is not retiring but will concentrate on Electrical Contracting, a business he has run in conjunction with the public house. The new owner, Mr. Allured, aged 32, said: "I once had a small nightclub, and this is going to be a restaurant as well, catering for all ages. "Its nice to have another interest as well as the band".

## PEGG'S GREEN

### **Leicester Chronicle – September 8<sup>th</sup> 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 Journal – November 9<sup>th</sup> 1832**

#### **PEGG'S GREEN COLLIERY**

#### **Messrs. Price, Bostock, & Cowlinshaw**

In again calling the attention of the public to their superior coal, beg leave to inform them that they are now getting this excellent article at the low price of 5d. per hundred, long weight, and from the satisfaction this coal has given to those who have used it, the Lessees of the Pegg's Green Colliery feel assured they can with confidence recommend it to a discerning public, being certain that a single trial would ensure their future favours, as the heat and durability of this Coal proves it to be the cheapest offered to the public in this or the adjacent counties.

N.B. – Pegg's Green Colliery is situate near the new church on Swannington Common, eight miles from Loughborough, on the Ashby de la Zouch Road where the county may be supplied to any extent.

### **Leicester Herald – October 30<sup>th</sup> 1833**

#### **LOUGHBOROUGH, THURSDAY**

Isaac Whiteman, Thomas Whiteman, Francis Wilson, William Springthorpe, committed for one month, for the neglect of their work, in the employ of Messrs. Price and others, at Pegg's Green Colliery.

### **Leicester Journal – January 3<sup>rd</sup> 1834**

During the high winds on Thursday last, one of the high chimneys belonging to a whimsy at Pegg's Green Colliery in the parish of Thringstone, in this county, was blown down with a tremendous crash ;A team of horses, standing near the spot, had just been removed or it would have proved fatal for them.

### **Leicester Chronicle – March 1<sup>st</sup> 1834**

Wm. Smallwood, of Griffydam, committed for six weeks, for absenting himself from the employ of his master, Mr. Prior, of Pegg's Green Colliery

### **Stamford Mercury – May 30<sup>th</sup> 1834**

The Leicestershire coal district was a scene of great festivities during last week. Monday was appointed by the Whitwick Colliery Company as the day for celebrating and reaching the main coal. Fifty gentlemen dined together at the Railway Hotel, and 200 colliers had roast beef and plum pudding, with a due allowance of ale on the occasion. Cannons were fired at intervals during the day, and flags and music enlivened the scene. The seam of coal distinguished by the name of the "Main Coal", is now proved to extend over a considerable district. It is the same that was worked at Swannington and Coleorton 30 years since, and is now again working at Pegg's Green, Whitwick and Snibston collieries : At Pegg's Green it is about 130 yards deep, at Snibston 220, and at Whitwick nearly 250 yards ; this is a most valuable seam, not to be excelled in quality by any in the kingdom, it being nearly six feet thick.

### **Leicester Journal – July 11<sup>th</sup> 1834**

#### **PEGG'S GREEN COAL**

The public are respectfully informed that business is resumed and this very superior Coal is now being sold at **11s. per Ton**, at the Railway Station, or it will be delivered in any part of the town at **12s. per ton**.

**Geo. Eaglesfield, Agent**

**Market Street, Leicester, July 8<sup>th</sup>. 1834.**

### **Leicester Chronicle – August 30<sup>th</sup> 1834**

#### **PEGG'S GREEN AND IBSTOCK COAL**

SAMUEL COLEMAN begs to return his sincere thanks to his numerous friends for all favours conferred upon him since he has been in the Coal Trade, and to inform them and the public that he has ENTERED INTO PARTNERSHIP with MR. GEORGE EAGLESFIELD for the SALE of PEGG'S GREEN and IBSTOCK COAL, for which he now respectfully solicits their commands.

Orders left at their Residences, POLCKINGTON'S WALK and MARKET STREET, or at their OFFICE, WEST-BRIDGE RAILWAY STATION, will be thankfully received and promptly attended to.

Pegg's Green Coal, per Ton	11s. od.
Ibstock Coal, per Ton	8s. 6d.
Ibstock cobbles per Ton	6s. 6d.

West-bridge, Railway-station,  
Aug. 29, 1834.

### **Nottingham Review and General Advertiser for the Midland Counties – November 14<sup>th</sup> 1834**

#### **BY MR. NEWBOLD TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION IN THRINGSTONE & SWANNINGTON**

**Lot 6.** – A substantially built and well accustomed Public House, known by the sign of the Anchor Inn, with substantial out offices. – Also a close of land adjoining thereto, containing about one acre, situated by the Leicester and Ashby Turnpike Road, in the Parish of Thringstone and Swannington, in the occupation of William Walker.

This lot is near to the Valuable Coal Mines at Pegg's Green, and within a short distance of the Leicester and Swannington Railway, which is nearly completed. Three- fourths of the purchase money may remain on security of the Premises.

The sale is strongly recommended to the notice of the Capitalists as so eligible an opportunity for the investment of Money rarely occurs.

The premises are well Tenanted and each Lot is well situated and likely to increase in value.

The respective Tenants will shew the Premises, and all further particulars may be obtained on application to Mr. DUNNICLIFFE, Solicitor, Derby, or of the Auctioneer, Castle Donington.

**Nottingham Review & General Advertiser for the Midland Counties – January 30<sup>th</sup> 1835**

**POLICE OFFICE LOUGHBOROUGH**

George Tew, of Whitwick, committed for one month for neglecting his work at the Pegg's Green Colliery.

**Nottingham Review and General Advertiser for the midland Counties – February 26<sup>th</sup> 1836**

John Cambridge, of Whitwick, a collier, committed **for one month to hard labour**, for absenting himself from his work at the Pegg's Green Colliery

**Leicester Mercury - Saturday 16th Sept 1837**

William Shaw and Jabez Barkby of Thringstone, colliers, committed for 1 month each to the '**House of Correction**', with hard labour, for absenting themselves from their work at **Pegg's Green Colliery**.

**Nottingham Review and General Advertiser for the Midland Counties – September 30<sup>th</sup> 1836**

**Police Office, Loughborough**

Wm. Shaw, of Thringstone, charged with neglecting his work at the Pegg's Green Colliery ; To pay the costs.

**Leicestershire Mercury – December 23<sup>rd</sup> 1837**

**PEGG'S GREEN COAL**

**T.B.HARRIS**

Respectfully acquaints the public that he is appointed Agent for the sale of Pegg's Green Coal. This fuel is now generally admitted, after long experience, to be superior to any other Leicestershire Coal. Its freedom from everything which does not contribute to its character as a wholesome, economical, and excellent fuel, renders it worthy to the attention of all, but of larger consumers in particular. T. B. H. begs, therefore, to solicit the orders of his Friends and the Public, which will be thankfully and promptly executed, the company having now a very large stock, and can supply the article in any quantity.

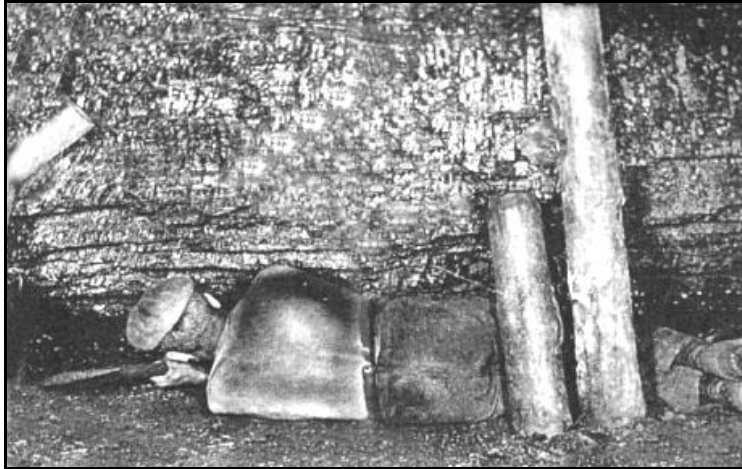
**Price, 13s. per Ton.**

**Office, West Bridge Station, Dec. 7. 1837.**

**Leicester Chronicle – February 10<sup>th</sup> 1838**

**Inquest on Fatal Accident at Pegg's Green –**

On Wednesday evening, the 31<sup>st</sup> 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 Chronicle – February 10<sup>th</sup> 1838**

### **FATAL ACCIDENT AT PEGG'S GREEN**

On Wednesday evening, the 31<sup>st</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 29<sup>th</sup> 1838**

**JAMES TYLER**, blacksmith, of Thringstone, 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

**Nottingham Journal – February 22<sup>nd</sup> 1839**

### **LIME WORKS AND LAND AT THRINGSTONE, LEICESTERSHIRE**

To be SOLD by PRIVATE CONTRACT, or LET, for a term of years, THIRTY FIVE ACRES of excellent LAND, chiefly old Turf, with a convenient farm house and Outbuildings ; and also a complete MALT OFFICE, with every requisite convenience attached thereto, and in full work, situate in the Lordship of Thringstone.

Also, the Mines of LIME STONE, under the same, together with the KILNS, and all other works belonging thereto.

The Lime Works have recently been established at a considerable expense, and are in most complete order for working. They open to the Turnpike Road leading from Loughborough to Thringstone, and are within a mile of the Wharf of the Leicester and Swannington Railway. They also nearly adjoin the Gracedieu Lime Works, and are within a short distance of the Snibstone, Whitwick, and Pegg's Green Collieries, where slack may be had in abundance, at a very cheap rate.

The face of the stone is so opened out, that an unlimited quantity of lime may be got, without any extra expense, for a considerable time to come. The quality is approved, and the sale is secured by every advantage of the railway, Turnpike, &c., besides a very improving Agricultural district.

Possession of the Land and House may be had on the 6<sup>th</sup> of April, and the Lime Works before then, if desired.

Thringstone is seven miles from Loughborough, and five from Ashby de la Zouch.

For further particulars apply to Mr. Green, Solicitor, Ashby de la Zouch.

#### **Leicester Chronicle – July 6<sup>th</sup> 1839**

##### **ASHBY COURT OF REQUESTS**

George Carruthers, Leicester v Joseph Glover, Pegg's Green, - debt 11s 6d. – In two payments  
George Carruthers, Leicester v Mary Hill, Griffydam, - debt 18s. 7d – 2s. per month.

#### **Leicester Journal – October 11<sup>th</sup> 1839**

##### **Manors and Colliery at Thringstone and Pegg's Green, in the Parish of Whitwick, in the county of Leicester**

##### **TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION**

##### **By B. PAYNE and SON,**

At the Queen's Head Hotel, at Ashby de la Zouch, in the county of Leicester, on Friday, the 18<sup>th</sup> day of October, 1839, at Four o'clock in the Afternoon, (unless previously disposed of by Private Contract, of which the earliest notice will be given).

ONE UNDIVIDED FIFTH PART OR SHARE IN THE TWO MANORS OF THRINGSTONE AND PEGG'S GREEN, situate in the Parish of Whitwick, in the county of Leicester, and of and in the several COTTAGES and GARDENS, and about 30 acres of land belonging thereto, and of and in the valuable mines of COAL and IRONSTONE under about 170 acres of Land, and all other Rights and Royalties belonging to the said Manors.

The entirety of the above estate is let to most respectable Tenants, who are now working the mines of Coal under an agreement, for a lease of 22 ½ years, which will expire at Lady day, 1853, subject to which agreement the above mentioned Share will be sold.

The estate may be viewed by permission of Messrs. Price and Co. (the tenants) and further particulars may be had on application to Mr. POWER, Solicitor, Atherstone, Warwickshire ; or the AUCTIONEERS, at Leicester.

**Leicester Mercury – May 16<sup>th</sup> 1840**

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

**WILLIAM J. WINDRAM**

**B**EGS 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 – January 22<sup>nd</sup> 1841**

**Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

John Williams of Pegg's Green, was committed by Robert Green Cresswell, Esq., on the 14<sup>th</sup> inst., to the House of Correction for two months, for stealing on the 13<sup>th</sup> instant a post and rail forming part of a dead fence, the property of Pegg's Green Colliery Company.

**Leicester Journal – October 8<sup>th</sup> 1841**

**TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION BY MR. CHUBB**

On the premises, on Tuesday, the 28<sup>th</sup> day of October, 1841, at five o'clock in the afternoon, subject to Conditions to be then produced, and in one or more Lot or Lots, as may be agreed upon at the time of sale, all that well-established PUBLIC HOUSE, called "The New Inn", with good stabling, Workshops, Out buildings, Garden, Orchard, and Appurtenances adjoining the Melbourne Turnpike Road, near to Pegg's Green Colliery, and in the occupation of the Proprietor, Mr. John Tugby.

Also two comfortable COTTAGES, adjoining to the said Inn, with gardens thereto, in the occupation of William Barkby and Frances Barkby. And a close of excellent LAND, containing 1a. 1r. 17p. or thereabouts, lying on the opposite side of the road to the said Inn, and in front thereof.

The above premises are situate in the Township of Thringstone, and are in good repair. The Inn is admirably situated for business, owing to its being in the middle of a populous and thriving neighbourhood, and to its contiguity to the colliery, and has a good trade connected with it. The workshops are now used in the manufacture of Spar Ornaments, and are adapted for occupation as Workshops, or, at a trifling expense, might be converted into cottages, for which tenants are readily found at good rents.

For further information, application to be made to Mr. Tugby, on the premises; or to Messrs. Fisher and Sherwin, Solicitors, Ashby de la Zouch.

**Leicestershire Mercury – April 30<sup>th</sup> 1842**

**Sudden Death** – An inquest was held on Tuesday last, on the body of an infant child, the son of Joseph Robinson of Pegg's Green Colliery, which died suddenly on the previous Saturday evening, in its mother's arms. Mr. Kirkland, surgeon, made a post mortem examination, and gave

it as his opinion that the child's death resulted from congestion of the brain. – Verdict – Died by the visitation of God.

### **Leicester Chronicle – May 7<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **Leicestershire Mercury – August 13<sup>th</sup> 1842**

Matthew Bird, and Thomas Horne, were charged by James Johnson, and Wm. Newbold with refusing to pay wages due to them for work done in the Lount Colliery ([in the Smoile ?](#)). They first stated that last Saturday evening he had 13s. wages due to him from defendants, and that he went to "Master Walker's Public House", to Horne to ask for it, as it was his turn to pay him; but he found him drunk, and the money was refused. Horne said he was not complainant's employer, and that two wrong men had been summoned. Johnson answered that there were five "butties", or master's, who took the work and sublet it to others. These butties took it in turns to go to the office and draw the money for the work done, and then to pay the rest. Horne is the "head butty" who had to look after the pit, and see that the work is properly performed. On Saturday it was his turn to pay the wages, but he would not do it, and tried to make a disturbance. Bird was summoned because he and Horne had engaged complainants. Newbold then stated that 7s. 6d. had been refused to him in the same manner. The defendant Horne was ordered to pay the wages and the costs.

### **Northampton Mercury – Saturday, August 20<sup>th</sup> 1842**

#### **WHITWICK, 10 o'clock Monday night**

This morning an express arrived at Leicester for the attendance of the Yeomanry Cavalry at Whitwick, and also of the County Police, in consequence of an anticipated rising amongst the colliers employed in that neighbourhood. By 12 a.m. three troops of yeomanry under the respective command of Lord Hill, Captain Storer, and another officer with a body of police under the orders of Mr. Goodyer, the chief constable of the county arrived at Whitwick, and took up their quarters at the Railway Hotel, where Lord Howe, Sir N. Griesley, T. Pares, I. Hodgson, and – Mowbray, Esqs., magistrates of the county were sitting. In consequence of information received from various quarters, it was deemed advisable to send one troop to Coleorton, one to Hugglescote, and the other to remain at Whitwick, whilst the police were sent to Lount and Pegg's Green. At each of the latter places large meetings of colliers were held but no demonstration of violence was made. Mr. Goodyer with his usual good tact, wished to prevent a riot taking place, instead of putting it down; and with that view recommended the meeting to send delegates from each body to represent the cause of complaints to the magistrates. Mr. Stenson and Mr. Vaughan appearing on behalf of the proprietors of the coal-pits. The delegates stated that the colliers entered into the employ of Messrs. Stenson & Co., of the Whitwick pits. And also into that of the Snibston Company, on the understanding that they were to receive 1s. 9d. per ton (21 cwt) for coals, 11d. for cobbles, and 6d. for "sods" (an inferior and soft kind of coal) and if any dissatisfaction arose each party was to give the other a month's notice before leaving the colliery. Instead, however, of acting up to this agreement, the master of the pits had lowered the men's wages fortnight after fortnight, and, when at length, remonstrated with, said they could not afford to pay men in consequence of the reduced price at which they were obliged to sell the coals, and when one of the men expressed dissatisfaction at this explanation, he was discharged without any notice, whatever, from the Snibston Company's employ. On Saturday last, besides this, instead of 21 cwt., to the ton, they were compelled to supply 24 cwt. and even then not allowed to see the machine at which they were weighed; another complaint was that nothing whatever was paid them for getting "sods" and that at the Snibston colliery the bank coal (slack, accumulated at the mouth of the pit, through the employing of "corves" previous to being put into the wagons, was not allowed for at all, and if a "corve" (a machine in which the coals are drawn up from the pit, and

which ought to contain about 600 cwt. of coals) was found deficient in quantity, it was forfeited altogether.. This the men considered very unfair, it was not a rule at other collieries, and it sometimes occurred that the corve had to be removed some distance from the men who had filled it, before it reached the pit's mouth, when it occasionally occurred that it overturned, and thus some deficiency would take place, without the men to whom it belonged being aware of it. Another principle they complained of as being very unjust, was, that as soon as each man entered into a pit, he was compelled to subscribe 3d. per week towards a fund for the relief of those who met with accidents in the pits, even if he earned only 1s. per week which was sometimes the case in the summer season ; boys contributed 1½d. per week. The pay during confinement or inability to labour was 7s. per week to a man, and 3s. 6d. to a boy ; but this relief was only given to men who met with accidents whilst at work, they received no pay whatsoever during sickness arising from fever or any other natural cause. The principle ground of complaint was, that this 3d. was deducted from the wages by the person who paid them, who also acted as treasurer, but no account whatsoever was kept of the expenditure, nor did any surplus fund arise, although the accidents, considering the number of men employed were very few. It was computed, that out of the contributions of 300 men there would be a surplus of £50 per annum, the whole of which was pocketed by the "treasurer". The object of the men in making the "strike" was, to obtain compliance with the "Staffordshire Miner's Resolutions", passed at a meeting of nearly 15,000 men, at West-Bromwich, on the first of August.

1<sup>st</sup> – That the workmen at the several collieries remain at home until the whole of the masters promise to comply with the requisitions of the meeting.

2d. – That no man shall work for less than four shillings per day, two quarts of drink, and fire-coal every four weeks as before, for nine hours labour per day. One hour out of the nine to be allowed for dinner.

3d. – That the men consider half days, quarter days, and "bildasses" (days in which a man only works three or four hours, and is allowed nothing for it) as oppressive, and must be wholly done away with. No man or boy to go down into the pit without he works a whole day (accidents excepted, and also fair and wake time) but according to the hours (eight clear) he works per day a quarter or half day, shall be calculated by.

4<sup>th</sup> – Wages to be paid in current coin, and the meeting will discountenance the truck system whether direct or indirect. Magistrates to be called upon to assist them in carrying out this resolution

The 5<sup>th</sup> resolution merely stated, that the meeting pledged itself to carry out the whole the whole of the foregoing rules by all constitutional means. Mr. Stenson and Mr. Vaughan were heard in reply. Mr. Vaughan said, the reduction in wages proceeded from the low price at which they were compelled to bring the coals to the market. The men had been repeatedly told that if they felt aggrieved they might leave, but this they declined doing ; as to the rising from 21 cwt. to 24 cwt. the case stood thus :- When the coal was brought to the mouth of the pit, it was in a pure state and wet. It was weighed in that state at the "bank" (pit's mouth) machine, after which it was emptied from the corves previously to being put into the coal wagons, in which it was carried to the office, where it was re-weighed, and, from the "slack" caused by the emptying at the pit's mouth, and loading the wagons a deficiency would occur of 1½cwt. in the ton., and another 1 ½ cwt. in the evaporation that took place, after coming to the surface of the earth. The proprietors of the pits or "field" sold from 21 cwt. to 21 ½ cwt. to the higglers to the ton. Mr. Stenson supported this statement and added that the complaint about nothing being paid for the "sods" was wrong, he had repeatedly told the men when sods were sent up, that they should be separated from the coals and cobbles, instead however of so doing, they sent them up mixed with the coals, and expected to be paid the same prices. The court, after hearing some further statements, concluded that the men had acted from a misapprehension of the agreement between the masters and themselves, and thought the best way would be for a general amnesty to take place, so that they might begin again anew tomorrow, and be guided by a set of rules, which should bind both parties in such a manner, that either of them committing a breach of the contract, should be answerable to the law. Walker, one of the delegates, would not be answerable for the men in his colliery being satisfied with the decision ; if, however, a majority of them were, he (Walker) would not offer any further opposition to it. The court then broke up, and

no appearance of disturbance displaying itself, the yeomanry were ordered home. Mr. Goodyer, with part of his force, also left the place about 10 o'clock p.m. when the town was quite quiet. It is feared that the raising of wages, &c., is only a pretext to cover some more serious object.. Delegates from the potteries have been noticed frequenting the pits for the last few days, previous to which the colliers were satisfied with their conditions. Too much credit cannot be given to the Yeomanry, for the alacrity the exhibited in answering the hasty summons that called them to the scene of action, and also to Mr. Goodyer, for the expeditious manner in which he collected his men from all parts of the county. The magistrates in their neighbourhood of the collieries sided with the greatest promptitude, and there is little doubt that the energetic measures they adopted in obtaining a strong civil, and military power, tended to preserve the good order that prevailed throughout the day. We understand that similar meetings were held at "Ashby Holes" and we have heard of no breach of the peace being committed. At Burton-on-Trent, large parties of men from the potteries are perambulating the streets "begging" alms, which is found the best policy to bestow. Should the colliers persist in their strike, the greatest inconvenience will be found at Leicester, none of the wharf-yards having more than two days supply of coals, and the result will therefore be, that the manufacturers must stop working

### **Leicester Chronicle – Saturday August 20<sup>th</sup> 1842**

#### **TURN-OUT OF THE COLLIERS**

##### **AT WHITWICK, PEGG'S GREEN, SNIBSTON &c., &c.**

In the course of Saturday afternoon last, information was forwarded to Mr. Goodyer, Chief Constable of the county, which lead him to apprehend the colliers engaged in the above pits were not only about to turn out themselves, but also to force all the pitmen in the neighbourhood to join them – and that in consequence of such proceedings a disturbance of the peace was likely to ensue. It was stated that it being payday, the men were only waiting to receive their money, and then would strike ; and that they had been stirred up to take this step by certain delegates from the Staffordshire pits, who had distributed inflammatory circulars among them, and urged them not to another days work until their just demands were acceded to. Mr. Goodyer immediately despatched Superintendent Burditt and a man to Whitwick to observe what really took place – what was the demeanor of the men – and whether anything serious was likely to ensue. The information received by Mr. Goodyer the following Sunday morning was such as to confirm the apprehensions previously excited, and he therefore communicated with both the Borough and county magistrates on the necessity that existed for taking steps to be prepared against any outbreak. The Leicester Troup of the Yeomanry Cavalry received orders to assemble early on Monday morning, and, with another troupe from the county, to proceed to Whitwick. This was accordingly done, and Mr. Goodyer with a strong body of his men followed. On arriving at Long-lane, our reporter found Earl Howe and Lord Curzon had arrived with their troops, and that Sir Nigel Gresley, and Messrs. Mowbray, T. Pares, and Isaac Hodgson (magistrates) were also assembled.

Everything was then very quiet, and the accounts as to the number of turnouts varied greatly – some making them 500 from Whitwick alone, others not more than 250. It was certain, however, that a meeting had been held that morning in the neighbourhood of Pegg's Green, that certain resolutions were then agreed upon, and that the meeting dispersed and went in parties to the different pits in the vicinity to induce the men to join them. The following were the resolutions, in the form of a memorial, agreed upon:-

*To the agents of the Whitwick and Snibston Collieries:-*

*"Gentleman, - we feel it our duty to acquaint you with our present resolutions, since our labour is the object of our worldly interests, and the support of your capital. We therefore hope you will sanction our propositions, which are just and reasonable in all things. Our first proposition is – that you will bear the loss of the bad coal, by giving the same price for that as the other, viz. 1s. 9d. per ton, allowing one-third for cobbles, of which the price is 11d. per ton, but not to have three distinct prices at all. – Our second proposition is – that we may be allowed to know see our coals added up, and the number of tons, with cwts., put on the slate, under the columns of each stall, in the Bank Machine, before going to the office. – Our third proposition is – that we may be allowed to have each machine on the bank properly adjusted to 21 cwt. for the ton ; and the gross weight taken, and the neat left, of either coals or cobbles – our fourth proposition is – that*

*Summers be restored to his work again. We do not want any increase of wages – we only want the coals to come up together, and be sorted on the bank, with the perquisites of lip powder, as usual”*

*Here follow the signatures*

*Summers was the man with whom the dispute originated.*

*Lip Powder used to blow up the bine before reaching the coal field*

At Long-lane it was said that the men scarcely knew why they had turned out – that they would not have done so but for the Staffordshire delegates – and Mr. Vaughan (agent at Snibston Colliery) assured our reporter that the men had for a long time past been receiving the same rate of wages as now, and that, if left to themselves, they would be quiet enough and return immediately to their employ. This statement, it will be shortly seen, was somewhat at variance with what the men stated.

After a consolation amongst the magistrates, it was determined that the Cavalry should remain behind, and that Mr. Goodyer with his men should proceed towards Pegg’s Green to learn whether the turn – outs were forcing others to join them, and generally to watch their proceedings. Mr. Hodgson and Mr. Pares also rode on, and at Pegg’s Green had a conversation with some of the turn-outs whom they found remaining behind, and with the resident partner also, who stated that he thought the turn-outs were only asking what was just and reasonable, and that his men had not been forced to join the main body – though it appeared they had joined the others. The men said to both Messrs. Hodgson and Pares that they solely wished to have their engagements with their employers strictly observed by the latter, which had not been the case for sometime past ; that in place of paying two prices according to agreement and custom, a third price had now been introduced ; and that in consequence of the manner in which the employers had been encroaching step by step, the workmen could obtain but a miserable pittance, let them work ever so hard. They said (in answer to remarks by Messrs. Hodgson and Pares) that they did not intend to proceed to a single act of violence ; they listened with the greatest respect to both these gentlemen and Mr. Goodyer, when warned by them that the magistrates would be compelled, and were determined to put down anything like violence ; and when advised not to suffer themselves to be led away by strangers, they denied any such attempt had been made ; it is true Staffordshire men had been among them, but it was merely to beg ; it was true these same men had left papers among them, but they were not inflammatory (a copy of the papers will be given at the end of our report) ; it was true that they had had a meeting that morning, but nothing was said at which they should have minded the magistrates hearing – indeed, there was to be another meeting at four in the afternoon, and they should be glad to see the magistrates, the chief constable, and the reporters at it.

Proceeding nearly a mile further, Mr. Goodyer came upon a meeting in a field, at which some two hundred men and women were present, listening to the resolutions which had been adopted by the meeting in the morning. When the speaker had finished, he stated that the resolutions were open to inspection of any person who wished to look at them. On this Mr. Goodyer (who had desired his mjen to keep out of sight, so as not to cause any unnecessary irritation by a display of force) requested to be allowed to look at the paper, stating what he was and what was his business. The resolutions were at once handed to him in the most respectful manner, and the meeting would not allow any crowding round Mr. Goodyer while he was speaking to them. Others gathered round our reporter, who went among them, and they furnished him with every information he asked for as to their grounds for complaints ; and it must in justice be said that their behaviour was such as did them great credit. They plainly stated what they considered to be acts of injustice on the part of their employers, but they did not launch out into bitter invectives against them. They said that in consequence of the reduction in their wages, the long weight they had to give, and the introduction of a third price, a man sometimes did not get more than 11s 6d. for a fortnight’s wages. It was true that they had their house rent included in this, and they had no complaint to make about their houses – they were comfortable enough. One of their demands was that every man should be able to know at the end of every day how much work he had done, and there surely was nothing unreasonable in wanting that ? When they made their engagements, they were paid two prices – viz., 1s. 9d. per ton of 21 cwt. for coals, and 11d. for cobbles ; now the coals were sorted, and all pieces not quite so large as a brick were called

“sods”, and were only paid 6d. a ton for – while at the same time they were sold at the bank head as “small calls”. In illustration of the work of this new division of the sorts of coal, the following accounts were handed in – the payments having been made to the same man. The first was made half a year ago, when for 95 tons 9 cwt. of coals at 1s. 9d. per ton the wages were £8 7s.. ; and for 52 tons 10 cwt. of cobbles at 11d., £2 8s. ; this was in accordance with the agreement made, viz., that the men should be paid two-thirds as coals and one-third as cobbles. The second bill (paid for the last fortnightly settling-day but one) was, for 37 tons 16 cwt. of coals, £3 6s. ; for 32 tons 8 cwt. of cobbles (nearly half-and-half) instead of two-thirds and one-third), £1 9s. 8½d. ; and for 15 tons of “sods” at 6d., 7s. 6d. only, - thus actually making the quantity paid for at coal-price less than one-half, instead of two-thirds. The men used also to have a rake and pan allowed them to fill their baskets with, but those had been taken away, and they had to fill with their hands, which of course took so much more time. Another complain the turn-outs urged was, that if a curve (which should hold six hundredweight) happened to come up to the bank but a few pounds deficient in weight, they were not deducted the amount of that deficiency, but were not allowed at all for the corve. They also wanted to have the weighing machine at the bank to be properly adjusted, so that they might know its weights were correct, and that the weight of the ton should be fixed at 21 cwt. : they now had to give 24 cwt., besides being deducted for bad coals. Formerly, they said, every man was allowed to go into the machine-room, and inspect the tally, in order to see if both accounts were the same ; but now the were not allowed, and if they did go were turned off for so doing. They were paid but once a fortnight, and now got but about 11s. 6d. for that time, which was very little to keep a man, his wife, and four children upon. On further questioning our informant upon the question of wages, he candidly acknowledged the 11s. 6d. was exclusive of house rent – their house being found for them, together with a bit of garden ; they had no complaint to make as to the houses, which were very comfortable ; “but (said he) all are not like myself, with only a small household to provide for – I have known many of my companions to be absolutely pining for want of more food”. He further said, and with tears in his eyes, that he had known some of the men to be at work a whole day without any solid food.

Such was the straightforward manner in which all questions were answered by these men, whose demeanour was extremely peaceable. Before Mr. Goodyer left them, he advised them to send a deputation up to the magistrates at Mr. Potter’s, Griffy Dam, and to lay their case fully before them, with a view to the settlement of the dispute. This advice they promised to follow, and did do so.

What took place further in the country we cannot say, for the heat was so excessive as to make it almost impossible to follow their movements ; but not a single instance of their committing a breach of the peace was heard of.

In the evening, Messrs. Stenson and Vaughan made a statement of their case to the magistrates, but as our reporter was not aware that such was the case till the interview was just concluded we cannot give that statement. As both Mr. Stenson and Mr. Vaughn were present, however, during the interview of the Deputation with the Magistrates, and several times entered into explanations at the request of the Bench, its purport will doubtless be gathered from the following account of the interview between the men’s deputies and the Magistrates. Mr. Stenson is the agent for Whitwick, and Mr. Vaughan for the Snibston Colliery. The magistrates present were Sir Nigel Gresley, Messrs. Hodgson, Pares, and Mowbray ; Sir G. Beaumont also (though not a magistrate) was present.

The Deputation began by saying that they and their fellow workmen had only met to obtain their right’s and did no mean to break the peace. The last Thursday, one of Mr. Stenson’s men went to him and complained of being stopped for bad coal, and was discharged at a moments notice for so speaking, although he was engaged for twelve months. They then went to Mr. Stenson about the matter, but he said he had never paid for bad coal and would not. They told him that he had not before deducted for the bad coal ; on which he replied that even if that were the case, he would only pay 6d. for the small coal- thus making three prices.

Mr. Hodgson : Then your complaint is, that you are now paid 6d. a ton for “sods” for the first time ? and that without previous notice ?

The Deputation said that was the case.

Mr. Pares asked whether, when only two prices were paid, any third sort of coal was put on one side as unfit for sale, and not paid for ?

Mr. Stenson, jun., said the man who had been speaking had only worked in his colliery for a few weeks – he had been in Staffordshire, and therefore could not know what his (Mr. Stenson's) rules were.

Mr. Pares reminded Mr. Stenson that this was not an answer to his question ; besides, his father (Mr. Stenson sen.) had just before told the magistrates that his rules had not at all varied ; so the man's absence from the colliery could not signify.

Mr. Stenson, jun., then began to enter into an explanation of what the men had said to him on Thursday last about their determination not to work unless he complied with their demands ; but the magistrates again told him that was not the question under consideration.

Some conversation took place between Mr. Stenson and the deputy of whom he had spoken just before, as to when "sods" were first paid for as such, and at 6d. per ton ; and Mr. Stenson certainly appeared to be labouring under some error upon that point, for he first said that he had not previously paid them for "sods", but that he only paid them for coals and cobbles as sent up (after being screened or sorted, we understood), and afterwards that he had only paid them for coals and cobbles as sent up (after being screened and sorted, we understood), and afterwards that he had paid them for "sods" at 6d. per ton. The deputy said he should be glad to be shown the man who had previously been paid in this manner, and that he had sent up all his coals and cobbles – no "sods" having remained below :- they only wanted to be paid what they had agreed for at Coal and cobble price. In answer to Mr. Stenson's remark that he had agreed to pay for the small coal, but at "sods" price, and that the men had consented to that arrangement, the Deputation said such was not the case – there was not a man who had said a word about the "sods". These sods Mr. Stenson spoke of as very small or refuse kind of coal, but the men said the majority of them were as larges as half-a-housebrick, and were sold at a good price as "small coal".

The Magistrate here asked Mr. Stenson if he could produce a copy of the rules said to be read to each man on entering into the agreement spoken of by him (Mr. S)

Mr. Stenson did not say whether he could or could not, but said that the men went on in bodies of five or six at a time and were then told the rules.

The Deputation here were understood to declare that that was not always done – and Mr. S. to acknowledge that the rules were not always read to the men, but (he said) they knew what they were. Mr. Pares said it would appear from that, that the men went on to work, however blindly. Mr. Stenson then recapitulated the substance of the rules, but in too rapid a manner to be intelligible to those not previously acquainted with mining operations.

Mr. Hodgson here remarked that some bills had been given to them, in which there was not a word said about sods –(these were probably some of the same period as those before referred to) ; and he understood that there was no complaint made about these prices – that the only complaint was, that the men were not allowed to see the machine which weighed their coals.

The Deputation said that was the only complaint, if but the two prices were paid as before, and that if the agents would but say the men might have access to the machine, they would go to work that very night.

Mr. Stenson (in reply to the Magistrates, who drew his attention to what the Deputation had said) answered that the pit would not be worked again till some baskets were got. The Deputation replied that they had no objection to the use of the basket.

The conversation then reverted to the three prices paid for coals, and the Magistrates said that the due notice of the change about to be made ought to have been given to the colliers, and then they might have decided for themselves whether it was worth their while to work for such prices. Would the Deputation be satisfied if the agents consented to the colliers seeing the weight outside the bank ? The Deputies said, No ; because they thought there was difference in the modes of weighing ; but they would be satisfied if the weight was adjusted to 21 cwt. to the ton.

Mr. Stenson said the owners would consent to give the men a ticket of what they had done, but not that they should have the liberty to adjust the machine ; the man at the bank should give them a ticket whenever they came up from work and wanted to see what they had done. The Deputation would be satisfied with that assurance, could they be sure the machine was adjusted to 21 cwt. to the ton.. Mr. Stenson said it was 21¾ cwt to the long ton weight. In consequence of the great competition, they allowed 24 cwt. to the ton for the boats, and we understood 21 cwt. to

higglers ; but their land-sale was very trifling. He could assure the magistrates that justice was done to the men and to the employers.

The magistrates observed to the Deputation that if the owners sold the coals at 24 cwt. to the ton, they were perfectly right in paying them at that rate. Mr. Vaughan here stated that in the summer time, in order to keep the colliers employed, a great quantity of coal was stacked, by which the owners lost considerably.

The Deputation said they were not aware that was the case ; and their principal spokesman went on to say that they only wanted their rights and to be protected against oppression ; but the Magistrates said they could not enter upon that topic – and if the men did not chose to work for the terms offered, they need not. The Deputies then said that if Mr. Stenson chose to lay his prices before the men, and they thought proper to work for them, they might ; but they(the Deputies) wanted to have two prices only.

In answer to some other remarks, Mr. Stenson said he did all he could to make his men send up good coals, but at times they were in the habit of sending up such rubbish ; he did not want to treat them harshly, but he did not want to be treated in this way. One of the Deputies said nobody would deny that but for one thing ; that last Saturday night Mr. Stenson said he would only pay for certain kinds of coal.

Mr. Pares told the speaker that if the men did not like the new regulations, they should give a month's notice they would not work any longer ; that would be a lawful way of leaving employment, but the present was not. The Deputy said that might be Mr. Pares law, but it was not his. Mr. Pares replied that it was not his law, but "the" law.

The Deputation then entered upon the question of the pan and rake having been taken away from the men, and their being obliged to fill the corves with their hands, because Mr. Stenson said he would not have any pieces of less size than a brick.

Mr. Pares said there could be no doubt but these things were looked upon by them as grievances, but, as he had said before, they could give a month's notice and leave : he had no doubt the matter might be remedied between the two parties, if gone about in a proper manner. A deputy remarked that Mr. Stenson had himself broken the law by turning off a man at a minute's notice. Mr. Hodgson told the speaker that, if that that were the case, the injured party had a remedy open to him by taking Mr. Stenson before a Bench of Magistrates.

It here appeared that the Deputies who had thus far spoken belonged to Whitwick Colliery (Mr. Stenson's) ; and the two who came from Snibston (Mr. Vaughan's) were told to make their statements. They were in substance the same as the foregoing, with respect to the alteration of two thirds coals and one third cobbles – to half and half.

Mr. Vaughan stated that the owners had been obliged to make that reduction in order to meet the reduction in the market price, and on account of the superior quality they were now obliged to sell. The Deputies said they had no notice given them of this change – Mr. Vaughan had been dropping the price little by little. The Magistrate asked why, if that were the case, they had not left Mr. Vaughan's service ? Mr. Vaughan said he had told them, that if they could not go on working at the new price, they might leave. The Deputies said they had worked all along for Mr. Vaughan – they had their cottage and garden and their family – and it was not a pleasant thing to leave. Mr. Vaughan said the men would have no difficulty in disposing of their garden stuff if they had wanted to leave ; but the Deputies said that they should have had, for all were as badly off as themselves ; even in the spring they had to beg. Mr. Vaughan said he had given his men notice to leave sometime back, if they did not approve of the new regulations, but they would not.

The deputies did not deny this was the case, but said they could not have got work elsewhere ; they were proceeding with some other remarks, when the Magistrates stopped them and said they had a much better opinion of their(Deputies) case before they came into the room than they had now.

The Deputies then mentioned the grievances about the whole weight of a corve being disallowed, if it were but a few lbs deficient. Mr. Vaughan did not deny that being the case, but said it was in accordance with the rules of the colliery ; and they were obliged to be particular, as the corves were often badly filled.

After some further conversation, the Magistrates said they would advise both Mr. Stenson and Mr. Vaughan to draw up the laws of their collieries afresh, and to let the men be made

properly acquainted with them, and then have their choice of working or not, as they chose. The deputies said that if that had been done before, they would not have complained ; and Mr. Vaughan said that what he complained of was – that having given the men notice two months ago, they would not leave, and now acted in this manner.

Mr. Pares then said, that after listening carefully to all that had been said on both sides, he was decidedly of opinion that the colliers had taken a wrong step in acting as they had done ; but he fully believed that they had thus acted under a misapprehension of the matter. He would again advise the employers to draw up their rules more strictly than had hitherto been the case, and to make every man acquainted with them.

The Deputies said that all they wanted was that, according to the laws of the realm, due notice should be given before any alteration was made.

Mr. Hodgson told the deputies that they were anxious to do justice to all parties, and therefore had heard both sides of the question at this length ; and Mr. Pares again said he fully believed the turn-outs had thus acted, not from any forwardness , but from the wrong idea of their position and what was necessary before leaving their employment. Everything that was past should now be forgotten, and they should go back to their work as if nothing had happened. Let them never again put themselves in the position with respect to the law as they had done that day ; if they did the Magistrates would be forced to put the law in force against them. That they had no wish to do ; and if the masters did their men any wrong, the Magistrates would do the latter every justice – they would send either Mr. Stenson or Mr. Vaughan to prison if they violated their contract and wronged their servants.

The interviews were brought to a close, the Magistrates again advising the Deputies to return to their work on the morrow as if nothing had happened.

The Cavalry returned to Leicester in the course of the afternoon ; and at ten o'clock, when Mr. Goodyer and his men left, the greatest order prevailed. It is but an act of justice to state, that it was doubtless to the firmness and kindness blended together of Messrs. Pares and Hodgson and Mr. Goodyer, that the peaceable manner in which the day passed off is to be attributed ; and it is equally an act of justice to the turn-outs to say, that while candidly stating what they felt to be grievances, their demeanour was quiet and respectful ; and it is to be hoped that the events of the day will have taught both masters and men a useful lesson – of kind consideration on one side, and a determination on the other side to avail themselves only of those means of redress which the law has provided for them ; for we feel persuaded that the county Magistrates, as a body, are disposed to protect the poor servant equally with the wealthy employer.

*The Staffordshire Miner's Resolutions were plentifully distributed amongst the Leicestershire Colliers.*

### **Derby Mercury – Wednesday August 31<sup>st</sup> 1842**

.....**RETURN OF COLLIERS TO WORK.** – On Monday the colliers at Pegg's Green, Moira and Lount Pits, returned to their work ; and at Swadlincote and Nuttall on Tuesday. Should the Staffordshire colliers remain away no danger need be apprehended.....

### **Leicestershire Mercury – October 8<sup>th</sup> 1842**

#### **REDUCTION IN PRICE OF COAL**

THE PEGG'S GREEN COMPANY impressed with gratitude to a liberal and discerning public, for the support they have hitherto received, embrace the present opportunity of informing them, that on MONDAY next, the price of the very superior Coals and Cobbles will be as under, and they trust, by a strict attention to the assorting of their Coal, to merit a continuance of their support

MAIN COAL	6s. 8d. Per Ton.
COBBLES	5s. 10d. Per Ton.
SPIRES	5s. 0d. Per Ton.

Pegg's Green, Oct. 5<sup>th</sup> 1842.

## **Leicester Chronicle – August 26<sup>th</sup> 1843**

### **CORONER'S REPORTS PEGG'S GREEN, THRINGSTONE**

On the 17<sup>th</sup> instant, on the body of Thomas Hurst, aged 15, who was employed at the Pegg's Green Colliery, and who fell from the "skip" while it was going up the shaft and was at a great height from the bottom of the pit ; this occurred on the Tuesday. Deceased was a venturesome youth, and had once before been brought up with one leg hanging by the chain ; and on this occasion it is supposed he had caught hold of the bucket intending to drop off when a short distance from the ground ; but that when the bucket was rising he feared to drop, and held on by the hook till he was exhausted. The back of his head was broken to pieces by the fall. – Verdict ; "Accidental death".

## **Leicester Mercury – March 9<sup>th</sup> 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 - Saturday March 1844**

Joseph Hewitt of Thringstone, Charged by John Price, agent to the **Pegg's Green Colliery Co.**, with neglecting his work, was committed to the '**House of Correction**', at Leicester, for one calendar month, his wages to be abated during that period.

## **Leicester Journal – April 19<sup>th</sup> 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 – April 20<sup>th</sup> 1844**

### **Ashby e la Zouch Petty Sessions, April 13<sup>th</sup>**

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.

## **Leicester Chronicle – January 4<sup>th</sup> 1845**

### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

**SAMUEL FREEMAN** (25; Neither read nor write) was charged with stealing, on the 6<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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 Journal – January 24<sup>th</sup> 1845**

##### **WANTED**

##### **At the Pegg's Green Colliery,**

**A MACHINE MAN** ; also a person to Superintend the Overground Department, and Collect Accounts. None need apply but whose character and ability will bear the strictest inquiry.

Application to be made to Mr. Price, at the above colliery, on or before Saturday the 1<sup>st</sup> day of February next.

Pegg's Green Colliery, near Ashby de la Zouch,  
1845

January 22<sup>nd</sup>,

#### **Leicester Chronicle – February 22<sup>nd</sup> 1845**

**Deaths** – On the 11<sup>th</sup> 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 80<sup>th</sup> birthday.

##### **ANOTHER VERSION**

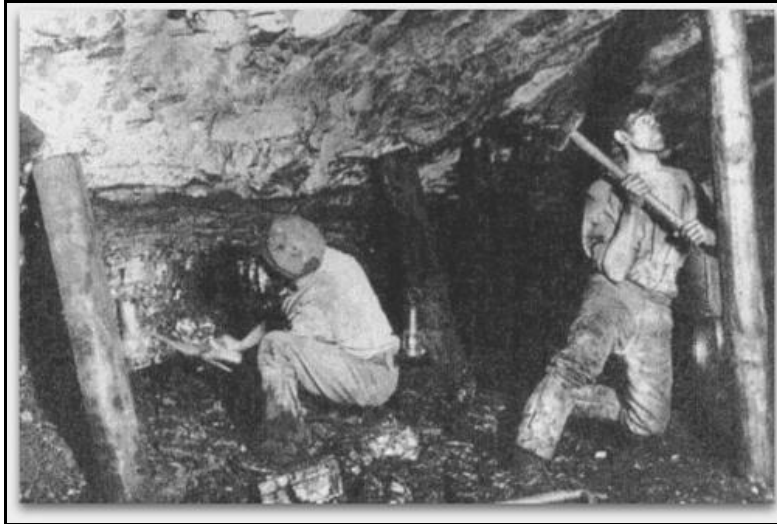
#### **Bradford Observer – February 27<sup>th</sup> 1845**

##### **DEATHS**

On the 11<sup>th</sup> inst, at Pegg's Green, parish of Thringstone, county of Leicester, Catherine Gostelow, widow of John Gostelow, labourer, aged 96. She was for a number of years employed filling the slack wagons for the lime kilns, doing all the offices of a labouring man.

#### **Leicester Chronicle – April 5<sup>th</sup> 1845**

**FATAL COLLIERY ACCIDENT.** – An inquest was held at Thringstone, in this county, on the 1<sup>st</sup> 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 – June 7<sup>th</sup> 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 Journal – June 20<sup>th</sup> 1851**

**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 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 Chronicle – September 5<sup>th</sup> 1851**

**PEGG'S GREEN COLLIERY**

Having received information that other parties were selling coal in the name of the above Colliery, we beg to inform purchasers that the PEGG'S GREEN COAL can only be had of Messrs. C. and W. R. Morris, at the following Stations :- OAKHAM, MANTON, LUFFENHAM, SEATON, AND ROCKINGHAM.

THOS. RODGERS and CO.,

Agents for Pegg's Green Colliery.

Leicester, August 29, 1851.

**Nottingham Guardian – August 19<sup>th</sup> 1852**

**DEATHS**

At Pegg's Green, on Saturday last, in his 61<sup>st</sup> year, Mr. Henry Smallwood, for a number of years Banksman at Pegg's Green Colliery.

**Leicestershire Mercury – August 1853**

**COLLIERY ACCIDENT**

On Saturday, and by adjournment on Tuesday, an inquest was held at Osgathorpe upon John Waldram deceased/ He was a young man twenty-eight years of age, employed at Pegg's Green Colliery. He went to work about 6 o'clock on Thursday evening, and about 2 o'clock the next morning was brought home dead. It appeared that he was busy building up the way head, when a large piece of stone fell from the roof and crushed him to the earth. When the stone was removed he breathed for a few minutes and then died. The fall of the stone was quite unexpected, the piece breaking from the roof between the props. Deceased had been blowing up stone about a yard from the place the night before. He had been in the pit from a lad and was acquainted with his work. – Verdict, "Accidental Death".

**Leicestershire Mercury – June 23<sup>rd</sup> 1855**

**Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

Sarah Miller, charged Mark Richards and George Hewitt with assaulting her, on June 4<sup>th</sup>. Complainant said she was a married woman, and living at Pegg's Green. On June 4<sup>th</sup> she was returning from the Post Office at about half past nine o'clock at night, and passed by the defendants. They bid her good night, and then ran up to her. Hewitt took hold of her, and behaved very indecently. Richards also conducted himself in a similar way. – Convicted and fined 10s. each, including costs ; in default fourteen days imprisonment.

**Leicester Journal – March 27<sup>th</sup> 1857**

**Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions March 21<sup>st</sup> – before W. W. Abney, Esq., and T. Mowbray, Esq.**

John Bradford of Thringstone was charged with having on the 8<sup>th</sup> 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.**

**Leicestershire Mercury – November 28<sup>th</sup> 1857**

**VICE – CHANCELLOR WOODS COURT**

**Wednesday, November 18<sup>th</sup>.**

**WALKER AND OTHERS v. KIDGER AND ANOTHER**

This was a motion to dissolve an Injunction, obtained in the month of September last by the plaintiffs, Walker and Worswick, and others to restrain the defendants from interfering with two of the plaintiffs of an engine for pumping water at the Pegg's Green Colliery, in the parish of Thringstone.

Mr. Daniel, Q.C., and Mr. E. F. Smith, were for the defendants in support of the motion ; and Mr. Rolt, Q.C., and Mr. Pearson, in support of the injunction.

From the statement of Mr. Daniel, it appeared that Walker and Worswick are the lessees of a Colliery at Coleorton, which adjoins the Pegg's Green Colliery ; and they are also lessees of an extensive colliery in the adjoining township of Swannington. The two defendants, together with all the plaintiffs, except Walker and Worswick, are lessees of the Pegg's Green Colliery. In the year 1852, the Coleorton and Pegg's Green Companies entered into an agreement for an exchange of coal lying near to their respective collieries for the convenience of both collieries,

and also for jointly pumping the water out of their respective collieries of Coleorton and Pegg's Green. Shortly after the agreement was entered into, the plaintiffs, Walker and Worswick, became the lessees of the mid-Swannington coalfield, and immediately commenced sinking a shaft for the getting of the said, but did not at the same time provide any means for pumping the water from the mine nor for ventilating the same, except by making a water and airway through a portion of the Pegg's Green mine into the Coleorton mine, and then turning the whole of the water produced by the Swannington mine into the Pegg's Green mine. The defendants remonstrated with Walker and Worswick, and threatened proceedings when they ascertained the extent to which their mine had been trespassed upon ; and Walker and Worswick soon after, for the purpose of avoiding, if possible, legal proceedings, purchased from the Cowlshaw and Breedon Everard, five of the plaintiffs, their shares in the Pegg's Green mine, so as to give them an interest and control in the Pegg's Green Company, and a suit is now pending in this Court to declare the sale of the said shares void. In the month of August last, the two defendants being in the management of Pegg's Green Colliery, and finding they were pumping water rising in the Swannington mine, as well as that which they had agreed to pump jointly with Walker and Worswick, discontinued pumping together, and refused, upon demand being made, to set the pumping engine to work again unless Walker and Worswick would stop the water from the Swannington mine from flowing into the Pegg's Green and Coleorton mines, which the two collieries had agreed, in 1852, jointly to pump. Walker and Worswick finding that their mine in Swannington would soon be flooded, in conjunction with the partners whose shares they had attempted to purchase, and with Thomas Bostock and John Knight, the two remaining partners in the Pegg's Green Colliery, whom it was stated were acting in collusion with Walker and Worswick, applied to his Honour, the Vice Chancellor Wood for an Injunction to restrain the defendants from interfering with Bostock and Knight in the working of the Pegg's Green engine, and which Injunction was granted ex-parte upon motion made this day for the purpose of dissolving the same upon the ground that upon obtaining the Injunction no mention was made of the Swannington mine, and of the defendants' refusal to allow the Pegg's Green engine to pump so long as Swannington water flowed into the Pegg's Green and Coleorton mines, and that consequently the material matter in issue between the parties was entirely suppressed.

His Honour dissolved the injunction with costs.

Messrs. Miles and Gregory, of Leicester, were the solicitors for the plaintiffs ; and Mr. George F. Brown, Ashby de la Zouch, for the defendants.

### **Leicester Chronicle – January 29<sup>th</sup> 1859**

#### **PEGG'S GREEN COLLIERY**

#### **VICE CHANCELLORS COURT, MONDAY JANUARY 24<sup>TH</sup>**

#### **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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> clause of the articles. These offers met with various results. Price wrote,

Bostock answered verbally, and Kidger offered £800; and, so on the 14<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 to 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 Journal – December 9<sup>th</sup> 1859**

**Valuable Colliery and Plant, at Thringstone, in the Parish of Whitwick, Leicestershire  
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION  
(Without Reserve)**

**By Mr. CHUBB**

**At the Queen's Head Inn, Ashby de la Zouch, on Wednesday, the 28<sup>th</sup> day of December, 1859, at Four o'clock in the Afternoon, subject to conditions of sale which will then be produced**

A VALUABLE COLLIERY called the Pegg's Green Colliery, situate at Thringstone, in the county of Leicester, and comprising about 40 acres of ungot Coal, and about 23 acres of LAND, and several MESSUAGES or DWELLING-HOUSES and COTTAGES; the reserved Rent of the Plant, Land, and Building being £125 per annum, and the minimum Rent for the Colliery £400 a year.

Also, a STEAM PUMPING ENGINE, of 55 horse power, 2 WINDING ENGINES of 30 and 14 horse power, and the valuable PLANT and MACHINERY on the premises.

The Colliery and Land (except the engine and machinery and other erections) are held under a Lease, which will expire on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of March, 1873.

Pegg's Green coal is of the first quality, and commands the best price in the market, and the demand has always exceeded supply. The colliery is situated on a branch railway connected with the Midland Railway between Burton-on-Trent and Leicester, and has direct access by Rail to Leicester, and other parts of the Kingdom ; and an extensive and lucrative Land Sale may be relied on.

Printed particulars with plans and conditions of Sale may be obtained after the 14<sup>th</sup> day of December at the principle Hotels in the neighbourhood, and of the Auctioneer, and the undermentioned solicitors, and in the meantime further information will be given on application to Messrs. Miles, Gregory, and Bouskell, Solicitors, Leicester ; or to MR. GEORGE F. BROWN, Solicitor, Ashby de la Zouch.

To view the premises, apply to Mr. William Kidger ; or, Mr. John Price, Pegg's Green Colliery, Ashby de la Zouch.

**Leicester Journal – December 23<sup>rd</sup> 1859**

**London Gazette – January 10<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 – October 19<sup>th</sup> 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 28<sup>th</sup> 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 Guardian – Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October 1863**

### **THE TERRIBLE COAL PIT CALAMITY AT COLEORTON**

A week and a day have now elapsed since the terrible calamity in connection with the Califat No. 2 pit- the inundation of the workings through the giving way of a coal wall took place, and, notwithstanding that every exertion has been used and is still being made, up to the time we write (Friday morning) every effort to get the bodies of the two unfortunate men who are believed to have perished in the mine, has been of no avail. It is however, a matter of thankfulness to all, especially Leicestershire people, to find that this dreadful event has not been accompanied with such sacrifice of life as might have been expected considering the circumstances under which it happened.....The inundation of the pit fortunately took place when the majority of "the hands were above ground" – when the day men were "on", and not many more than one fourth of the "200" were at work. ....Some contemporaries seem to be at a loss as to the cause of the catastrophe and attribute it to a want of knowledge by the proprietors of the mine and others, as to the locality in which the old Limby Hall workings were situated. We would state in reply that such is not the case, as "stalls" had for some time past been carried up to within about 16 yards of the old workings, and the men were engaged in No. 8. stall, when having as they calculated to go 80 yards further before they were to abandon it, they unexpectedly made a breach into the old Limby Hall pits. Consequently the coming in contact with the old working at so unlooked for a place (other adjoining stalls having been carried up in a parallel direction above 80 yards further than where the men were at work, and where the breach was unfortunately made) cannot be accounted for. The only supposition that can in any way throw any light on the matter is, that before the abandonment of the Limby Hall workings about 70 years ago, a head was "driven down", towards the now Califat pit, with a view of trying the coal, and that this head was unfortunately come across. This seems to be the only reasonable conjecture made by experienced persons, but the true cause cannot be known until the drawing off of the water admits of an exploration of the workings. The engine pumps at the Califat, California, Calcutta, and Pegg's Green pits (all of which are connected by underground "roads", have continued at work night and day, but not withstanding the vast quantity of water which they raise per minute (from 1500 to 1600 gallons), they have been unable to exhaust the supply in the workings, as the water still continues to rush in from the old Limby Hall pits ; and on Monday the destroying element had gained on the pumping engines to the depth of 15 inches. To add to the misfortunes, on Tuesday, a bucket belonging to the pump at the Califat pit gave way, but although this was providentially speedily replaced, the water gained a depth of 6 inches, making a total increase of 21 inches since last Thursday, when the accident took place, and soundings taken down the California pit ; No.1. showed that there was 9ft 6ins of water in the shaft.. Owing to this increase in the depth of the water, which caused the California and Calcutta pits, the "dip", and other lower parts of the workings to be quite full, thereby preventing any possibility of ventilation in the mines, and thus the accumulation of foul air or "damp" which continued to increase intensity, the colliers have not been able to make many descents for the missing bodies of the men – Thomas and Jeremiah Rose – as all lights became speedily extinguished when taken much beyond the bottom shaft. Men have ( with the exception of Tuesday) continued to make descents at intervals both day and night, in search of the lost men, and on Saturday, when air tubes were put down, and the sulphureous smells abated, they were enabled to proceed a considerable distance up the workings towards the incline-where the "coal wall" gave way and which we are glad to state, is now nearly dry. During that day one other horse was found alive, about 400 yards from the bottom of the shaft (towards where the breach was made) and another dead one was also discovered in a like direction. Although 19 horses have been recovered, but eight more are still missing. Messrs's Worswick and co-proprietors of the pits, have been in attendance daily, advising with Mr. Hedley, of Derby, the Government Inspector, for the recovery of the bodies of the men now in the pit, and during the past few days men have been engaged in converting the shaft of the Califat (which had a double shaft) into an up and down cast shaft, in order to secure better ventilation in the mines. This has been accomplished by dividing the present shaft, which is 130 yards in depth, with "brattice" wood work, and a like division of the pit has also been continued by

means of tarred canvass, about 100 yards up the workings. Jets of steam have also been introduced into the shaft, so as to cause a disturbance of the foul air, and a better draft up and down the shaft. With all these appliances, the men have of late been able to make considerable progress, and notwithstanding that at times there is a great deal of foul air, they are able with much "coaxing" to keep their lights. The water, we may add, still rushes in from the old Limby Hall workings, whereat there is evidently a very strong spring, but as this turns in a different direction to where the men are working – which is up the incline (now dry), towards where the breach was made – no difficulty is experienced in that respect. It is hoped that in the course of a few days, the brattice work will have been so far completed up the workings, so as to enable the men to get above 600 yards from the bottom of the shaft, where they expect to meet with a double road and purer air, and suspend their "bratticing" operations. If so, they will be able to proceed right up to the old workings in which direction they hope to find the missing men.

#### COLEORTON FRIDAY.

The construction of the "bratticing" up the workings of the Califat pit, is proceeding very satisfactorily. Throughout yesterday (Thursday) the men were principally engaged in patching up and fixing better, the work they had previously done. They, however, succeeded in fixing the "bratticing" about 100 yards further up the pit, and the pumps reduced the water 2 inches. During the night the water had been lowered three inches, and the men have put up about 200 yards more "bratticing", making a total of about 400 yards. Between two and three hundred more yards have to be completed, ere they meet with double road, where they hope to find the bodies; but the discovering of them even there is quite a conjecture, and possibly a still further "bratticing" will be required to be done. The inquest opened on Friday last is adjourned till Tuesday next, but there are many circumstances which call for it being put off to a still further date, for should the bodies be found soon, it will be necessary for the Government Inspector to descend the pits to make a thorough explanation, so as to prepare a report, which is to be presented at the inquiry.

It is our intention, whenever the inquest is held, to furnish a complete report of the inquiry.

#### **Morning Post – October 21<sup>st</sup> 1863**

#### **THE COLLIERY ACCIDENT AT COLEORTON SWANNINGTON, OCTOBER 20<sup>th</sup>**

The adjourned inquest relative to the circumstances connected with the inundation of the Califat, California, and Pegg's Green pits at Coleorton, by which three lives were lost, was opened today (Tuesday) at the Railway Inn, at Swannington, before Mr. J. Gregory, coroner for Leicestershire and a jury. The only body recovered is that of Harry Clements, 16 years of age. Jeremiah Rose, 50, and Francis Doman, 59, are still missing, and there can be no doubt, are drowned. The water in the pits is diminishing, owing to the incessant and effective pumping going on. Mr. Hedley, the Government inspector; Mr. Lewis, manager of the colliery, and others interested were present at the inquiry. No examination of the breach has yet been made. According to the evidence of William Wilton, a stream or volume of water about the thickness of a man's leg was observed in the first instance, and work was ordered to be suspended, and sprags or wedges were used to support the coal and prevent a further breach. The water gained upon the men rapidly, and it was soon ascertained that the "Hollows" (the name given to some adjoining empty pits) had been broken into, as the colour changed from white to ochre and red, and the smell was bad. The break was pricked by some of the colliers about three o'clock in the morning, which widened and deluged the pits by half past nine, after attempts to plug up the hole. William Clements, father of one of the deceased was amongst the first to discover the leakage; but although he left the pit himself he was confused, and did not think of warning his boy not to go down, although he met him on the bank prepared to descend. He knew the men had hit the "Hollows", and told them to knock off work. This witness complained of there being no boring rods, and said to Pickering, the ground bailiff, "I told you about a fortnight that rods ought to have been before us". Pickering said, "I told Mr. Lewis (the manager) a week since this morning that there should be some rods", and he replied, "Pooh, pooh, there are 40 yards of good coal before us". In answer to a jurymen, witness said they had not been in the habit of having boring rods to use. They had no books, or guide, or map, to show or warn them of the danger. The stalls in that direction, he knew, were surrounded by the "Hollows". A witness, named William Clamp, said, 18 men and a lot of boys wished to come out of the pit when they saw the water breaking in; and on going to the shaft for

that purpose, they were met by Mr. Lewis, who said, "Go back to your work ; if there is any danger I will let you know". This was after one alarm. They went back to their work, but on a boy, called Gresley, calling out a second time to them that the water was coming, they rushed to the shaft, and got drawn up as soon as they could. The water was up to the shaft then and spread. Witness detailed how he went down to the rescue, and found at first the water within 6 inches of the roof ; had to return, but went again with a small party, including Mr. Lewis. Four horses were sent up. He saw a lot more up to their bellies in water in the stable. He swam from the cage to the stable, and made a search for the missing bodies. The water subsided a little afterwards ; exploring party was divided, and his comrades fished up the dead body of the boy and three other bodies where the life was not extinct, and had them drawn up to the top. The boy was named Clements ; the other three were restored. Two yet remained in the pit. One of the witnesses said that if Robert Laken, a late manager, had been there, they would have had rods used for boring 30 yards before they came upon this breakage.

The inquiry was proceeding when our parcel left. An adjournment being inevitable, as an examination of the breach must be made, and the two other bodies recovered. The number of witnesses to be examined is considerable. Mr. Lewis remained in the room at a suggestion made by the Coroner, in answer to an inquiry made by the juror. It is but right to say that Mr. Lewis afforded every information in his power.

#### **Loughborough Monitor – February 16<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> instant, at the home of Mr. Thomas Cox, The New Inn, to be called the Loyal 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 Mail – September 28<sup>th</sup> 1867**

##### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

Henry Fern, gamekeeper, in the employ of Sir G. H. Beaumont, charged John Walker and Drayton Walker, of Pegg's Green, with committing damage in a certain plantation at Coleorton on the 6<sup>th</sup> inst. Defendants did not appear. – Fined £1 10s. 3d. each, or in default 14 days imprisonment.

#### **Leicester Mail – February 29<sup>th</sup> 1868**

##### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

**ROBBING AN EMPLOYER** – Mr. William Kidger, butcher, of Pegg's Green, charged William Knight, his servant, with stealing 30s., his property, on the 12<sup>th</sup> 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.**

#### **Burton Chronicle – June 18<sup>th</sup> 1868**

##### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

Michael Richards, of Pegg's Green, was charged with stealing a fowl, the property of James Waring. The prosecutor and prisoner had been "pals" in the cockfighting profession for many years, during which time they had frequently exchanged fowls, dogs, and pigeons. The prisoner on this occasion took the fowl because prosecutor refused to give up a pigeon. Case dismissed. A charge against the prisoner for stealing a greyhound, vale £10, Waring's property, was also dismissed.

#### **Leicester Journal – April 23<sup>rd</sup> 1869**

##### **Ashby County Court**

Sarah Glover and Elizabeth Smallwood, both of Pegg's Green, were charged with stealing coal on the 11<sup>th</sup> 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 – December 3<sup>rd</sup> 1869**

##### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

James Statham of Pegg's Green, and John Percival, of Whitwick, were charged by Mr. Lewis, agent to W. Worswick, Esq., with absenting themselves from their work without just cause or lawful excuse, and not having given the required notice. – Mr. Dewes appeared for the prosecution, and said Mr. Worswick did not ask for damages, but all he wanted was for the men to know that they could not leave when they thought proper and when it suited their convenience. – They were ordered to return to their work.

#### **Burton Chronicle – November 13<sup>th</sup> 1873**

##### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

Harriet Bird, of Pegg's Green, single woman, was **sentenced to twenty-one days hard labour** for having. On the 6<sup>th</sup> November, at Pegg's Green, stolen a quantity of coal, value 3d., the property of G. R. Stevenson, Esq., and others.

#### **Leicester Journal – June 12<sup>th</sup> 1874**

**Ashby Petty Sessions.** – John Knight of Pegg's Green, collier, pleaded guilty to assaulting P.C. Clarke while in the execution of his duty, on the 28<sup>th</sup> ult., at Breedon. – Superintendent Ward stated that defendant had been in custody since that date, and had conducted himself very well, and had promised to leave the neighbourhood. A previous conviction for a similar offence four years ago was proved against him. – Sentence to fourteen days' hard labour.

#### **Leicester Journal – September 4<sup>th</sup> 1874**

##### **THRINGSTONE**

The anniversary of the Loyal Worswick Lodge, No. 5293, Manchester United Order of Odd Fellows, was held at host Thomas Cox's, the New Inn, Pegg's Green, Thringstone, on Monday last, August 31<sup>st</sup>. 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. William Room. The next toast was "The Prince and Princess of Wales". Song, "The Prairie Flower", by Bro. 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 concluding 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 and Hostess". Song – "The Wonderful Ducks", W. H. Johnson, Esq. The Host responded on behalf of himself and wife. With other songs, toasts, and sentiment, brought a pleasant day's enjoyment to a close.

#### **Leicester Chronicle – September 4<sup>th</sup> 1875**

##### **PEGG'S GREEN**

The Loyal Worswick Lodge, No. 5293, M.U., recently held their anniversary at Host Cox's, the New Inn, Pegg's Green. Dr. Partrick, assistant to Dr. Johnson, Whitwick, was called to the chair, and Brother S. William Hallam, Charnwood Forest Lodge, Whitwick, to the vice-chair. After dinner, song and sentiment brought a pleasant day's enjoyment to a close, all being well satisfied with the holiday.

#### **Leicester Daily Mercury – September 27<sup>th</sup> 1875**

##### **POLICE NEWS**

On Saturday week, some fellows from Coleorton and Pegg's Green began fighting at Whitwick. P.C. Moore strove to separate the combatants, when the whole gang assaulted him in a brutal manner. P.C. Moore received a severe cut on his head from a large stone ; but courageously arrested one of his assailants, and conveyed him to Ashby, where the magistrates committed him for 21 days hard labour, without the option of a fine.

#### **Leicester Guardian – January 19<sup>th</sup> 1876**

##### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

Robert Brown, of Pegg's Green, collier, also pleaded guilty to stealing on the 8<sup>th</sup> inst, at Swannington, a coat and handkerchief, the property of Joseph Thurman. – Mr. Thurman, who is a licensed victualler at Swannington, said that on the evening in question, having occasion to go into the cellar, he pulled his coat off and put it in a room where prisoner and others were sitting, and on returning some time after to put his coat on he found it gone, and also the prisoner. Information was given to the police, who went in search of prisoner, who was found wearing the coat. – **Sentenced to six weeks hard labour.**

#### **Leicester Guardian – February 9<sup>th</sup> 1876**

##### **BY MR. ORCHARD.**

##### **Pegg's Green, Thringstone, Leicestershire Valuable Freehold Public house, Messuage and Land.**

##### **TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,**

On the premises, the "Red Lion Inn", Pegg's Green, aforesaid on Friday, the 18<sup>th</sup> day of February, 1876, at Five or Six o' clock in the Evening precisely, in the following or such other Lots as may at the time of sale be agreed upon, and subject to such conditions of Sale as will be then and there produced

##### **Lot 1**

A VALUABLE OLD-LICENSED PUBLIC-HOUSE, known as the "Red Lion Inn", with large gardens adjoining thereto, situate at Pegg's Green, in the Township of Thringstone aforesaid, and fronting the Hinckley and Melbourne Turnpike Road, together with the Grocer's and Butcher's shop and Bakehouse used therewith, Stable, Fasting House, and other outbuildings thereto belonging, and now in the occupation of Miss Holt.

##### **Lot 2**

All those Three MESSUAGES or TENEMENTS, situate at Pegg's Green, aforesaid, and adjoining Lot 1, together with two stables, Cart Shed, Yard, Gardens and Outbuildings thereunto belonging, now in the respective occupations of Miss Holt, James Ward, John Webster, and Thomas Holt.

### **Lot 3**

All those Six COTTAGES, situate at Pegg's Green aforesaid, together with the Gardens and Outbuildings occupied therewith, and now in the respective occupations of John Birkumshaw, Ann Marshall, Thomas Bailey, and Joseph Horobin.

### **Lot 4**

All that valuable piece of PASTURE LAND (well adapted for Building purposes), situate at Pegg's green aforesaid, adjoining to Lot 3, and fronting the said Hinckley and Melbourne Turnpike Road, containing 0a. 2r. 14p. or thereabouts, and now in the occupation of Mr. Thomas Holt.

### **Lot 5**

All those Two valuable Pieces of Old Turf LAND, situate at Pegg's Green aforesaid, and adjoining Lot 2, containing 1a. 2r. 8p. or thereabouts, and now in the occupation of Mr. Thomas Holt.

### **Lot 6**

All these three substantially built MESSUAGES or Tenaments, with the Outbuildings, large gardens, and appurtenances thereto belonging, situate at Pegg's Green aforesaid, and now in the respective occupation of John Oliver, William Pickering, and George Walker.

A Brickyard and Potworks are in full work in close proximity to the Public House, and the property being situate in the centre of an important mining district, presents an opportunity for an investment rarely to be met with.

To view the Property apply to the respective tenants, and any further information may be obtained upon application to Miss Holt, Pegg's Green (the owner); the Auctioneer, Ashby de la Zouch; or to

Messrs. FISHER and CHEATLE,  
Solicitors, Ashby de la Zouch

### **Burton Chronicle – June 21<sup>st</sup> 1877**

#### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

Joseph Lagor, collier, of Pegg's Green, was charged with having, on the 14<sup>th</sup> May, at Griffydham, done damage to a basket carriage, the property of William Haywood, to the amount of £3. Mr. Dewes appeared for the complainant and Mr. Briggs for the defendant. The damage to the carriage was done by some person throwing a quantity of gas-tar over it during the night of the 14<sup>th</sup> instant, and suspicion at once fell upon the defendant. Traces of gas tar were found towards the defendant's house, and in a ditch was found a jar which contained tar, and which Mr. Knight, the parish constable, swore was the property of the defendant's father. Gas-tar was also found upon the defendant's trousers, which he admitted having worn on the night in question. When the Police-constable Handcock went to the defendants to make inquiries, the defendant said he wished Haywood and his trap were in flames. There being a doubt, the case was dismissed.

### **Burton Chronicle – November 6<sup>th</sup> 1879**

**Ashby Petty Sessions.** – William Knight, butcher of Griffydham, was charged with having, on the 17<sup>th</sup> October at Coalville, exposed for sale certain beef which was unfit for food. The beef in question was seized by Mr. Samuel Heward and shown to Mr. Donovan, who pronounced it totally unfit for food. Mr. Heward then took the beef before a magistrate, who ordered it to be destroyed today. Mr. Heward, called as a witness on his behalf John Bales, of Pegg's Green, who said that almost three weeks ago the 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 – May 22<sup>nd</sup> 1880**

**ODDFELLOW'S DINNER.** – On Monday the members of the Loyal Worswick Oddfellows Lodge assembled at their club house, Mr. Cox's, the "New Inn", and proceeded thence to St. George's Church, headed by the beautiful silk banner of the district order. The fine band of the Snibston Colliery, under the leadership of Mr. George Locker, was in attendance, and played to the church in a style that was highly gratifying to the lovers of good music. The vicar, the Rev. F. T. Pearson, preached a most practical sermon from the words "Go to the ant thou sluggard". At the conclusion of design service, the lodge, to the stirring strains of the Snibston band, marched to the parsonage of St. George. Here the band played an excellent selection, which the ladies of the

parsonage seemed fully to enjoy. After enlivening Thringstone and Griffydam, the lodge returned to the "New Inn", where Mrs. Cox had a splendid dinner awaiting them and for which the forest air had amply prepared them. Amongst those present were the vicar, the Rev. F. T. Pearson, D. Hatchett (Ravenstone), Mr. Pickering (Heather), J. Johnson esq, &c. After the withdrawal of the cloth, the usual toasts were given, the band supplying appropriate music. During the evening there was some capital singing ; the health of Drs. Donovan and Hatchett, being most heartily drunk with musical honours, as well as the toast of the host and hostess. Mr. George Locker and his band deserve a deed of commendation for their performance throughout the day.

#### **Ashby de la Zouch Gazette – December 18<sup>th</sup> 1880**

##### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

John Bale of Pegg's Green, shopkeeper, was charged with having, on the 1<sup>st</sup> December, in his possession for use for trade fourteen weights and one scale which were unjust. – Inspector Holloway said the 14lb. iron weight was 14 drachms light, and the other weights ranged from 8½ drachms to half a drachm light. The scale, which appeared a flour scale, was 8 ¼ ounces light. – Fined £2 and costs, or one months imprisonment.

#### **Leicester Chronicle – December 18<sup>th</sup> 1880**

##### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

##### **UNJUST WEIGHTS : A BAD CASE**

John Bale, shop keeper, Pegg's Green, was charged with using on the 1<sup>st</sup> inst., 14 weights and one pair of scales, the same being incorrect. – Defendant did not appear. Mrs. Bale 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. Bale, 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. Bale 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 – May 21<sup>st</sup> 1881**

##### **Griffydam and Pegg's Green**

##### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

**DRUNK AND DISORDERLY.** – Thomas Peters, spar manufacturer, Pegg's Green, was charged with being drunk and riotous, at Griffydam on the 3<sup>rd</sup> inst. – Mr. Lawrence, Leicester defended. – P.S. Hardy and P.C. Hancock gave evidence. – Fined 10s. 6d. and 20s. costs.

#### **Ashby de la Zouch Gazette – June 9<sup>th</sup> 1883**

##### **THRINGSTONE**

**A CHILD DROWNED.** – On Tuesday, Mr. Henry Deane, Coroner, held an inquest at the Red Lion Inn, Pegg's Green, in the parish of Thringstone, on the body of Charlotte Smith, aged two years, daughter of William Smith, shoe riveter, who was accidentally drowned on the previous day. – Elizabeth Davies said she was asked by Mrs. Horrobin to go and get a child out of the water, and she went to a water hole there was by the side of the turn-pike road, nearly opposite the Red Lion Inn. She there found the deceased child in the pit and lifted her out. She seemed quite dead, and Mrs. Horrobin took her home. – Rossana Horrobin, wife of William Horrobin, living at Pegg's Green, said on Monday the deceased's mother went to Ashby, and during her absence left the child at witness's house. Witness saw the child safe about three o'clock in the afternoon, but about an hour after her little boy came in and said Lottie had tumbled into the water. Witness went to the field but could not see her, and then fetched Mrs. Davies, who got the child out of the water. Witness fastened the garden gate so that the children could not get out, but they crept under it. – Wm. Donovan, surgeon, Whitwick, who saw the body of deceased, was of the opinion that death had resulted from suffocation by drowning. – Elizabeth Smith, mother of the deceased,

said on Monday she left her two children with her sister (Mrs. Horrobin) until she went to Ashby to buy some boots for the children. – The jury returned a verdict of accidental death.

#### **Ashby de la Zouch Gazette – December 20<sup>th</sup> 1884**

##### **LOCAL INTELLIGENCE**

**CHARGE OF HORSE STEALING.** – A man named John Knight, of Pegg's Green, was arrested at Groby on Saturday, by Detective-Inspector Wainwright of Leicester, on the charge of stealing a horse, the property of Mr. William Burditt, of Market Harborough. The horse was stolen on Thursday, and during the night prisoner arrived with the animal at the house of Mr. Dolman, of Groby. Prisoner was taken before a Magistrate at Leicester on Monday, and remanded to Market Harborough.

#### **Ashby de la Zouch Gazette – March 21<sup>st</sup> 1885**

##### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

Edward Morley, of Pegg's Green, collier, was charged with having on the 7<sup>th</sup> March, at Thringstone, stolen 7½lbs. in weight of barley, the property of Mr. Price Kidger, - P.C. Darby said on the afternoon in question he saw the defendant coming from the direction of Mr. Kidger's farmhouse, in Thringstone, which was in the charge of the defendant's daughter and her husband. Mr. Kidger himself resided at Griffydam. He noticed that the pockets of the defendant were bulky, and on searching him found 7½ lbs. in weight of barley, and he took him back to the farm house. Defendant said "My daughter knows nothing about it ; I took it whilst she was up the other stairs". – Mr. Kidger said on account of the old age of defendant he did not wish to press the charge. – Fined £8, including costs, or 21 days hard labour.

#### **Ashby de la Zouch Gazette – March 6<sup>th</sup> 1886**

##### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

Thomas Hoult, of Pegg's Green, butcher, and Martha Hartshorn, of Seepshed, coal haggler, were charged by John Lucas, an Inspector of the R.S.P.C.A., with working their horses whilst in an unfit state. – P.C. Darby proved examining Mrs. Hartshorn's horse and finding an old wound raw and bleeding on the off shoulder upon which the collar was pressing. – The defendant was fined 20s., including costs. – In the case against Hoult the evidence was that his mare was lame on the near fore foot, the most prominent cause of lameness being from ring-bone. A veterinary surgeon was called on both sides, which resulted in the Bench saying that there was doubt, and the case was dismissed.

#### **Leicester Chronicle – October 1<sup>st</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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 ten 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 Journal – May 10<sup>th</sup> 1889**

##### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

**“LOYALTY AND LAW”.** – Charles Edward Preston, a farmer and blacksmith, of Coleorton, was charged with disorderliness and refusing to quit the New Inn, the licensed premises of Eliza Jackson, at Pegg's Green, near Swannington on the 6<sup>th</sup> of April. The case was partly heard at the Court on Saturday, the 20<sup>th</sup> of April, and was adjourned at the request of both parties, to enable them to procure further evidence. – Mrs. Jackson was now represented by Mr. Henry Deane, of Loughborough, and the defendant (Preston) was represented by Mr. Musson, of Ashby. – Very much interest appeared to be centred in the case, and many persons were in Court. – The Magistrates Clerk suggested that the case be begun over again. – Mr. Deane assented, and said

it appeared that a conversation took place in the house upon "Royalty and the Leicester races", and possibly the parties got over-heated. His client, Mrs. Jackson, properly exercised her rights in asking the defendant to leave. He was guilty of using the grossest language in the house. Over and over again she had asked him to leave, and he refused. He (Mr. Deane) would be in a position to show if necessary that the defendant had endeavoured to procure the services of men to go back to the house and continue the disturbance there, the house, he contended, being a well conducted one. The defendant, when a number of men were in the house, made objectionable remarks, and a man of superior position as he was should not have acted so grossly, as he had done.. – Mr. Deane then called Mrs. Jackson, who stated that her husband, Henry Jackson, was the landlord of the house. She had been to Derby on the afternoon of Saturday, the 6<sup>th</sup> of April, and got back about three o'clock. Upon going into the tap-room, she saw Preston, Cutter or "Curtis" Land, Wright, and Shakespeare, and after that, a man named Wilton; then Burton, the butcher, went in and Preston spoke to him. Preston said to Burton "You ought to be at Leicester races today". Burton replied "What have I to do with Leicester races", and Preston then remarked, "Well, you're not a Royalist". Previous to that conversation, she heard no bad language, but afterwards "filthy" language was used by Preston, and she suggested that the discussion should cease

and deprecated the political conversation upon which matters turned. "Preston said "Who's that woman, turn her out" ; witness resisted the demand and insisted on her right to attend to her business. Preston then accused her of immorality, and added a further assertion, when she asked him to leave and he refused. She would not serve him with drink and cautioned the men in the house not to give him any. She said to one of the men that she would not serve drink to him to give to Preston. Preston did not leave the house, and she went into the kitchen, and the defendant, as he was going out of the house to the yard, made a "most beastly remark", whereupon she picked up the poker and followed him. She did not hit him. He came in the house again, and she again asked him to leave, and he answered "Not for you or anybody else", He challenged a man named Wilton to fight, and when Wilton was willing, Preston was unwilling, and began to cry. It was in the old California pit he was wanting to fight. – Cross examined by Mr. Musson : Preston wasn't drunk and wasn't sober. She supplied him with a pint and he seemed alright. If a man was not sober she would not supply him. She had never annoyed Preston by permitting her goats to wander in his field. The conversation turned about Leicester races and the Prince of Wales. – Was anything said about the Queen ? Yes, what was said was said by Preston, and he wrote down what he himself said. She saw Preston write in his note book, but he was in the habit of writing matters in it. Preston and she were alone in the kitchen when he made the objectionable remark. That was the time when she followed him with the poker, but would swear she did not hit him. – The man Burton was called at the last hearing, but did not give evidence. – Re-examined by Mr. Deane ; She did not supply the defendant with more than a pint of beer, and was certain he was not drunk. – James Burton, butcher, at Peggs Green, stated that he was half an hour too late at the last hearing owing to business. He was at the New Inn on the 6<sup>th</sup> of April and saw Preston. After being there a little while, he and Preston got to "High words". He abused witness, his trade, and his meat, and made further uncomplimentary remarks about him. While that was going on the landlady entered the room and refused Preston any drink, and asked him to leave and never enter the house again unless he could behave himself. For about a quarter-of-an-hour witness stayed, and Preston was there when he (witness) left. When witness did leave, Preston shouted after him, and then went back to the house. He heard him use foul language, not to the landlady but to the witness. – Cross-examined by Mr. Musson : He saw Preston with his note book, and he "got on" about the Prince of Wales and Leicester Races. What Preston had written in his note book was a concoction, and may have been written the next day. – Wm. Wardle gave corroborative evidence. He said the landlady ordered Preston out, because he was disorderly. He used a "great deal of nasty talk" to the landlady, and did so in the house before she entered. He refused to go out, and made imputations about her morality. She shoved him after ordering him out. – Wm. Wilton, a collier of Pegg's Green, also corroborated. – Mr. Deane proposed to put other men – Curtis, Land, and Brooks (who were present at the house on the date in question) – in the witness box, and permit Mr. Musson to cross-examine them. – Mr. Musson thought there was no necessity, and the Court adjourned for luncheon. After re-assembling of the Court Mr. Musson, without calling witnesses for the defence, pleaded very

earnestly for the defendant, and the Bench retired to consider the case. After a few minutes consideration the Chairman, addressing the defendant, said that the Magistrates had decided to convict, and to fine him two guineas and costs £1 19s., or 14 days in default of distress. – The defendant paid the money.

**Leicester Journal – June 28<sup>th</sup> 1889**

**SAD DEATH OF A YOUNG COLLIER –  
GALLANT ATTEMPT TO RESCUE**

A young collier named Fred Curtis, employed by the Coleorton Colliery Company, and who resided at Pegg's Green, near Swannington Church, was drowned on Saturday while bathing in the reservoir adjoining the colliery. – An inquest was held at the New Inn (Jackson's), Coleorton on the body of the deceased, before Mr. Coroner H. Deane, on Tuesday. – John Curtis, the father of the deceased, said he was a collier, and resided at Pegg's Green. His son (deceased) was nineteen years of age, and worked at the Coleorton Colliery. He last saw him alive on the Friday evening, when he went to work. Witness was present when his son's body was recovered from the water. – Sykes Pickering, a youth, stated that he was a collier, and on Saturday he met the deceased at the Coleorton Colliery, about twelve o'clock. The deceased agreed with witness to have a bathe in the reservoir adjoining the pit. A number of youths were bathing in a part of the pond. He declined to go in where the boys were, and went round the reservoir to a part in front of the office, and as soon as he got in he went up to his neck in the water. And witness advised him to come out. He did not heed witness's advice, and got hold of a bit of wood floating in the water, and upon which he was acting and playing about the side. Witness continued telling him to leave the water, but he said he should not, and after that he saw the deceased on his back dashing about and struggling. Witness did not go in the water, because that part was so deep and he could not swim, and told the deceased so. When he saw the deceased struggling he slipped off his trousers and jumped in to try to get hold of him, but could not. (here the witness burst into tears). He narrowly escaped being drowned himself in the attempt to save his comrade, and would have been drowned but for assistance rendered him by Mr. John Webster, of Swannington Hall. He had bathed a few years ago with the deceased, but never knew him to swim. – By a juror ; He had never been cautioned against bathing in the reservoir. – P.C. Fox, of Coleorton, stated that he heard of the occurrence, and procured a drag. When he arrived at the reservoir, he found a man named Harry Brown trying to recover the body, and shortly after that Arthur Watson came out of the pit, and was an hour and a quarter in the water, with the other man, diving, endeavouring to find the body. A raft was made, and by that means Watson brought the body to the surface, with the aid of the drag. The body had been in the water about an hour and three quarters. The reservoir was often used by bathers, and he had understood Mr. J. Turner (who represented the Colliery Company at the inquest) that bathers generally went there on a Saturday when he had left the office. The spot was ten feet deep where deceased was drowned, and he had no doubt but that they went to that spot because Sir George Beaumont had prevented persons from bathing in his fish pond. – This concluded the evidence, and the Coroner said it frequently happened that a feeble swimmer lost presence of mind, and in this case it was so, when the deceased lost hold of the log, upon which he was floating, and drowning followed. The witness Pickering seemed to have behaved very well indeed. He knew that he could not swim himself, and knew too that the part was deep – two reasons why he did not join in the bathe ; but for all that, he attempted to save his companion. If he had caught hold of deceased, it was most probable that both would have been drowned, unless assistance was at hand. He had acted courageously. – The jury at once returned a verdict of "Accidental death". – It was stated that the last case of drowning in the reservoir occurred 52 years ago. On that occasion a young man named Merewether, son of the late Rector of Coleorton (prior to the Rev. WB. Beaumont), was drowned there.

**Leicester Daily Post – November 2<sup>nd</sup> 1891**

**WILFUL DAMAGE TO PROPERTY**

**Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

Isaiah Hodges, a collier, of Pegg's Green, was summoned by Ann Brooks for doing wilful damage to the amount of 10s. to a window in Pegg's Green, on the 24<sup>th</sup> Oct. – Mrs. Brookes, the

prosecutrix, stated that she was going to fetch some soft water and saw defendant and his father outside her house. Defendant got under her wall and she waited to see what he was going to do, when he threw a brick at the wall, and she spoke to him. The first brick hit the door and just missed her. Subsequently he threw a second brick, which dropped short of the door. Mr. Ferns was outside and caught defendant. Mr. Lea was in the house when her windows were broken. She went in the house and shut the door before the windows were smashed. With a brick the defendant smashed six panes and the woodwork, besides damaging the door, and which damage was valued at 10s.. – The Magistrates Clerk : Is that all you know ? - : Prosecutrix, Yes ; and prevented a murder through my cautiousness. She saw defendant from her bedroom window while he was breaking the windows. It was not the first time he had done so – Mr. George Lea, a witness on Anne Brookes behalf, sent a medical certificate as follows ; “This is to certify that Mr. Geo. Lea is suffering from congestion of the liver, and is unable to attend court. – (Signed) J. J. Serres, surgeon, Osgathorpe, Oct 29, 1891”. – The chairman asked witness why he sent a doctor’s certificate. – Witness answered that he had been ill, but was better. – The Chairman said that the certificate referred to witness suffering from congestion of the liver. Witness : Yes, I am now, but I feel better ; and as it is a matter of duty I thought I’d come. He said that as soon as he got to Brooke’s house he heard some missiles hit the door. There was a “great and a sort of battery”. He saw a brick come through the window and could here more than one, two, or three bricks at the door. Only one came through the window. He saw the damage next morning, and four windows were broken. – (Mrs. Brookes : six) – Edwin Ferns, of Pegg’s Green, a carpenter, stated that he was in Mrs. Brooke’s house, where he lodged, and saw defendant throw the brick at the door and dart down towards his house. He ran to defendant, and said “You can’t say you are not fair copped this time”. Defendant replied “Wait a bit ; I’ll give you something if you’re going to summons me”. = The Magistrate’s Clerk ; Did he “give” you anything ? – Witness : He went to his home, and I turned to go to mine. – The witness : No ; nothing at all. – Defendant entered into a long statement as to his movements that night. He said just before reaching complainant’s house he saw some men running up the hill, and they broke the window. He didn’t. – Wm. Holland, a collier, stated that he was at Jackson’s public house until 10 o’clock. He saw several men run away, but he did not see defendant throw any brick at the house or hear any noise. – Defendant was fined 5s. 6d., 10s. damage, and costs, in all £1 18s., and paid the money.

#### **Leicester Daily Post – May 28<sup>th</sup> 1894**

### **COLLIERS CHARGED WITH ASSAULTING A CONSTABLE HEAVY FINES**

#### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

John Barton and Henry White Robinson, colliers, of Thringstone, and William White, jun., collier, of Whitwick, were charged with having assaulted P.C. Sanders whilst in the execution of his duty at Thringstone on the 24<sup>th</sup> inst. – P.C. Sanders was recently removed to Coleorton in the place of P.C. Fox, transferred to Coalville. – Mr. Jesson (Fisher, Jesson and Wilkins) solicitor, of Ashby, defended the men, who pleaded not guilty. – P.C. Sanders stated that at about six o’clock on the morning of the 24<sup>th</sup> inst, he was on duty at Pegg’s Green, and saw the defendants, with others, including Thos. Bradley and Wm. Gill, come from a foot-road near the Engine (New) Inn. When they saw him they ran away. Bradley turned round the public house, and others ran down the lane. He caught White, and charged him with coming from land, and said that he would search him, and in his efforts to do so, a struggle ensued, and he and the defendant fell, he (witness) falling on the top of the defendant. Burton and Robinson then turned back, and each picked up a stone, and said, “Lets kill the b.....”. They did not throw stones. Barton picked up a stick, and said, “if you don’t loose him (White) you b....., I’ll eat your eyes out” Witness addressing him, said, “If you hurt me Jack, I’ll charge you with assault”. He put his whistle up to blow when Robinson “dropped his knees” on his (the constable’s) back. He and White were then on the ground. Robinson said, “don’t let him blow that whistle”, but he blew it, when Robinson took the whistle from his mouth and pulled his head back. A fourth man called Shakespeare also arrived, when Burton and others said, Don’t let him have any of the stuff” (rabbits in a bag), and were trying to get the bundle away. He (the constable) held on to the bundle of Rabbits, and because

he would not release his hold, Robinson twisted his (the constable's) finger back, and though he bathed it it was still swollen. Burton laid hold of his legs and dragged him several yards, but he still held the bundle of rabbits and his prisoner White, who got hold of his finger with his teeth, at which time he was obliged to let them go. The defendants then made off with the bundle, and White with them, to Shakespeare's house, where he followed them and spoke to them. Later he saw Sergeant Darby and P.C. Potter. He and Derby went one way and Potter the other towards Shakespeare's house, and when near Gough's he saw the three defendants approaching them. Shakespeare took the bundle from him. – Mr. Jesson (in cross-examination) : Just show the magistrates where the finger (bitten) is swollen. – The constable admitted that the injury was not great, as it had healed. – Mr. Jesson : I can't see any mark\*\*, but the deputy-clerk here has a slight scratch on his hand, and perhaps you would like to borrow that ! (Laughter). – In cross-examination, the constable said that he had no evidence beyond his own testimony.. He arrested White, All the defendants touched him. They did not throw stones or hit him with a stick. They dragged him and White and the bundle of rabbits. If defendants said otherwise, it was an untruth. After the defendants allowed him to get up they said, "We wish it had been dark, you - -, or else we would have given it to you". Shakespeare witnessed the assault. – Sergeant Darby, the next witness, of Whitwick, said that he was in Thringstone and heard a policeman's whistle. He went in the direction he heard the sound coming from and saw P.C. Sanders, who made a complaint. He directed P.C. Potter to go one way while he and Sanders went another to intercept the defendants, who lived in Thringstone and Whitwick. He saw the men when in Talbot lane in the direction of Pegg's Green. He and Sanders concealed themselves until the defendant's got near a farmyard, and then rushed onto them. He took hold of Barton, and Robinson was seized by Sanders, who said, "These are two of the men", and they were apprehended. White was the other and Gill with him went away. The two defendants were then conveyed to Ashby. Barton and Robinson said to Sanders, "We haven't hurt you". In Sanders absence (to get a cart), the defendants said to him ; "He isn't hurt much". Witness said, "I'm afraid his finger is hurt", as it was swollen very much, whilst his left hand is covered in blood from a cut on the knuckle. The defendants told him that all they had done was to get away the bundle. Robinson said, "That is all we did to get the man (White) and the rabbits away, and we didn't hurt him as we know to. We'd had a bad night, and we didn't want the two or three rabbits we had got taken". – By Mr. Jesson : Sanders had a very bad finger, and he thought it was broken. It was bleeding. – Mr. Jesson : Wallowing in blood, in fact ? – Sergt. Derby : No. – Mr. Jesson : Well, how much ? A sort of pig-killing arrangement ? – The witness answered that it was the constable's middle finger that was bitten. – Sergt. Darby, asked by Mr. Jesson why he did not take White till later into custody, said that it was because he knew White. – Mr. Jesson : but I thought if we took three we wouldn't get two. (Laughter). If I had been there they (the defendants) would not have turned, as I knew them all. He (Sanders) is a stranger in that district and that is the cause of the assault. – Sergt. Goldsmith, of Ashby, said that after the prisoners (Burton and Robinson) had been liberated, Burton said in the waiting-room, near the cells, "We did not assault the policeman. All we did was take away the man who got the rabbits". Robinson also said, "Yes, sergeant, that is all we did". – Mr. Jesson for the defence, said that Sergeant Goldsmith's evidence was exactly his (Mr. Jesson's) defence . The man tried to rescue a bundle. If there had been an assault at all it was of a technical nature. There was, he submitted, no violence, and he asked that the magistrates would consider it a technical assault, and impose but a small fine, which would meet the offence. – The magistrates retired, and were in consultation 10 minutes, when the Chairman said that the magistrates had not the slightest doubt that an assault had been committed. Policemen, he observed, must be supported in the discharge of their duties ; and the defendants, for the assault, might have had six months each. Burton would be fined £5, and 9s. costs ; Robinson £5, and 9s. costs ; and White, in view of a previous conviction that day would be fined £4, and 9s. costs with alternative of 21 days hard labour. – The men were removed to the cells ; but within half an hour "15 7s., the aggregate fine, was handed to the deputy-clerk, and the men liberated.

**Leicester Chronicle – Saturday October 14<sup>th</sup> 1899**

#### **COALVILLE**

**FOOTBALL.** – On Saturday, at Coalville – Coalville United (5 goals) beat Pegg's Green (one)

### **Burton Chronicle – March 12<sup>th</sup> 1903**

**DEATHS** – On the 1<sup>st</sup> inst., at Union Workhouse, Ashby, Joseph Shepherd, of Pegg's Green, aged 78.

### **Burton Chronicle – October 29<sup>th</sup> 1903**

Swadlincote Ivanhoe were the visitors to Pegg's Green on Saturday, and although a keenly contested and interesting game was witnessed, neither side could score, and the result was a draw.

### **Melton Mowbray Mercury and Oakham & Uppingham News – February 8<sup>th</sup> 1906**

#### **CASTLE DONINGTON v. PEGG'S GREEN VICTORIA**

**At Castle Donington.** – The match seems to have been regarded as a walk-over for the home team. The visitors, however, had the satisfaction of scoring first, the wind carrying a high dropping shot out of the custodian's reach.. After this Parker, the Brewins, and the Poxons made things lively, and the "Dons" scored rapidly. In spite of their continued reverses, the visitors defended with considerable vigour, and many a time a goal which appeared to be a "dead cert", was prevented. Seldom throughout the game was the "last line" on the other side called upon, and the score of 5 – 1 by no means represented the relative form of the sides. Much credit is due to the visitor's defence, whose play was of a plucky and determined order against what was obviously a much superior side.

### **Leicester Daily Post – February 9<sup>th</sup> 1906**

#### **LEICESTERSHIRE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION**

.....The result of benefit matches played recently were reported as follows  
:.....Pegg's Green Victoria, £3 10s., .....

### **Burton Chronicle – June 21<sup>st</sup> 1906**

#### **THRINGSTONE BLACKSMITH (PEGG'S GREEN)**

James Mee, a blacksmith of Pegg's Green, Thringstone, came up for his public examination at the hands of Mr. Stone (the official receiver). The liabilities amounted to £134 4s. 7d., of which £132 5s. 7d. was unsecured, and the assets available for dividend amounted to £17 1s. leaving a deficiency of £115 4s. 7d. A receiving order was made on the bankrupt's petition He stated that he had worked as a blacksmith at Swannington for for forty years, having worked for his father, who died about fifteen years ago, when the shop and contents passed to the bankrupt. For about fifteen years, up to a month ago, he and his wife carried on at Swannington a small grocer's business (commencing with a capital of about £100). He had done a little cattle rearing but owing to loss of cattle by death (having lost three cows within a month or so) his rent got into arrears, and he handed over the keys to his landlord (who was a creditor for £32), having a few articles of small value on the premises. When he gave up these premises he had no stock except a horse, which he sold for £25 about three weeks before he filed his petition. Of this £14 was paid to his solicitors, and the remainder he spent in paying rates, for medicine, and hiring expenses. He agreed with the friend to whom the horse was sold to let him (the friend) have the smith-house and contents, except sundry pieces of iron, as he had advanced bankrupt various sums of money. His wife claimed a portion of the furniture (of little value) as having been given to her by her mother. Three years ago he had £80 in stock and £150 in the bank, and became aware of his insolvency between two and three years ago. – The examination was closed.

### **Leicester Daily Post – November 17<sup>th</sup> 1906**

#### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

**Discharging Fireworks.** –Bernard Lord, pit-boy, of Pegg's Green was summoned for discharging fireworks on the highway at Thringstone, on the 6<sup>th</sup> inst. - P.C. Atkinson gave evidence. – Defendant, who did not appear, was fined 2s. 6d. and 2s. 6d. costs, or three days.

### **Melton Mowbray Mercury and Oakham & Uppingham News – October 24<sup>th</sup> 1907**

#### **COALVILLE AND DISTRICT FOOTBALL LEAGUE**

A meeting of the management committee of the above League was held at Coalville on Tuesday evening, Mr. J. W. Palmer presiding. Moira United reported Coalville Town and Pegg's Green for

non-fulfilment of fixture, and, it being a first offence, both clubs were fined 5s. ; Pegg's Green also to pay 5s. 2d. expenses. The committee decided to deal more severely in regard to similar future cases.....

#### **Leicester Daily Post – June 13<sup>th</sup> 1908**

##### **COALVILLE PETTY SESSIONS**

James Richards, baker, of Pegg's Green, was summoned for selling bread otherwise than by weight, at Thringstone, on the 1<sup>st</sup> inst. – P.C. Bissell gave evidence. – Defendant's servant, David Yeomans, delivered two loaves at the house of Michael O'Grady and he asked Yeomans to produce the scales, which he did, but Yeomans refused to go back to see him weigh the loaves. The man said, "I know I am done". He (the inspector) weighed the bread, and found two loaves respectively 1oz and 1½oz short. Yeomans was outside with the cart. Witness denied that one of the loaves was over-weight. – Defendant went into the box, and declared that he weighed many of the loaves, and found them either the proper weight or over-weight. – Fined 21s. and costs, in all £1 13s., or 14 days.

#### **Melton Mowbray Mercury and Oakham & Uppingham News – July 1<sup>st</sup> 1909**

##### **COALVILLE AND DISTRICT LEAGUE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The annual general meeting of this league was held on Monday night, Mr. J. Tivey occupying the chair.

Ashby St. Helens asked for the return of their deposit as entrants to the First Division, and the Coalville Athletic representative reported that it had been decided not to continue the club. Worthington asked for admission to the Second Division, and applications were received from Pegg's Green, Bagworth Town, Ellistown, Bardon Hill and others.

It was agreed that eleven clubs form the First Division, and twelve clubs the Second Division. To the eight clubs remaining in the First Division it was decided to elect Coalville P.S.A., Ellistown St. Christopher's, and Ibstock Albion. Bardon Hill, Coalville P.S.A., and Ellistown Reserves were admitted to the Second Division, and voting by ballot for admission to the Division also resulted in the election of Markfield, Pegg's Green, and Heather.

Canon Broughton, vicar of Hugglescote, was reelected president of the League, and the vice-presidents were also re-elected. – Mr. W. Fellows and Mr. Lashmore were elected additional vice-chairman of the League. Mr. J. W. Farmer tendered his resignation as a member of the committee, and it was accepted with regret, Mr. Geo. Swain being elected in his stead. The meeting granted an honorarium of £3 to the hon. Secretary.

#### **Melton Mowbray Mercury and Oakham & Uppingham News – August 27<sup>th</sup> 1908**

##### **THE LAW AS TO DOGS**

##### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

George Fewkes, farmer, of Pegg's Green, pleaded guilty to allowing a dog on the highway without a collar at Pegg's Green on the 24<sup>th</sup> July. – P.C. Jesson said the dog was playing with defendant's children. He was summoned under the new regulations. – The Clerk said the regulations came into force last April, and this was the first case. – Defendant said the dog lost its collar and someone must have stolen it. The dog jumped over the door. – Fined 1s. and 10s. 6d. costs, or seven days.

#### **Melton Mowbray Mercury and Oakham & Uppingham News – December 3<sup>rd</sup> 1908**

##### **ORDINARY MATCHES**

##### **LOUGHBOROUGH OLYMPIC v. PEGG'S GREEN VICTORIA**

Played at Bottle Acre, Loughborough. The home team won the toss, and, kicking with the wind, were first to attack. They were driven back, but returned, and kept up the pressure. Barrows shot inches wide, and Folkes hit the bar. Towards the interval the visitors began to attack, but half time arrived with

**NO SCORE**

On resuming, the visitors set off with a rush, but North sent the ball back, and Gilbert headed through from a pass by Folkes. The Olympic came again, and Gilbert sent in a good shot, which

the visitor's custodian save well. After this, Pegg's Green got away, and through a mistake by the home backs they equalized, and the game closed with the score :

**LOUGHBOROUGH OLYMPIC, one goal ;**

**PEGG'S GREEN VICTORIA, one goal.**

**Leicester Daily Post- September 20<sup>th</sup> 1909**

### **LESSONS FOR MARKFIELD**

For twenty minutes Markfield Swifts, who were early on weakened by their left-backs knee giving way, did well playing uphill, but in the twelve minutes following three rather lucky goals were scored against them by Pegg's Green. In the concluding stages of the first half the defence again predominated, Wain kicking grandly. The visitors had weight and experience on their side, and wore the home team down, putting on five more goals. Markfield Swifts should not be discouraged at frequent losses, but should profit by experience. At present, the guiding hand seems sorely missing.

**Leicester Daily Post – January 30<sup>th</sup> 1911**

### **COLEORTON COLLIERY MYSTERIOUS DEATH**

#### **RESUMED ENQUIRY**

#### **CORONER AND HOUSE SURGEON OF LEICESTER INFIRMARY**

#### **AN EXPLANATION**

Mr. H. J. Deane, on Saturday, resumed the inquiry into the circumstances of the death of David Gardiner, aged 51 years, of Pegg's Green, who met with fatal injuries in the haulage works at Coleorton Colliery in the early hours of December 29<sup>th</sup>. A young man named Hudson, of Ashby, was seriously injured at the same time, and his evidence being necessary, the inquiry, which opened on December 31<sup>st</sup>, was adjourned pending his recovery. Owing to the alleged discourtesy of the house surgeon of Leicester Infirmary, the Coroner was in a dilemma in fixing the date of the resumed inquiry, and said that if Hudson was still in the institution at the time he decided upon he should subpoena the house surgeon.

At the inquiry, on Saturday, at the New Engine Inn, Pegg's Green, Mr. W. h. Hepplewhite, his majesty's Inspector of Mines, was again present. Mr. T. E. Jesson (Ashby) represented the Colliery Company, Mr. A. H. Timms (Swadlincote) the Midland Mining Officials' Association, and Mr. J. J. Sharp (Coalville) appeared for the widow.

The Coroner said that before he proceeded with the evidence in the case he wished to make one or two remarks in reference to what he thought his duty to say at the opening of the inquest upon the action of a certain official of the Leicester Infirmary. The day after the opening of the inquiry the doctor in question saw him at Loughborough, and expressed in the fullest possible way his regret that there should have been any misunderstanding, and apologized for any difficulty or trouble that he (the Coroner) or the (the Jury) had experienced in connection with the mistake. He had also had correspondence with Mr. Johnson, the House Governor, who stated that he and the Board of Governors desired to express their very profound regret that there should have been any unpleasantness or misunderstanding at all, and assured him that steps had been taken to prevent any such misunderstanding in the future. He had the greatest pleasure in making known those assurances in view of the possibilities that his remarks might have given rise to some prejudice against the institutes. A deplorable mistake had been made. The secretary of the board had met him in a perfectly candid way about the matter, and had assured him that the mistake would not happen again.

#### **FRESH EVIDENCE**

The first witness called was Benjamin Marston, of Coleorton, a deputy employed at the Coleorton Colliery. He said the deceased and W. Hudson were employed on what was known as a Nether Machine on 29<sup>th</sup> December last. It was a rope road, a double road. At about 3.15 a.m. Gardiner and Hudson started a way with a set of empty tubs, and as they passed out of sight Gardiner and Hudson were walking alongside the set. They had been gone from five to ten minutes when the hanking engine stopped. He went to see what was the matter, and when he had gone two or three hundred yards, he found Gardiner with his legs under the first tub. The second empty tub was off the road and was catching the first full tub. The grips of both tubs were tight on the ropes,

and he considered that it was the two tubs jamming together that had stopped the rope. Gardiner was released and taken to the pit bottom.

By Mr. Hepplewhite ; The deceased's shoulder was under the grip, and his waistcoat was wrapped around the ropes. It appears that he was then dragged along and prevented from getting under the tub. Gardiner's lamp was found seven or eight yards nearer the shaft than where he lay, and his cap was nearer the shaft still.

Proceeding, witness said that those engaged in taking tubs along the line were strictly forbidden to ride on the tubs. He did not know whether there were any printed notices down the mine, but it was always forbidden.

The Coroner : It's a well known rule

Witness : Yes

Witness went on to say that there would not be any room for anyone to walk between two sets of tubs passing. They were not supposed to walk on the side, but either in front or behind. Deceased and Hudson were walking by the side of the set when they left the pit bottom, but he could not say whether they continued to do so or not.

By Mr. Sharp : He asked deceased what had happened, and he mumbled something, but witness could not tell what he said. His opinion was that the deceased tried to lift the front end of the tub onto the rails and got caught.

A Juror : If the tubs were travelling slowly, how was it that this tub left the rails ?

The Coroner ; That is what we are trying to find out. (To witness) : Can you suggest any reason why the full tub should leave the rails ?

Witness replied that he could not.

James Yates, of Coleorton, employed at the colliery as an insetter, also gave evidence as to Gardiner and Hudson starting away from the pit bottom. He said he could not see them for 30 yards, and they continued to walk by the side of the tub. They had been gone about ten minutes when the rope stopped. He then rapped to the engine man, who stopped his engine.

#### **HUDSON'S STORY**

Wm. Hudson, the next witness, said, in reply to the Coroner's inquiry, that he had quite recovered from the accident. On the night in question he was employed as incline boy. About 3.15 he and Gardiner started away from the pit bottom with a set of 11 empty tubs. They walked by the side of the set, which were moving at a steady walk. They both had bull's eye lamps. When they got onto the incline, he saw a full set approaching, and got out of the way by going behind the empty set. He afterwards went forward and walked by the side of the second tub. Gardiner being behind him. He never saw Gardiner again. He did not know where he was, and did not see his light. Where the accident happened was about 300 yards from the pit bottom. A second set of tubs passed them in the wet place, witness again getting behind the empties. He had just reassumed his position by the side of the second tub when he was struck in the back and knocked down. He shouted to deceased to come and fetch him out, and Gardiner replied, "I cannot, my lad ; I am fast myself".

Replying to Mr. hepplewhite : Gardiner told Yates the tubs had caught, and it had stopped the rope.

Yates, recalled, said that Gardiner told him the tubs caught the side of the road in the wet place. It was in reply to his inquiry as to what was the matter, as the rope had stopped in a previous run.

Mr. Hepplewhite said that the cap belonging to Gardiner was found 18ft. 6in. way from where the body was found, and the lamp was 16ft 6in. away.

The Coroner : Have you ever told anybody how it happened ?

Witness : No, sir.

You have always replied to inquiries, and you did not know ? – Yes, sir.

#### **THE MANAGER'S OPINION**

Mr. Frank Tatham, the manager of the colliery, produced plans showing the scene of the accident, and said he went there after the accident, before anything was moved, and what was shown in the plan was exactly what he saw. He saw Gardiner and Hudson in the engine-house, and the latter, when asked the cause of the accident, said he thought the tub ran back. From what he saw, however, he was satisfied that the tubs had not run away. The couplings of the full set was tight. Had they run back, the tubs would have bumped into each other.

The Coroner, in summing up, referred to the contradictory nature of the evidence. He said that it hardly seemed possible that the tubs had run back. He did not think Hudson had told them anything but what he believed to be true. There was nothing to indicate the position Gardiner occupied during any part of the run. It was for the jury to say, with the meager material before them, how the man came by his death. There was nothing in the evidence that day to guide them. There was nothing to lead them to suppose there was anything but accidental circumstances which the men had not foreseen. It was always unsatisfactory to leave it in that way, especially in colliery cases, where it was best to have it as clear as possible.

The jury found that Gardiner died from injuries accidentally received by being caught by a set of tubs whilst working at Coleorton Colliery, but that there was not sufficient evidence to indicate how he came to be so caught.

**Leicester Daily Post March 24<sup>th</sup> 1911**

#### **COALVILLE AND DISTRICT LEAGUE**

<b>DIVISION II.</b>									
	P.	W.	D.	L.	Goals				
					F.	A.	P.		
Ravenstone United .....	13	12	1	0	58	9	23		
Pegg's Green Victoria...	11	8	0	3	28	9	16		
Ibstock Wanderers .....	12	6	4	2	23	17	16		
Coalville Baptist . ....	15	6	2	7	29	32	14		
Ibstock Amateurs .....	16	6	1	9	27	34	13		
Bagworth Amateurs .....	13	5	2	6	33	27	12		
Ashby Hastings .....	13	4	3	6	20	33	11		
Bardon Hill . . ....	13	4	2	7	22	31	10		
Measham Town .....	14	3	4	7	25	35	10		
Whitwick Albion .....	13	2	1	10	13	52	5		

**Leicester Daily Post – June 24<sup>th</sup> 1911**

#### **PEGG'S GREEN**

A tea was provided in the Wesleyan School for 190 children, and each received a Coronation mug. Sports were held in Mr. Kidger's field, under the direction of Mr. J. Johnson and a committee. A meat tea was provided for thirty people over 60 years of age, and a nominal sum was charged for each other adult villager who partook of the meal.

**Leicester Daily Post – August 12<sup>th</sup> 1911**

#### **CYCLING EVENT**

The two open cycle events produced some very good racing. Jno Horsfield, the Pegg's Green miner, won the half mile in clever style, and was deprived of the double event through colliding with a corner flag and bending one of his cranks. It was all the more unfortunate because there was no real occasion to take the corner so sharp. Geo. Stevenson, of Griffydham, won the one mile handicap, but I am inclined to think that he would do better if he altered the position of sitting on the machine. He rides too huddled, consequently the propulsion seems a labour. The saddle should be put back several inches, and a better stroke would be obtained.

**Leicester Daily Post – September 23<sup>rd</sup> 1911**

#### **ASHBY COUNTY COURT HORSE DEALS**

Jas. Wm. Chadwick, of Pegg's Green, farmer, sued Fredk. Johnson, of Swannington, boot dealer, claiming £7 8s. for breach of warranty in respect of a horse purchased by him from defendant, which horse the defendant warranted to be suitable for mowing, and to do any kind of work. – Mr. Moore, of Coalville, was for plaintiff, and Mr. T. E. Jesson of Ashby for defendant. – Plaintiff's

case was that he brought the horse from defendant, telling him that he wanted it for mowing. Defendant warranted it for the purpose, and asked £7 10s. Plaintiff tried the horse in harness, and it seemed to go alright. Witness agreed to buy the horse, and gave four pigs (estimated to be worth £7) and £1 in cash. Next morning he tried the horse in a mowing machine, but he would not stir. Defendant came the same morning, and witness told him about the horse, which was tried again in the machine, with the same result, and witness told him he would have to have it back. Defendant said that one Hough (who witness believed, "stood in" with defendant) would give him £4 for the horse. Witness refused. The horse had a sprained fetlock, and was lame. Witness had to keep the horse, which was ultimately sold by auction for £4. – Cross-examined : Witness did not expect to be able to buy a good sound horse for £8. He knew the animal was lame, but wanted it for mowing, and thought it looked useful for the purpose. Defendant asked him to try the horse in the mowing machine there and then, but plaintiff was too busy. He was satisfied with the way the horse worked on the road. It also went round the field once in the mowing machine. – Mr. Jesson pointed out that witness had previously sworn that the horse had never stirred. – Mr. Sturgess, veterinary surgeon, Ashby, said that on 3<sup>rd</sup> July he examined the horse and found it lame. He did not think it could mow, because of the pain the operation would cause. – His Honour said he believed that plaintiff did say he wanted the horse for mowing, and he also believed that the defendant said, "If he won't mow I will give him to you". Under the circumstances that amounted to a warranty. In selling the horse by auction for £4, as against the purchase price of £7, there was a loss of £3, together with the auctioneer's commission, 3s. His Honour declined to allow anything for the keep of the horse up to the time of sale, because plaintiff knew it was lame when he brought it. – Judgement for plaintiff for £3 3s., payment to be made by £1 down and £1 per month.

**Leicester Daily Post – September 9<sup>th</sup> 1912**  
**COALVILLE AND DISTRICT LEAGUE**  
**Pegg's Green 12 v Bagworth Amateurs 1**

**Melton Mowbray Mercury & Oakham & Uppingham News – January 16<sup>th</sup> 1913**  
**SNOW DRIFTS IN THE COALVILLE DISTRICT**

The storm on Saturday swept over the Coalville District with extraordinary severity, and snow fell generally to the depth of twelve inches, although in some places the feet drifts were quite common. On the Forest and in the vicinity of Shaw Lane there were drifts five feet deep. The blizzard raged for most of the day, and snow fell over twelve hours. Vehicles were snowed up in all directions.

The Whitwick amateur football team endeavoured to make a journey to Ibstock, but failed to reach that place, and, being unable to reach home by brake, which was turned into a field off the hermitage road, walked home.

A youth whilst driving to Shaw lane collapsed in the conveyance, so intense was the cold. An aged woman belonging to Whitwick was also overcome, and was found unconscious, and carried to Mr. S. Perry's home in Silver Street, where Mr. Perry generously provided her with strong hot tea, and the woman recovered. She was found face downwards in the snow, and undoubtedly narrowly escaped death from exposure.

Much property was damaged by reason of the weight of snow breaking down rain water spouting. The major portion of the damage appears to have occurred at Coalville East, that portion of the district receiving the full force of the extraordinary gale.

Saturday's blizzard caused an interruption in the telephone service and communication could be made from Coalville only as far as Whitwick.

The fact that the 8.54 a.m. train to Leicester on Wednesday night was about two hours late, doubtless a result of the weather, causing several colliers the loss of "a shift" of work at Bagworth. Sixteen men of Coalville intending to journey to Bagworth station to descend the mine shortly after ten o'clock were unable to reach the colliery, and perforce lost "the shift". **Another man cycled from Pegg's Green, four miles distant, to travel from Coalville to Bagworth, and he, too, went home disappointed.**

## **Melton Mowbray Mercury & Oakham & Uppingham News – January 29<sup>th</sup> 1914**

### **A DEFENDANT AND POACHING**

James Richards, baker, of Pegg's Green, and John Squires, of Thringstone, on a judgement summons for £10 14s., and defendant was ordered to pay 1s 6d. a month.

Examined as to means, defendant was asked, "What do you get from poaching? And he replied, "I have a bit of a touch now and again".

His Honour : Two a week on an average?

Defendant ; No, sir.

## **Leicester Daily Post – February 24<sup>th</sup> 1914**

### **SWANNINGTON INSTITUTE AND THE COALVILLE LEAGUE**

The report that Swannington Institute F.C. had withdrawn from the Coalville and District Amateur League is incorrect. Mr Albert Jones, the hon. Secretary of the club, writes pointing out that a mistake has been made, and that they have no intention of withdrawing from the league. He adds that they did not play Pegg's Green on Saturday because the latter were unable to raise a team.

## **Leicester Daily Post – April 17<sup>th</sup> 1914**

### **THRINGSTONE**

**Parish Council.** – The first meeting of this council this year was held at Pegg's Green this Wednesday evening. Mr. Jas Gee was re-elected chairman for the ensuing year, and Mr. T. F. Siddons vice – chairman. The following were appointed overseers :- Messrs. Jabez Henson, E. P. Kidger, and A. Cawrah. Mr. J. Holland was re-elected "Pinner" and "Crier". It was decided to hold meetings in succession at Thringstone and at Pegg's Green as occasion required. The clerk (Mr. W. J. G. Waldram) was voted £3 10s. for extra services in preparing the new valuation for the parish. A letter from the Surveyor to Leicestershire County Council asked for sanction to use the "Griffy Well" for children attending the new school at Pegg's Green, and it was agreed that the clerk should communicate with the Worthington Parish Council to arrange a meeting of the joint council's to consider the question. The tenant of the "Rock Piece" complained of the fencing, and the matter was left in the hands of Mr. B. Baxter and Mr. J. N. Kidger.

## **Leicester Daily Post – March 8<sup>th</sup> 1915**

### **DEATH FROM SUPPOSED FROST-BITE**

#### **AGED LABOURER'S SUDDEN END AT NEW SWANNINGTON**

The Deputy Coroner (Mr. J. Webb), Loughborough, held an inquiry, on Saturday evening, at New Swannington, relative to the death of George Young, farm labourer, aged 74 years, of Anchor House, Pegg's Green, who died at the residence of his son, Mr. Frank Young, of New Swannington, on Thursday afternoon.

Mary Young, the widow, said that about five weeks ago deceased had a swelling of the right hand, Dr. Hamilton saw him, and said it was blood-poisoning. The doctor suggested amputation of a finger, and a recommendation was obtained for the Loughborough hospital. Witness and her husband were being driven to the hospital on Thursday, but on the way, at New Swannington, she saw a change in him, and, stopping the horse, called for assistance. Just then Dr. Jamie came up, and deceased was conveyed to his son's house. Deceased had been a strong healthy man. He had never had fainting fits, or anything of the kind.

William Young, living with his parents at Pegg's Green, said he remembered his father's hand becoming bad, but he did not say anything about the cause of it. His father did hedge-cutting, but said nothing about any injury arising from that occupation.

Frank Young, of New Swannington deposed to the arrival of his mother and father at his house on Thursday. Witness said that he had suggested to his father that if he stopped at home and nursed the bad hand, he would recover. When witness saw Dr. Hamilton about it, he told him there was no cut, but that deceased had had a frost-bite.

Dr. Jamie, Coalville, said when he saw the deceased in the cart at New Swannington he was in a sinking condition, moribund and pulseless. Witness subsequently examined deceased's hand, and found loss of tissue of the middle finger and swelling of the arm, the result of septic cellulitis. He formed the opinion that death was due to an embolism from the inflamed veins at the

back of the hand. The origin might have been frost-bite, the septic conditions being set up by an abrasion.

The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the medical evidence.

**Leicester Daily Post – December 11<sup>th</sup> 1918**

**PEGG'S GREEN**

**THE ROYAL INFIRMARY.** – This hamlet in the parish of Thringstone organizes annually a fruit, flower and vegetable show for the infirmary, and as the result of this year's effort £76 has been handed in by Mr. John Wilton, the hon. Secretary. Over £12 of this sum were the proceeds of a concert organized by Mr. Sketchley Johnson, and £24 resulted from the sale of a wheel-barrow offered by Mr. Wilkes.

**Leicester Daily Post – December 29<sup>th</sup> 1919**

**LEICESTERSHIRE SENIOR LEAGUE  
Coalville Town 4 v. Pegg's Green Victoria 10**

**Leicester Daily Post July 26<sup>th</sup> 1920**

**PEGG'S GREEN**

**CHARITY PARADE AND GALA.** – In support of the District Nursing Association a parade and gala was held on Saturday. The procession was not lengthy, but there were several effective tableaux, including a crèche comfortably ensconced on a large dray. The Coalville Coronation band led the procession and played dance music at the gala.

**Leicester Daily Post – January 17<sup>th</sup> 1920**

**COALVILLE**

**Pegg's Green Footballer's Death.** – The fourth round fixture of the Coalville Charity Cup between Pegg's Green Victoria and Coalville Swifts, arranged for this afternoon, has been postponed in consequence of the death of James Springthorpe, of the Pegg's Green team. He was a coal miner by trade, and his illness was of short duration. The players will attend the funeral this afternoon at Coleorton Cemetery.

**Leicester Daily Post – February 14<sup>th</sup> 1920**

**A PEGG'S GREEN PLAYER TRANSFERRED TO BIRMINGHAM**

Birmingham have this week secured the transfer of Joseph Bradford, centre forward of Pegg's green Victoria, a Leicestershire Senior league team. Bradford, who has attracted the attention of several League clubs is 19 years of age and 5ft. 9in. in height.

**Leicester Daily Post – March 5<sup>th</sup> 1920**

**THE RUMPUS AT PEGG'S GREEN**

**Club Fined and Spectators Warned by Leicestershire F.A.**

A meeting of the Council of the Leicestershire Football Association was held on Wednesday night, at the Y.M.C.A. Hut, Leicester. The dispute between Pegg's Green Victoria and Coalville Swifts, in the fourth round of the Coalville Charity Cup competition was discussed. The team met at Pegg's Green on the 21<sup>st</sup> February, and the spectators broke onto the ground ten minutes before time, and are alleged to have assaulted Bird, the Coalville Swifts' centre-forward. The game was abandoned when the score stood at one goal each.

The Council, after hearing the facts, fined the Pegg's Green club one guinea., and ordered them to get posters on the ground warning the spectators that in the event of a similar occurrence the ground would be suspended, and ordered a copy of same to be forwarded to the L.F.A. Bird, the Pegg's Green centre-half, was fined 5s. and suspended for one month.

**Leicester Daily Post – September 27<sup>th</sup> 1920**

**PEGG'S GREEN AND DISTRICT**

The twelfth annual show and sale of flowers, fruit and vegetables promoted by workmen of Pegg's Green and district in support of the Leicester Royal Infirmary, was held at Pegg's Green on Saturday, and largely patronized. There were also various competitions to swell the funds for

the institution, in which few villages show greater enthusiasm. A wonderfully good collection of produce was staged, every exhibit being a gift, but there were no competitions, and no prizes were awarded. Mr. G. Wilton was chairman of the committee. A section of the exhibition was open to school children attending Griffydham, Newbold, Coleorton, Swannington, and Thringstone Schools, their exhibits being grown on their school plots.

Mrs. Charles Booth of Gracedieu Manor, opened the exhibition, and she was supported by Mr. T. Fielding Johnson, jun., J.P., chairman of the Board of Governors of the Royal Infirmary. Mr. H. Johnson, House Governor and secretary of the institution, Messrs. W. Lindley, J.P., J. A. Goodman, C.C., J. Pargeter (Worthington), F. Taylor (Breedon), Measures, Danvers, Elcock, Beastall, and others. As the result of eleven years' effort the sum of £494 15s. 5d. has been raised by the exhibition and sale of produce, last year's contribution amounting to £108 10s. Apologies for absence were received from Lady Beaumont and Mr. A. E. Hawley (Hinckley Grange) were announced. The show was visited by a large number of residents of the district in the course of the afternoon

### **Leicester Chronicle – Saturday October 1<sup>st</sup> 1921**

#### **PRIZELESS FLOWER SHOW**

A flower show which was unique inasmuch as no prizes were offered was held at Pegg's Green, in aid of the Leicester Royal Infirmary. It was the thirteenth annual workmen's show, and in the past twelve years over £580 has been paid to the infirmary funds. All the exhibits were gifts to the fund. In addition to the horticultural produce, there were gifts of loaves, socks, eggs, poultry, rabbits, children's clothing, and a variety of other goods.

### **Athletic News – November 21<sup>st</sup> 1921**

#### **BIRMINGHAM YOUNG CENTRE FORWARD**

Joseph Bradford, who has recently appeared in Birmingham's eleven, is quite a good centre forward. Considering that he is only twenty years of age he should have a future. He has been the one man in the front line who of late as shown a real scoring power.

Joseph Bradford was born at Pegg's Green, Near Coalville, Leicestershire, on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1901. There was no organized school football in his district, but it is worthy of note that he was playing for Pegg's Green second team in the Coalville League when only twelve years of age. Some of his companions were 25 and 27 years old. He played three games for the reserves, and as they won the championship, they gave him a special medal to commemorate his association with the club at such a juvenile age.

When fifteen he was playing for the first team, who had then joined the Leicestershire Senior League. He continued to be associated with Pegg's Green, in fact he never played regularly for any other club until he joined Birmingham in February, 1920. By the way, Birmingham sent an emissary to see him, and so did Leicester City and Derby County, but Frank Richards, the Birmingham secretary, secured his signature. As a matter of fact, Bradford had had trials for both Aston Villa and Derby County, Mr. Middleton who used to play outside left for Derby, securing him that privilege for the county, but apparently he did not strike any of these clubs as being out of the ordinary. However, he has undoubtedly justified his acquisition by Birmingham.

Bradford recently played with much distinction on behalf of the Central League against the North-Eastern League, scoring the two goals by which his side won the match. Standing 5ft. 9¼ inches., he weighs 11st. 4lbs. Bradford plays cricket with enthusiasm for the Pegg's Green club, and resides there during the dull season.

### **Star Green 'un – March 11<sup>th</sup> 1922**

Joe Bradford's brother, William, has also signed for Birmingham. He, too, comes from the little Leicestershire club, Pegg's Green.

### **Nottingham Journal – August 6<sup>th</sup> 1923**

#### **PEGG'S GREEN GALA**

#### **SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHOLARS IN CHORAL CONTEST**

Favoured with beautiful weather on Saturday the annual parade and Gala at Pegg's Green was a great success, A parade of Swannington, Thringstone, Coleorton and district was made headed

by the Coalville Coronation Band, and there was a splendid procession. Prizes were awarded for the best devices. Mr. Jordan, of Coleorton, won the prize for the best tradesman's turnout. On returning to the field at Pegg's Green, a capital programme was carried out including a choral contest for scholars under 17 attending Sunday schools in the Coalville and Ashby areas. Five choirs competed. Mr. William Hurst (Coalville) was the adjudicator, his award being : 1, Coleorton Primitive Methodists (Conductor Mr. W. Fowkes) ; 2, St. George's Church, Swannington (Conductor, Mr. G. Brewin) ; 3, Coalville Ebenezer Baptist (Conductor, Mr. J. Beniston). The test piece was "Over the fields of clover", and accompanying the first prize of £2 was a handsome challenge cup given by Brig. Gen. Spears, M.P. for the division.

The band played for dancing, Mr. H. Gledhill, of Coalville (humorist) gave concerts. The arrangements were well carried out by a committee of which Mr. George Wilton was chairman and Mrs. C. W. Smith secretary. The proceeds were for the Coleorton and Swannington Nursing Association and an ambulance outfit for the district.

### **Freeman's Journal – November 3<sup>rd</sup> 1924**

#### **FAMILY OF FIFTY-SIX**

Fifty six descendants attended the golden wedding celebrations at Pegg's Green, Leicestershire, of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Morley. They have five sons, five daughters, forty-two grandchildren, and four Great Grandchildren. Joe Bradford, the Birmingham forward, who was "capped" for England against Ireland this year, is one of their grandchildren.

### **Kingston Times – November 8<sup>th</sup> 1924**

#### **A GOLDEN WEDDING**

Sixty-five descendants attended the golden wedding celebration at Griffydham, Leicestershire, of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Morley, aged 73 and 71 respectively. Joe Bradford, of Birmingham Football Club, and William Bradford, who has played for both Birmingham and Brighton, are included among the grandchildren.

### **Leicester Chronicle – May 2<sup>nd</sup> 1925**

#### **CHAMPIONSHIP MATCHES**

Pegg's Green, the team that reared Joe Bradford, of Birmingham and International fame, are champions of the Coalville League, and play Swannington Villa at Pegg's Green on Saturday, when the cup and medals will be presented.

### **Nottingham Journal – July 26<sup>th</sup> 1926**

#### **"Outcropping" Near Coalville Prohibited**

The outcrop coal seams at Pegg's Green, near Coalville, have been closed to "getters" by the owners, who posted notices during the weekend.

Permission was given by a lady owner to a few miners to get the coal last week, but the privilege was soon very much abused, and the few soon increased to hundreds, while on Thursday over a thousand people were there and quite a large staff of police were required to regulate the traffic.

It was the increasing numbers fetching the coal, and the fatality which occurred to one of the "coal getters" on Thursday which have prompted the owners to post notices.

### **Nottingham Journal – January 23<sup>rd</sup> 1927**

#### **LEICESTER UNLUCKY**

#### **DRAMATIC FINISH TO MATCH WITH BIRMINGHAM**

Leicester City were unlucky to surrender both points to Birmingham at St. Andrews. Up to within three minutes of the end they were leading by an admittedly fluky goal scored by an opponent and they looked winners, but there was a dramatic finish.

Joe Bradford, Birmingham's most thrustful forward, who, by the way, is a Leicester man from Pegg's Green, got two vital goals. In scoring the first he caught Godderidge unawares. The latter scented danger from Islip, who gave way to Bradford, who forced the ball into the goal.

No sooner had the game restarted than Birmingham were back in Leicester's goal and

Bradford got in a full drive which left Godderidge helpless. Birmingham merited success for their pluck and perseverance, but they were not such a good level lot as Leicester.

Birmingham's strength was in defence, especially at half-back, where Cringan made a hobby of spoiling the intentions of Arthur Chandler. Cringan scored Leicester's goal by mistiming with his head a centre from Adcock, but he made amends by obstructing Chandler and demolishing the good intentions of Leicester's inside trio.

Godderidge, who deputized for Campbell worked well, but was at times nervous. Osbourne was superior to Black at back, while Duncan, Carrigan and Bishop were a business intermediate line more successful, perhaps, in constructive than destructive duties.

Up forward the best men were Adcock Wadsworth, the wingers. They had more rope and their speed served them to good purpose. Chandler, Hine and Lochhead were honest triers, but Birmingham's halves saw their activities were curbed.

It was a game of good standards in which the defenders had the upper hand of a zealous lot of forwards. Birmingham tried a new outside-right, Bond, who made a good impression.

Leicester. Godderidge : Black and Osbourne ; Duncan, Carrigan and Bishop ; Adcock, Hine, Chandler, Lockhead and Wadsworth.

Birmingham. – Tremelling ; Womack and Jones ; Liddell, Cringan and Barton ; Bond, Crosbie, Briggs, Bradford and Islip.

Referee:- H. E. Gray (London)

### **Nottingham Journal – September 6<sup>th</sup> 1927**

#### **NEW MINING INSTITUTE**

A new mining institute for the Griffydam and Coleorton district (Leicestershire) is to be opened at Pegg's Green next Saturday.

### **Nottingham Journal – Sept 12<sup>th</sup> 1927**

Built from funds voted by the "Leicestershire Miners Welfare Committee", a miner's new institute was opened at Pegg's Green, near Coalville on Saturday the 10<sup>th</sup> of September by Mr. W. Windley, M.B.E., J.P., of Coalville.

In a speech at a subsequent meeting, Mr. Windley said he hoped the institute would be a centre of learning as well as of Games and a help in promoting a good feeling among the villagers.

Mr. G. J. Brooks, J.P., said that the welfare committee had allocated £1,100 to the parish of Thringstone, of which Pegg's Green formed a part, and a recreation ground had been provided for the Thringstone portion. The Leicester committee had under consideration a scheme for the benefit of aged miners.

### **Leicester Chronicle – October 29<sup>th</sup> 1927**

The hamlet of Pegg's Green, which gave to Birmingham F.C. one of the greatest forwards of modern times in Joe Bradford, has provided Birmingham with yet another player.

Mee, the inside left of Pegg's Green Victoria, has signed for Birmingham, and given up his work in the village blacksmith's shop. Mee, who is only 19 years of age, made a name for himself in schools' football, and played for Leicestershire against Cheshire at Coalville.

### **Leicester Chronicle – March 3<sup>rd</sup> 1928**

#### **MOIRA LUCKY**

Moira United were lucky to reach the final of the Coalville Charity Cup by defeating Pegg's Green at Coalville on Saturday by five goals to three.

Pegg's Green always held their own and often had the senior league team in difficulties. They gave an excellent all round display. Pegg's Green now playing in a junior league, is the club that reared Joe Bradford, the Birmingham F.C.'s famous centre-forward, and if some of the players maintain the form shown on Saturday, it would not be surprising if they eventually found themselves in first-class football. The juniors had much the better of the opening play, and took the lead through Hough. They kept up the pressure, and were unlucky in not adding to the score. However, Moira improved, and Bown equalized. Pegg's Green again took up the running, and

several times were very near to scoring. Fern scored for Moira from a breakaway, but shortly before the interval Wardle equalized.

The second half was very much a repetition of the first except that Pegg's Green were dogged by bad luck. Moira, who certainly made better use of their chances in this half, scored through Fern, Narroway, and Clarke, whilst the only goal for Pegg's Green came from Warden.

### **Sports Argus – February 9<sup>th</sup> 1929**

#### **SCHOOLBOYS' MATCH**

Joe Bradford, Birmingham's injured centre-forward, gave the boys of his old school, Griffydam, near Pegg's Green, a treat today. He arranged a match for them this morning at Belehere-lane against the boys of Green lane School. After the match, he took them to see the Birmingham v Sunderland game, and then entertained the visitors to tea.

The Green-lane boys won by two to nil, and their scorers were Bignall and Stead. Simmonds and Newey did well for the winners, and Abbott (centre-half) and Morley (left-back) for the visitors.

### **Leicester Evening Mail – May 2<sup>nd</sup> 1929**

#### **JOE BRADFORD'S CUP FOR SCHOOLBOYS**

Joe Bradford, the Birmingham and International forward, has presented a cup for competition amongst schools in the district of Pegg's Green, his native village, and the final was played last night at Pegg's Green, between Coleorton and Griffydam schools before 1,000 spectators. Griffydam won by two goals to none, both scored from penalties. Bradford afterwards presented the cup, and is providing medals for the Coleorton players.

### **Burton Observer and Chronicle – September 26<sup>th</sup> 1929**

#### **NINE GOALS AT PEGG'S GREEN**

##### **VICTORIA 7 v MOIRA UNITED 2**

Heavy scoring was seen in the Coalville and District League match at Pegg's Green, where Victoria defeated Moira United by the large margin of seven goals to two.

G. Bradford opened the scoring for the home team, and Pickering responded for the United.

Pegg's Green regained the lead through Bird, and J. Wright then made the score two all. Twice the Victoria broke away, and Bradford and Bird doubled the score. Their lead at the interval was four goals to two, and was unaltered at three quarter time. The wind became rougher, and the Vics were very aggressive.

After Bradford had completed his hat trick, Price brought the total up to half a dozen. An objection was made to this goal, and also to the last scored by Bradford, which made four to his account.

### **Leicester Evening Mail – October 19<sup>th</sup> 1929**

#### **PEGG'S GREEN FANS**

##### **Visit to Belfast to Support Joe Bradford**

The spectators at the England v Ireland match at Belfast to-day, included a party of enthusiasts from Pegg's Green, near Coalville.

Pegg's Green is the native village of Joe Bradford, the Birmingham player, who is in the England attack. The party had been organized by an inclusive fare of 30s. per head.

### **Leicester Evening Mail – October 23<sup>rd</sup> 1929**

The great interest on the part of some of the local people at Coalville in the international football match on Saturday will be gathered from the fact that a party made the journey from Coalville to Belfast, leaving on Friday and returning on Sunday. One of the keenest in the party was Mr. Joseph Morley, of Pegg's Green, who undertook this long journey notwithstanding his 76 years. He is Joe Bradford's grandfather and great-uncle of Hughie Adcock. The latter's father was also in the party.

**Leicester Evening Mail – October 27<sup>th</sup> 1929**

**OUT TO GET £1,000 FOR INFIRMARY**

**20<sup>th</sup> Year of Pegg's Green's Effort**

During the last 19 years the little hamlet of Pegg's Green, near Coalville has held an annual horticultural show and sale, and so contributed £915 to Leicester Royal Infirmary. By the 20<sup>th</sup> effort held on Saturday, it was hope to top the £1,000 mark.

The event took place in a wooden shed opposite the New Inn, and the optimism of the promoters may be gauged by the fact that when the Chairman, Mr. G. Walden, was speaking at the opening ceremony, he could scarcely be heard for the heavy rain pelting upon the corrugated iron roof of the shed, through which, in many places, the water was pouring in ! Even this failed to damp the promoter's ardour !

The opening ceremony, as from the commencement of the effort 20 years ago, when she was associated in it with her husband, the late Rt. Hon. Charles Booth, was performed by Mrs. Booth of Gracedieu Manor, who was supported by Miss Fielding Johnson, of Leicester, and Mrs. Holt.

Mr. Harry Johnson, House Governor and Secretary of the Infirmary, spoke on the "wonderful success" of the effort and paid tribute to the small parishes of the county which supported them so well. He said the accommodation at the Infirmary was shortly to be increased by the opening of a new wing which would help them to cope with the ever-increasing demands.

There was an excellent display of flowers, fruit, and vegetables, all generously given, for sale, besides several novelties including loads of coal and a table cloth.

Last year the amount sent to the Infirmary was £40, but in 1919 the effort yielded £107, which made the £85 wanted this year look rather small.

**Leicester Evening Mail – February 11<sup>th</sup> 1930**

**PEGG'S GREEN WORKMEN'S EFFORT**

**From Our Lobby Correspondent**

Leicester Royal Infirmary has been the recipient of the sum of £53 10s. from the 1929 organisation of Pegg's Green and District Workmen's Show and Sale. This annual effort is popular with residents of the district, and has, for many years now, proved a valuable source of income to Leicester Royal Infirmary, the governors of which express their gratitude to the organizers and supporters for their continued interest.

**Leicester Evening Mail – March 3<sup>rd</sup> 1930**

**HOSPITAL DANCE**

A carnival dance was held in the Miners' Institute at Pegg's Green on Saturday. The Utopians' band provided a good programme, and Messrs. Clark and Barlow were the M.C.s. The proceeds were for the Loughborough Hospital.

**Leicester Evening Mail – December 1<sup>st</sup> 1930**

Leicester Royal Infirmary will benefit as the result of a dance at the Pegg's Green Miners' Institute on Saturday night.

**Leicester Evening Mail – April 23<sup>rd</sup> 1930**

**COALVILLE CUP FINAL**

A crowd of 2,500 assembled at Coalville to witness the Charity Cup Final between Loughborough Corinthians and Pegg's Green Victoria on the Waggon and Horses ground.

It looked in the early stages of the game as if the match would be a gift for the Corinthians, for they had got a lead of three goals ere the interval arrived. Bourne scored after five minutes and there were further goal by Holden and Greaves.

Pegg's Green, however, reversed matters in the second half, when the bulk of the play was in their favour. Leslie Bradford – a brother of Joe Bradford, of Birmingham and International fame – scored early on, and Williamson followed with another.

The closing stages were thrilling, particularly when L. Bradford put the teams on even terms, and the result was a draw of three goals each. Tom Bradford, another brother of the famous Joe, kept goal well for Pegg's Green.

**Leicester Evening Mail – May 22<sup>nd</sup> 1930**

**COLLIERY TRAGEDY**

**Story of a rope that slipped**

"I have never known such a thing to happen before", said George Wheatley, a charge hand shifter, at Coleorton Colliery, giving evidence at the inquest at Leicester on Samuel Palmer (51), a Pegg's Green miner, who was fatally injured in an accident at the colliery when a tub passed over him, after a rope had slipped.

"The tubs began to move, I tried to hold them back but the rope slipped through the cable", said Wheatley. A verdict of "Accidental death" was returned.

**Leicester Evening Mail – July 29<sup>th</sup> 1930**

**COALVILLE EXCHANGE**

**A Branch to be Opened at Pegg's Green**

Following a request by Mr. Ernest Winterton, M.P. that accommodation should be provided in the Coleorton area for the payment of unemployment money in the district, Miss Bondfield has intimated that temporary accommodation for such payment has been made at the Miners' Institute at Pegg's Green. This means that many men in the area will be saved the long journey to the Coalville Exchange.

I understand that Mr. Winterton is endeavoring to obtain similar facilities for the men in the South Derbyshire coalfield, many of whom have to travel to Ashby to draw their unemployment.

**Leicester Evening Mail – September 29<sup>th</sup> 1930**

**£1,000 FOR INFIRMARY**

**PEGG'S GREEN WORKING MENS' 21<sup>ST</sup> SHOW**

By their flower show and sale last Saturday, Pegg's Green working men hope to bring their total contribution to Leicester Royal Infirmary up to £1,000.

The show has been held annually now for 21 years and a special endeavour was made on Saturday to celebrate the "coming of age" show by raising the total from £969 to the thousand mark.

Leicester Infirmary was represented at the show by Mr. J. G. Pickard (chairman of the board of governors) and Mr. H. Johnson (house governor and secretary).

**Leicester Evening Mail – October 5<sup>th</sup> 1931**

**PEGG'S GREEN SHOW**

**£1,000 Raised for Leicester Royal Infirmary**

**In 21 Years**

Mrs. Booth, of Gracedieu Manor, widow of Mr. Charles Booth, opened the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual show at Pegg's Green on Saturday in aid of Leicester Royal Infirmary.

Mrs. Booth, who has opened the show for several years, congratulated the people of Pegg's Green and district on having contributed £1,023 during the 21 years the show had been held

Mr. Harry Johnson, secretary of the infirmary, referred to the increasing work and growing needs of the hospital, and added that Pegg's Green had obtained wonderful results from the annual show, considering it was only a small place.

**Leicester Evening Mail – Monday November 2<sup>nd</sup> 1931**

A whist drive was held on Saturday night at the Miner's Welfare Institute, Pegg's Green. Messrs. George Martin and F. Martin acted as M.C.s.

**Leicester Evening Mail – January 21<sup>st</sup> 1932**

**PEGG'S GREEN LOSS**

The death occurred yesterday of a well known resident of Pegg's Green, Mr. Frank William Kidger, who for a number of years had carried on business as a butcher in the village.

He was 53 years of age. He was a son of the late Mr. Price Kidger and a brother of Mr. J.

M. Kidger, formerly a member of the Ashby Rural District Council.

**Leicester Evening Mail – Monday February 22<sup>nd</sup> 1932**  
**EFFORT FOR INFIRMARY**

A vaudeville concert by the Coleorton Primitive Methodist players was given in the Miners' Welfare Institute, Pegg's green, on Saturday night. Mr. J. Hughes, of Donisthorpe, presided and the proceeds were for the Leicester Royal Infirmary.

**Leicester Evening Mail – Monday April 25<sup>th</sup> 1932**  
**INSTITUTE DANCE**

A dance was held in the Miners' Institute at Pegg's Green on Saturday evening. The Orpheus Players played the music.

**Leicester Evening Mail – January 30<sup>th</sup> 1934**  
**ADCOCK'S COUSIN**

As all Leicestershire knows, Joe Bradford, their famous inside forward, is a cousin of Hughie Adcock, and was born in the same village of Pegg's Green.

Haywood, another Birmingham forward, comes from Hugglescote, and was the man who scored the goal that put Sheffield United out of the cup.

**Nottingham Journal – September 15<sup>th</sup> 1934**  
**LEICESTER CITY POST**  
**Joe Bradford a Rumoured Applicant**

It is stated that Joe Bradford, the Birmingham international forward, who has been on the St. Andrew's staff for 15 years, has applied for the managership of Leicester city, left vacant by the death of Mr. Peter Hodge.

Bradford is a native of Pegg's Green, Leicestershire, and has been playing in competitive football since he was 13. He has played for England against all the countries.

He combines football with a flourishing restaurant business, but it is believed that he would give up this side line if successful in this application.

**Leicester Evening Mail – April 4<sup>th</sup> 1935**  
**ONE GOAL WANTED**

I wonder how many people realize that Joe Bradford, the Birmingham and England forward, requires only one goal to complete his 250.

When the season started, Joe required five to achieve this fine record. Last Saturday he needed two, but netted one. Still the honour thwarts him, but it should not be long now before his name is added to the list of stars who have this great performance to their credit.

Joe, who was born in a cottage in the Leicestershire hamlet of Pegg's Green, near Coalville, has made more than 400 appearances for Birmingham, and throughout his long and honourable career his progress in league and internationals has been closely followed by the Soccer enthusiasts of Coalville and district, where Joe is the idol of every lad who plays the game.

Some years ago he brought a team from Birmingham to play in the village side, which included three of his brothers. Two of them, Mick and Les, are still in local football, and turn out regularly for New Lount Colliery in the Leicestershire League.

They still talk about that match round Coalville way, and it would certainly be a big draw if the fixture could be repeated before Joe puts away his football boots for good.

**Coventry Evening Telegraph – Thursday May 2<sup>nd</sup> 1935**  
**LAST GAME FOR BIRMINGHAM ON SATURDAY**  
**FAMOUS INTERNATIONAL NOT RETAINED**

Joe Bradford, Birmingham's famous International forward, will play the last game for the club against Everton, at St. Andrew's, in the last game of the season on Saturday. He has been with the club since February, 1920, and has not been offered terms of re-engagement for next season. On Saturday he will have a chance to bring his total of League goals for the club up to 250 for

the, for, at the moment, he is only one short of that figure.

Bradford, who is a native of Pegg's Green, Leicestershire, has been capped for England both as centre-forward and inside-left. He has played against Scotland, Wales, Ireland, Belgium, France, Spain, Germany, and Austria. He has played in well over 400 league games for the St. Andrews Club, and is the only player to score a goal for them in a Cup Final, for it was he who netted against West Bromwich Albion at Wembley four years ago, when Birmingham played in the final for the first time.

#### **Leicester Evening Mail – November 25<sup>th</sup> 1935**

**Pegg's Green Whist.** – A whist drive was held in the Miner's Institute at Pegg's Green on Saturday by the Golden Fleece Lodge of the Nottingham Imperial Order of Odd Fellows in aid of their juvenile outing fund.

#### **Leicester Chronicle – July 4<sup>th</sup> 1936**

##### **CHILDREN'S CHRONICLE EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS**

I am fourteen, and have a friend who has had delightful presents from you. I am kind to animals and I love farm work. I have not taken a bird's egg this year. When I get some stamps, I will send for a badge. We have a dog and cat. I have no brothers or sisters. – Kenneth Hutchinson, Pegg's Green. (Sorry to know you are in hospital, Kenneth. Here's wishing you a speedy return to good health, - A.B.)

#### **Leicester Evening Mail – September 19<sup>th</sup> 1936**

##### **THE BRADFORD BROTHERS OF PEGG'S GREEN MAKE FOOTBALL HISTORY**

**Few romances of the football world can compare with that of of the Bradford family of the Leicestershire hamlet of Pegg's Green.....Five brothers have been in the game ever since their father encouraged them to kick a football about.**

**Joe has now left football for the duties of "mine host" but he will always be remembered in the annals of the Birmingham City club, with whom he had such a splendid and long career.**

They used to call him "Gentleman Joe" at St. Andrew's, for, on and off the field, he was always a great sportsman.

It is this quality of the Bradford family that has made "Bill" so popular with Walsall, with whom he has been since 1926, and is now the captain. As in the case of Joe, his soccer skills were nurtured with the village team at Pegg's Green. The Birmingham talent-spotters one day had a tour of that part of the county and promptly signed Joe. Shortly afterwards, realizing they had made a find, they returned and brother "Bill" was the next local lad to go to Birmingham. He was then only 17 years of age and so has now been in the game for over 16 years, and will, without doubt, carry on Joe's tradition. Bill did not stop long with the "Blues". He moved to Preston North End and later joined Brighton and Hove, as an inside-left. It was when he was going "free" that he was secured by Walsall by Mr. David Ashworth. Now, as captain and left-half for the Staffordshire club, he has created a record for the number of appearances ever made by one player since the club was formed. Since 1926 he has made 270 appearances. His success is a triumph over bad luck for, after a serious injury at Chester a few seasons ago, so strong was the belief that he was "finished" that he was re-engaged as assistant trainer to take charge of the second team. The man best acquainted with the romantic history of these Bradfords is Mr. Edward Morley, former secretary of the old Pegg's Green club, which started these men on the path to football fame. Mr. Morley was the first man to register Joe as a soccer player and has watched his career closely. When the club were members of the old Leicestershire Senior League, another brother, Tom, used to keep goal. One night, Joe brought over a team of Birmingham "Stars" to Pegg's Green to play the village team. Tom was in goal for the local lads and Joe was opposed to him as centre-forward for the Birmingham visitors

**Leicester Evening Mail – September 26<sup>th</sup> 1936**

**FOOTBALLER WEDS AT WHITWICK**

Two weddings have taken place in the Bradford family of Pegg's Green, within a week. Both bridegrooms have been members of the New Lount Colliery Football Club.

Last Saturday, Miss. E. M. Bradford was married to Mr. Frank Smith, the New-Lount full back, and today her brother, Mr. "Mick" Bradford, the colliery inside forward was married at Whitwick Parish Church to Miss Rose Robinson, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs. T. W. Robinson, of Hall lane, Whitwick.

**Leicester Evening Mail – July 7<sup>th</sup> 1937**

**NEWBOLD QUEEN'S ATTENDANT**

Four girls have been chosen as attendants for Miss Eva Springthorpe, of Pegg's Green, who will be crowned queen of the Newbold and District Hospital Carnival on July 17. They are Rosie Waddington (Gelsmoor), Betty Bradford (Pegg's Green), Barbara Wilton (Griffydam) and Joyce Carter (Newbold).

**Nottingham Journal – October 31<sup>st</sup> 1939**

**SHOT FIRING TRAGEDY**

At an inquest at Ashby, yesterday, on George Wilton (57), a miner, of Pegg's Green, near Ashby, who died at Zachery Merton Convalescent Home, Woodhouse Eaves, a verdict of "Accidental death" caused by a blow from a piece of stone hitting him in the back while working at the New Lount Colliery was returned. The accident occurred during shot-firing operations when the deceased was said to have been at a safe distance. The coroner said it was an unusual case.

**Leicester Chronicle – June 15<sup>th</sup> 1940**

**MARRIED 66 YEARS**

Mr. and Mrs. William Wilton, of the White House, Pegg's Green, near Coalville, this week celebrated the 66<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their wedding.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilton have nine children living, 54 grandchildren, and eighteen great grandchildren. Four grandsons are serving with the forces.

**Leicester Evening Mail – July 2<sup>nd</sup> 1943**

**PEGG'S GREEN EFFORT**

A whist drive and dance in the Miners' Institute, Pegg's Green, realized £11 11s. 0d. For Leicester Royal Infirmary

**Leicester Evening mail – December 28<sup>th</sup> 1943**

**PEGG'S GREEN DANCE – MINER'S INSTITUTE**

A carnival dance was held at the miner's institute, Pegg's Green, in aid of the Coleorton, Pegg's Green and Griffydam comforts fund.

**Birmingham Daily Gazette – December 29<sup>th</sup> 1947**

George Haywood, who formerly played centre-forward for Birmingham, has been appointed team manager of the Coalville Town F.C. He lives near Coalville at Pegg's Green, which is the native village of Mr. Joe Bradford, former Birmingham player and International.

**Leicester Evening Mail – October 1<sup>st</sup> 1948**

**POSTMAN MEDALLIST**

Mr. Fred Morley, of Anchor Lane, Pegg's Green, who retired recently after 28 years as a postman, received the "Imperial Service Medal" at a gathering of former colleagues at Coalville. The presentation was made by the head postmaster of Coalville, Mr. A. T. Hendley.

### **Leicester Evening Mail – October 10<sup>th</sup> 1951**

#### **VILLAGE REVUE AT PEGGS GREEN**

Villagers at Peggs Green, near Coalville, gave a revue in the Miners' Institute ([Welfare Institute](#)). It was devised and produced by Roy Johnson of Coalville, assisted in the arrangement of dances by Brenda Clithero, of Coalville. Also taking part were Fred Richards, Bill North, George Morris, Beryl Norton, Peter Norton, Ken Hutchinson, Vernon Smith and Bill Bowley.

### **Leicester Evening Mail – April 9<sup>th</sup> 1953**

#### **NEW OFFICERS**

Mrs. L. Morley was elected president of the newly-formed Darby and Joan Club at Pegg's Green, with Mrs. Ambrose Barkby secretary and Mrs. B. A. Hutchinson, treasurer.

### **Leicester Evening Mail – July 16<sup>th</sup> 1953**

#### **PEGG'S GREEN OUTING**

For their first outing, members of Pegg's Green "Darby and Joan" club were taken for a bus tour, through Leicester and the Soar Valley.

### **Leicester Evening Mail – September 7<sup>th</sup> 1953**

Work on making a 500ft bore hole to pump water from the working area of New Lount Colliery has been started at Griffydam, near Coalville. A team of men using a powerful motor to cut the hole, are operating beneath a steel tower erected in a roadside field at the site. The new boring is part of a de-watering plan being carried out by the National Coal Board.

[This was opposite the old Pegg's Green, Colliery.](#)

### **Leicester Evening Mail – December 4<sup>th</sup> 1953**

#### **WHITWICK SUPPER**

The first parochial supper organized by Whitwick Parish Church in the Vicarage street Methodist schoolroom, was attended by over 100. The Vicar, Canon F. G. Hogarth presided.

Entertainment was given by Pegg's Green Variety Company. It is anticipated that about £10 will be realized for church funds.

### **Leicester Evening Mail – January 20<sup>th</sup> 1954**

#### **'NO' TO POST OFFICE AT NEWBOLD**

People living at Newbold, a small community near Coleorton, where pensioners have to travel by bus to either Worthington, **Griffydam** or Coleorton to collect their money, cannot look forward to the time when it will have a post office.

Following an appeal by Ashby Rural Council, a letter was received at their meeting from the Head Postmaster at Leicester stating that it was impossible to accede to the council's request to open a sub-post office at Newbold.

The Head Postmaster pointed out that a license was held in Newbold for the sale of stamps, and that regulations permitted old-age pensioners to nominate an agent to collect their pensions.

The council decided that details of the existing post facilities at Newbold should be sent to the local MP with a request that he should press for the establishment of a sub-post office

### **Leicester Evening Mail – April 7<sup>th</sup> 1954**

#### **MADE BIRTHDAY CAKE**

With money raised from selling home-made toffee, 84 year old Mrs. G. Harvey, cooked and presented a cake to Pegg's Green "Darby and Joan Club" for its members first birthday celebrations.

### **Leicester Evening Mail – August 17<sup>th</sup> 1954**

#### **PLATTS FOR VILLA**

Latest addition to the professional ranks of Aston Villa is the South Leicestershire Colliery and Coalville Town right-back, Colin Platts. Whose signing has followed quickly after the club's practice match on Saturday.

Platt, a nephew of Joe Bradford, of Pegg's Green, the former Birmingham and England forward, is an 18 year old with plenty of experience in representative football already.

Last season he took part in all England's youth International matches, and also appeared in the Leicestershire senior county side.

#### **Leicester Evening Mail – November 8<sup>th</sup> 1960**

##### **BLAZE AT INN NEAR COALVILLE**

**CUSTOMERS AT THE RED LION INN, PEGG'S GREEN, NEAR COALVILLE, HELPED TO FIGHT A FIRE WHICH BROKE OUT IN THE LIVING ROOM AT THE INN SHORTLY BEFORE 10 O'CLOCK LAST NIGHT.**

The blaze caused £100 damage to household goods and decorations and a pet budgerigar died. The outbreak was found by the wife of the licensee, Mrs. T. Glithero, about an hour after her husband, Mr. I. G. Clithero, had gone to his work as a miner at Ellistown Colliery.

Mrs. Glithero was met by smoke when she went to the room after the customers had told her there was a smell of burning.

An attempt was made by Mr. Arthur Beal to get into the room but he was driven back. Mr. T. Webster, who attempted to enter with a wet towel round his face was also unsuccessful. While Mr. F. Platts drove to a telephone kiosk to call the brigade a number of other customers including Mr. A. Robinson and Mr. J. Burton, threw water through the doors of the burning room and held the fire in check.

Firemen discovered that a considerable area of plaster board walling, a settee and a quantity of clothing had been destroyed in the fire. Mr. Glithero, who has been licensee at the Inn for about four years, formerly lived in Victoria street, Coalville, and at one time was secretary of the Coalville branch of the British Legion.

#### **Birmingham Daily Post – Wednesday July 17<sup>th</sup> 1968**

##### **BREATH TEST CLOSES THE RED LION**

The licensee of Leicestershire's oldest public houses said yesterday : "We are closing down because of the breathalyser".

Standing behind the bar of the Red Lion in the tiny village of Peggs Green, Mrs. Shirley Grainger said ; "Before the breathalyser, the pub was always full at weekends, but now, the only customers we have are three regulars who have been coming here for over 20 years. The situation got so bad that my husband had to go out to work to make ends meet".

"People are just too frightened to drink and drive and those who used to drive out here from the towns are leaving their cars at home and walking to their locals, and when drivers do come in they sit here all evening over one pint of beer. I have had to stop stocking mild because the only person who drinks it is one of my regulars and you can't order a whole barrel of beer for just one person".

##### **TOO FAR AWAY**

The oak-beamed bar which once rang with the sound of laughter and music is now deserted and silent. The juke box has been taken out because it no longer pays for itself.

There are just 152 people on Peggs Green electoral list and most of them live too far away from the Red Lion. One of the regulars, 60 year-old Mr. Vic Clements, said : "I will be sorry to see the Red Lion disappear after so long. I have been coming here practically every night but now I am going teetotal during the week and I will visit another pub at the weekends. But no pub will ever be quite the same as the Red Lion".

Mrs. Grainger said : "The Red lion is probably the first pub to be closed by the breathalyser but it won't be the last. I would like Mrs. Barbara Castle to come along here herself and see what the breathalyser has done".

Historical Note ; The Red Lion appears on the earliest Leicestershire County register in 1842.

**Sports Argus – July 22<sup>nd</sup> 1972**

**GENTLEMAN JOE'S RECORD STILL STANDS**

**Fifty two years ago, a slightly built youngster from the village of Pegg's Green just outside Coalville, Leicestershire, arrived in Birmingham for the first time.**

He stayed to become the finest centre-forward who ever wore a Blues shirt, one of the best loved personalities in Birmingham sport and still holds the Blues' goal – scoring record. And on Thursday, Gentleman Joe Bradford, who with his wife Hilda celebrated their Golden wedding, talked of fifty happy years spent in Birmingham and the debt he owed both to the Blues' and the city. "When I came to St. Andrew's, Blues' paid them a £100 transfer fee and a further £25 when I first appeared in the first team. My cut of that was £33, I remember".

"I have no regrets, I would do exactly the same again, for Blues' are a wonderful club. My only wish is that that fine gentleman, Clifford Coombes, had been chairman then". "If its facts you want, I made 412 League appearances and 31 cup appearances for Blues', scoring 249 goals". "But the point is that I enjoyed every minute of my football, which is more than can be said for many players today. They seem all tensed up and to have lost the art of enjoyment".

"I wonder how many present day players will believe me when I tell them that all I received for playing in the 1931 F.A. Cup Final against Albion was a gold runners-up medal and a signed photograph of the team. Plus, of course, our £8 weekly wage".

"Nowadays they receive thousands in bonuses for appearing at Wembley, besides what they receive in perks. But I would play there for nothing, just for the honour. Altogether I made three Wembley appearances, including two games against Scotland. One of these was when the famous Wembley Wixards thrashed us 5 – 1. The Scots with Alec Jackson, Jimmy Dunn, Hughie Gallacher, Alex James and Alan Morton, had a great forward line who clicked perfectly. But what the Scots conveniently forget is that we beat them 5 – 2 on the same pitch two years later. Ray Goodhall, the Huddersfield right back and a great sportsman, and I, were the only survivors from that 5 – 1 beating."

"Altogether I won 12 international caps all of which are still in my proud possession. To play for one's country was a great honour particularly as the number of internationals was limited in those days. Eight in a match for Blues' while on tour in Spain was my biggest scoring feat, but my greatest scoring feat was 11 goals in three games in eight days. I got a hat-trick for Blues' against Newcastle at St. Andrew's: scored five out of seven for the football league against the Irish league at Liverpool and followed up with another hat-trick for Blues' at Blackburn in an astonishing 7 -5 defeat. My second hat-trick which turned a half time 3 – 1 deficit against then non-league Peterborough into a 4 – 3 win is still remembered. Personally, I rate my hat-trick in the last 14 minutes against Villa when we were 3 – 0 down as a better performance. I say a hat-trick but actually I scored two although I was credited with all three. What actually happened was that Cyril Spiers, the Villa goalkeeper, attempting to clear the third, threw the ball into his own net".

"Actually I am surprised that my club scoring record of 29 League and three Cup goals in 1927-28 has stood so long. I would like to see a Blues player beat it one day. The game has changed in many ways since my day. One is in the attitude of many of the players. I remember once Jimmy Cringan our wing half hitting A. G. Bower, the Corinthians and England full back for six with a tremendous shoulder charge. Bower merely got up, dusted himself down and remarked: "Well done, Cringan"! A similar charge today would have brought a flare up of fists.

"The also tell me the game is faster now, but the manner in which the ball is played constantly across the field, slowing the play down, makes me wonder. Still, the rewards are tremendous now for really talented youngsters. My advice to them is to work really hard at their game as I did. It is the one way to get to the top. Trevor Francis, for instance, has a wonderful opportunity for he is a

really gifted youngster. But I hope referees will keep an eye on opponents, for he comes in for a fair amount of clogging.

"I see no reason why Blues' should not do well in their first season back in the first division. Ever since my playing days ended, I have been a Blues fan and have held a season ticket. Finally, I feel I have a great deal for which to thank Blues' and also the city of Birmingham. Both inside and outside the club, I have made many friends and count myself a lucky man".

Joe Bradford would like to thank friends and well-wishers for the hundreds of letters and telegrams he has received.

### **Burton Observer and Chronicle – September 2<sup>nd</sup> 1977**

Celebrating their golden wedding this week are Mr. John Wilton and his wife Sarah of 4 New Road, Peggs Green, near Swannington.

Mr. Wilton is a retired miner having spent 52 years in the coal industry. He recalled his first day at work at Newbold (Coleorton) pit as a lad of 13. He then went to Coleorton Colliery – locally known as the "Bug and Wink", where he stayed for ten years until it closed down.

After that he worked underground for 42 years at nearby New Lount Colliery, which also closed down a few years ago, where he retired as a deputy.

"Change was needed in the mines, but I think things have gone too far nowadays", Mr. Wilton said. "Work underground was much harder in my day and there were several times when I never saw daylight for months".

Mr. Wilton has always been a great sportsman. For many years he played for Shepshed and Lount football teams, winning gold medals. He was also a playing member of Lount Cricket Club.

In 1975, at the age of 72, he was one of the four-member team from the Leicestershire Bowling Association who won the National Bowls Championship at Worthing.

In the late 1940's, for about ten years, Mr. Wilton and his wife were the landlord and landlady of the New Inn, just around the corner from the cottage where they now live – Mr. Wilton, still carrying on working at Lount Pit. "But" he said, "at that time television became very popular and our takings dropped. People just rushed into the pub, brought drinks and went home to watch television. So we decided to give up the public house before our losses became too great".

Mrs. Wilton said they were both natives of Peggs Green and had never wanted to leave the village where they have many friends.

"our marriage has been good because we have always pulled together", she said. The couple are both members of Peggs Green Darby and Joan Club. They have one son, Mr. John Wilton, who works in a bank at Ipswich, and three grand-daughters.

## WORTHINGTON & GELSMOOR

### Leicester Chronicle – January 16<sup>th</sup> 1819

The Poor of Coleorton and Worthington are indebted to the benevolence of Sir George Howland Beaumont, Bart. For a liberal donation of coals to upwards of one hundred families, who will be supplied with twelve hundred each, carried to their own doors by the tenants of the worthy baronet.

### Leicester Chronicle – January 27<sup>th</sup> 1821

A few days ago, a poor woman named Wardle, died after giving birth to her 20<sup>th</sup> child, in the 45<sup>th</sup> year of her age. It was somewhat remarkable, that she never suckled anyone of her offspring, no symptoms of milk ever appeared ; and that only six of her children survived her.

### Leicester Chronicle – May 5<sup>th</sup> 1827

**DEATH.** – On Friday last in London, John Mynors Bulstrode, Esq. of Worthington in this county, aged 45, late Major in the Leicestershire Yeomanry Cavalry. As a loyal subject, an excellent soldier, and an amiable man (adds our correspondent), his memory will long be cherished by a large circle of friends.

### Leicester Chronicle – October 18<sup>th</sup> 1828

**WILLIAM EDWARD**, aged 25, was indicted for stealing a piece of flannel, belonging to Sarah Smith, of Worthington, on the 9<sup>th</sup> October last. – Sarah Smith stated that she hung apiece of flannel on a hayrick to dry, on the 8<sup>th</sup> of October, which was gone the following morning, and did not see it again till November. – John Smith said he knew where the flannel had gone ; he went to a tailor who was making a pair of trousers of the flannel which was lost ; could swear to it by a particular mark that was on it. – William Adams, tailor, said that he knew the prisoner, and received some flannel from his wife, but had no conversation with the prisoner, nor did he promise to make anything for him. – **Acquitted.**

### Leicester Journal – April 5<sup>th</sup> 1833

#### COLEORTON RAILWAY

#### In pursuance of a Standing Order of the House of Commons

#### NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

That on the fifteenth day of this present month of April, a printed copy of a Bill, now depending in the Honourable the House of Commons, intituled, “A Bill for making and maintaining a Railway from the Termination of the Leicester and Swannington Railway, in the county of Leicester, to the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Railway, in the Township of Worthington, in the said county, and a Branch Railroad therefrom”; with a map of the said intended railway annexed thereto, will be deposited with the respective parish clerks of the parishes or places of Swannington, (including Thringstone), Worthington (including Newbold), Whitwick and Coleorton, in the said county of Leicester, for the inspection and examination of all persons concerned in such intended Railway and Bill.

Dated this fifth day of April, one thousand eight hundred and thirty three.

Dawes and Fisher  
Solicitors for the Bill

This is what was known as the Coleorton Railway which terminated alongside the Cloud Hill Tramway at Worthington Rough. See "A History of the Coleorton Railway and the Charnwood Forest Canal" by Samuel T Stewart on the website.

**Leicester Journal – August 2<sup>nd</sup> 1833**

**LEICESTERSHIRE SUMMER ASSIZES – Crown Court**

Mahaler Brookes, 17, charged with having broken into the dwelling house of Wm. Smith, at Worthington, and stealing therefrom a loaf of bread, a piece of bacon, and various other articles his property. When the prisoner was put to the bar, she pleaded guilty; but by the desire of the judge retracted her plea. – No evidence being offered, the judge said she must have had advisers if they wished her to plead guilty, he understood that it was her brother.

**Leicester Journal – October 25<sup>th</sup> 1833**

**TO BE SOLD BY PRIVATE CONTRACT**

**THE PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHAPEL**, at Worthington, in Leicestershire, with the Gallery, Pews, &c. The chapel fronts to the public street, is modern built, in excellent repair, and might if necessary be converted into a commodious dwelling-house.

For further particulars, and to treat for the purchase, apply to Mr. John Farmer, or Mr. John Armson, of Worthington.

**Leicester Journal – January 2<sup>nd</sup> 1835**

**PREPARATORY SCHOOL**

**FOR YOUNG LADIES**

**Worthington Lodge, Near Ashby-de-la-Zouch**

**MRS. HYDE KELK**

**PURPOSES**, after the Christmas Vacation, receiving under her care and tuition **FOUR YOUNG LADIES, from six to ten years of age.**

Mrs. Kelk that from the experience she has had in the management of children, she shall be able to give satisfaction to those parents who may place their children under her care

**TERMS**

Board and English.....18 Guineas per annum

French..... 2 ditto

Drawing..... 2 ditto

Music..... 4 ditto

Washing..... 2 ½ ditto

**NB. – A few Day Pupils will be taken**

**Worthington Lodge, Dec. 31, 1834**

**Leicester Journal – September 25<sup>th</sup> 1835**

**LOUGHBOROUGH POLICE REPORT**

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24.**

**Before the Rev. J. Dudley, & C. M. Philips, Esq. M.P.**

John Heywood, of Worthington, charged by Samuel Radford, with an assault ; and Samuel Radford also charged by the said John Heywood – in each case the defendant to pay the costs  
?????

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

**Manor of Worthington and Newbold with the members thereof,**

**In the County of Leicester**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN**

That the next **COURT LEET** and **COURT BARON**, of the Right Honourable Washington Earl Ferrers, Lord of the Manor of Worthington and Newbold with the Members thereof, in the County of Leicester, will be holden at the house of **JOHN NICHLINSON**, called the Waggon and Horses,

at Griffy Dam, within the said Manor, on Wednesday, the twenty sixth day of October, 1836, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon ; when and where all the Tenants of the said Manor, and the Freeholders and Inhabitants within the same, and all Persons whomsoever, who owe suit and service to the said Courts, or either of them, are personally to be and appear, then and there, to pay their Rents, and to perform their several suits and services, according to the custom of the said Manor.

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

**GILBERT STEPHENS**

*Steward of the said Manor*

### **Leicester Chronicle – July 6<sup>th</sup> 1839**

**THOMAS HUGHES** was summoned by the parish officers of Worthington, to show cause why he should not be ordered to maintain his mother, being a person of sufficient ability to do so. The complaint was withdrawn on the defendant undertaking that the parish should not be called upon again for relief.

### **Leicester Journal – July 19<sup>th</sup> 1839**

#### **ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

Francis Wilton was brought up in the custody of the constable, to answer the complain of Mr. Benjamin walker, at Worthington Colliery, for having absconded from his service. The complainant not appearing to substantiate the charge, the defendant was liberated.

### **Leicester Journal – October 18<sup>th</sup> 1839**

#### **ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

Hannah Williamson, of Worthington, preferred a charge of assault against Mary Statham, on Wednesday, the 2<sup>nd</sup> inst. Complainant stated that on going into the house of the defendant's father in law, she (the defendant) struck her. Joseph Forster stated that he saw Mary Statham strike the complainant – The matter was arranged

### **Leicester journal – March 14<sup>th</sup> 1840**

#### **WORTHINGTON, LEICESTERSHIRE**

*To Farmers, Millers and Factors*

#### **TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION**

*BY Mr. GAMBLE*

On Monday and Tuesday, the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of March, 1840, all the live and dead Farming Stock in Trade, Implements, Household Furniture and other Effects, on the premises of Mr. Pratt, [Worthington Mill](#), aforesaid, who is leaving this country.

Descriptive Catalogues to be had six days prior to the day of sale. Sale each morning at eleven o'clock

### **Leicester Journal – March 20<sup>th</sup> 1840**

*Freehold land and Cottages at Worthington and Thringstone, and a mortgage security for £100 on the Hinckley and Melbourne Turnpike Road.*

**TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION AT JOHN WATERFIELD'S THE BEAUMONT ARMS,  
THRINGSTONE ([adjacent to Coleorton Cross Roads](#))**

#### **LOT 1**

A Close of excellent Arable Land, called "The Brand Close", containing about 5 acres, situate on the **Brand in the Township of Worthington**, and lately occupied by Mr. JONAS KNIGHT, deceased.

### **Leicester Journal – June 5<sup>th</sup> 1840**

.....On Wednesday last, another inquest was held at Worthington, on the body of Isaac Pearson, aged 82, who was accidentally killed on Monday, on the Coleorton Railway, by a wagon laden with lime, running over his body. **Verdict accordingly.**

### **Leicester Journal – August 7<sup>th</sup> 1840**

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

#### **TO BE PEREMPTORILY SOLD**

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

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

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

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

### **Leicester Journal – September 25<sup>th</sup> 1840**

#### **ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

Joseph Jackson, and Joseph Varnam, of Worthington were charged by Thomas, with driving at a faster rate than a walk on the Ashby Railway. It appeared from the evidence of William Smith, who was also driving a wagon on the railway, that on the 14<sup>th</sup> inst. He was on the railway, when Jackson was driving one of the wagons, and flogged his horse and made it trot. Witness had not time to get out of the way, when he was knocked down, and was obliged to employ a surgeon. The informations were withdrawn on the defendants promising better for the future, agreeing to pay the doctor’s bill and the costs.

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

#### **MICHAELMAS QUARTER SESSIONS**

William Sowden, 19, was charged with obtaining five shillings, under false pretences, from William Homes of Worthington, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> August last. – **Guilty. Six months hard labour**

### **Leicester Journal – April 9<sup>th</sup> 1841**

#### **LEICESTERSHIRE EASTER SESSIONS**

John Roby, was charged with stealing about 1,500 spruce firs, from the nursery of Thomas Eden, of Worthington, on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February. – Thomas Harris, butcher, stated that Mr. Eden rented a nursery of him. He saw the prisoner in the day in question getting up about 1,500 spruce firs ; he told witness that he had obtained an order for them ; but he had not made a proper bargain for them with Eden ; witness understood that there was a difference of 2s. per thousand between them – Cross examined by Mr. Macaulay – The prisoner was a nurseryman, and had been in the habit of dealing with Mr. Eden. – Thomas Eden deposed, that he went into his nursery on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February, and found a large number of his fir trees got up. Some days previous to that time, the prisoner came to him and wanted to purchase some firs, but he refused to transact business with him ; having,, as he said, been swindled out of £12 by the prisoner on a former occasion.. The firs dug up were worth about £6. Witness never gave him authority to take away the firs. In

about a fortnight after, the prisoner went to him and said if he could set a price upon the trees, he would pay him for them. Witness told him that he could not do that, as he should be compounding a felony. – Cross-examined – Witness never set any price upon the firs to the prisoner. He had had transactions with the prisoner in January last, when he exchanged 1000 firs for 1000 larch ; he had sold the larch for about 5s. or 6s. per hundred. They were white spruce firs he exchanged for the larch. Prisoner owed him £12 for quick, ever since 1828. He had never tried to recover that amount by action ; he thought he might as well try to shoot the moon. – John Fairbrother stated, that the prisoner came to him on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February, and enquired if Mr. Eden was at home. Witness replied that he was not. Prisoner then asked witness to assist him in getting up some trees in the nursery ; but he refused and said that if he did, Mr. Eden would send them both to hell. – John Clifford stated that Eden authorised him to sell the prisoner 1000 ash and 1000 elms ; but did not authorise him to sell firs. – Cross-examined. – Sold the prisoner 1000 ash and 1000 elms for Mr. Eden for £2. Witness occasionally worked in Eden's nursery. Some of the firs were four feet high. – The chairman here stopped the case, and said, from the evidence adduced, it did appear to him that a charge of felony had not been made out, therefore, the jury must acquit the prisoner. He was discharged accordingly.

#### **Leicester Chronicle – March 30<sup>th</sup> 1844**

##### **HIGHWAY ROBBERY**

**THOMAS CARTWRIGHT (22 : READ AND WRITE WELL) AND THOMAS SMART (17 ; READ WELL AND WRITE IMPERFECTLY) WERE CHARGED WITH FELONIOUSLY STEALING FROM THE PERSON OF** Thomas Gibson, on the 6<sup>th</sup> October last, three sovereigns, eight half-crowns, six shillings, and three sixpences. Mr. White appeared for the prosecution. The prosecutor is a labourer living at Belton. He stated in his evidence that he received his wages on the 5<sup>th</sup> of October, intending to go to Ashby Races the next day. When he was there he saw both of the prisoners, and came home along with Smart. They called at the Malt Shovel at Worthington, about eight o'clock in the evening ; and in about an hour the other prisoner came in. On witness paying for the ale which they had drunk, he pulled a sovereign out of his pocket, instead of a shilling, and tendered it to the landlord, who returned it. Prosecutor then gave the landlord a shilling, and returned the sovereign to his pocket. The party left the public house together about eleven o'clock in the evening, and when they had proceeded a short distance the prisoners threw prosecutor on the ground, Cartwright attempting to throttle him whilst Smart rifled his pockets. They shortly afterwards left him, Smart having threatened to knock out his brains if he dared to make any noise : he gave information to the police next morning. Prosecutor knew the prisoners well. An attempt was made by the Judge and Cartwright to shake prosecutor's testimony, by their asking whether he had not been drinking and dancing with women at the public-house ; but he declared he had not. Policeman Beales of the County Force deposed to have apprehended Cartwright at Packington, when he said he would give prosecutor £5 to make it up, on his obtaining £50, which he expected at his Grandfather's death. Rose, another member of the County Force, apprehended Smart at Nuneaton. The prisoners were found guilty and sentenced – **Smart to fifteen years transportation and Cartwright to twelve months hard labour.**

#### **Leicester Journal – April 12<sup>th</sup> 1844**

##### **LOUGHBOROUGH PETTY SESSION**

.....The case of Cooke ([solicitor](#)) v Husbands ([Worthington parish constable](#)) of Worthington, again came on after an adjournment for three weeks.. Mr. Dudley addressed the defendant to the following effect :- In the case now before us, you acting in your capacity as parish constable, received from the Clerk at this Bench 2s. 6d., as the expenses of a witness named Statham, and in a petty and disgraceful manner kept back 6d. out of such pay ; this of itself constituted a fraudulent act, and in fact you swindled the poor witness out of part of his lawful remuneration. Some time after this, Statham's employer, being well aware that you had committed yourself, remonstrated with you, and in about 10 days or a fortnight after such remonstrance, you returned the 6d. to Statham, and not till then. The transaction was altogether so dishonourable, to deprive a poor witness of the paltry sum of 6d., and the character for integrity and usefulness, which you have hitherto borne, really astonishes myself and brother justice, that you should have been guilty

of so mean an action. We have, however, decided, not to prosecute you further, although the credit of the Clerks at this Bench certainly require it, and it is in consequence of a slight irregularity in the charge made against you that we are inclined not to proceed further, and we really are sorry that you should sell your honour at so pitiful a price, as there was but a very slight difference which had kept you from incurring a heavy penalty of swindling ; and that we hope you will never be so insane to attempt to throw away your honesty for 6d., you are now dismissed. No costs were allowed but on Mr. Cooke applying for costs for his man Statham, the Bench allowed him 6s. from the poor box.

#### **Leicester Journal – July 19<sup>th</sup> 1844**

##### **COUNTY POLICE OFFICE**

Mary Mear, of Worthington, was charged with stealing a game cock, the property of Mr. Bostock, of Breedon-on-the-Hill. It appeared that the fowl had been turned down in a farm-yard at Worthington, and that the defendant's son-in-law had one also which answered the description of the prosecutor's. That on Monday night last he accidentally drove the wrong one into his hen roost ; as soon as the prosecutor went to the yard, he missed his cock, and on making inquiry, found that it was in the defendant's hen roost. The defendant then refused to give it up, and she was accordingly requested to attend the magistrates. A witness, who is noted, and has been for many years, as a breeder of these animals, attended and produced his stud book, and proved that the fowl was one of his own breeding ; that it had certain marks about it by which he could identify it, and that he had sent it to the prosecutor only a short time before. The defendant being willing, after hearing this evidence, to restore the fowl to the proper owner, and there being no evidence adduced to show that it was taken with a felonious intent, the Magistrates discharged the defendant on paying the costs.

#### **Leicester Mercury – August 24<sup>th</sup> 1844**

Joseph Hall of Worthington, was committed to the house of correction for two months for leaving his wife and family chargeable to the parish of Worthington.

#### **Leicester Journal – June 25<sup>th</sup> 1847**

##### **DEATHS**

On Thursday the 17<sup>th</sup> inst. Aged 16, Isabella Susanna, second daughter of W. Hyde Kelk, Esq., of Worthington in this county.

#### **Leicester Mercury – December 30<sup>th</sup> 1848**

Last Sunday, Mr. Gregory held an inquest at Worthington, Nr, Ashby de la Zouch on the body of a new born male child, which was found under the following circumstances : On Saturday morning, William Richards, who keeps a weighing machine belonging to the Midland Railway Company ([coal wharf](#)), in the parish of Worthington, was at work in his garden, when he observed some thatch had been pulled off a small cabin, which stands in the corner of the garden. He accordingly went in, and saw some blood upon the floor, which appeared quite fresh. Observing that some loose stones in the fire place had been meddled with, he took them out, and quite at the bottom, he found the dead body of a new born child. There was not a single rag of clothing about the child, or anything about the cabin. Mr. Richards gave information and the body was removed to the old Swan Inn, where a post mortem examination was made by a Mr. Willey, Surgeon, who also examined the cabin, and was of the opinion that the mother had delivered it herself in the cabin ; and that the child was evidently born alive ; but that there was nothing externally or internally to show the cause of death, which might have been due to exposure to the cold, or of stones being placed upon it, - or the mother being able to afford it immediate assistance. **Verdict – Found dead, but no evidence to show who was the mother of the child or cause of death.**

### **Leicester Mercury – April 28<sup>th</sup> 1849**

Joseph Walker of Worthington was charged by John Poxon, collector of rates for Worthington with refusing to pay the sum of 12s. 9d. rated upon him towards the relief of the poor there. Allowed to arrange.

### **Leicester Chronicle – May 4<sup>th</sup> 1850**

#### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

Eliza Wood was charged by John Farmer, her master, who is a farmer residing at Worthington with refusing to obey his lawful commands. At the recommendation of the Bench, the defendant consented to pay the costs, and return into her service.

William Hough charged Thos. Walker with having, gone off the road with a horse and carriage, with intent to evade the payment of the toll then and there payable. **Fined 1s. and costs.**

### **Leicester Chronicle – June 15<sup>th</sup> 1850**

Lammas Fairbrother charged Thos. Mee, of Worthington with an assault. It has been a long time since we had occasion to notice so aggravated an assault as the one now complained of. It appeared the defendant Mee is a person well known as being a man of most abandoned character, one of those men who make a point of frequenting every fair and feast in the neighbourhood, for the sole purpose of fighting and getting drunk. On Whitsun Thursday last, both these parties met at Breedon club feast, and as usual early in the morning, Mee began parading the town, challenging everyone he met to a fight. After a time, complainant went to him and said, you have been on with me all morning, let us have it out. The defendant finding he had got his match, declined,, upon which complainant placed his fingers upon defendant's cheek, and then shook hands ; for some hours after this both parties appeared friendly, when they met accidentally in the street, the defendant went up to complainant again, and insisted upon fighting ; complainant then said, "well, if it must come off, it must", and was in the act of pulling off his jacket, when defendant rushed up to him, seized him by his legs and threw him down, with his head upon the ground, inflicting a severe cut or wound upon complainant's head ; defendant then laid hold of the wound, and tore the flesh from the scalp, according to medical testimony for a length of eight or nine inches. Erysipelas afterwards came on, and for some time complainant's life was considered in danger, but he was now sufficiently recovered to attend before the magistrates. The defendant was fined £5, and bound over himself in £50, and ordered to find two sureties in £25 each.

### **Leicester Mercury – August 23<sup>rd</sup> 1851**

#### **ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

Joseph Jackson of Worthington charged by Thomas Massey, of the same place, with an assault. From the evidence called, it appeared that defendant struck the plaintiff in the face, and bestowed a kick upon his seat of honour, and that it was a street quarrel. The accused pleaded the provocation he had received, and the Bench considering both parties to blame, dismissed the complaint and ordered the costs to be divided. – The same defendant was charged by Maria Wesson with an assault. The charge was of a similar character to the last, the favour of a kick having been bestowed upon the plaintiff by the accused who used some very offensive expressions respecting a certain grotesque obliquity of vision which she exhibits. It was charged in extenuation of this ungallant conduct that the lady spat in defendant's face, which caused him to "Lift up his heel" against her. This case was also dismissed, and the costs ordered to be divided.

### **Leicester Chronicle – April 30<sup>th</sup> 1853**

Elizabeth Deeming, of Worthington (a very homely specimen of the gentle sex, on the awkward side of fifty), charged John Lakin of the same place with assaulting her on the 9<sup>th</sup> of April, at a

beer-house at Worthington, kept by the defendant's brother. Defendant admitted that he certainly did say, when the plaintiff came into his house, that he would have a kiss ; but she was so much alarmed at this threatening invasion of her charms, that according to the testimony of a witness named John Richards, she rushed upon the defendant as he sat in the chair, tumbled him down, and fell "a top of him". **Case dismissed.**

#### **Leicester Chronicle – November 11<sup>th</sup> 1854**

##### **GUNPOWDER PLOT : MELANCHOLY OCCURRENCE**

The following facts came out at an inquest held at Worthington on the 7<sup>th</sup> Inst., on the body of Elizabeth Mee, The deceased was the wife of a shoemaker, and was 33 years of age. On Saturday evening some boys had made a fire by the side of the road, in the town street, and the son of deceased went to see it. Someone let off a gun, just where the bonfire was, and the deceased hearing it said "Oh!" and dropped to the ground. She was put in a chair and carried in home and died immediately. When the gun was fired, deceased was standing about thirty yards off. She had been subject to a palpitation of the heart for years, and was timid and nervous of a gun. About three weeks ago, she was so ill with the palpitation that her life was considered in immediate danger ; but the last week she had seemed better than usual. She has left seven children. Mr. Orton, surgeon, who had attended her for years, proved that she had suffered from a disorganised condition of the heart. He had no doubt that the sudden alarm caused by the discharge of the gun produced a state of nervous excitement, and an increased action of the heart ; in consequence of which the rupture of some vessel in its vicinity took place, producing almost instant death. **The following verdict was returned :- "That the deceased died from disease of the heart, but that her death was accelerated by the improper discharge of a gun in the town street, and the jury requested that measures should be taken to prevent this sort of thing in the future."**

#### **Leicester Chronicle – November 25<sup>th</sup> 1854**

##### **ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

Ralph Waterfield of Worthington was charged by P. S. Platts with unlawfully firing a gun at that place upon the public highway, on the evening of Saturday the 4<sup>th</sup> November. This lamentable occurrence is stated in the report of a coroner's inquest, held at Worthington, on view of the body of Elizabeth Mee, whose death was caused by the firing of the said gun, from nervous excitement ([see the Chronicle of the 11<sup>th</sup>](#)). The defendant having acknowledged the offence was convicted, and ordered to pay a fine and expenses, to the amount of £1 5s. 0d. Or in default, one months imprisonment with hard labour. (It will not be unrecognisable to state here, that "all persons of what age, sex, degree, or quality soever (we quote the words of the Act of Parliament) who shall let off fire-works or discharge guns in any public street, highway, road, or passage, are liable to a penalty of 40s ; and all persons who make, give, sell or offer for sale, any fireworks, shall, on the oath of two witnesses, forfeit £5, half to the poor, and half to the prosecutor, *to be levied by distress*". By the thoughtless but dangerous act of the youthful defendant, Waterfield, an industrious working man has been deprived of his wife at the age of 33, and seven young children have been left motherless.

#### **Leicester Chronicle – September 22<sup>nd</sup> 1855**

At a **SPEICIAL PETTY** sessions, held in the Court House, Ashby, on the 15<sup>th</sup> of September, before W. W. Abney, Esq., Ambrose Barkby was charged with committing wilful damage in a turnip field, in the Parish of Worthington belonging to Mr. Joseph Sharpe, on the 29<sup>th</sup> of August. The charge was proved by Mr. Sharpe, Jun, who saw the defendant with turnips in his hands ; and when questioned by what right he had left the road and committed the trespass, he was extremely abusive. The witness's statement was confirmed by John Eames, a neighbour. **Convicted and fined £1 2s. 6d. including costs, or fourteen days' imprisonment to hard labour.**

James Lagar of Worthington charged Thomas Edwards and William Brookes with wilful injury, by breaking the boughs from fruit trees in complainant's orchard, on the 26<sup>th</sup> of August. At eight o'clock in the morning complainant saw the two defendants throwing large stones from the highway, at his apple trees knocking off the fruit. Edwards broke through the hedge, and gathered up the fruit. The trees were broken and injured by the stones thrown. Complainant had been repeatedly robbed by such disorderly persons. **The defendants were convicted and fined 20s. costs, or fourteen days hard labour.**

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

**ASHBY DE LA ZOUC PETTY SESSIONS**

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

**Leicester Journal – November 28<sup>th</sup> 1856**

***Freehold and Tithe-free Estate, at Worthington, near Breedon, Leicestershire*  
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,  
By Mr. Chubb,**

At The Queen's Head Inn, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, on Wednesday, the 17<sup>th</sup> day of December, 1856, at Twelve for One o'clock precisely.

A most valuable and Tithe-free ESTATE, consisting of a capital Farm-house, with every requisite Outbuilding, and 94 Acres of Land, in a ring fence, situate at Worthington, near Ashby-de-la-Zouch, principally Old Turf and Water Meadow, of the first quality, and in high condition, having been for some years past in the occupation of Mr. Bulstrode, the owner.

Also several cottages belonging thereto

The celebrated Breedon Lime Works at Cloud Hill adjoin the Estate, and a branch of the Midland Railway and the Hinckley and Melbourne Turnpike Road pass through it, affording every facility for the transit of produce and manure.

**The Property is nearly adjoining the Church**, and the scenery around it is picturesque and attractive. It is surrounded by the preserves of the Earl Ferrers, the Earl of Stanford and Warrington, Sir George Beaumont, Bart., and John Curzon Esq.

The parochial payments are very low, and the property is within a convenient distance of the towns of Ashby, Loughborough, Burton and Derby.

Plans and Printed particulars may be had of J. M. Bulstrode Esq., Worthington, Near Ashby-de-la-Zouch; and of the Auctioneer, and Messrs GREEN and SMITH, Solicitors, Ashby-de-la-Zouch.

**Leicester Chronicle – December 13<sup>th</sup> 1856**

**ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

**Thomas Edwards, Henry Pope, and John Jessop**, three youths residing at Worthington, were charged by William Shipley Peters, gamekeeper to the Earl Ferrers, with trespassing in search of game, on lands belonging to the noble Earl at Worthington. **The defendants pleaded guilty, and were severally convicted and fined 6s. each and costs, amounting to 9s., and in default of**

payment, fourteen days imprisonment. The money not being forthcoming they were sent to prison.

**Leicester Chronicle – April 4<sup>th</sup> 1857**

**ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

**“THRIFTY” ROBBERIES.** – Eliza Fairbrother and Sarah Walker, household servants to Mr. Thomas Jesson, farmer of Gracedieu, were taken into custody on Friday, by P.C. Pole of Whitwick, charged with stealing from their master a quantity of Bacon, Pork, Cheese, and “scratchings”, (what is left when the lard is rendered). The stolen property was rolled up in two chemises of the prisoners, and concealed in the crib of the cow hovel. There was a written paper in each bundle, addressed to the parents of the prisoners, who reside at Blackbrook and Newbold, near Worthington, expressing a hope that the eatables would arrive safely and make them some “nice pies”. The police Officer apprehended the girls, and conveyed them to the lock-up at Ashby. The prisoners were remanded by W. W. Abney, Esq., to answer the charge on Saturday before the magistrates.

**Leicester Journal – June 5<sup>th</sup> 1857**

**ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

Joseph Burton, Edward Stanley, and Joseph Bird, all of Griffydham, were severally charged with attempting to take fish in a stream in Worthington, in which the Earl Ferrers has a private and exclusive right of fishing. The noble Earl withdrew from the Bench whilst the case was being heard. Stanley did not appear, and the serving of the summons being proved, the case was heard against the three defendants. – Elisha Senior, the Earl’s gamekeeper, proved seeing the defendant’s with a net on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May. They set it in Worthington Brook, and poked into the holes with a stick. The witness spoke to the defendants, and they all ran away. – James Brookes and George Dunncliffe confirmed the complainant. – **Convicted and fined 5s. each and costs, amounting to 8s. 8d., in default, fourteen days imprisonment.**

**Leicester Journal – July 17<sup>th</sup> 1857**

**ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

Elizabeth Waterman charged George Cliff with an assault. Complainant stated that on Sunday, the 14<sup>th</sup> of June she went to Worthington Church, and walked into a free seat. A man’s hat was on the seat, and she removed it, and then felt a blow on her back, through the hind part of the seat, which was an open one. Defendant was sitting behind her. He is brother-in-law to complainant. There appeared to be a regular family feud between the parties, and the magistrate dismissed the case, remarking upon the trumpery nature of it altogether.

**Leicester Chronicle – July 18<sup>th</sup> 1857**

**LEICESTER CROWN COURT**

At the beginning of the **CROWN COURT**, Castle, Thursday July 16, the **GRAND JURY** were summoned at ten o’clock, when Mr. Justice Cresswell took his seat on the bench. The jury consisted of 22 men plus the foreman.

Her majesty’s proclamation against vice and immorality having been read, His Lordship addressed the Grand Jury. He was happy to find in this as in the last county where he had the honour of presiding over the Crown Court, there were very few cases for trial, and those attended with no particularly serious circumstances. There was only two on which he should make any remark. One was a charge against three persons robbing a warehouse. It appeared that in the month of March a warehouse was robbed of a considerable amount of property, and these three parties were seen near to the place at night ; but with reference to two of them, so far as he could judge, there was no evidence to connect them with the possession of the goods. There was nothing except that they were seen near to the place with the third party. With respect to him (Hodges) there were footmarks discovered near to the place where the property was afterwards found. That connected with his being seen near to the place of the robbery, were strong

circumstances against him ; but with regard to the other two prisoners, unless better evidence was forthcoming, he was afraid the case must fail. With respect to the other case.....

**JOHN BANTON** (23), collier, **THOMAS HODGES** (25) hawker, and **GEORGE EARP** (on bail), were charged in the calendar with breaking and entering the warehouse of Thos. Haywood, at the Township of Worthington, on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March last, and stealing there from nine dozen of cotton shirt bodies, value £5, ten dozen of cotton waistbands, value 6s. and two dozen of cotton stockings, value 12s. the property of the above Thomas Haywood. The Grand Jury ignored the bills against John Barton and George Earp. – Mr. Merewether conducted the prosecution, and Mr. Mundell the defence. – Thomas Haywood sworn : I am a hosier living in Worthington. On the 7<sup>th</sup> of March last I had some hosiery in my warehouse. I took it out of the warehouse and put it in my cellar. I looked at my warehouse window at seven o'clock in the morning, in consequence of information I received. I found the window taken out altogether. There were footmarks under the window. A person getting into the warehouse could get into the cellar. I missed the goods in question when I examined the place. – Cross examined by Mr. Mundell : The warehouse is used on Sundays for prayer meetings, and anybody goes there who pleases. I observed something particular in one of the footmarks. I soon acquainted the police. The prisoner's mother works for me. – Re-examined ; My warehouse is about eighty yards from the small chapel. – William Handford : I live about three hundred yards from Mr. Haywood. – On the Saturday when he lost his property I was coming home between twelve and one o'clock. I saw the prisoner, I know him. I had just got past the warehouse. There were two other persons a short distance from him. Ralph Mole sworn : I know the prisoner. I think I saw him on the night of the robbery about one o'clock. I was in the bedroom. I looked at him whilst he passed the window. – Ann Platts sworn ; I live near to the warehouse of Mr. Haywood. I remember the night of the robbery. I heard somebody in the warehouse walk on the floor and open the cellar door. I knew it was the cellar door because it always drags on the ground. It was one o'clock. I saw two men outside at the time I heard someone in the warehouse. – William Ward sworn : I live at Griffydham. My attention was directed to something lying in the yard. I went to it and found it was a bag of hosiery. I gave it to Police Officer Widdowson. The one now produced is the same one I found. – Joseph Herbert sworn : I am a policeman. I examined the window of the warehouse. I also noticed some footmarks of a peculiar shape. I covered them up. I apprehended the prisoner. I apprehended him before the bag was found. On being charged with the robbery, the prisoner said he was at home and in bed at half past eleven o'clock, and was not out afterwards. He said he came direct from Gostillo's and stayed nowhere until he got home. On the road he said he came from Nicholson's alone. That was for a few minutes afterwards. He said he neither saw or spoke to anybody. I took one of his boots off. He is crippled on one foot. I have examined the shoe I now produce with the footmarks in the garden, and they correspond exactly. There are several nails out of the shoe. – P.C. Widdowson produced the bag. – Mr. Mundell addressed the Jury at some length, and said that the circumstances of a man of good character seen near to a warehouse on the night when the burglary was committed was very little ground to convict him upon. Besides, if three men were seen together, it was very singular that the very man amongst them who was least able to run away should be chosen as the one to go in and commit the robbery. The evidence as to the footprints was very slight, and they all knew how fallacious such evidence generally was. He then called witnesses as to character. – His **Lordship summed up, and the prisoner was pronounced guilty.** – **Sentence : Three years penal servitude.**

**The stolen items were apparently found in the graveyard at Worthington**

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

#### **ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

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

William Cliff of Worthington, was charged by Sarah Mills, his brother's wife, with assaulting her on the, on the 20<sup>th</sup> August.. This was an old grudge, a quarrel having arisen between the parties in the church at a christening, a few weeks ago. The complainant, on this occasion, applied a vile epithet to the defendant's wife, when he stepped up and struck her a blow in the eye. The bench

considered that much provocation had been given by the complainant, in the expression she used ; **they, therefore, only fined the defendant 2s. 6d., and 14s. 6d. expenses, giving him to understand that he would have been more heavily fined, as the complainant's eye was seriously hurt, had she not used her tongue too freely and offensively**

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

#### **Leicester Journal – June 4<sup>th</sup> 1858**

##### **ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

Emma Stinson of Worthington, summoned James Haywood, of the same place, for an assault. The following is the evidence:- Complainant said : I live at Worthington, and am a widow. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> instant I went into my garden and saw defendant abusing my child. I remonstrated with him and he came up with curses, and took me by the hair of the head, and abused me very much. He struck me on the head several times. (Cross-examined by Mr. Smith who appeared for the defendant). I struck the defendant's daughter, but she struck me first. My son never struck the defendant twice with his fists, nor did he hit me by mistake. – William Stinson said : I live with my mother, and I am seventeen years of age. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> instant, I heard someone screaming, so I went to the spot and found that defendant had got my mother down on the ground and was beating her. I am lame and got to the spot as well as I could, and defendant then began to abuse me, and knocked me down three times, and swore he would murder me. (Cross examined) I never knocked defendant down, nor did I strike him, but I tried to pull him off my mother. I never used the besom stick. I had then no stick in my hand. After this defendant's daughter struck my mother, and I interfered and struck the daughter on the head. – Mr. Smith then addressed the Bench on behalf of the defendant, and called three witnesses, who most positively swore that that the complainant was the aggressor, and that a severe blow was given her by her son in the melee.. – After a very patient hearing, the magistrates dismissed the case.

#### **Leicester Chronicle – November 6<sup>th</sup> 1858**

**Marriage** – On the 30<sup>th</sup> ult, at the Parochial Chapel, Worthington by the Rev. William Lush, Mr. William Hatton of Hathern to Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Mr. Joseph Stenson, of the former place. ***This was actually a church wedding***

#### **Leicester Chronicle – May 7<sup>th</sup> 1859**

##### **ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

George Pope, labourer, of Worthington, was charged by W. Shipley Peters, gamekeeper to Lady Ferrers, of Staunton Harold, with trespassing in search of game on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April. **Convicted and fined £1. including costs.**

John Edwards, labourer of Worthington, charged by the same keeper, with trespassing in search of game on 23<sup>rd</sup> of April. **Convicted and fined 15s. including costs.**

#### **Leicester Chronicle – September 10<sup>th</sup> 1859**

**DEATH BY DROWNING.** – An inquest was held at Worthington, on Wednesday last, on the body of a little boy, aged four years, the son of Robert Lakin, colliery bailiff, of Worthington. The boy it appears, was in the habit of playing about a pit near his father's house, and on Monday last his cap had fallen in the water, and, it is supposed that in trying to get it out he fell in and was drowned. – A verdict of "Accidental Death" was returned ; and the father was requested to have the pit fenced more securely.

### **Leicester Chronicle – October 8<sup>th</sup> 1859**

Henry Pope, labourer of Worthington, was charged by Edward Martin, clerk to Mr. Bostock, of Breedon, with assaulting him, on the 24<sup>th</sup> of September, and fined £1 13s. 6d. including costs, which money was paid.

### **Leicester Chronicle – September 1<sup>st</sup> 1860**

#### **ASHBY – GENERAL ANNUAL LICENSING MEETING**

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

### **Leicester Journal – September 7<sup>th</sup> 1860**

#### **ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

John Haywood, parish constable of Worthington, charged Joseph Bird and William Hurst, of the same place, with being drunk and disorderly. Complainant stated that, on the 24<sup>th</sup> ult., he was called out to the defendants, who were fighting. On going to the spot, he found them drunk and fighting in the street. – The defendants admitted the offence, and expressed their regret. Convicted and fined 9d. each and costs.

### **Leicester Chronicle – February 2<sup>nd</sup> 1861**

**DEATHS.** – On the 12<sup>th</sup> ult., at “The Cottage”, Worthington, Grace, the last surviving daughter of the late John Mynors Bulstrode, Esq.

### **Leicester Chronicle – April 13<sup>th</sup> 1861**

**JOSEPH BREARLEY.** – collier, pleaded guilty to stealing a silver watch, the property of Thomas Hill at Worthington, on March 27<sup>th</sup>, and was **sentenced to six weeks hard labour.**

### **Leicester Chronicle – June 29<sup>th</sup> 1861**

#### **ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

Several persons from Worthington were summoned by Mr. Bulstrode, overseer, for non-payment of poor rates, which were allowed to be arranged out of court.

### **Leicester Chronicle – July 13<sup>th</sup> 1861**

#### **Ashby Petty Sessions**

John Richards, collier, of Worthington, was charged with assaulting Ann Hodges at Worthington on the 29<sup>th</sup> ult. – Mr. Smith appeared for the defendant. – It appeared from the evidence of complainant, that on the night in question, about eleven o'clock, she was going to the shop, and met defendant, who, after using some beastly language, put his arm around her, and grossly insulted her. She called her mother, who stated that when complainant came home she was in a very excited state, and appeared to have been very badly used. – Mr. Smith cross-examined both witnesses at length, and made an able defence for defendant, **but the Bench fined him £1 including costs, which was paid.**

Bought at Ashby. He said he did not know John Smith, and had never seen him in his life. **Three months hard labour.**

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

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

**TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION**

***By Mr. T. Davenport,***

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Leicester Chronicle – October 18<sup>th</sup> 1862**

THOMAS MARSHALL (18) collier, was indicted for stealing a pair of boots, and a pair of trousers, value 12s. the property of John Smith of Worthington, on the 11<sup>th</sup> of September last. – Mr. Palmer prosecuted, - John Smith said he was a collier, and lived at Griffydam. The prisoner lodged at his father's house, and slept in the same room as he did. On the 10<sup>th</sup> Sept last he put in the bedroom a pair of boots and a pair of trousers. The boots were in the corner of the room and the trousers on the bed. The next morning he got up at 5 o'clock and left the prisoner in bed. When he came home in the afternoon about 5 o'clock, the prisoner and the articles stolen were gone.. Those produced were his property. – P.C. Peberdy said on the 11<sup>th</sup> of September he received information of the robbery, and went into Staffordshire and apprehended the prisoner at Wedgbury, on a charge of stealing a pair of boots and a pair of trousers at Worthington. Prisoner said he did not steal them. Then asked him how he came by the boots and trousers he was wearing, he said he bought the boots at Whitwick, and gave 8s. 6d. for them ; the trousers he

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

**ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

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

**Leicester Chronicle – December 6<sup>th</sup> 1862**

**DEATH FROM BURNING.** – An inquest was held at Worthington, on the 26<sup>th</sup> ult., on the body of William Smith, who had met with his death under the following circumstances :- It appeared that the deceased was four years old, and had been left by his parents, who were both from home on business, in charge of an elder boy, with strict instructions not to leave the house. The lad, however, disobeyed this order, and went out to slide, the deceased, in his absence, poked the fire, a cinder fell on his clothes, and he was quickly enveloped in flames, which a neighbour extinguished as quickly as possible, but not before deceased was badly burnt about the chest and neck, from which injuries he ultimately died. – **Verdict, "Accidental Death"**

**Leicester Chronicle – February 21<sup>st</sup> 1863**

**ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

Josiah Walker, of Worthington, was charged with using threatening language towards his brother Thomas. **Bound over to keep the peace for three months, himself in £10, and one suety in the like amount.**

J. Barber, W. Chester, and W. Mee were charged with unlawfully disturbing the congregation in the Parish Church of Worthington on Sunday, the 25<sup>th</sup> ult. The churchwardens did not wish to press the charges against them, but as a caution to them and others felt bound to bring the case before the Bench – **After expressing their sorrow, and promising not to repeat the offence, the defendants were discharged on paying the expenses.**

Zilpha Massey charged her husband, J. Massey, with assaulting her, on the 9<sup>th</sup> inst., at Worthington. Complainant stated that her husband, who is a blacksmith, was in the constant habit of coming home drunk at night, and if she had nothing nice for him to eat, he commenced beating her, and she could bear it no longer. – **Fined, including costs, £2 14s., or two months hard labour.**

**Leicester Chronicle – July 11<sup>th</sup> 1863**

**ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

Mr. J. Reed, overseer of Worthington summoned R. Stacey, of Griffydam, for the non-payment of two poor-rates. Defendant's wife appeared, and, upon being asked by the magistrates why her husband did not pay, she said he did not mean to do so, and they might send him to prison as soon as they liked. – **A distress warrant was therefore issued.**

**Leicester Journal – January 20<sup>th</sup> 1865**

**DEATH FROM CHOKING AT WORTHINGTON**

On Wednesday, the 11<sup>th</sup> inst., Edward Burkin, an old man aged 83, living by himself at Worthington, was partaking of pig's-fry for dinner, and by some means got a piece of meat fast in his throat. A neighbour, hearing a noise, went to see what was the matter, and found the deceased lying on the floor. Medical assistance was at once sent for, but before any arrived life was extinct.

**Leicester Journal – October 27<sup>th</sup> 1865**

**ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

William Farmer, of Worthington, farmer, was charged with doing damage to the amount of 2s. to the glass of a window, at Worthington, the property of James Husband. Mr. Dewes appeared for the complainant and Mr. Cheatle for the defendant. – **Fined £2. and costs, in default fourteen days hard labour.**

**Leicester Chronicle – December 2<sup>nd</sup> 1865**

**DEATH FROM DROWNING.** – On Saturday last, an inquiry was held at Worthington, before J. Gregory, Esq., coroner, into the circumstances attending the death of a young woman named Ann Mee, a servant in the employ of Skeffington Dickenson Cowlshaw, Esq., of Barrow Hill Lodge, who met with her death in a somewhat singular manner. – Deceased was in her 20th year, and it appeared that on Thursday last, she had been engaged in washing some strainers, and was observed to go out of the house with some over her arm as if to hang them to dry in the usual place, upon a hedge near the house, and contiguous to a deep pit, but was never seen alive afterwards. Her absence attracted the attention of Mr. Cowlshaw, who made enquiries for her in the house, without gaining any tidings of her. He then became alarmed, as her mother told him that when she saw deceased in the afternoon she informed her that she had had a very curious dream that she was drowned. He immediately obtained assistance, made a rough drag, and searched the pit, where ultimately the body of the deceased was found cold and stiff. The evidence of the mother of deceased showed that she went to fetch a dress of her daughters on

the day in question, when deceased told her that she had dreamed she was drowned. Mrs. Mee then related a dream she had had to her daughter, who remarked that it was strange they should both have such curious dreams, and began to cry. Mrs. Mee thinking she did not like her situation told her that she had better leave and go home, but deceased replied that she was quite satisfied with her place, and did not wish to leave. Mrs. Mee then kissed her daughter and they parted never to meet alive. The deceased was of a cheerful and contented disposition, and no cause could be assigned for her getting into the pit, except that she slipped in accidentally. – **The jury returned a verdict of “Found Drowned”**

**Leicester Chronicle – May 15<sup>th</sup> 1866**

**ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

**ILLEGAL FISHING.** – John Hurst and Joseph Watson, colliers, Griffydham, were charged with taking four trout, value 1s. 6d. on April 23<sup>rd</sup> from a brook at Worthington, in which N. C. Curzon has the sole right of fishing. – The case was proved by Charles Hodgett, gamekeeper, and defendants were each **fined 6s. 9d. each damage, and 10s. 6d each costs.**

**Leicester Journal – October 26<sup>th</sup> 1866**

**ASHBY POLICE COURT**

James Eaglesfield, of Worthington, was fined 2s 6d., and costs for allowing two horses and an ass to stray on the highway at Worthington.

**Leicester Chronicle – April 12<sup>th</sup> 1867**

**ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

Henry Bostock, Thomas Cooke, and Frederick Jessop, all of Worthington, were remanded until Saturday next week, on a charge of stealing on the 24<sup>th</sup> of March, at Worthington, ten quarts of elder wine and five pints of ale, of the value of 8s., the goods of Joseph Adkin. It appeared from the evidence that Bostock, who is waggoner to Mr. Adkin, during his master's absence on the day in question, went into the cellar and carried the wine and ale in jugs into the stable, and then invited the other two prisoners to help him drink it. – Mr. Dewes, who appeared for Cooke and Jessop, said he hoped that the magistrates would take into consideration that his clients had been in prison nearly a fortnight, and that Bostock was the guilty party and not them. – Inspector Ward in answer to the Magistrates said the prisoners had behaved exceedingly well whilst in prison. – The magistrates, in passing sentence, said in taking into consideration the time they had already been confined, and their good conduct during that time, their sentence was that Cooke and Jessop be further imprisoned for one hour, and Bostock to 21 days hard labour at Leicester.

**Leicester Chronicle – September 28<sup>th</sup> 1867**

**OLD MAN DROWNED AT WORTHINGTON.** - An inquest was held at Worthington, on Wednesday, before J. Gregory, Esq., coroner, on the body of John Litherland deceased, who was a grazier, lived at Gelsmoor, in the township of Worthington. On Monday afternoon he had been out with his horse and gig, and on his return he fetched up his cows and milked them. He afterwards went into the house, and his niece who was residing with him, left him there whilst she went upstairs. When she came down, finding her uncle had gone out, she went into the yard to look for him. After looking about some minutes, she saw the lid of a well in the yard open, and deceased's cap lying on the ground a short distance off. She was afraid he was in the well, and raised an alarm. On the well being dragged by some neighbours, the body was discovered during the evening. It was the deceased's custom to go to the well to draw water for his horse every evening, and it is supposed from the fact of him being unwell for some short time past, and his having complained about giddiness in his head, that he went to the well for that purpose, and fell in accidentally. There was nothing in his conduct to lead his friends to suppose that he intended to commit suicide. – The Jury returned a verdict that deceased was found suffocated in the well, but whether he got in accidentally or purposely there was no evidence to satisfy them. Deceased was in his 66<sup>th</sup> year.

### **Leicester Journal – April 24<sup>th</sup> 1868**

#### **COLLIERY ACCIDENT**

An inquest was held at Worthington, on Thursday week, before J. Gregory, Esq., coroner, on the body of John halfpenny. Deceased was a banksman at the No. 2 pit of the Swannington Colliery, and was 59 years old. On Tuesday afternoon, the 14<sup>th</sup> instant, he was engaged on some wagons which were about being removed to the machine house, and was standing on the top of some slack in the second waggon when the wagons were started, and loosing his balance, he fell down, and the wheels of the hind wagon passed over his neck and chest, killing him on the spot. **The jury returned a verdict of accidental death.**

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

#### **ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

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

### **Leicester Chronicle – February 13<sup>th</sup> 1869**

#### **WORTHINGTON**

**SUICIDE.** – On Saturday, an inquest was held before J. Gregory, Esq., coroner, at Worthington, upon Richard Cooper, deceased. – Thos. Cooper said he was 85 years old, and the father of the deceased, who was a labourer, and 62 years old. He and the deceased lived together in the township of Worthington. Deceased had been in an ailing state of health for the last three years. He was about as usual on Thursday. A day or two before, he had wished him to go to a doctor, but he said he could not walk. Deceased occupied a room for himself, and went to bed about 7 o'clock on Thursday night. Towards 4 o'clock in the morning, he heard deceased coughing and making a lumbering noise, but did not go to him, as he used to cough at night. Next morning he got up between 6 and 7 o'clock, but did not go to his son's room, as he had no suspicion of anything wrong. About 8, or soon after, his grandson, Wm. Platts, came to see how deceased was, and he sent him up to deceased's room to ask if he would have a cup of tea ; and sometime after that he was informed that deceased had cut his throat and was dead. He did not know why deceased committed the act, as he was very subtle and close minded. – William Platts said deceased was his uncle. On Friday morning at his Grandfather's request, he went upstairs to see deceased, and on getting part of the way upstairs looked into deceased's room, the door of which was open, and saw blood upon the floor under the bed. He went up two stairs higher, and then could see deceased lying on his back in bed, and blood about his face. He was perfectly still and there was no noise of breathing. He was perfectly still, and there was no noise of breathing. He dared not go any further, and went down and told the next door neighbour, Charlotte Richards, and then his aunt Sarah, and a doctor was sent for. Deceased had been in a low way for some time. He had a stroke some time ago, which disabled him from following his regular employment. – Wm. Platts, father of the last witness, said, on receiving information of what had happened, he went and found deceased lying in bed. His throat had been cut by a razor, and on turning round he saw a razor with blood on it in a chair close to the bed. On further examining the bed, he found a pen knife lying on the counterpane, close to deceased's right hand. That was all over blood, and he believed deceased had used it, as the razor would not accomplish what he wanted, it was so dull and rusty. The windpipe was cut through. Deceased's mind and recollection had seemed to fail him. He seemed to make a great deal of trouble about not being able to go to work, and no doubt it had a strong influence in causing him to commit the act. A sister of deceased's, who died some sixteen years ago, was not sound of mind. – **Verdict, "Insanity"**

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

**ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

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

**Leicester Chronicle – November 19<sup>th</sup> 1870**

**ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

**WORTHINGTON**

**DEATH FROM LOCK JAW.** – An inquest was held at Griffydam, in the parish of Worthington on Thursday last, before J. Gregory Esq., coroner, on the body of William Henry Hall. The case had caused some excitement in the neighbourhood, on account of rumours that lock-jaw, which was the cause of death, was the result of some ill usage the deceased had received at the hands of the parish constable and P.C. Ward. A considerable number of witnesses were examined, and F. Goodyer, Esq., (chief constable of the county), and Mr. W. N. Reeve, solicitor, were present to watch the proceedings on behalf of the County Police Authorities. The simple facts of the case appeared to be that the deceased who was a bricklayer, had been drinking a good deal on the 29<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> of October, and that on both days the parish constables had been called to him. On the Monday he was so disorderly in the street, that the police officer and parish constable were obliged to remove him to a barn, where they laid him on some straw. He had previously been found lying helplessly drunk in the street near a wall, from which it was presumed he had fallen. He had then a bad wound at the back of the head, which the parish constable bound up when he placed him in the barn. The deceased was so noisy while there, that he was removed, and ordered to go home, which he refused to do until followed some distance by the officers. On the 9<sup>th</sup> November deceased was attended by Mr. Trevor Morris, M. D., who found him in bed at a house in the village, evidently suffering from lock-jaw. Deceased died on Monday last. – **After hearing the whole of the evidence, the jury unanimously agreed that deceased had met with his death accidentally, whilst in a state of intoxication, and this exonerated the parish constable and the policeman from all blame.**

**Leicestershire Mercury United – December 10<sup>th</sup> 1870**

**ASHBY DE LA ZOUCH POLICE COURT**

**Before Henry Hetherington Smith, Esq.**

Mary Edwards, wife of Thomas Edwards, labourer, of Worthington, was charged with breaking and entering the dwelling house of Thomas Mee, at Worthington, on November 26<sup>th</sup>, and stealing a quantity of potatoes and wine, the property of Thomas Mee. – Ann Mee, proved that she lived next door to the prisoner, that she left home about half-past ten in the morning of the 26<sup>th</sup> November ; that she locked the door, and after having locked it tried it so as to make herself sure it was ; that at three o'clock in the afternoon she gave the key to her husband's sister to unlock the door, and in about five minutes she returned, and from what was then told her she went herself down to her house, and on looking into the pantry she missed some potatoes, and on going into the cellar she missed a quantity of wine, She then went to the prisoner and charged her with having been into her house and stolen some potatoes and wine, but prisoner denied everything. The potatoes now produced were similar to those of her husband's, which were on the pantry floor. The house door was the only entrance to the house. She (witness) took a key out of prisoner's pocket that would unlock her house door. – Hannah Mee proved receiving the key from the last witness, and on trying to unlock the door she could not. She then lifted the latch up, and the door opened. She then went in and tried the pantry door, which was shut, and she tried to open it but could not. She then pushed against it and forced it a little way open, when she saw the prisoner with her back against the door, pushing to prevent her going in. She, however, succeeded in getting into the pantry, when the prisoner said, "I found the door open, and have been trying to make them hear, but cannot". – John Hoults, baker, of King's Newton, said he saw

the prisoner come out of Thomas Mee's house, and she had with her a bucket containing a quantity of potatoes, and that she said to him, "I found the door open but I cannot make anyone hear". – P.C. Ward proved that on Saturday night last, at six o'clock, he received information of this robbery, and at once went in search of the prisoner, but did not succeed in apprehending her until nine o'clock on Sunday morning, when the prisoner, in answer to the charge, said "I have done nothing ; I was not there". – **Committed to take her trial at the ensuing Assizes.**

**It is difficult to make any sense of the above report !!**

**Leicester Chronicle – December 17<sup>th</sup> 1870**

**LEICESTERSHIRE WINTER ASSIZES**

**Before Mr. Justice Lush**

**BURGLARY**

**MARY EDWARDS** was charged with breaking into the dwelling house of Thomas Mee, at Worthington and stealing a bottle of wine and other articles. – Mr. Jacques prosecuted. – The wife of prosecutor deposed that prisoner lived next door to her. On the 26<sup>th</sup> November, she left the house and locked the door. In the afternoon she sent her sister to her home, and in consequence of what she said she went home, and found a gallon of potatoes and a bottle of elder wine missing. She went to the prisoner, and accused her of taking the potatoes and the wine. Told her she had a key which fitted the door. She denied it, and witness then seized her, and took a key out of her pocket, which she found fitted the door. – Prisoner here denied that she knew the key would open witness's door. – Hannah Mee spoke to going to her sister's house. She found the door closed, but unfastened. She found the prisoner in the pantry. She had some trouble in opening the pantry door, and someone was pushing at the back. On getting in she found prisoner with a bucket of potatoes in her hand. Prisoner said witness's sister had gone and left the door undone. – John Holt corroborated. – P.C. Ward spoke to apprehending prisoner, - **Guilty: Three months hard labour.**

**Leicester Chronicle – March 11<sup>th</sup> 1871**

**ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

William Shaw, labourer, Worthington, was charged with having disturbed the Rev. J. O. Brook, whilst celebrating divine service in the church at Worthington, by smoking in the porch, - Abraham Frearson, the parish clerk, proved the case, and **defendant was fined 10s. 6d. and costs or or fourteen days imprisonment**

James Eaglesfield, of Worthington, was fined 10s. for allowing his asses to stray on the highway.....Defendant is an old offender.

**Leicester Chronicle – April 8<sup>th</sup> 1871**

**ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

John Smith of Worthington, labourer, pleaded guilty to having cruelly illtreated a Stirk (a *yearling bullock or heifer*), the property of Mr. Stubbs, his master. – **Sentenced to 21 days hard labour.**

**Leicester Chronicle – October 14<sup>th</sup> 1871**

**ASHBY COUNTY COURT – THURS OCT 19<sup>TH</sup>.**

**William 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 Griffydam, 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.

#### **Leicester Chronicle – November 18<sup>th</sup> 1871**

##### **ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

Ralph Smith of Worthington, an old offender, was fined £3 and costs for having, on Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, used a lurcher dog for the purpose of taking game.....Mr. Hughes prosecuted Isaac Hulse, Worthington, engine driver, and Robert Brown of Newbold, stoker, who were charged with a similar offence, at Worthington, On October 29<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Dewes prosecuted, and said that almost every man engaged on the new railway line now being formed between between Ashby and Worthington kept a running dog, consequently there was but little game, and the preserves were at the mercy of the navies. – **Fined £2 2s. and costs, or six weeks hard labour.**

#### **Leicester Chronicle – February 24<sup>th</sup> 1872**

##### **ASHBY PETTY SESSION**

.....Frederick Johnson, of Griffydam, fishmonger, was charged for that he had on the 9<sup>th</sup> February, 1872, at Worthington, feloniously stole two iron corner plates, the property of Mr. John Bayliss. – Mr. Dewes appeared on behalf of the prisoner. – George Ball, a night watchman in the employ of the prosecutor, said he was on duty on the night in question, and saw the prisoner come through a gap in the fence, with something in his hand. When he saw me he threw down what he had got in his hands, I said to him, Freddy, what is your game, but he made no answer, and followed his donkey and cart. Witness at once got over the fence to see what he had thrown down, and found the two corner plates now produced, which witness had but a short time before himself put against the tool chest. – **Sentenced to fourteen days hard labour.**

#### **Leicester Journal – April 5<sup>th</sup> 1872**

##### **ASHBY UNION – Board of Guardians SPECIAL SESSION**

**Overseers elected for Worthington were – W. Baxter, W.Wale, and John Simkin Knight.**

**Constables elected for Worthington were – James Husbands and Joseph Adkins**

#### **Leicester Journal – May 24<sup>th</sup> 1872**

##### **GUILSMORE (GELSMOOR) NEAR WORTHINGTON – A CHILD DROWNED**

On Tuesday afternoon, a sad incident occurred to a child named John Lakin, aged three years and six months, living with its aunt at Guilsmore ([Gelsmoor](#)) It appears that the deceased's parents live at Bedford, and that he had lately been residing with his aunt at the above place for the benefit of his health. Shortly after three o'clock on Tuesday afternoon he was playing in the house, when some ducks came into the place, and it is supposed that when driving them away, he followed them to a pond a short distance from the house, and slipped into it, as in the course of a few minutes, being missed, search was made for him, when he was found in the pond, quite dead.

**Leicester Chronicle – January 11<sup>th</sup> 1873**

**ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

**James Woollett**, of Coleorton, collier, was charged by Joseph Hewitt, of Worthington, collier with having assaulted him at Worthington on the 23<sup>rd</sup> ult. – Hewitt said : On the night in question on my return from Christmas boxing, I was struck across the face by someone. It was dark at the time, but as soon as the party spoke, I knew it was the defendant, and I could tell he had been drinking. I pulled my coat off to fight him, and he did the same ; but as soon as I had mine off, he threw me down and commenced to kick me about my head, face, and body ; and the marks you now see are the effects of the injuries I then received. There was no one near us at the time. – Mr. Dewes, who appeared for the defendant, called Isaac Birch, who said that on the night in question he was returning home with Hewitt, but had occasion to loiter behind, and he had no sooner done so than he heard Hewitt using bad language and calling Woollett foul names, and very soon from words they came to blows. Both had their jackets off, and after it was all over Hewitt wished to fight him the next morning for £10, but Woollett refused to do so. – **Case dismissed.**

**Leicester Chronicle – July 12<sup>th</sup> 1873**

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

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

**WILLIAM HOULT** (31), farmer and brick manufacturer, was charged with the manslaughter of Maria Weston, at Worthington on the 27<sup>th</sup> June. – Mr. Jacques prosecuted, and Mr. Merewether defended the prisoner. – Frederick Staniforth, labourer, living at Worthington, said on the 18<sup>th</sup> June he was standing near his master's house, on the road leading from Breedon to Worthington, at about eight o'clock. Prisoner came up in a basket trap, drawn by a pony. Prisoner passed him and stopped, and then turned towards Breedon. He beat the pony, which was galloping as fast as it could. – William Shaw, labourer, Worthington, said he was in the street in the village of Worthington about eight o'clock, and saw prisoner coming up with a pony and trap at a very fast pace. He had difficulty in getting out of the way of the pony and trap. – Mary Higglesfield said on the day in question she saw prisoner coming in a basket trap from Breedon. He was driving the pony very fast. Prisoner got up in the trap, and flogged the pony several times. – William Elliot, grocer, Worthington, spoke to seeing the prisoner driving at a furious pace at the time in question. – Josiah Weston, haggler, said the deceased was his mother. On the evening in question he was coming with a horse and cart from Griffydam to Worthington, and met prisoner with a pony and trap. He (witness) had to back his horse to get out of the way of prisoner. – By Mr. Merewether : His mother had been run over by a post-boy named Broadhurst previously. She was deaf, but could hear when spoken to loudly. – Ralph Smith, labourer, who lived on the road leading to Griffydam, said he was standing at his door on the evening in question, and saw the deceased, who was coming from Griffydam to Worthington. She was near the roadside. Saw prisoner come up, and heard him shout when about three yards off the deceased, "Get out of the way". He did not think there was time for her to get out of the way before the shaft struck her and knocked her down ; the pony trampled on her head, and the wheel passed over her. Prisoner, who was going very fast, whipped the pony after he had run over deceased. He told prisoner he had knocked deceased down, but he did not stop. Prisoner went on as far as his brickyard, which was about 300 yards off and then stopped. He (witness) went and picked deceased up. – By Mr. Merewether : Could not see prisoner if he had been looking in the direction he was coming when he first heard him, as there was a corner. The deceased was walking where the wheel of the trap would run. – James Cowlshaw, farmer, said he was riding on the road from Griffydam to Worthington on the evening in question, and saw prisoner driving at a furious rate. He rode on to the place where deceased was, and from information he received, he went after prisoner to the

brickyard, and told him he had one over a woman, and injured her seriously. Prisoner replied he had as much right on the road as anyone else. He also added that he told her to get out of the way, but she would not. – Dr. Johnson, of Whitwick, said he saw deceased after the accident. He found several bruises on different parts of her body, and there was a bruise all up the leg, as also bruises on the head and temple. She was in a low state, and died on the 27<sup>th</sup>. He made a *post mortem* examination, and found the cause of death to be effusion of blood on the brain, caused by the injuries she had sustained. – Mr. Merewether, for the defence, said the deceased was deaf, but as the prisoner called out to her when three or four yards off, she had time to get out of the road. – His Lordship in summing up, pointed out that the jury must satisfy themselves that the death of the woman was due to the criminal negligence of the prisoner. They must judge for themselves, if they found the death had been caused, whether the prisoner exercised proper caution. If they believed the evidence of the witnesses, the prisoner either could not or would not stop the pony when he saw the woman on the road. If he could not stop the pony, he had not been guilty of culpable negligence. If they found he had been guilty of culpable negligence, which had resulted in the death of this woman, and considered that he was a fit person for punishment, then they must find him guilty – The jury found the prisoner guilty, but recommended him to mercy on account of the deceased being deaf. – **His Lordship said the deceased had been killed entirely through prisoner's misconduct, which he considered a most cruel thing. Taking into account the recommendation of the jury, he should not sentence prisoner to hard labour, as that would make him the associate of thieves, but he should order him to be imprisoned for four months, and condemn him to pay the costs of this prosecution.**

#### **Leicester Chronicle – April 11<sup>th</sup> 1874**

##### **WORTHINGTON**

**THE CHURCH WINDOWS.** – A correspondent writes; People passing through this village cannot but be struck by the appearance of the church windows – not that there is anything particular about them, but the fact of their having to be covered with wire netting to prevent their being broken. Moreover, conspicuous over the door is a notice of reward for information of anyone known willfully to break them – a too common occurrence. One often wonders whether the cause is attributable to the failure of the evangelising efforts of the Cure; or is the sacred edifice a mark of contempt for the ignorant?

#### **Leicester Chronicle – October 3<sup>rd</sup> 1874**

##### **WORTHINGTON**

**SUDDEN DEATH.** – Mrs. Blunt, the wife of Joseph Blunt, of Worthington died very suddenly on Wednesday night. It appears that she went out to accompany Mrs. Cowlshate part of the way home, and not returning in reasonable time search was made for her, when she was found dead by the railway side. This death has caused a profound gloom over Worthington, where she resided, as she was held in high estimation by the people for her kind and benevolent disposition.

#### **Leicester Journal – February 19<sup>th</sup> 1875**

##### **ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

William Mee, of Worthington, carpenter, was charged with having on the 6<sup>th</sup> of February at Worthington, assaulted Hannah Reed, and the said Hannah Reed was charged with having at the same time and place assaulted Mary Ann Mee, wife of the said William Mee. – Mr. Dewes appeared on behalf of William Mee and Mary Ann Mee, his wife. – Witnesses were called on both sides, who proved that the disturbance was occasioned by a load of coals being taken on the day in question for William Mee, and in getting them in, they had to go on the causeway of Mrs. Reed. Both cases were dismissed, each party to pay their own costs.

#### **Leicester Chronicle – October 16<sup>th</sup> 1875**

##### **ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

Samuel Crane, of Worthington, labourer, pleaded guilty to having at Worthington on the 18<sup>th</sup> Sept, stolen a coat and 3 lbs weight of mutton, the property of Thos. Mee. From the evidence it appeared that prisoner had been lodging with the prosecutor, and on the morning in question he

absconded, taking the coat and mutton with him ; and when apprehended at Leicester on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October, he was wearing the coat. – Sentenced to one calendar month's imprisonment and hard labour.

**Leicester Chronicle – April 14<sup>th</sup> 1877**

**RURAL SANITATION IN LEICESTERSHIRE  
(FROM THE LONDON ECHO)**

Like many others I went out of town at Easter. Eschewing the hackneyed haunts of Hastings, Margate, the Isle of Wight, and other seaside resorts, I struck out a new line, and made for the Midlands. Leaving St. Pancras for the Trent Station, I travelled by the Ashby Railway through a fertile district, and visited such out-of-the-way places as will be indicated by the names of Griffy-Dam, Lount, Tonge, Breedon Brand, Breedon, and Worthington, and I propose to narrate some of the things we heard and saw there. It is not my intention to attempt a description of the natural features of the country, although much might be said in praising of the charming varieties of hill, and dale, and wood. My concern is more with some of the blots which the cupidity of man has succeeding on making on the fair face of creation. One of the first things that attracted my attention as I drove along was the ruinous condition of the cottages and buildings. Roofless, doorless, windowless, are terms which convey but a faint idea of the actual condition of the things. Some are tenanted and others are tenantless, but they are alike ruinous and miserable. My first impression was that I had landed on one of those estates whose ownership has been the subject of litigation in the court of Chancery for generation after generation. But on enquiry I find that it is not so. The country here for miles around belongs to the "great man" who succeeded to the estates of a late Marquis, of unhappy celebrity in the racing world., and who has considerably increased the number of his broad acres by the purchase of adjoining estates. So struck was I with the utterly wretched condition of the cottages, that I put up at a roadside inn, and made a personal inspection of such as were conveniently within my reach, in order to satisfy myself that human beings were absolutely existing in such wretched and shapeless heaps of old bricks, decayed timber, and rotten thatch. The first cottages I approached formed a block of three, and if there can be a difference where all are so bad, they appeared to be a little better than the rest. The approach to these cottages was through filth of every conceivable, and even the most disgusting description. Lest our olfactory nerves should not make the discovery, a rustic, touching his cap, said, "Mind where you put your foot, Sir". The roofs of the outbuildings had fallen in years ago, and the walls were in a dangerous condition. Water closet there was none, and what had once formed an apology for one had long been in ruin. A man whom I accosted informed us that these cottages belonged to the "great man", and that he, the tenant, would willingly give the labour if the landlord would supply the materials necessary for the most urgent repairs. Passing onto another block, I find the same, or even worse, state of things existing. Piled up at the end was a great heap of ashes and refuse, the accumulation of years, and similar heaps existed here and there along the public roadway. Such was the dangerous state of these cottages that it was a marvel any tenants could be found to risk their lives in them, and yet they were tenanted. An old woman in one of them said they were also the property of the "great man" who would not spend a penny on them. They had not been so bad when her old man could work, but he had grown old, and so the shed had tumbled down, and the pigsty, and the washhouse, and the cottage looked as if it would speedily follow. The roof was so bad that in heavy rains, the water poured on to the bed in streams, but they managed to keep their heads dry by a tea tray suspended from the rafters. She thought the house would last her time – it would not be long. She was seventy-eight and her old man a little older – eighty-three. She had reared a large family in the house and did like to leave the old spot, but it was very hard to end their days in that fashion ; yet the owner would not help them, and they could not help themselves, and so they were like to bide a little longer until the end should come.

I made enquiry in the neighbourhood and found that these were only specimens of many more, and our hearts sickened at the thought. We have often been told, in that hackneyed phrase, that the property has its duties as well as its rights ; but where is the power to enforce the duties while the rights are exacted? It is the boast of conservatives that the present Government has improved

the sanitary legislation of the country ; and, lo ! these evils still remain. It is true that in one of the sanitary districts here, where there is an active inspector, some good work has been done – cottages have been demolished, cesspools which overflowed into the wells have been removed, and drainage works are being done. But in the other district, the weak point of the Public Health Act of 1875 has been revealed. True, there is an inspector, but he is appointed by the Board of Guardians, and has to be elected annually. To them he has to report, and they determine what summonses shall be issued, and what works shall be done. But alas ! the Chairman of that Board is the land agent of the identical “great man” who owns the property where these nuisances exist. It does not require the wisdom of Solomen to foresee what in nine cases out of ten the result of such an arrangement would be.

Musing on these things I pursued my way, and presently came to the domain of another great man, where large sums of money have just been lavishly expended on stabling for his sud and kennels for his hounds. In these erections the most sanitary arrangements have been adopted, and no expenses has been spared to make them light, airy, and healthy. As I looked on that picture and on this, I said alas ! alas ! not that horseflesh and dogflesh should be so well and carefully tended, so comfortably housed and fed : but that our fellow-men – the bone and sinew of England – should be left to suffer and die in hovels and sheds regarded as utterly unfit to shelter the animal creation.

#### **Leicester Chronicle – April 27<sup>th</sup> 1878**

##### **ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

**A Felo De Se.** - An inquest was held by Henry Deane, Esq., coroner, at the Railway Tavern Worthington, on Tuesday, as to the death of Joseph Read, aged 53, postman, Gilmore (*Gelsmoor*), Worthington. – Annie Read, daughter of the deceased, said on Thursday last she noticed that her father appeared rather strange. He had delivered his letters in the morning, and when he came in he lay down on the sofa, and took no notice of what was said. She accordingly sent for Doctor Joyce. – Catherine Watson said she had noticed that the deceased appeared to be down – spirited lately. On Thursday morning he delivered a letter to her, and he could then hardly walk or speak, and presently she saw him go into a field, and lean over a gate as though he were sick. She was present when he died on Saturday. He said he was much put about concerning something which had occurred. – Edward Read, one of the deceased’s brothers, said that last Thursday he was sent for to his brother’s house. His brother told him that he had taken a little laudanum – about a small bottle full. The bottle was produced. On Friday morning deceased said, “I have done very wrong, but I think I have made it alright again as regards the parish”, and again, “I believe they have all forgiven me, except the Railway Company”. Deceased was collector of rates, and the Railway Company were rate payers. – William Joyce, surgeon, Ashby, said that he was called to the deceased’s house between twelve and one o’clock. He found him lying on the sofa, and said to him, “What’s this Read?”. He replied, “Well I did not send for you”. For some time deceased appeared reluctant to answer questions, but at last he said, “I may as well tell you about it, I’ve taken some laudanum”, and, in answer to a question as to the quantity, “I don’t know, I drank it out of a bottle. I can suffer nothing in the next world worse than I am suffering in this”. Witness asked why he said this. Deceased replied “Why the fact is I’ve got wrong with the rates. The parish made an 8d. rate and I collected a good one. I think I’ve made it right with the rest of them, but not with the Midland Railway Company”. Witness said, “Have you tried them?”. He replied “No, for they would have given me into custody at once, and I should have had to go to prison. I’ve neither eaten nor slept since I got it wrong”. Witness endeavoured to get him to take an emetic, but he would not be persuaded, and said “I’ll take my chance”. He was then perfectly rational, and showed no symptoms of opium poisoning. The pupils were contracted, but there was no indication that he had taken a dangerous dose. He must have taken the poison two hours before witness saw him, and he would have expected to find stronger indications if a large dose had been taken. Witness endeavoured in every way to get him to take an emetic, but without effect. Next morning he received information that the deceased had been sick, and concluded that the effect had passed off, but about six o’clock he received an urgent message that the deceased was worse. He then found him in a state of collapse, and he administered brandy and stimulants. The deceased was incessantly sick. A very large dose of

laudanum frequently acts as an emetic, and the state in which he found the man that evening rather pointed to the probability that he had taken a very large dose at a later, but this was merely a surmise. He could not connect the death of the deceased clearly with the dose of opium which he took on Thursday morning, for he would have expected different symptoms, and that the poison would have acted more rapidly. He could find no record of any case extending over 40 hours. The bottle produced was an ounce bottle, and would if full, contain a poisonous dose. – The coroner, in summing up to the jury, told them there were two things upon which to decide – what was the cause of the deceased's death, and if from poison, did he take it whilst in a sound state of mind? They had the evidence of witnesses to show that the deceased, before taking the poison, was going about his ordinary avocation. The medical evidence left it with them to decide whether he died from exhaustion following the effects of taking the small bottleful of laudanum, or whether afterwards he took another dose. The doctor certainly stated that he did not think the deceased could have died from the effects of what he took on Thursday. They had then the long, perfectly rational, detailed conversation with the doctor upon which to decide as to his state of mind. It was a very painful thing to find that a man had taken away his life deliberately. For his own part he thought that every man who took away his own life must be *ipso facto*, at least, temporarily insane, but that had nothing to do with them. If they came to the conclusion that the deceased was quite sane, and that he died from the effects of poison administered by himself, they would have to show it by their verdict. – After an anxious and careful consideration, the jury found themselves compelled to return a verdict of *felo de se*, and an order was made for a private burial between nine and twelve o'clock that night.

**Laudanum is a tincture of opium containing approximately 10% powdered opium by weight. Reddish-brown and extremely bitter, laudanum contains almost all of the opium alkaloids, including morphine and codeine. Laudanum was historically used to treat a variety of conditions, but its principal use was as a pain medication and cough suppressant. Until the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, laudanum was sold without a prescription and was a constituent of many patent medicines. Today, laudanum is recognized as addictive and is strictly regulated and controlled as such throughout most of the world.**

**Felo de se, Latin for “felon of him – or herself”, was a concept applied against the personal estates (assets) of adults who ended their own lives. Early English common law, among others, by this concept considered suicide a crime—a person found guilty of it, though dead, would ordinarily see penalties including forfeiture of property to the monarch and a shameful burial.**

#### **The Leicester Chronicle and Leicestershire Mercury – May 18<sup>th</sup> 1878** **WORTHINGTON**

The anniversary sermons in connection with the Wesleyan Sunday School, were preached on Sunday, by Mr. J. Hunt, London, formerly of the Ashby circuit. The chapel was crowded, and many were unable to obtain admission. The children sang pieces suitable to the occasion. The collection amounted to £6 6s.

#### **Leicester Journal – February 21<sup>st</sup> 1879**

##### **ASHBY – MEETING OF BOARD OF GUARDIANS**

**From a medical report of Dr. Joyce, Medical Officer of Health in company with Inspector, Mr. Heward.....**but at Smisby the water supply was objectionable, the spring from which it was obtained being frequented by cattle, and the surroundings were of a filthy character. This has since been remedied, as Sir John Crewe has enclosed a suitable reservoir for the use of the inhabitants. A few cases of enteric or typhoid fever occurred at Worthington, in September. A

person recovering from this disease came from Warrington ; two children living in the same house soon fell ill, and the fever spread to some adjoining cottages. Care was taken as to disinfection and removal of excrementitious matters, and I have not heard of any new cases in the neighbourhood for the last three months. During the year 231 notices have been issued in the district for the removal of nuisances, such as offensive accumulations of manure, &c., 211 of which have been complied with ; twenty new privies have been built where previously there was not sufficient privy accommodation, or where the old ones were situated in too close proximity to the dwelling houses, and in a few instances the cesspools have been done away with, and the privies converted into dry earth closets. Fifteen piggeries have been closed where they were situated so that swine became a nuisance. Five cases of overcrowding have come under my notice during the year, but these have now been remedied. Proceedings were taken in April last against James Moore for having exposed for sale the carcass of a cow which had died from a wasting disease. This was a flagrant case, and a conviction was obtained. A considerable sum has been spent during the year at Hugglescote, Swannington and Worthington The water supply is still deficient in some portions of the district, especially at Woodville and Oakthorpe.

### **Leicester Chronicle – May 31<sup>st</sup> 1879**

#### **WORTHINGTON**

**SUICIDE.** – On Tuesday, an inquest was held at the Railway Tavern, Worthington, on the body of Benjamin Whyman, aged 53, who was found hanging by a skein of cotton on the evening of the 25<sup>th</sup> inst. – Hannah Whyman said deceased, her brother, was a framework knitter, and had been staying with her for about four months. He had been ill some time, his lungs being affected. On Sunday, witness went to chapel, leaving deceased alone. She came back after chapel, went upstairs, and found him hanging by a skein of cotton fastened to a nail on the wall. He was dressed the same as when she had left him. He had been in a low way for some years, and was melancholy and irritable. He had refused medicine, thinking it was poison; had had an idea the people hissed at him when he went out, and had been heard to say it was time he was out of the way. – Aaron Whyman, nephew of the deceased, said he saw him hanging by a skein of cotton used for seaming, which was tied to a nail in the wall. – George Marriott said he cut deceased down, and he fell on to the bed close by. The skein was white, and was wrapped around his neck, and the end attached to a nail in the wall. – P.C. Hancock produced the skein. – **The jury found a verdict that the deceased committed suicide whilst temporarily insane.**

### **Leicester Chronicle – August 23<sup>rd</sup> 1879**

#### **COUNTY COURT**

#### **Before Mr. Barrow, Judge**

John Green Evatt and another v William Houlst.

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 Journal – July 30<sup>th</sup> 1880**

Baxter and Wife v Dr. Hamilton. – An action to recover £50 as compensation for injuries sustained by the female plaintiff in a collision between the plaintiff's and defendant's traps. – The case was watched with considerable interest. – Mr. Deane (Loughborough) for plaintiffs, and Mr. Fowler (Leicester) for defendant. – The facts of the case were briefly these : On the 20<sup>th</sup> of April, plaintiff, **a Smith and Farrier, at Worthington**, in company with his wife, was returning home from Gresley with a pony and gig, and jogging along at a slow pace. Dr. Hamilton of Swadlincote, in company with a friend, came up behind his horse and trap at a sharp trot, and, before plaintiff could get out of the way, a collision occurred, in which the female plaintiff had her collar bone broken, and was otherwise injured. Dr. Hamilton told the plaintiffs at the time that he was a surgeon, and offered his assistance, but this was refused. The female plaintiff was confined to the

house for seven weeks, during which she was attended by Dr. Hatchett, of Ravenstone. – For the defence, Mr. Fowler contended that the blame did not rest with his client, and that the plaintiff did not allow Dr. Hamilton sufficient room to pass, and, besides this, there was near to the scene of the collision an engine belonging to Messrs. Knowles and Co, which was working at the time, and the horse of Dr. Hamilton became frightened at its noise. – William Baxter stated that on April 19<sup>th</sup>, at 11.30 a.m., he was driving his pony and gig at a very slow pace between Woodville and Gresley. The road was about eight yards wide, and he was driving so that there was ample room for anything to pass on either side of his trap. Dr. Hamilton came behind at a sharp rate, and he (plaintiff) moved a little to his proper side to allow him to pass, but the wheel struck and caused the accident. – The female plaintiff gave similar evidence, only in such an amusing style to cause great laughter. As soon as she had recovered she went to Dr. Hamilton, and asked for some compensation, and the doctor said he should not give her a farthing. – Dr. Hatchett, of Ravenstone, stated the nature of the injuries, and said he had attended plaintiff from the 20<sup>th</sup> of April to the 15<sup>th</sup> of June. – A lad named Geo. Leach was also called in support of the case, but his evidence was of little importance. – his was plaintiff's case. – Dr. Hamilton said there was not sufficient room for him to pass, and the accident would not have occurred had it not been for the noise caused by the engine at work on the private railway of Messrs. Knowles and Company. He very much regretted the accident. – Percy William Smith, a medical student, St. John's Wood, London, who was in company with Dr. Hamilton, gave similar evidence. – John Cutler, a clerk, and Arthur Wood, a pointsman at Messrs. Knowles and Co.'s,, were called for the defence. – **His honour gave a verdict for the defendant.**

**Leicester Chronicle – August 28<sup>th</sup> 1880**

### **ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

**Before Major Mowbray (chairman), and H.E. Smith, Esq.**

### **EXTRAORDINARY CHARGE AGAINST A FARMER AND OTHERS**

#### **RESCUING A STACK FROM BAILIFFS**

Sidney Heywood, farmer Griffydam; Oliver, his brother, Griffydam; William Hodges, labourer Griffydam; Arthur Draper, labourer, Griffydam; John Curtis, labourer and Thomas Haynes, Clerk, Ashby de la Zouch, were severally charged with unlawfully removing a stack of hay, at Griffydam, on the 12<sup>th</sup> inst., whilst the bailiffs of the County Court were in possession of the same. Each of the defendants pleaded not guilty to the charge. The court was densely crowded, and the case was evidently watched with much interest. Mr. Musson, Deputy Registrar of the Ashby County Court, appeared to prosecute, and Mr. F. Stroud, of Nottingham, for defendants. Mr. Musson briefly stated the facts of the case, which are these – On the 11<sup>th</sup> inst., the bailiffs of the Ashby County Court were sent to Griffydam, in pursuance of a judgment of the County Court, to take possession of a stack of hay belonging to Joseph Lager. On the 12<sup>th</sup> inst., the defendant Sidney Heywood went and said the hay belonged to him, and he should take it away. Notwithstanding the caution given him by the bailiff then in possession, the defendant Sidney Heywood, assisted by the other defendants, did remove the hay. In closing his remarks, Mr. Musson said it was a serious case, and he asked for heavy penalties in the cases of Sidney and Oliver Heywood, as he (Mr. Musson) believed that they were the ring leaders of the party. – Nathaniel Timms deposed, I am a bailiff of the Ashby County Court. I had a warrant of execution put into my hands against Joseph Lager of Griffydam. The warrant was dated August 9<sup>th</sup>, and the amount was £17 12s. I and Thompson, the other bailiff, executed the warrant on the 11<sup>th</sup> inst. I remained there until August 13<sup>th</sup>. A regular distress notice was pinned on to the stack. Mrs. Heywood (Lager's daughter) refused to take it at the door. On Thursday, the defendant, Sidney Heywood, came into Chamber's public house, where I was staying, and said to me, "Nat, you're here, are you ; and have come to seize that hay, which is my property, and stands on my premises, and I shall take it away". I said "I hope you will not, for we have legally seized it, and if you do I think you will get into trouble ; if it belongs to you, there is a course of law for you to pursue. We have legally seized it and mean to keep it". He replied "I shall not interplead". Between five and six o'clock on

the same evening, I saw Sidney Heywood and a man in the yard. Hurst did not stay. The other defendants came shortly after with a wagon ; Hodges mounted the stack, and began to throw the hay into the wagon. I requested them to leave the stack alone, and cautioned them. I can swear that the whole of the defendants assisted in removing the hay, and they entirely removed it away. They were at it during the night. I was watching them through a bedroom window in Chamber's public house. On the following Saturday, I and Thompson and P.C. Hancock saw the defendant Draper, and he admitted being there. – By Mr. Stroud : I got to the stack about three o'clock in the afternoon, and went into Chamber's public house ; I afterwards went to Sidney Heywood's, and saw Mrs. Heywood. I saw Thompson pin the paper on the stack while Mrs. Heywood was there. I swear I saw the paper on the stack. – In reply to Mr. Stroud, witness said he was not there whilst the hay was being removed. – John Chambers, landlord of the "Traveller's Rest", Griffydham, said he had lately taken to the house recently occupied by Joseph Lager. He remembered the bailiffs Thomson and Timms coming to his house on the 11<sup>th</sup> inst. They asked him if Lager was there? He relied "No". They asked him where he lived, and he said next door. He then saw them talking to Mrs. Heywood. Timms remained at his house, and witness found food for him. He saw a party of men removing the hay, but did not see Draper there. Mrs. Heywood offered to sell witness the hay on Thursday morning. It was standing on the same land as that Lager occupied before him. – By. Mr. Stroud : When he took the public house, Sidney Heywood came and asked him to allow the stack to remain, saying it was his. He consented and intended to buy it. He did not see Sidney Heywood take any part in removing the hay. He was there ; but he did not see him touch it. – William Platts, jun., a pork butcher, residing at Griffydham, spoke as to seeing the defendants Sidney Heywood and Arthur Draper with a load of hay on the day in question. – By Mr. Stroud : His father owned some land at Griffydham. Sidney Heywood rented a field of his father. Witness saw the grass cut, and it was stacked close to Sidney Heywood's house. It was the stack in question. – John King, Clerk at the County Court Office, said, on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> inst., he went to Griffydham to see the bailiff in possession. He saw Sidney Heywood, and, calling him on one side, asked him how it was he had removed the stack of hay? He replied "it was mine". Witness said "if it was yours, why did you not interplead ; you knew how to proceed"? He replied, yes I knew how to proceed ; but have been robbed enough, lately". Witness said "You'll get into bother". He relied "I don't care ; the hay was mine, and I meant having it". – John Bailey, another bailiff of the Ashby County Court, said on the 14<sup>th</sup> inst, he saw Oliver Heywood at the "New Inn", Ashby. He said "We've beat the Bums". Witness got 3s. 6d. for his days work.- This being the case for the prosecution, Mr. Stroud briefly addressed the Bench on behalf of the defendants. He admitted that the hay had been removed ; but contended that it was not so serious offence as Mr. Musson had represented. The stack of hay, undoubtedly, was the property of Sidney Heywood, and he thought the defendant was under the impression that he had a right to remove it. He (Mr. Stroud) hoped the Bench would deal as lightly as possible with the defendants. – William Platts, sen., farmer, Griffydham, was called for the defence. He said that Sidney Heywood was a tenant of his, and had been for four or five years. The stack in question was Sidney Heywood's property. He (witness) had known the defendant (Sidney Heywood) as a respectable man. He always paid his rent. – Elizabeth Eaglefield, cowkeeper, Worthington, said that she bought the stack of hay in question from Sidney Heywood on the 5<sup>th</sup> inst., for £14. – This was the case. The Bench retired to consult, and on returning into court, the Chairman said the Bench had found all the defendants guilty of the charge and that they were liable to a heavy penalty, but they had decided to take a lenient view of the case. Sidney Heywood who appeared to be the chief offender, would have to pay a fine of £2 10s. and 11s. costs, or one month ; the other defendants would be fined 1s. each and 11s. costs or seven days. The defendants were some little time in deciding whether to pay or go below, but eventually the cash was paid.

## **Leicester Journal – May 6<sup>th</sup> 1881**

### **ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

George Peters, of Worthington, Licensed Victualler ([of Waggon and Horses](#)), was charged by P. C. Hancock with being found drunk on the licensed premises of the Waggon and Horses Inn, at Worthington, on April 17<sup>th</sup>. – P.C. Hancock said on the evening in question he visited the Waggon and Horses Inn, and found defendant with his coat off and wanting to fight. He was drunk and very excited. – Mr. Lawrence, who appeared for the defendant, put him in the witness box.

Defendant admitted that he had his coat off, and was very excited, but denied being drunk, for he had not been in the house very long. He had been asked to stand treat to some of his customers, and he went in for that purpose, but he had no sooner got in than a man wanted to fight him, and he pulled his coat off. – Several witnesses gave corroborative evidence. **Case dismissed.**

**Leicester Chronicle – November 5<sup>th</sup> 1881**

**ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS  
FOWL STEALING AT WORTHINGTON**

Joseph Parker, labourer, Worthington, was charged on remand with stealing a live tame fowl, the property of Herbert Hall, collier, Worthington, on the 15<sup>th</sup> October. – Prosecutor's wife said she was at home about 5.30 p.m., and heard a noise in the fowl-place. She went out to see what it was, and a man rushed out, carrying one of the fowls with him. Witness told him to leave the fowls, but he ran away with one. Her husband caught hold of him. They had a struggle and fell into a ditch. Hall handed the fowl to witness. It was her husband's property, and was worth 2s. 6d. – P.C. Chapman deposed to take prisoner into custody, when he said "I did take the fowl, but I did not mean to eat it. I wanted to sell it to get something to eat". – Prisoner now said he was badly off, and had nothing to eat. – **Prisoner, who bears a bad character, was sent to prison for two months hard labour.**

**Leicester journal – January 13<sup>th</sup> 1832**

**ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

John Springthorpe and Thomas Stewart of Worthington, were charged by Caprain Freeman, school attendance officer for the Ashby Union, with neglecting to send their children to school, contrary to the by-laws. – **Fined 5s. each, including costs, or seven days.**

**Leicester Chronicle – January 28<sup>th</sup> 1882**

**ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

**STEALING A RABBIT TRAP.** – **George Eaglefield, labourer, Breedon-On-The-Hill**, was charged with stealing, on the 11<sup>th</sup> December last, a steel trap, value 2s. 6d., the property of Nathaniel Charles Curzon, Esq. – P.C. Hollioake, from information he received, went to defendant's mother's house, and searched in the orchard, and there found the trap produced marked with initials "N.C.C." – Two days after witness saw prisoner, and charged him with stealing the trap. He at once admitted his guilt, and said he took it from Mr. Garrat's hovel. – Thomas Garrat, farmer, Worthington, identified the trap as Mr. Curzon's property, and said it was taken from his (witness's) hovel. The hovel was locked, but the trap had been taken through a hole for drainage purposes. – **Prisoner, who pleaded guilty, had nothing to say in defence, and was fined 10s 6d. and 29s 2d. costs. The money was paid.**

**Leicester Chronicle – July 15<sup>th</sup> 1882**

**ASHBY PETTY SESSION**

**HIGHWAY OFFENCE.** – **Sidney Haywood, agent, Griffydham**, was charged by P.C. Holyoak with leaving a horse and trap uncared for an unusual length of time on the 26<sup>th</sup> ult., at Worthington. – Defendant denied the charge, and called a witness, who swore that defendant was only a few minutes in the house. – **Fined 2s. and 6s. 6d. costs.**

**JOSIAH WESTON AGAIN.** – **Josiah Weston, Higgler, Worthington** was once more charged with allowing a horse to stray on the Highway at Worthington. – Defendant did not appear. – **P.C. Holyoak proved the case. Fined 2s. 6d. and 6s. 6d. costs.**

**Leicester Chronicle – July 15<sup>th</sup> 1882**

**LEICESTERSHIRE SUMMER ASSIZES  
LARCENY OF POULTRY**

**WILLIAM JOHNSON (35), labourer, and GEORGE DALLMAN (26), labourer**, were charged with stealing four geese, three turkeys, and one drake, value £3 10s., the property of Thomas

Edward Cooper, at Worthington on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June. – Both prisoners pleaded guilty, and Dallman admitted a previous conviction. – **Dallman was sentenced to twelve months imprisonment with hard labour, and Johnson to four months imprisonment with hard labour.**

**Leicester Journal – August 25<sup>th</sup> 1882**

**ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

Jane Collins (wife of Chrls Collins), of Worthington, was charged with having, on the 6<sup>th</sup> July last, stolen one Benzoline lamp, the property of John Chambers. – From the evidence it appeared that Mr. Chambers keeps a beer house, at Worthington, and on this day the defendant and another woman went into the house and had 2 pints of ale ; that just before they went in the lamp was placed on the chimney piece, but soon after they had left the house it was missed, and on the 8<sup>th</sup> of August P.C. Holyoake went to Collin's house and saw the lamp and took it to Mrs. Chambers. Defendant followed him and said to Mrs. Chambers "you won't prosecute me I hope, for I have a lot of children, and so have you. I meant to have brought it back". **Fined 31s. including costs.**

**Leicester Chronicle – September 9<sup>th</sup> 1882**

**ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

**John Thomas Jessop, 13**, was charged with stealing a pocket knife, value 6d., the property of Joseph Smith, at Worthington, on the 14<sup>th</sup> August. – Several witnesses were examined in support of the charge, which the Bench thought had been proved. They did not wish, however, to send the boy to prison, **and he was therefore ordered to receive six strokes with the birch rod.**

**Leicester Chronicle – September 30<sup>th</sup> 1882**

**LOUGHBOROUGH POLICE COURT**

**A WELL-TO-DO-BEGGAR.** – **John Burton of Worthington** was charged with begging at Sheepshed on the 25<sup>th</sup> inst. – P.C. Keatin proved the case, and said that on searching the defendant he found 15s. 61/2d. in his possession. – **Fined 15s., including costs, or fourteen days.**

**Leicester Journal – April 6<sup>th</sup> 1883**

**ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

**Elections of Parish Overseers and Constables**

**Worthington Overseers – J. S. Knight and John Nichlinson**

**Worthington Constables – Jonas Knight, jun., John Bird and Joseph Fletcher**

**Leicester Journal – April 4<sup>th</sup> 1884**

**ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

**Elections of Parish Overseers and Constables**

**Worthington Overseers – C. T. Church and John Sharpe**

**Worthington Constables – George Barker, Jonas Knight (Griffydam) and Joseph Fletcher (Newbold)**

**Leicester Journal – July 4<sup>th</sup> 1884**

**WORTHINGTON, LEICESTERSHIRE**

A very valuable FREEHOLD FARM, forming one of the most desirable occupations of such a size in the Midlands, situate in the Township of Worthington, in the parish of Breedon-on-the-Hill, adjoining Worthington Station, from whence Derby is thirty minutes, and Ashby-de-la-Zouch fifteen minutes distant by Rail. It comprises a total area of:-

91a. 3r. 7p

More than half of which is Old Pasture, principally of very good quality, and well watered by a Trout Stream which runs through the entire length of the estate, the Arable portion being Turnip and Barley land.

The Farm House is a substantial structure, a few minutes walk from the Village and Church, with Garen, Orchard, and suitable Premises, the whole being in the occupation of Mr. J. V. Blunt, as a yearly tenant.

#### **Leicester Chronicle – April 4<sup>th</sup> 1885**

##### **ASHBY PETTY SESSION**

**John Cooper, sawyer, Linton**, was charged with using obscene language at the Worthington Railway Station, on the 28<sup>th</sup> February last. – Mr. C. H. Pike appeared on behalf of the company, - Defendant admitted the charge. – John Edwards, station master at Worthington, stated that when defendant was asked for his ticket he said he had neither ticket nor money, and on being told he must either find his ticket or pay the fare, he became very abusive. – Defendant said that he had dropped off to sleep, and was not quite awake when asked for his ticket, which he had in his pocket, - **Fined 2s. 6d and 13s. 6d. costs.**

#### **Leicester Journal – May 28<sup>th</sup> 1886**

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

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

##### **WORTHINGTON**

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

**Leicester Journal – April 1<sup>st</sup> 1887**

**ASHBY UNION – Board of Guardians  
SPECIAL SESSION  
Elections of Parish Overseers and Constables**

**Worthington Overseers – T. Wilson, J. Allen**

**Worthington Constables – A. Adcock, A. Haywood, G. Crabtree**

**Leicester Journal – June 3<sup>rd</sup> 1887**

**WORTHINGTON**

**PAROCHIAL TEA AND CONCERT.** – The Rev. R. A. Parsons held his first service in the parish church, Worthington, on Sunday last week, and a public tea was given on Wednesday, followed by a concert. These took place in the village schoolroom. Of the Sunday services it may be sufficient to state that they were largely attended, by many of the Rev. Gentleman's late parishioners at Loughborough, driving over to the morning one. The lessons were read by Mr. T. M. Heward (Worthington) and Mr. Capp (Loughborough). The new vicar held a shortened service at the schoolroom on Sunday afternoon. The public tea on Wednesday was well attended, about 140 assembling for that purpose. Mrs. Parsons presided at one of the tables. The concert began at half-past seven, by which time the schoolroom (**Newbold**) was packed to overflowing. A capital programme was gone through, and the audience evinced every satisfaction with its contents. Previous to the performance of the last item in the first part, the new Vicar gave a brief address to the audience. He said that when the living was offered the first time to him, he had grave doubts about accepting it ; but on the offer being repeated, and after having taken counsel with the Bishop he had accepted it. The change from town to country life would be great, and he trusted his parishioners would be as lenient as possible to him ; but, at the same time, speak as plainly to him as he intended to speak to them. He announced his intention to holding Divine service at the parish church in the afternoon and evening, alternate with service in the schoolroom. He was pleased to see so many attend the tea and concert, and thought it would be an excellent plan if they could have one every month. He himself felt more inclined to sing a song than make a speech (laughter). He hoped that next winter they would have a series of concerts. There was one thing he would like to see done – that was to have a commemoration of the Queen's Jubilee in Worthington. Though that day would soon be upon them, he thought it was not too late to commence taking some steps to celebrate it ; and he hoped shortly to call a meeting to consider the matter (cheers). The concert was then proceeded with. Encores were numerous all through the evening, and none of the performers could complain of any lack of appreciation. The instrumental selections played by Mrs. R. J. Knight, W. Ball, and W. Briggs, were effectively rendered and loudly applauded. The duets by the Misses L. A. Knight and E. R. Walker, the Misses Calvert, and Messrs W. C. Farmer and W. Briggs gave great satisfaction ; and the same may be said by the sons of soloists. The Ashby Glee Party were enthusiastically received, and their humerous glees afforded much amusement. Indeed, the whole of the programme was carried out to the delight of the whole audience. A vote of thanks was proposed by the Rev. R. A. Parsons, to the organizers and performers of the concert, and was carried with acclamation. The National Anthem brought the concert to a termination. The following was the programme:-

Part 1. – Instrumental selection from "Figaro", Messrs. R. J. Knight, W. Ball, and W. Briggs ; Glee Party "The Village Bells" (Randegger) ; Song, "Laddie", Miss Varnam (encored) ; Duet, "Flow Gently Deva", Messrs, W. C. Farmer and W. Briggs ; Song, "Measure your wants by your means", Mr. A. Stimson ; Song Miss M. S. J. Calvert ; Song "Never give up", Mr. Briggs ; Song, Miss L. A. Knight (encored) ; Glee party, "A Franklyn's Dogge" (Mackenzie).

Part 2. – Instrumental selection from "Norma", Messrs. R. J. Knight, W. Ball, and W. Briggs ; Glee party, "The Pearl Divers" (Hatton) ; Song, "The Pilgrim of Love", Mr. W. C. Farmer (encored) ; Duet, "Sweet Convent Bells", the Misses L. A. Knight and E. R. Walker ; Song, "The Owl", Mr. Briggs (encored) ; Duet, "Wanderings in the May Time", the Misses Calvert ; Glee party, "The Pigs" (A. Lee) (encored) ; "God save the Queen".

**Leicester Journal – December 2<sup>nd</sup> 1887**

**WORTHINGTON**

**CHURCH OF ENGLAND, TEMPERANCE SOCIETY**

A meeting was held in the Schoolroom ([Newbold](#)) on Monday evening, for the purpose of establishing a branch of the above society in the parish of Worthington. The Vicar (Rev. R. A. parsons) presided. There was a good attendance. After a hymn had been sung and prayer offered THE CHAIRMAN remarked that he was glad to see such a gathering of ladies and gentlemen who had come to the meeting that even. He had been at many temperance meetings in large towns where there had been a smaller attendance.....

**Leicester Journal – December 9<sup>th</sup> 1887**

**ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

**A BRUTAL HUSBAND.** – James Eaglefield, a higgler, Worthington, was charged with assaulting his wife, Mary, on the 19<sup>th</sup> of November. – The prosecutrix, who appeared with her face much bruised and discoloured, said that while she was milking her cows in the shed on the day mentioned, her husband came up and pulled the stool from under her, and knocked her out of the shed. He hit her on the head with the stool, and threatened to knock her brains out. She had previously suffered from his violence, as he regularly beat and kicked her. The prosecutrix, who appeared to be a very respectable woman, went on to tell the Bench that he husband was constantly drinking, and that she had kept him for the last seven years without his earning a penny. All the cows were her own. She implored the protection of the Bench against her husband, who was continually beating her. – P.C. Prue said he had often heard at night defendant threatening his wife, and the latter had frequently complained to him, though he had not seen any actual violence. – **The Bench convicted defendant, and sent him to prison for six weeks hard labour.**

**Leicester Journal – February 10<sup>th</sup> 1888**

**WORTHINGTON**

**PAROCHIAL WORK.** – Encouraging signs of increased activity are apparent in the parish work of Worthington, owing mainly to the personal exertions and influence of the vicar, the Rev. R. A. Parsons. On Thursday evening last week the new Reading Rooms at Griffydams, which most decidedly will meet a long-felt want, were opened by the vicar. There was a large attendance. After a hymn and prayer, the vicar delivered a short address based on the words, “Whatever ye do, do all to the glory of God”. In the course of his remarks, the Rev. speaker dwelt on the fact that man was a complex being, consisting of soul, mind and body, each of which require nourishment and development. Mr. parsons advised every man to read the Bible and a fair newspaper. He afterwards declared the Reading-room open, and thirteen residents at Griffydams were appointed a committee of management. The Vicar acknowledged the receipt of a number of papers, magazines, &c.

On Saturday evening the first of a series of smoking concerts was given in the Reading-room at Newbold, which was well filled. A number of those present contributed songs, recitations, &c. Coffee and tobacco were provided, and a thoroughly enjoyable evening was spent. During the proceedings the Vicar and Mr. J. Cartwright, of Loughborough, paid a visit to the room and gave short addresses. A parish magazine has been started and more than a hundred of the parishioners have given in their names as subscribers.

**Leicester Journal – February 24<sup>th</sup> 1888**

**Worthington Parish**

**BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.** – On Friday last, a meeting was held at Worthington, in the Newbold Schoolrooms, to hear an address from the Rev. R.Black, M.A., who attended as a deputation from the society. The Vicar (Rev. R. A. Parsons) presided. There was a good attendance. – Mr. Black delivered an interesting address, which was attentively listened to. The Rev. gentleman confined his remarks to the work of the society during the Queen’s reign. – A hearty vote of thanks, proposed by Mr. J. Nicklinson, and seconded by Mr. Jonas Knight, was awarded the lecturer.

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

#### **WORTHINGTON**

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

### **Leicester Journal – March 8<sup>th</sup> 1889**

#### **WORTHINGTON**

**CRICKET CLUB CONCERT.** - A most successful concert took place in the School, Newbold on Thursday evening, the different items of the programme being much appreciated by the crowded audience. A pianoforte solo was played by Miss Cuthbert of Coleorton, and duets by Miss Cuthbert and Mr. Cuthbert. Songs were sung by Miss Garratt (Melbourne) and by the Misses Cutler and Godby and Messrs. Brown and Peplow, of Coalville.. Mr. S Brown ably officiated as accompanist. Violin solos were freely executed by Mr. Williscroft, of Ashby, and a quartette party, consisting of Mrs. Palmer, Miss Cutler, and Messrs. Nunley and Peplow, contributed to the evenings enjoyment. An attractive feature of the concert was the appearance, for the first time in Worthington, of Messrs. Price and Bellward, the well known character vocalists, whose performances "brought down the house". At the close of the concert a vote of thanks was proposed by the Vicar (the Rev. R. A. Parsons) to Mr. Nunley and the members of the Coalville Choral Union, and to the other performers. This was very heartily accorded, and the audience joined in singing "God save the Queen".

### **Leicester Journal – April 5<sup>th</sup> 1889**

#### **ASHBY UNION – Board of Guardians**

#### **SPECIAL SESSION**

#### **Elections of Parish Overseers and Constables**

**Worthington Overseers – Joseph Atkin, Joseph Knight**

**Worthington Constables – George Barker and (for Newbold) George Crabtree, jun : Griffydam, Herbert Rowell.**

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

#### **WORTHINGTON CHURCH BAZAAR**

A bazaar in aid of the restoration of Worthington Church, and the provision of additional church accommodation in the outlying parts of the parish, was opened in the schoolroom at Newbold, on Tuesday afternoon, by the Countess Ferrers. The necessity for some considerable improvement of the ancient and dilapidated edifice which serves the purposes of church worship for the parishioners of Worthington, has long been keenly felt by all who frequent the church. Nor can the greater stranger who takes a cursory glance at the queer building depart without a strong conviction that even on the grounds of personal safety alone, it is high time something was done to restore the fast decaying and bulging walls of the old church. Notwithstanding the present unsightly appearance of the church, its great antiquity, which is apparent both externally and internally, has endeared it to the hearts of the villagers, and they have eagerly responded to the

proposals initiated by the vicar (the Rev. R. A. Parsons) for arresting the process of decay and rendering the structure more comfortable and more attractive than it is at present. It is proposed in the course of restoration to p[reserve all the evidences of antiquity so strongly characteristic of the building, and only to modernize the interior, which looks clumsy and rude in the extreme. The church does not boast of any architectural beauty, and is devoid of any embellishment whatsoever. Built in the early English style, and resting on the crest of a hill at some distance from the village, it readily attracts the attention of the passers by from its commanding position. Unfortunately little is known of the history of the church. It is an oblong building, with a sloping roof, surmounted by a small belfry, and nothing to relieve the severity of the walls but the abutting antique porch and several small buttresses. The belfry is one of the distinguishing features, notwithstanding its insignificant proportions, as herein are contained bells that possibly rung in the infancy of the church. Only one is used, the other being cracked. Several inscriptions are carved in the metal, but they are at present undecipherable. The interior of the church is even more quaint than the exterior, and presents undoubted evidence of dilapidation. The walls incline out of the perpendicular in some places as much as two feet, and apparently, only their substantial nature prevents their total collapse. The windows are let into the wall in coarse open spaces, and the pews are rudely constructed oak benches, substantial but time worn. The yellow-washed walls and ceiling, the ill formed pews and nave, and the prevailing appearance of antiquity make the church very interesting to look at, and in the evening, when it is lighted by scattered oil lamps, the effect must be very singular. Recent investigations of the building disclosed the pleasing fact that the lower plastered ceiling hides a rich a richly carved oak roof, and hopes are entertained of its complete restoration. In undertaking the restoration of the church the Vicar has met with encouraging help not only from a strong committee of parishioners, but also from the nobility and gentry of the neighbourhood. An architect has examined the building with a view to reporting upon the work required in the process of restoration and the probable cost, but the contents of his report have not at present been disclosed. A dilapidated church is by no means the only the only difficulty which has to be contended with in the spiritual oversight of this out-of-the-way parish, which extends over a circuit of seven miles or so, and embraces the hamlets of Newbold, Griffydam and Gelsmoor. At the former place there is a school, which is conveniently adapted for the purpose of worship ; but at Griffydam, there is no place where a service can be held conveniently, and a secondary object of the movement inaugurated with the bazaar on Tuesday, is to supply this need of a hamlet which comprises the most distant part of the struggling parish. A convenient *locale* for the bazaar was found in the commodious schools at Newbold.....the Rev. R. A. Parsons made a statement as to the objects of the bazaar. He said although the parish of Worthington was a secluded and distant one they did not feel altogether neglected, for in every work they had attempted they had always found a great many ready and willing helpers. It was one of the few parishes where they did not happen to be a resident land owner, and yet they had nothing to complain of on that ground, because those who owned land in the parish were amongst their most ready and foremost supporters. The parish was split up into four parts, and that constituted one of the difficulties with which they had to contend, the four parts being widely separated. The church stood in the village of Worthington proper, and unfortunately it seemed to be in the spot where the smallest part of the parish lived. At Newbold the schoolroom, which was used as a mission room on Sundays, provided accommodation for the people living there, but at Griffydam (a mile and a half distant) there was no accommodation at all for public worship, and they very much hoped, when the church was restored, to erect a mission room in that part of the parish.....He believed that about fifty years ago an architect reported that "with or without extra pressure, the building might come down at any moment", and the statement had such effect on the parishioners that for a time the church was closed, but it was re-opened afterwards without any step having been taken to make it more secure. As to the proposed mission room for Griffydam, it was a matter of the very great necessity that accommodation should be found for the people in that struggling part of the parish. He therefore earnestly appealed to those present to help to provide a place suitable for them and to carry forward the work of the church.....**EARL FERRERS**, in the course of a brief address, said he thought the promoters must already feel encouraged by having a fine day and such a number of people present. He thought that looked well for the success of the bazaar and the cause of the Church. The Church at Worthington was very much older than many people

were aware. Looking in a volume of Nichol's "Leicestershire" he found the following remark:- "The Church at Worthington possesses two bells, chalice and complete suit of vestments". The date of that was 1551. He could not find any date for the foundation of the Church, but the extract he had named made it nearly 300 years old. He thought nothing had been done in that time to restore the Church and they must now make up for the faults of their ancestors.....The proceeds of the first day amounted to £108, including £28 donations. The bazaar remained open on Wednesday.

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

##### **WORTHINGTON**

**THE CHURCH RESTORATION BAZAAR.** – The recent bazaar in aid of the restoration of the church proved very successful, the total receipts amounting to about £183. The expenses were heavy, but there will still be a substantial balance. Donations to the Bazaar Fund, in addition to those already acknowledged, were received from the following sympathizers, and many of whom were unable to be present at the bazaar:- The Rev W. B. Beaumont, £10 ; Mr. W. S. Fane, and Mr. F. W. Paget, £2 each ; The Rev. C. Crossley, £2 2s. ; Messrs. W. A. Musson, C. B. Lowe, W. U. Heygate, and the Rev. J. Clark, £1 1s. ; The Rev. C. T. Moore £1 ; and 10s. each from Mr. W. F. Beardsley, Mrs. Buckley, Miss Campbell, and Mr. John Fletcher. The cost of the restoration is estimated at £600. We should add that the stalls of the bazaar were most effectively draped by Mr. G. W. Howe, of Ashby, and that Mr. G. F. Boden, of the Queen's Head, Ashby, catered successfully for the refreshment department.

#### **Leicester Chronicle – February 15<sup>th</sup> 1890**

##### **ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

**ASSAULT.** – George Jessop, alias George Collins, waggoner, Wothington, was charged with assaulting Thos. Herbert Kerby, on the 25<sup>th</sup> January. – Defendant denied the charge. – Complainant stated that he and a man named Walker were having some words when defendant came up and threw a brick, which struck him in the eye. He became insensible, and was assisted into his house by his wife. He had had no quarrel with the defendant, and could give no reason why he had been assaulted by him. – Sarah Kerby, complainant's wife, corroborated. – Lewis Gidlow was also called by complainant, but this witness denied having seen the assault. – For the defence, Frank Bacon was called, and said he saw Kerby and Walker fighting. He did not see defendant throw a stone, which struck Kerby in the eye, but he did not see Kerby do much at Jessop. He struck at him with a brush, but he was then four yards off. – **Defendant was fined 10s. and 20s. costs, or seven days.. – The witness Gidlow was disallowed his costs, the Bench being of opinion that he had not given his evidence fairly.**

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

##### **RESTORATION OF ST. MATTHEWS CHURCH**

##### **WORTHINGTON**

##### **RE-OPENING SERVICE**

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

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

attempts that have been made to acquire land adjoining the church for the purpose of a burying ground have resulted in disappointment.

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

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

As to the antiquity of the building there can be no doubt, but as to the precise date of its erection, nothing definite is known.. There are however, distinct evidences of early Saxon architecture in the curiously narrow windows which have been carefully preserved, and probably in the plain old stone font which stands at the entrance. The nave of the church, indeed, is said to have been built by a Saxon family named Worthing ; but the nave roof and the chancel are probably of the fourteenth century. Tradition also relates that the church was injured by a cyclone which swept over the parish about the middle of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, and that the unsightly brick buttresses which greatly disfigure the building on all sides were then added. The roof was of oak, but for a number of years this had been hidden from view by another incongruity in the shape of a plaster ceiling which also shut out of sight the top of the three-light Norman window in the chancel. On the appointment of the Rev. R. A. Parsons as Vicar of the parish, nearly five years ago, he at once realized the necessity for immediate steps being taken to render the church not only comfortable but absolutely safe. Having received some kind promises of assistance from those who owned property in the parish, the Vicar was encouraged to proceed with his scheme of the church restoration, and as a preliminary step he obtained the advice of Mr. Temple-Moore, a London architect, who made a thorough inspection of the building, and presented a report, from what we make the following extract :- The church is a very interesting one, both from its architectural features and its position, and is on this account alone well worthy of preservation. It is now, however, in a bad state of repair, and I do not think it should be left unattended to much longer. The north and south walls have gone outwards along the greater part of the length of the church, about eight inches in the centre on the north side being the greatest variation from the perpendicular. The whole of the facing of the wall below the plinth, and the plinth in places, is in a bad state, and there are bad settlements, one at the north-west corner and another at the south-west. There are also settlements at both angles at the east end and another under the east window. If any other evidence beyond that of actual observation and experience had been needed to enforce the necessity of the scheme which the Vicar set on foot, it would certainly have been found in the report of the architect, who had no hesitation whatever in certifying as to the absolute danger of the fabric in its then condition. Internally, too, a great work had to be taken in hand, for in addition to demolishing the far too many evidences of the plasterer's handicrafts on walls and ceilings, the floors, the seating and other features demanded attention. Nine months ago the work of restoration was entrusted to Messrs. Walker and Slater, of Derby, who have most satisfactorily carried it out according to the plan of Mr. Temple-Moore. The solidity of the structure has been assured by the addition of a new concrete foundation in some parts where the settlements had taken place, and the under-pinning of the walls all round. Certain absolutely decayed portions of the building, especially the upper portions of the buttresses at the west end, have been replaced with substantial stonework. The interesting "leper window" in the chancel has been opened and glazed, and the roof has been covered with small red tiles. The bell-turret which was originally composed of wood and tiles, and afterwards of brickwork, has now been tiled to match the roof. As to the interior, it has undergone a complete metamorphosis. The ceiling has been removed, thus opening up the old oak roof which was found to be so decayed as to need practically a new one, though much of the old timber (including the old carved braces) has been replaced. Over the chancel the roof is semi-circular and is boarded with oak. The stonework of the wall has been laid bare and pointed throughout. In removing the plaster from the walls, some

curious mural decoration was discovered. The characters, however, were not decipherable, but the painting was probably executed in the Elizabethan period, and photographs of it have been preserved. The oak chancel screen destroyed some years ago has been re-erected in a plain but substantial form. The old high, square pews have been removed and the boards have been used as paneling round the walls to a height of about three or four feet. Chairs are used temporarily in the nave but it is hoped to have seats when funds will permit of it. The west end has been considerably improved and part of it is used as an improvised vestry. The choir vestry is not yet made, but such a necessary ????? is contemplated and will probably be completed at a later date. Suitable curtains currently occupy the position assigned to the vestry screen. The floor of the nave is comprised of wood blocks : that of the chancel, red and white Mansfield stone. The church was formerly on one level throughout, but now the chancel floor is raised about six inches above the nave. The furniture of the church still requires considerable additions. There is at present no provisions made for the artificial lighting of the nave, but it is hoped to use defers lamps suspended from the principals of the roof by brass chains. The chancel will be lighted by means of candles placed in standards affixed to the choir stalls. The pulpit, prayer desks, and choir seats are only of a temporary character, and new ones are needed. A neat oak lectern has been presented to the church by the relative of the late Miss Nicklinson, of Worthington. It bears the following inscription on a brass plate, "To the glory of God, in memory of Sarah Nicklinson, who died August 8<sup>th</sup> 1889". The same family has also given a brass Alms dish, suitably inscribed, in memory of the late Mr. and Mrs. Nicklinson. The altar table will demand attention, and there is a great need for a harmonium at the church. A new heating apparatus from Messrs. Messenger and Co's hot water system has been placed in the church and will be a considerable improvement on the old stoves, the piping of which so sorely disfigured the church. Until lately the church possessed but one sound bell, but through the kindness of friends, the turret now contains three. The large bell which had been in the church hundreds of years, was cracked, but it has been re-cast at the expense of Mr. Curzon. The bell which had been generally in use bears the date 1742 and the following inscription :- "God save His Church". A third bell bearing the inscription "Gloria in Excelsis" has been presented by Messrs. Taylor and Co., of Loughborough, who have executed the whole of the work in connection with the bells. The total cost of the entire restoration has been about £1,000, and towards this £750 has been paid or promised, leaving a deficit of £250. The parish is but a poor one, and though the Vicar and the parishioners have done their utmost to aid the work, appeals have been made to friends outside for assistance. Nor have such appeals been in vain. About £50 has been realized through offertories at neighboring churches where the Vicar was allowed to plead the cause of the church. The patron of the living, Lord Scarsdale, has also approved the restoration of the church, and has contributed £20 towards the cost. Among the most generous supporters of the scheme is Mr. N. C. Curzon of Lockington Hall, who originally promised a donation of £100, but increased it by another £50 upon it being found that a new roof was required. Earl Ferrers also gave a donation of £100 and the Vicar, who is to be highly congratulated on the success which has attended his perseverance and energy in so worthy a cause, has received encouraging aid from numerous other quarters. It may be mentioned that in addition that a Mission Room at Griffydam and a Parish Room at Worthington have been acquired, and the outlay upon these has had to be obtained concurrently with the larger amount required for the restoration of the church. In carrying on the arduous work, the Vicar has received most valuable aid from a numerous committee of Laymen resident in and around the parish

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

### **Leicester Chronicle – May 7<sup>th</sup> 1892**

#### **ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

**IN PURSUIT OF GAME.** – Mathew Lakin, James Holland, and Stretton Platts were summoned for trespassing on land in the occupation of Mr. Bird of Worthington, in search of hares. – Ellis, a gamekeeper to Lord Ferrers, stated that at three o'clock in the morning, while hiding under a hedge, he saw defendants do something to a hedge on the opposite side of the field. Afterwards with Greatbach, head keeper to Lord Ferrers, he found some nets which were quite fresh. – Mr. J. J. Sharpe spoke for the defendants, admitting that they were on the road spoken of by the prosecution, but not poaching. It was the first offence with Lakin and Holland, both of whom bore excellent characters, and who could not be concerned in such a charge. As to Platts, he was sorry that the case with him was different, and he (Mr. Sharpe) could see that Supt. Holloway had the conviction book ready, but he pleaded for leniency. – **Platts, having previously been convicted, was sentenced to two months hard labour, and was ordered to find surities, or be further imprisoned ; and Larkin and Holland were sentenced to a months hard labour each, and to find surities, or be imprisoned for a further term. – The sentence caused considerable sensation. – Platts was further charged with having in his possession on the same date a gun. To this he pleaded guilty. – A police-constable said that on the morning of the 16<sup>th</sup> April, while on duty on the Worthington road, he saw defendant and another man 120 yards in front. When they saw him defendants ran, and witness followed him and saw him throw a gun over a hedge. When witness overtook Platts, who was leaning on the railway bridge wall, he asked him what he had thrown over the wall. Platts said, “Nothing, what do you think?” Witness told him that he would look, and accordingly he went over the hedge, and found a gun in two parts, loaded and capped. – Fined 21s. and costs, in all £1 11s., or a month, the sentences to run concurrently. – Platts paid the fine.**

### **Leicester Chronicle – November 12<sup>th</sup> 1892**

#### **LECTURE AT LONG WHATTON**

On Friday evening the Rev A. L. Sparkes, M.A., vicar of Worthington, delivered a lecture upon his 25,000 miles of travel by land in the interior of South America, and exhibited various articles brought by him from the Argentine Republic, Paraguay, Brazil, the Canary Islands, &c. The chair was taken by the Rev. Thos. Mashader, M.A., rector, and there was a good attendance. The exhibition was open an hour previous to the lecture for ticket – holders, and comprised **birds eggs from the forests, skins**, bows and arrows, pottery, mats, lace, feathers, working rings, &c., the production of the Indian, Gaucho, and Spanish races of South America. The usual vote of thanks to the lecture and chairman were given at the close.

### **Leicester Chronicle – December 17<sup>th</sup> 1892**

#### **WORTHINGTON**

The entertainment in aid of the Christmas tree fund for the children of the village proved so successful last week that a repetition was given on Wednesday evening. The Tableaux included representations of Mephistopheles (Mr. May), Faust (Mr. Mosedale), Marguerite (Miss Jalland), a group of children depicting nursery stories ; execution of Mary Queen of Scots, Joan of Arc, Pygmalion and Galatea, and the musical tableaux, “Where are you going my pretty maid”, the latter rendered by Mr. W. Knight and Miss C. Sparkes. In the intervals songs were given by Messrs, Bellward, Cuthbert, May, and Miss Scott, with piano solos by Miss Sparkes. The vicar presided, and the performance was greatly enjoyed.

### **Leicester Chronicle – January 7<sup>th</sup> 1893**

#### **WORTHINGTON**

**OPENING OF A LIBRARY.** – On Friday, a library for this village was formally opened under the presidency of the vicar, Rev. A. L. Sparkes. Earl Ferrers was present, and evinced much interest in the library, but there was only a small attendance. It was announced that some valuable books had been presented by Mr. Wm. Harris, of Leicester. **Afterwards a large Christmas tree was dismantled, and 250 children were presented with a toy, an orange and a bun each.**

### **Leicester Chronicle – July 8<sup>th</sup> 1893**

#### **DEPUTY TO THE LEICESTER AND RUTLAND ASYLUM**

.....The members of the committee saw personally each of the patients belonging to the Ashby Union except a patient in bed, whom he saw in company with Dr. Higgins, the medical superintendent. The committee spent three hours in the institution. After interviewing the Ashby patients they were shown the kitchen and other portions of the institution, and the arrangements seemed exceedingly good. Some of the Ashby patients had been a long time in the Asylum – one being 40 years and two others 39 years. In one case, the superintendent thought that the patient could be removed,, but after so long a period he (the chairman) thought the asylum had become her home ; and, as she expressed herself quite contented, the, the committee recommended that she should remain in the asylum. In another case Dr. Higgins said that a patient from Worthington was sufficiently sane to leave, but as she had been 29 years in the asylum the committee was unwilling to disturb her, and begged to recommend that she should be allowed to remain. A case from Packington, Dr. Higgins said, was quite harmless and could go back to the Workhouse, but the man said himself that he was satisfied and quite willing to stay, and the committee advised his doing so.

### **Leicester Chronicle – January 6<sup>th</sup> 1894**

#### **WORTHINGTON**

**NEW YEAR'S PARTY.** – An enjoyable evening was spent by the young people on New Year's Day. After a substantial tea provided by Mrs. J. Knight, the vicar (Rev. A. L. Sparkes) distributed the prizes to members of the sewing and cutting–out class held under the County Council last winter, and the County Council certificates to those who had regularly attended the class in practical cooking. The following received handsome work-baskets as prizes for success in sewing and cutting out ; Mrs. Hartshorne, Mrs. Knight, Misses Bradford, Birch and Springthorpe. Certificates for practical cookery were presented to Mrs. Rothwell, Mrs. Davy, Misses E. Loakin, C. Springthorpe, A. Birch, M. Birch, S. Birch, S. A. Sketchley, Carrie Walker, Edith Walker, Eunice Sparkes, Marianne Sparkes, E. Bailey and B. Leedham. After the distribution there was an exhibition of knitting machines, followed by a dance.

### **Leicester Chronicle – February 10<sup>th</sup> 1894**

George Davis, a farmer of Worthington, was summoned for assaulting Jane Collins, a widow, of the same place, on the 20<sup>th</sup> January. – Complainant stated that defendant knocked her down, kicked and struck her. His son after a time asked him to desist as he had “given her enough”. – By Mr. Sharpe (who defended)...there was some dispute as to pigs. She did not threaten defendant with a ??, ?? Miller, of Worthington, and Mrs. Hook corroborated – Defendant's son John said complainant called his father “all sorts” of names. He had seen her fighting with men, and she had asked him to fight her (Laughter). She was a pugnacious woman, and his father struck her. Witness denied that he told his father that he had given the woman enough. – Complainant (excitedly): Speak the truth Jack, and stare me in the face. (much laughter). – John Davis's wife and P.C. Adcock, having also given evidence, the case was dismissed and each party was ordered to pay 7s. 6d. cost.

### **Leicester Journal – February 19<sup>th</sup> 1897**

#### **ASHBY PETTY SESSION**

**A WIFE-BEATER SENT TO GAOL.** – At the Ashby Petty Sessions on Saturday, before Geo. Moore, Esq., Colonel Partridge, and John German Esq. – John Englefield, labourer, of Worthington, was summoned for assaulting his wife. – Mr. J. J. Sharp, solicitor, of Coalville, appeared for complainant, whose life, he said, was in jeopardy, and he asked the Bench to make an example of the defendant, who was an idle man, and had been kept by his wife for years. – Complainant stated that she was taking the cows out when her husband hit her in the face. He turned her out of the house, and she was afraid to live with him as he constantly ill-treated her. – Geo. Barker, parish constable, spoke as the defendant turning his wife out of the house, and P.C. Adcock said from what he heard “there were six of one and half a dozen of the other”. – The

defendant, who had twice been convicted of assaults on his wife, was now committed to gaol for one month with hard labour. – Mr. Sharp asked the Bench to remit the costs but they declined.

#### **Leicester Chronicle – April 10<sup>th</sup> 1897**

##### **COALVILLE PETTY SESSIONS**

**CRUELTY TO A MARE.** – Daniel Hinks, horse dealer, Worthington, was summoned by Inspector Craigen, for causing a horse to be cruelly ill treated, at Breedon-on-the-Hill, on the 16<sup>th</sup> ult. – Arthur Miller, 13, who had been in the defendant's employ, said he took two loads of sticks to Mr. Hart's at Breedon-on-the-Hill, under the defendant's instructions. On the second journey the horse fell down, and witness had to get assistance. The horse had a sore back, and the defendant knew it, because witness had seen him scraping the matter from the wound. – P.C. Adcock said he saw the mare, which was harnessed, lying in the ditch, in about two feet of water. He tried to get the animal up, but it was quite helpless. He called a man named Burgin to his assistance, and they removed the saddle. There was a wound about two and a half inches in length on the back, and there was blood and matter on the saddle. Witness sent for the defendant, but after they had waited an hour. Mr. Mason, a blacksmith of Worthington, killed the animal. The defendant afterwards came up, and witness asked him how it was that he allowed the horse to be worked while in such a condition. He said that he hoped that the witness would not report it, but witness replied that he should do so as he had never seen a more cruel case in his life. Witness afterwards received communications from several people who had seen the horse on the road. He had previously cautioned the defendant that the mare was not fit to be worked, apart from the wound. – Tom Burgin, gamekeeper, Breedon, corroborated. – P.S. Darby said that he found out that the defendant bought the mare from Mr. Baxter, of Whitwick, for a sovereign, five weeks prior to the date of the charge. The defendant admitted that to witness. – Defendant denied that he gave orders for the mare to be worked, and said he was not aware that it was being worked. – Samuel Mason, blacksmith, Worthington, said he was with the defendant when he received information of the mare being down. Defendant said it could not be his horse, as it was not out to his knowledge. The defendant afterwards told witness to go and stick the horse. – The clerk : Why did he tell you to go and kill the horse if he did not know it was his? – Witness : He relied on what he was told, and came after me directly. – The boy Miller, recalled, said the mare was working during the five weeks it was in defendant's possession. – Defendant was fined £2 2s., and costs £1 9s 6d., or 14 days hard labour.

#### **Leicester Chronicle – April 17<sup>th</sup> 1897**

##### **BIRTH AT WORTHINGTON RAILWAY STATION**

On Monday, a woman named Kate Watson, of Worthington, near Staunton, Ashby de la Zouch, walked to Derby, a distance of about seven miles. She returned by train to Worthington Railway Station, where she gave birth to a child. Some commotion was caused by the event, and it was thought best by the officials to have the woman and child conveyed home. Accordingly a milk float was procured, and the woman, seated in a chair, was driven home with the baby, a distance of two miles. On arrival home it was found that the child was dead, and, according to the police constable: "No one knows whether it was born dead or alive". The facts were reported to the coroner, who did not deem an inquest necessary.

#### **Leicester Chronicle – August 20<sup>th</sup> 1898**

##### **ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

**GAME TRESPASS.** – Jno. Miller, labourer, and James Collins, collier, both of Worthington, were summoned for trespassing in search of conies on land at Worthington in the occupation of Mr. Nicklinson. – John Chester, a bricklayer's labourer, of Lount, stated that he was working at Mr. Bird's farmhouse on the 1<sup>st</sup> of August, and saw two men in a grass field. Miller went into a plantation, while the other stood outside with a dog. Both men afterwards went into the plantation, and dug at a rabbit hole. They had a rabbit or a ferret in their hand when they ran away, and witness and Mr. Bird ran after them. He spoke to Miller, and asked what he was doing, and he replied. "I don't know". Collins got on the railway and ran away. The dog, a collie, was caught. . He was positive Collins was with Miller. – George Barkee, labourer, the complainant named in the

summons, said in answer to the Bench that the field and plantation was the property of Mr. Curzon, but the field only was in the occupation of Mr. Nicklinson. – The clerk pointed out that the defendants were summoned for searching the conies on land in the occupation of Mr. Nicklinson. As the defendants appeared the summons could be amended. If they had not appeared, it could not be. – Barker said that the plantation was in Mr. Nicklinson's field. – Collins denied that he was there at all. He was in bed at the time. – Collins' mother said that the defendant Miller knew that Collins was not his companion on that date, - She gave evidence, and swore that her son was asleep at the time he was alleged to be searching for conies. She saw him in bed. – **Defendants were each fined 5s. 6d. and costs. Miller's costs were 9s. 3d., and Collins 12s. 3d. – Defendants were allowed seven days to pay.**

**Leicester Chronicle – February 18<sup>th</sup> 1899**

**ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

**TRAVELLING WITHOUT A TICKET.-** Rosa Smith, single, of Swadlincote, was summoned for travelling on the Midland Railway at Worthington without having a previously paid her fare, with intent to defraud on the 16<sup>th</sup> January. – The defendant did not appear. – Mr. Turner (Beale and Co., of Birmingham) prosecuted on behalf of the Midland Railway Co. – He said there was a similar complaint against the defendant some time ago, when she made some excuse, as on the present occasion. – He called Mr. Beacon, stationmaster of Worthington, who stated that he saw the defendant, who told him that she lost her ticket at Melbourne. Her fare from Derby to Melbourne was 10½d. – Jno. Dutton, a detective, stated that when he saw the defendant on the 19<sup>th</sup> at her house she said she had a ticket, and lost it at Melbourne. Her father told her to tell the truth, and she then admitted that she had not obtained a ticket. – Other witnesses were in attendance, but the bench deemed that there was sufficient evidence. – **Fined 10s. 6d., and 15s. costs, distress, or 14 days.**

**Leicester Chronicle – December 15<sup>th</sup> 1900**

**ASHBY COUNTY COURT**

**Before his Honour, Judge Wightman-Wood**

**AN UNSUSTAINABLE ALIBI.** – George Cooper, of Newbold (on behalf of Harry Cooper, his grandson), sued Samuel Mason, blacksmith of Worthington, for £24 4s., being £20 damages and four guineas for medical attendance, nursing etc., on account of injuries, alleged to have been caused, by the defendant's negligence in driving on September 18<sup>th</sup>. – Mr. W. H. Quarrell of Ashby, was for plaintiff, and Mr. Henry Deane of Loughborough, for defendant. The case was heard with a jury. – Thomas Villiers Crosby, of Osgathorpe, said that he was called to attend the boy, who had a fracture of the right leg, and injuries such as would be caused by a wheel, and he was also suffering from shock, and at present could only get about on crutches. He had been laid up 11 weeks. Witness's charge for attendance, amounting to a guinea, had been paid. – George Cooper, miner, of Newbold, said that on the 18<sup>th</sup> of September, about 9.15 p.m., he was on the road from Newbold to Coleorton, and had reached the hollow near Newbold School. His grandson, aged nine, was riding on a pony's back, and witness was leading it, walking on the near side. He was about a quarter of a mile past the Cross-Keys, and about 60 yards from the school, when he heard a horse and cart coming towards him, and which was only about 30 yards from him when he saw them, after turning a corner. There was only one man in the cart, which was going as hard as the horse could travel. Witness knew the man by his voice, and he was shouting to the horse to go on. It was defendant, Samuel Mason whom he had known for 20 years. Witness shouted to him to stop. He was on his wrong side of the road, and went right onto the grass, and witness got into the hedge to avoid him. The wheel of defendant's cart caught the pony, and the boy was pulled off by the wheel. Defendant had no light on his cart as far as witness knew. Defendant still shouted "go on" to the horse, and went straight on, the horse galloping. Witness had had the boy medically attended, and had had to nurse him night and day for 11 weeks. The measurement of the road was 12 feet of hard road and 9 feet of grass on the side. – Cross-examined by Mr. Deane: The boy was riding bare-backed, with a halter, and witness had hold of the boy and halter. He had some difficulty in getting out of the way. The horse

would be called a cob. Witness did not tell P.C. Sharp there were three persons in the cart. He went up to the Railway Tavern (which would be 600 yards away) the same night, after carrying the boy home, a distance of about a quarter of a mile. He got to the public-house about 20 minutes before ten, where he saw a man named Wright. It certainly was not ten o'clock, because there were men in the house, which closed at ten. He did not ask Wright how long Mason had been gone. The following day he made a statement to the constable, and saw him write it down, and Sharp told witness on the Sunday night he had seen defendant, and that Mason had said he was at home and in bed at nine o'clock. Witness had not sought out defendant on the subject, but he heard his brother talking to Mason, and went out of the house on to the road, and taxed defendant with it. Mason swore at witness, and told him he was wrong. – Maud Ewing, of Breedon, said she was passing the Railway Tavern in company with Miss Crabtree at about nine o'clock on the 18<sup>th</sup> of September, and saw Mr. Mason go into the inn. After some time witness went on towards Newbold.. Mason had asked witness and her companion to ride, but they would not because of his condition. He was not sober. On the way to Newbold she saw Mason stop and get out of his cart and light a lamp. Her companion told witness it was Mason, whom witness knew. He was behind witness at the time, and defendant drove past them galloping; he was hitting the horse at the time. Witness saw the lamp alight as he passed, but could not see it when he had got along the road. A few yards further on, perhaps 20 yards, witness heard a smash and some shouting, and someone said, "Come here". Witness, being frightened, ran into a field, and went home. – Cross examined: Had seen defendant previous to that night. Thought she would have known it was defendant if Miss Crabtree had not told her. It was before defendant overtook witness that he stopped to see to the lamp. Witness had noticed it was out. Witness's attention was attracted by the approaching horse and cart. She could not describe the horse and cart, nor the man in charge beyond the fact that he had a long coat on, but she saw his face as he went by. – Re-examined: From where she stood near the embankment she could see defendant light his lamp, and could identify him. – Gertrude Crabtree, of Newbold, who was with the previous witness, corroborated. She was sure it was defendant. He was not sober when he asked witness to ride in the cart. – Chas. Wright of Gelsmoor, who was in the Railway tavern on the night named, said he saw defendant come into the house about nine o'clock. – Cross examined: When plaintiff called at the house, he did not mention defendant's name, but witness told him that Mason's cart was the last that left the house. – P.C. Sharp, of Coleorton, said that on the Wednesday after the occurrence Cooper made a complaint to him, and on the following day showed him the place where the accident had taken place. Witness saw the footmarks of the pony. There were 4ft. of grass on the left hand side of the road, and he saw wheel marks on the grass about twenty yards from where the accident happened. – Cross examined; the pocket-book in which witness made the note at the time had been accidentally destroyed. He saw Mason afterwards, and told him the nature of the complaint. Mason first of all denied that he was on that road at all that night, and afterwards admitted that he had been at Pearson's, which was near Crabtree's. He also said he got home at nine o'clock, and was in bed at 9. 30., and that a man named Barber could tell witness all he wanted to know. Witness went straight to Barber, who said Mason got home at nine o'clock. Witness went back to Mason, and asked him if he could refer witness to anyone to substantiate Barber's statement. Defendant referred him to two more witness, a porter at the station, and to Mr. Crabtree, at the Railway Tavern. – Mr. Deane, for the defence, said a mistake had been made, as defendant was not the person who caused the accident. Plaintiff fixed the time at ten minutes or a quarter past nine, and until P.C. Sharp had made his enquiries, some of the witnesses fixed the time later. At a quarter past nine he would be able to show that defendant was at home, a mile and a half away. – Samuel Mason, defendant, said that on the date named he rode a mare to Ashby for Mr. Pearson, returning at eight o'clock. That would be a mile and a half from his home. At Pearson's house was Mrs. Cooper and her daughter Jessie. It would be about a quarter to nine when he left the house, and Mr. Pearson lighted the candle lamp on his cart. Witness went to the public house, about 200 yards away, and went in, but he had never seen the two witnesses who had said he asked them to ride. He stayed about two minutes at the house. About 400 yards away, towards Newbold, near the four cross roads, but at no time did his light go out on the way. It was a 12 hands pit pony he was driving. It could not be mistaken for a cob or a horse. He ran into nobody, and drove straight home without any accident. A man named Barber helped witness to take the pony out, and the lamp was still

burning. Witness's wife was present, and when he went indoors it was about ten past nine. Mr. Crabtree first told him of the accident. When P.C. Sharp came he only gave him the name of Barber as a witness. – Cross examined: He told Sharp from the first day that he had been on the road; he never knew plaintiff, the boy, or the pony. It was Barber who had referred Sharp to the porter and Mr. Crabtree. – Mark Pearson, of Girls Moor, corroborated. He followed Mason to the Public house, and saw a cart with a light going away. It would be about 10 minutes to nine. – Maud Cooper having given evidence, Jessie Pearson said Mason was sober when he left her father's house about a quarter to nine. – Defendant's wife corroborated her husband's statement. – Frederick Barber, of Worthington, said he had been in defendant's house on the night named, and left at nine o'clock, as he was required to be in his master's house by that time. He met Mason coming into his house, and after assisting him with the horse, and going home, a distance of about 100 yards, it was twenty minutes past nine when he went upstairs to bed. Sharp was the first person to speak to witness about the occurrence. Witness told him what he had now told the jury., and Sharp said he must be mistaken in the time, and asked him if he would alter his statement, and witness said no, since he was to speak the truth. – His honour said from the evidence there could be no question that the person who drove into plaintiff was to blame, and was guilty of negligent driving. The only question was, who was that person, and as to that they had the evidence of the two young ladies, who were perfect impartial witnesses. As to the defendant's case, his Honour doubted if the alibi which had been set up was an alibi at all, since the whole question lay in the difference of half an hour in the time spoken to by witnesses, and nobody in the case had any reason for particular accuracy as to the time of the occurrence. Moreover, how was it that defendant did not pass plaintiff and the boy? – **The jury found for plaintiff, with £5 damages for the grandfather, and £10 for the boy. – As the damages for the grandfather were in excess of those claimed, his Honour amended the finding, and gave judgment for £4 4s. for the grandfather, and £10 for the injury to the boy, with costs. – Defendant was ordered to pay £5 in a month, and £1 a month afterwards.**

#### **Leicester Daily Post – March 28<sup>th</sup> 1911**

##### **WORTHINGTON**

**CONSERVATIVE “SMOKER”.** – A smoking concert in connection with the Conservative and Unionist Association, attended by members from Girls Moor ([Gelsmoor](#)), Griffydam, Newbold, and Staunton Harold was held at the Cross Keys Inn, on Saturday night. Mr. F. Tippetts, secretary of the Leicester Tariff Reform League, gave an address. Mr. J. H. Riley presided.

#### **Leicester Daily Mercury – November 6<sup>th</sup> 1939**

Mr & Mrs. John Birch, of Highfield Street, Coalville, today celebrated the 63<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of their wedding. They were married at **Breedon Church in 1876**, and have two sons, a daughter, seven grand children and four great grand children.

Mr. Birch is 84 years of age and his wife 83. Both were born at **Gelsmoor**, and have lived in the Coalville district all their lives. Mr. Birch is a none smoker and for 65 years he was a Sunday school teacher at Coalville Marlborough-Square Methodist Church where he was at one time secretary.

Mr. Birch was employed in the coal mines for 61 years and spent most of them working for the South Leicestershire Colliery Co, Snibston Mine at Coalville. After working at a brick-yard at the age of eight, he went down the pits when only ten years of age and as a young man worked twelve hours a day for 3s.

Mrs. Birch entered domestic service when she was only seven years of age.

## OSGATHORPE

### **Leicester Chronicle – January 15<sup>th</sup> 1814**

The following charitable legacies left by the will of the late Mrs, Ann Moore of Osgathorpe, have been lately paid by her executor, the Rev. Thomas Beer, and afforded seasonable relief; 13/ to the prisoners in the county gaol; 7/ to those in the borough gaol; 20/ to the prisoners in Newgate; 20/ to the poor of Osgathorpe on “Old Christmas Day”; and 20/ to the poor of the Methodist Society in Osgathorpe. (20/ is equivalent to £20)

*“Old Christmas Day” referred to was on January 6<sup>th</sup>, in addition to being the “Feast of the Epiphany”. When England and Scotland switched over from the Julian to the Gregorian calendar in 1752, 11 days were dropped to make up for the calendar discrepancy that had accumulated with the use of the Julian calendar.*

### **Leicester Chronicle – Saturday January 15<sup>th</sup> 1814**

#### **LEICESTERSHIRE TRANSITION SESSIONS**

These sessions, for the dispatch of business, commenced on Tuesday last, at the Castle, when owing to a heavy Calendar, and numerous other cases, both Courts were opened to facilitate the same,

#### **G. A. L. KECK, Esq. Chairman.**

(In the absence of Charles Godfrey Mundy, Esq. who is confined in London, by severe indispositions.)

The principle part of Tuesday was occupied by the Chairman, in hearing parish appeals, &c. none of which possessed any material interest; the following prisoners were arraigned:

#### **BEFORE WILLIAM HEYRICK, ESQ.**

William Matchett, aged 39, was indicted for stealing, on the 5<sup>th</sup> of April last (in the night time) a quantity of hay, value 2s.

Thomas Everard, the prosecutor, resides at Grooby, and on Easter Sunday last, owing to some information which he had received went to see one of his stacks and found a quantity of his hay stolen; the track was followed towards Markfield by his man, and the marks on the road were those of asses' feet.

Thomas Grimes is a labourer to Mr. Everard, and on Easter Sunday last, witness discovered that a quantity of hay had been stolen the preceding evening; did not observe the marks of asses' feet on these premises, but clearly saw the track of hay; witness afterwards saw marks in the road where asses had been paddling about; he also missed some hay from another stack, and shortly afterwards informed his master; he took a horse and followed the track to the prisoner's house at Osgathorpe, where he searched his stable, and found some hay in a bag, also another portion in a crate; there was an ass in the stable belonging to the prisoner; witness brought away a sample of the sort which he believed to be his master's. – The prisoner was apprehended shortly afterward, but on searching his premises again, the hay belonging to his master was gone and another sort substituted.

Cross examined by Mr. Mardouall. – It was an hour after finding the hay that the officer searched prisoner's premises.

Re-examined – Witness saw marks of several asses on the road, but only one in the prisoner's stable.

Cross examined by Mr. Macdouall. – It was a fortnight afterwards before prisoner was apprehended, he had absconded.

George Peet, constable of Osgathorpe, deposed to searching prisoner's house; he was at home and walking in his garden; prisoner said he had no hay but what was his own, and freely offered that his premises should be searched. – Grimes, last witness, found some about the size of his

two fingers, which he swore was part of his master's; witness never heard of Grimes taking a sample of the hay till they had returned.

Henry Burton takes toll on the Grooby side of Leicester, saw prosecutor pass through the gate between one and two in the morning, in company with others; they had asses, but witness saw no hay in his crates; there was a little straw, and that's all he saw.

William Pickard is toll gate keeper at Copt Hill; known the prisoner; saw him on Easter Sunday morning last; he passed through in company with two others; they had three asses laden with hay. The prosecutor being recalled, identified the hay, a small parcel of which was produced in court.

The jury found the prisoner **Guilty**, and the court enquired of the gaoler whether he had been before convicted, and being answered in the affirmative, the Chairman, **after a severe reprimand, sentenced him to six months imprisonment and hard labour**, at the same time assuring him, that if his former conviction had been mentioned in the present indictment, he would most certainly have been transported for life, as it was the determination of all the courts to punish with the utmost severity of the law, those who came a second time before them.

#### **Leicester Herald – November 18<sup>th</sup> 1829**

**POLICE OFFICE** - James Mitchell, charged by the overseers of Osgathorpe with non-payment of 9s. due to a case of "Bastardy" – **Committed for 3 months to hard labour.**

#### **Leicester Chronicle – May 30<sup>th</sup> 1829**

**POLICE OFFICE – Thursday, May 28<sup>th</sup> 1829 – before the Rev. J. Dudley and M. Babington Esq.**

William Davenport was convicted in the expenses, for unlawfully impounding three asses belonging to John King of Osgathorpe.

#### **Leicester Chronicle – June 24<sup>th</sup> 1829**

##### **LOUGHBOROUGH POLICE INTELLIGENCE**

Mr. Meakin, Guardian of the poor at Osgathorpe charged by Wm. Higgit, with refusing him relief. **Ordered to relieve him, or to find him employment, and pay costs.**

#### **Leicester Chronicle – April 17<sup>th</sup> 1830**

James Dexter for non payment of thirty five pounds due to the parish of Osgathorpe under an order of "Bastardy" for eight years. - **was committed for three months in default of payment.**

#### **Leicester Chronicle – November 12<sup>th</sup> 1831**

##### **LOUGHBOROUGH POLICE OFFICE**

William Sharp and William Doby of Osgathorpe charged for throwing down the "Privy" (*outside toilet*) of Mr. J. Cross – **1 months jail.**

#### **Leicester Herald – February 15<sup>th</sup> 1832**

**DEATHS** - On Monday at Osgathorpe, in this County aged 94, Sarah Barratt.

### **Leicester Chronicle – May 25<sup>th</sup> 1833**

#### **LOUGHBOROUGH POLICE COURT**

Israel Shaw, a tramp from Nottingham, for stealing a watch from John King of Osgathorpe. – **Committed to trial at the sessions.**

### **Leicester Chronicle – March 1<sup>st</sup> 1834**

George Peet, of Osgathorpe Farm, ordered to pay 2s. 6d. costs, for an assault upon William Wortley of Belton.

### **Leicester Chronicle – June 21<sup>st</sup> 1834**

**DIED.** – On the 27<sup>th</sup> ult in his seventy second year, Mr. Branson, after having been nearly 40 years as master of the endowed school, Osgathorpe, in this county. His charitable offices as a medical adviser and otherwise, rendered him a valuable member of society, and will cause his loss to be greatly felt in the neighbourhood.

### **Leicester Chronicle – August 25<sup>th</sup> 1838**

#### **POLICE INTELLIGENCE – EXCHANGE, LEICESTER**

John Henson, a hawker of hats, at Osgathorpe, was ordered to pay the costs in a charge of assault brought against him by Thomas Harris of the same place.

### **Leicester Chronicle – March 21<sup>st</sup> 1840**

John Roe, grocer, Osgathorpe v Samuel Jarvis (frame work knitter) of same place ; Debt £1 4s. ; **To be paid by 4s. per month.**

### **Leicester Herald – June 13<sup>th</sup> 1840**

**OXFORD, JUNE 10<sup>TH</sup> 1840 – This being the first day of Trinity Term, a congregation was holden for granting degrees &c.**

The Marquis of Hastings has presented the Rev. T. Naylor Brand, Rector Drayton Beauchamp, Bucks, to the Rectory of Osgathorpe, Leicestershire vacant by the resignation of the Rev. W. H. Kelk

### **Leicester Mercury – July 11<sup>th</sup> 1840**

**OSGATHORPE RECTORY** – On the 27<sup>th</sup> Ult (June), the Lord Bishop of Peterborough instituted the Rev. George Naylor Bland. M.A., to the rectory of Osgathorpe, in the County of Leicester, vacant by the resignation of the Rev. W. H. Kelk, on the presentation of the most Hon. Marquis of Hastings (from the Cambridge Advertiser).

### **Leicester Chronicle – October 3<sup>rd</sup> 1840**

? Martin, of Osgathorpe was charged by Thomas Mansfield of the same place, with assault. Complainant stated, that on Sunday, the 20<sup>th</sup> ult., he was going to church in the evening, when he was met by Martin, intoxicated, and supported by two men. Martin used some insulting expression towards him as they passed, when complainant *told him to go along for a scamp*. Defendant then came close to him, and put his fist in his face. Complainant called a witness, who

damaged his cause, by proving that defendant did not offer to strike him. **The case was dismissed and complainant ordered to pay the costs.**

### **Leicester Chronicle – May 16<sup>th</sup> 1840**

#### **ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS – SATURDAY MAY 9<sup>TH</sup>**

Henry Roe of Osgathorpe, was convicted in the penalty of 1s. and costs for assaulting Mary Roe, his wife, on the 12<sup>th</sup> February last. It appeared from the evidence of the complainant, that her husband, on the day in question, came home and wanted a sovereign, which she refused to give him. He then pulled her about and got a coal pick to her, and turned her out of the house; the parties had been married ten weeks. The age of the woman 37 and that of her husband 22.

### **Leicester Chronicle – December 24<sup>th</sup> 1842**

John Waldrom of Osgathorpe, **was committed for 3 months to hard labour** for night poaching on lands belonging to the Marquis of Hastings.

### **Leicester Chronicle – March 30<sup>th</sup> 1844**

Mary Branson (50 ; Read Imperfectly) was charged with stealing a pair of Prunella boots, the property of Mrs. MacPherson, of Osgathorpe on the 9<sup>th</sup> of March. The prisoner worked at the house of prosecutrix, and, being asked to search for the boots, assisted to do so. She afterwards came to the house with the boots upon her feet.. Maslin, the policeman, apprehended the prisoner, after having gone to her house from 10 to 20 times for that purpose; the door was always locked when he went. On the day of her apprehension, she said the boots she had on were those she was accused of stealing. Mrs. MacPherson on being recalled, stated that the boots which prisoner said she had been accused of stealing were coarser than those she really had stolen. Prisoner said a few words in her defence, and called a witness to character – her niece – who deposed that she sent a pair of boots to her aunt. Nothing particular, however, was elicited from this witness, which would bear upon the innocence of the prisoner. The learned judge briefly summed up, after which the jury returned a verdict of guilty; **sentence; two months imprisonment.**

### **Leicester Chronicle – March 1<sup>st</sup> 1845**

**OSGATHORPE.** – On Thursday night, Mary Ann Hurst, aged 18, who had never been quite right from birth, was pouring some water from a kettle into an iron pot, for the purpose of boiling, when her clothes ignited, and she was so severely burnt that she died the following morning. Mr. Orton. Surgeon, attended her. At the inquest before John Gregory, Gent, on Saturday, **the jury returned a verdict of “Accidental Death”.**

### **Leicester Mercury - October 19<sup>th</sup> 1850**

#### **BOROUGH MICHAELMAS SESSIONS - MONDAY OCTOBER 14<sup>TH</sup>**

##### **A CONFIRMED SCOUNDREL**

Joseph Spencer was then again put up, charged with stealing, at Osgathorpe, on the 31<sup>st</sup> of August, a Bible and pair of spectacles, the property of Elizabeth Pope—Mr. Merewether prosecuted: prisoner was undefended. Prosecutrix keeps the Royal Oak, and was favoured on this day with the custom of prisoner for two jugs of ale and some tobacco, for which he said (after he had drunk the ale) he could not pay, as he had no money. He went away about five o'clock in the afternoon. He was left more than once in the room himself; and next morning the Bible and spectacles were missed from the shelf where prosecutrix had herself placed them. The Bible was stamped with the name of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge. The spectacles now shown were hers. Prisoner, when he came in, said something about owing her for some ale and

tobacco already, and that he had come to talk to her about it. Osgathorpe is seven or eight miles from Loughborough.—A lodging-house keeper at Loughborough was next called. Prisoner called on him on the 1st of September, and stopped at his house two nights. When he came in, he said he was badly off for money, and would witness give him a penny for that pair of spectacles (those sworn to by prosecutrix). Gave him the penny. Prisoner then sold the Bible to another lodger for threepence: the cover had the stamp of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge on it. Prisoner said the Bible was given to him by his sister, and that he wore the spectacles occasionally. The lodger who bought the Bible left next morning.—P.S. Hague said that when he apprehended him, Spencer said nothing.—From the statement made by him before the magistrates, it appeared that prisoner was an "old soldier" in every sense of the word. He denied stealing the Bible: if ever found, his name would be found written inside. The spectacles, too, he found on the grass near the backyard door; and could she prove they were hers? (Prosecutrix, being recalled, said there was a mark—a twist or bend—on them; but they had been cleaned since, which had taken away the mark. On the Chairman examining the spectacles, however, he found there was still the mark of a bend.) — The prisoner now handed in another written statement, in which he artfully endeavoured to "throw dirt" upon prosecutrix's character. But the Court very properly refused to allow it to be read. He then spoke a defence, which he again endeavoured to slander prosecutrix, even while he confessed that he went in on "friendly terms" and then availed himself of threats of exposure in order to compel her to supply him with lodging and food. A more thoroughly sneaking and unmanly defence we never listened to; and as we listened, heartily wished the scoundrel could be put in the pillory—while we no longer wondered no respectable employer would long keep such a fellow in his service.—The Chairman, summing-up, expressed himself in strong terms as to the evidence given by prisoner as to his moral delinquency by seeking to clear himself of the criminal charge.—The jury found prisoner guilty; and, after a long catalogue of previous charges and convictions, with one or two acquittals on felonies, **he was sentenced to twelve months' hard labour—being at the same time warned that the next time he appeared in the dock, would indeed not be let off leniently even if he escaped transportation.**

#### **Leicester Chronicle – October 5<sup>th</sup> 1850**

Joseph King, a married man, residing at Osgathorpe in this county, was brought up by warrant, for disobeying an order of "Bastardy" made upon him on Tuesday the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of August last. The defendant pleaded poverty in excuse for not complying with the order. He, however, paid £1 5s. 11d. towards the payment and costs and the warrant for distress was issued, but ordered to be suspended for one month

#### **Leicestershire Mercury – April 10<sup>th</sup> 1852**

### **LEICESTERSHIRE APPEAL SESSIONS**

**REMOVAL APPEAL CASE** – Osgathorpe appellants; Loughborough respondents; Council for appellants; Messrs. Roberts and Merewether; Attorneys – Dewes and Son, Council for respondents, Messrs. White and Maunsell; Attorney – Mr. Inglesant.

This was an appeal against an order made January 15<sup>th</sup> for the removal from Loughborough to Osgathorpe of the four illegitimate children of Mary Poxon who had deserted them about twelve months ago and who not having obtained a settlement herself followed the settlement of her father Thomas Poxon, who resided about 1784 at Castle Donington under a certificate from the officers at Osgathorpe. The mother had also been removed under orders to Osgathorpe in 1815 and had afterwards received relief from that parish while living at Loughborough. The grounds of appeal were that the mother was married to William Glover about 1841 and that the children were not illegitimate; that the settlement of the grandfather was not as stated; and that the three first of the children had resided in the parish of Loughborough above five years besides the time in which they had received relief.

Mr. White, in reference to the ground of appeal, first denied that this was the case with respect to the third child, and contended that granting it to be true with respect to the others, the children were liable to removal, owing to the mother, by breaking her residence, having made herself removable, and not having exhibited any intention of returning. In support of his opinion Mr. White quoted several cases in which women and children had been held to be removable, when the husband and father had broken his residence, and shown no intention to return.

Elizabeth Rossell, mother of Mary Poxon, stated that her daughter was never married, but had had six children. She was living with a person named William Glover, when she had the first child (now about fourteen years of age), and she had another very soon after also by Glover. She lived with another person after Glover's death, and had the children by him. She had now the youngest child with her. She went away twelve months last January. **Glover died about eleven years ago, and when he was buried the bearers wore "white trousers, which was the usual sign that the deceased was a single man"**. Witness married Thomas Poxon, at Lockington, in 1813 and they lived at Castle Donington with his father and mother. When she lost her husband in 1815, she was removed under orders, with her daughter and a boy named Robert from Donington to Osgathorpe. She remained there not quite a week, and was allowed 4s. a week and went to live at Loughborough, where she continued to receive the relief between four and five years. Her daughter when she went away and said nothing about coming back, but the man with whom she went said, he might come back and fetch the children, but it was a thousand to one if ever she saw her daughter again. She asked her daughter to let her know where she was, and she promised to write in about three weeks, but had not done so. Witness's father and mother lived at Hemington. **Cross-examined.** - Went to see her daughter when she lived with Glover at Loughborough, where they lived three or four years. Her son Daniel was born at Nottingham, where the parents had gone to live a short time at the commencement of the connexion. The neighbours used to call her daughter Glover. There was one child born at Mountsorrel. Witness always thought her daughter was married to Glover till after his death.

Martha Glover, sister to William Glover, remembered his death, which occurred about eleven years since. Witness lived in London at the time, and at Mountsorrel at the time her brother lived in Nottingham. Her brother told her about two years before he died that he was not married to Mary Poxon. In January 1851, Mary Poxon called on her at Mountsorrel, with the man she lived with, and said she was going a hundred miles off to seek for work, and had left the children with her mother, intending to send for them. **Cross-examined.** - Witness knew that her brother and Mary Poxon passed as man and wife, She had heard Mary Poxon called Mrs. Glover. Mary Poxon was by when her brother told her they were not married. Witness asked the question of him owing to having been told by a woman from Nottingham that they were not married.

Frances Jacques stated that, about three or four days before Glover's death, he expressed to her a deep regret that he and Mary Poxon were not married, as it might interfere with the future welfare of his children and partner.

W. Wortley stated that Mary Poxon told him positively that she was not married to the man she lived with, nor Glover before him; and he also spoke to a conversation with the parties, who lived next door to him, just previous to their going away, indicating no intention to return, **and leaving the children in his charge to take to the workhouse.**

Samuel Poxon proved that his parents received relief from Osgathorpe while residing at Castle Donington, and that his brother married the first witness.

James Newbold, overseer of Castle Donington, produced copies of the register of the marriage of Mary Poxon's father and mother at Lockington, and of her birth, also the order of removal of the mother and daughter to Osgathorpe in 1815.

Mr. Roberts remarked that the court would have to decide first whether the settlement of the mother of the children was not determined by her marriage; second whether the children were not irremovable under the clause of the act making a five years' residence bar to removal; and third,

whether two of the children being below the age of nurture were at all removable. He contended that apart from the late evidence that had been imported into the case, there were strong facts in favour of a marriage with Glover having taken place, as reputation and cohabitation, both a first class of evidence, were admitted. On the second point, he submitted that the children had resided above five years in Loughborough, and therefore were not removable. On all the points he submitted to the court that the order must be quashed.

Mr. White, in reply, contended that the mother of the paupers having made herself removable by breaking her residence, the children were removable also.

The Court confirmed the order.

Mr. White applied for costs on the ground that the appeal was vexatious and frivolous.

Mr. Roberts replied, and the Court declined to grant the application.

### **Leicester chronicle – November 26<sup>th</sup> 1853**

William Young, a miserable looking lad of 17 or 18 was charged with stealing an axe of the value of 3s. from the barn of Mr. Stephen Bailey, farmer and Blacksmith of Osgathorpe; which he afterwards sold for 1s. **Committed for trial at the Sessions and the witness bound over to appear.**

### **Leicester Chronicle - August 20<sup>th</sup> 1853**

**OSGATHORPE** — An inquest was opened here on Saturday morning last, before John Gregory, Esq., coroner, of Leicester, and a respectable jury, on view of the body of John Waldron, which was adjourned to the following Tuesday. The evidence was to the effect that the deceased, 28 years of age, was a labourer in the Pegg's Green Colliery, and employed for making the roads in the pit. On Thursday he had been employed in removing a mass of stone by blasting, and was stacking or walling up the stones on the sides of the roadway. He had propped the roof with two strong props, and was at work under the stone thus supported on Friday morning about five o'clock, when a stone of large dimensions (upwards of a ton weight) fell down between the props, and so fearfully crushed him that his death was almost instantaneous. Assistance was promptly rendered to raise the stone, but the poor fellow was only seen to breathe once, although got out in five or six minutes. There was plenty of wood at hand for propping and the two set up by the deceased were considered to be perfectly safe. Mr. John Price, the manager of the colliery, drew a plan of the place where the accident happened, for the inspection of the jury, who, after a short deliberation, **returned a verdict of "Accidental death."**

### **Leicester Journal – August 19th 1853**

**Fatal Coalpit Accident.**—A fatal accident occurred in a coalpit at Peggs Green, near Ashby-de-la-Zouch, about midnight Thursday the 11<sup>th</sup> instant. A labourer named John Waldrom, about 28 years of age, and who resided at Osgathorpe, was engaged in building up the way head in the pit when a piece of stone weighing a least a ton fell upon him. Ten men were required to move the stone off the poor fellow, and when that was done it was found that he was quite dead. An inquest was held on the body on Saturday, and by adjournment Tuesday – **Verdict, accidental death.**

### **Leicester Chronicle – October 29th 1853**

**Petty Sessions, Oct. 22. Before the Eight Hon. Earl Howe. George Moore, Esq., and the Rev. J. M. Echaz.**

Elizabeth Green, of Osgathorpe, charged Josiah Perry, of that place, with being the father of her illegitimate child. This case occupied the attention of the court several hours, Mr. Cope of

Loughborough appearing for the defendant, and Mr. Inglesant, of that place, for the complainant. Many witnesses were examined, and there appeared to be a great deal of hard swearing on both sides, the evidence being so conflicting, as to leave a painful conviction upon the minds of the auditors, that not a few gross and glaring untruths were committed. **The Magistrates, however, ordered the defendant to pay 1s 6d weekly since the birth of the child, and the costs. It would be much better for the public morals, and highly desirable to the lovers of decency, if these cases were heard in private.**

#### **Leicester Mercury – November 12<sup>th</sup> 1853**

Thomas Johnson charged George Smith with misconduct in service. Complainant who lived at Osgathorpe **hired defendant at Ashby Statutes for £11 as a farm servant** – Defendant behaved well until 27<sup>th</sup> October, when he left without any notice or reasonable excuse – **Defendant pleaded guilty, and undertook to pay the costs, return to his service, and behave better for the future.**

#### **Leicester Chronicle – September 30<sup>th</sup> 1854**

**Ashby-de-la-Zouch Petty Sessions, Sept. 23. Before G. Moore, Esq.. and R. Colvile, Esq., M.P.**

Joseph Jackson (27), Wm. Bradley (18), John Jessop (17) Henry Pope (19), and George Walker (20), all of Worthington, (all on bail) were charged with a criminal assault on a young woman of that village, aged 18, on Monday night, the 18<sup>th</sup> of September. Females were ordered to withdraw. Much of the evidence in this case is quite unfit for publication. It appeared that the complainant had been at **Osgathorpe feast**, on the day in question. She waited till near midnight for a female acquaintance for the sake of company home; their way thither was across the fields, by a foot-road, in one of which, near a hovel, the complainant was seized by Jackson, and dragged into the hovel, the five prisoners, and another, named George Edwards (who has absconded) being there. They treated the poor girl in a most atrocious manner, threw her on the ground, and dragged her about till her clothes were torn and dirtied and smeared with blood. The next day (Tuesday) her mother applied to the police, and the same night P.S Platts and P.C. Roberts apprehended the five delinquents, whom they handcuffed and conveyed by a cart to the Ashby lock-up. The prisoners were defended by Mr. Brown, solicitor, of Ashby, who, during the investigation put some question, to the prosecutrix, which the Magistrates informed her she was not called upon to answer. He also attempted to throw discredit upon her testimony; asserting that she was not worthy to be believed, and was a person of bad character. The Bench were of the opinion that the criminal charge had not been proved; but that the prisoners had been guilty of a cowardly and brutal assault upon the complainant. They also commented upon the remarks of the prisoner's advocate, on the character and evidence of the prosecutrix; her statements being, in their opinion, given with unreal apparent truthfulness and propriety, and they **convicted the prisoners of an aggravated assault, ordering Jackson, Pope, and Jessop to be fined 20s each; Walker and Bradley, 10s each (including expenses), or one month's imprisonment.**

#### **Leicester Chronicle – October 28<sup>th</sup> 1854**

**Ashby-de-la-Zouch Petty Sessions, Oct. 21<sup>st</sup>.**

**A Pinfold Dispute.** — Wm. Gilbert, of Osgathorpe, was charged by Stephen Leedham Bailey with a pound breach at that place, on the 29<sup>th</sup> of September. From the evidence of the complainant, it appeared that on the day in question two cows belonging to the defendant were in one of his fields, and as he had before frequently suffered by the cow of defendant trespassing upon his land, he sent for the pindar, and had the stray cattle impounded and locked up. Defendant immediately went and offered to make reasonable compensation for the damage done, and complainant demanded 10s, which defendant said was an extortionate demand. Having made this offer, he paid 5d to the pindar's wife, the customary fee, and he took off the lock. The complainant immediately put on a lock of his own, which the defendant wrenched off

with a coal-pick, and took his cows away. The bench decided upon dismissing the complaint, being of opinion that the complainant had no right to detain the cattle after they were liberated, and the pinder's demand paid. **Charge dismissed, complainant to pay the expense.**

*The definition of pinder / pindar was a person whose job was to impound stray animals.*

#### **Leicester Chronicle – May 13<sup>th</sup> 1854**

Catherine Potts of Osgathorpe charged Elizabeth Haywood, Jane Haywood and Charlotte Burton with assaulting her on May 1<sup>st</sup>. This was a street brawl amongst the ladies (who are neighbours) which ended in a hair pulling match. **Case dismissed, each being ordered to pay an equal share of expenses.**

#### **Leicester Journal – March 9<sup>th</sup> 1855**

**CROWN COURT** – Friday March 2<sup>nd</sup> before C. W. Packe Esq., MP, Chairman.

Joseph Tatlow pleaded guilty to obtaining on January 30<sup>th</sup>, a quantity of grocery goods from William Booth of Osgathorpe under the false pretences of being sent by Martha Geary. **Two months hard labour.**

#### **Leicester Mercury - Oct 25<sup>th</sup> 1856**

**Petty Sessions, October 18<sup>th</sup> (Before the Earl Ferrers).**

John Matchett, Osgathorpe, labourer, was charged with feloniously stealing at Osgathorpe, on the 11th inst., three live tame rabbits, of the value of 6s., the property of Thomas Wortley. From the evidence it appeared that the prisoner was seen near the barn from whence the rabbits were stolen late on the night in question and that his footsteps were traced for some distance to the premises. The morning after the robbery he met with the prosecutor, and under the pretext of assisting the discovery of the offender, advised him to keep the matter secret for four or five days. He denied having been near the premises, or speaking to anyone about the rabbits and now denied all previous knowledge of the place where they were kept. The prisoner was committed for trial at the next sessions. **Bail was agreed to be taken by the committing magistrate, but none being forthcoming, the prisoner was sent to the county gaol.**

#### **Leicester Journal – November 14<sup>th</sup> 1856**

**Ashby-de-la-Zouch Petty Sessions, Saturday, Oct. 8<sup>th</sup>.—(Before T. Mowbray, Esq.. and the Rev. J. M. Echelaz.)**

Mary Jarvis, of Osgathorpe, was charged by Frances Matchett, of the same place, a married woman, and sister-in-law of the defendant, with assaulting her at Osgathorpe. It appeared from the evidence of the complainant that the defendant met her as she was leaving her house, and without any provocation struck her several times on the head and pulled off her bonnet, which in the affray was torn to pieces, and otherwise ill-used her. The defendant denied the charge, and called Elizabeth Matchett to prove that complainant was the aggressor, and as the quarrel seemed to originate in "family jars," **the magistrates dismissed the case, leaving each party to pay her own costs.**

#### **Leicester Chronicle – March 29<sup>th</sup> 1856**

Joseph Bennett was charged with stealing a tame duck, the value of 2s., the property of William Davenport of Osgathorpe. Defendant admitted taking the duck because his family was "clamming" at home. **Convicted and sentenced to six weeks imprisonment in the "House of Correction" with hard labour.**

### Leicester Journal - October 9<sup>th</sup> 1857

Benjamin Radford, of Osgathorpe, was charged with stealing a jacket of the value of 7s. 6d. the property of John Bennett. Prosecutor deposed that he was a labourer and lived at Osgathorpe. In the month of January last he was at work for Mr. Wardle, of Coleorton, and had a new fustian jacket on. The thrashing machine was at work there. Witness took his jacket off and put it on the machine. When the work was done he missed it, and though he made every enquiry he could hear nothing of it. The prisoner worked with him on Saturday, the 26<sup>th</sup> ult. The witness met man named Wakefield, between Osgathorpe and Coleorton, wearing a jacket which witness identified at once as his property and he then gave information to the police.—John Wakefield swore to purchasing a jacket from the prisoner January last, and it had been in his possession ever since. Witness gave it up to P.C. Earp. **Committed to four months hard labour.**

### Leicester Journal - September 4<sup>th</sup> 1857

Ashby-de-la-Zouch versus Osgathorpe Grammar Schools.—On Wednesday, August 26<sup>th</sup>, the return match between the above clubs was played at Coleorton, which ground Sir George Beaumont had again kindly lent. Osgathorpe went first to the wicket, but with the exception of Mr. Warner and Stone, no stand was made. The bowling of Mr. Johnson was very effective, Mr. Jickling, though not taking so many wickets, had every ball on the spot. Lovell and F. Bindley distinguished themselves greatly in the field; Osgathorpe made 31 and all down. The spirits of the Ashby side were rising, the first two wickets falling for two runs, Messrs. Johnson and Jickling found themselves face to face; their scores were soon made by some fine hitting. Wallack appears as change bowler, and lowers Mr. Jickling's wicket first over, and Mr. Johnson's soon follows suit. Nothing more was done; Kelk, Esq., was very successful with his bowling, Wallack got his three wickets in about six overs; 51, runs all told, being 20 ahead of their opponents. In the Osgathorpe second innings Dodd made by good play, but no one else did much for their side. H. Berrie made two good catches, and F. Bindley made the best catch of the day; he was standing point, ran across the wicket, and caught the ball at square leg. Ashby had 10 to get to win, which they got with the loss of two wickets; Wallack taking them both.

### Leicester Journal – January 8<sup>th</sup> 1858

#### Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions Dec 26<sup>th</sup> 1857 (before Earl Ferrers and W. W. Abney Esq.)

William Underwood was charged with a pound breach at Osgathorpe. Thomas Jeffcoat, the **pinder**, of Osgathorpe, having proved the fact of baring duly seized and impounded the defendant's horse, on the 8<sup>th</sup> inst. He saw it in the pound late that night, and on the following morning early, he found the pound had been broken into, and afterwards saw the horse in the defendant's possession. There was evidence to show by whom the pound had been broken, and the defendant said that he found the horse in the town street; in this statement it was partly confirmed by his son, but the case was left in much obscurity. Mr. W. E. Smith appeared for complainant, and contended that the facts proved justified conviction, and that the case might be likened to that of a man found with stolen gold in his possession, not being able to account for them. **The magistrates, however, refused to convict, and the case against the defendant was dismissed.**

***The definition of pinder / pindar was a person whose job was to impound stray animals***

### **Derby Mercury - July 27th 1859**

#### **Ashby County Court before judge Sergeant Mills Saturday July 16th**

Alice Bradley, single woman, of Osgathorpe, was charged with willfully obstructing the freedom of a certain highway in the parish of Osgathorpe, on the 7th of May. The charge was preferred by Thomas Gilbert, farmer, of Osgathorpe, and occupied the attention of the court a considerable time; but was of a nature not the most delicate. Mr. Inglesant, of Loughborough, for complainant; and Mr. Brown, Ashby, for defendant. **The Bench inflicted a fine of 10s. and costs. *It is not difficult to imagine "what of a nature not the most delicate was"!***

### **Derby Mercury - June 29th 1859**

William Roe, labourer, of Osgathorpe, was charged with willfully and maliciously doing damage to a certain close of land in the parish of Osgathorpe to the amount of 1s., the property of William Kidger, on the 26th inst—**After a long argument the case was taken to another court, and an action is pending.**

### **Loughborough Monitor – October 13<sup>th</sup> 1859**

A meeting of the rate payers was held at the National School room, on Wednesday, the 6<sup>th</sup> inst., to take into consideration the state of Snarrow's Road, leading from the above village to the Ashby turnpike road at Gracedieu. Anyone who has travelled that way must have noticed its bad and even dangerous state; and well it may be so, not having been repaired for upwards of twenty years. The meeting was numerously attended and much discussion ensued as to the parties liable to its repair. **It was finally determined to take counsel's opinion on the subject.**

### **Loughborough Monitor - June 27<sup>th</sup> 1861**

#### **OSGATHORPE.**

**FATAL ACCIDENT.** - A man named Frederick Sykes, butcher, of Thringstone, died on Wednesday morning the 19th instant, from injuries received by being thrown from his horse at Osgathorpe on the Monday night previous. On enquiry it appeared that the deceased on the night in question had been drinking at several public houses at Osgathorpe after which he started for home, making his horse gallop at full speed, when he fell off, his head striking the ground, from the effects of which he never spoke, and died on Wednesday morning. An inquest was held the same day, by J. Gregory, and **a verdict of "Accidental death" was returned.**

### **Leicester Chronicle - December 13<sup>th</sup> 1862**

#### **ASHBY DE LA ZOUCH PETTY SESSIONS, SATURDAY DECEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>**

Mr. Arnold, governor of the Ashby Union, charged Robert Young, a vagrant, of Osgathorpe. with refusing to obey the orders of the work house, &c. He was admitted into the house on the preceding evening in filthy state and refused to be washed or have his body anointed, as ordered by the doctor. **One month's hard labour and the magistrates remarked that he would be well washed when he got to Leicester.**

### **Leicester Mercury - March 8<sup>th</sup> 1862**

Alfred Abel, a young man, was charged with stealing leather, the property of Mr. Goodman, of Osgathorpe, on the 14th ult. Prosecutor had no desire to press the case against the prisoner, and as he had been in custody a fortnight he was **admonished and committed for one day.**

**Leicester Chronicle - December 13<sup>th</sup> 1862**  
**Ashby de La Zouch petty Sessions – December 6<sup>th</sup>.**

**OSGATHORPE MAN'S SUICIDE**  
**VERDICT OF FELO DE SE.**  
**THE CORONER AND MODERN HUMANITARIAN VIEWS**

At the National School, Osgathorpe, on Saturday afternoon, Mr. H. J. Deane, held an inquest on the body of Wm. Thornton, aged 60, who had been employed at Cloud Hill Lime Works, and who was found hanging dead in his home on Friday.

The rector, the Rev J. H. Fry was foreman of the jury.

Wm. Baker, labourer, said he was a neighbour of deceased, with whom he had some conversation the previous Sunday night. He knew deceased had not had a fire for several days, and he asked him to stay for a while at the house, but he did not. He then looked ill and pale. Witness heard him about on Tuesday. Deceased was troubled about money matters, and said he wanted a doctor, and witness told him that he thought if he asked for one, he would be told that he could pay,

Wm. Hatton, labourer, of Osgathorpe, said that as deceased had not been seen for some days Miss Siddons told him on Friday to enter the house. He obtained a ladder and got in through a window and found deceased hanging from the attic railing. Witness had not seen him all Christmas week, but he had appeared to be depressed for some time.

Dr. Atkinson of Osgathorpe, said when he saw the body it was cold and stiff, and witness thought death had taken place between 24 hours and 3 days. Death was due to strangulation by hanging, Witness knew the deceased but had not seen him for months.

Dr. Atkinson handed to the coroner two envelopes which he found in deceased's bedroom. Both were addressed to a "Mrs. Campbell, of Bull Hill," said to be a relative of his late wife. On one he said "I want to rest with your Aunt," and on the other, "I leave all the household to you," and added, "William Thornton, please give Mrs. Green a chair and some little things," Mrs. Green it was stated, was in the habit of tidying up for the deceased.

The coroner said he was pleased Dr. Atkinson had produced these communications, as they would help the jury to decide as to the man's mental state. It was frequently difficult for a jury to decide as to sanity in such cases, and also difficult for medical men, but deceased appeared to have run to the end of his resources, and destroyed himself. Whether he was responsible or irresponsible the jury would say. Modern humanitarian views had displaced the horrid procedure of burial by night, and in cross roads. In cases of felo-de-se, now there was a suitable burial service. There was no reason for a verdict of sympathy if the jury thought the man in his right mind when committing suicide.

The Rev. J. H. Fry having consulted with other members of the jury, said to the coroner: "we find that he was in full possession of his senses when he decided to commit suicide and when he carried out his intentions." The verdict was in those terms: 'that on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of January William Thornton was found dead from strangulation by hanging, and that he so willfully hanged himself.'

The Rector added; I am sorry this verdict will prevent my giving him a Christian burial, but I will attend his funeral and say a few prayers over his grave,

The funeral of the deceased took place the same afternoon in Osgathorpe, Churchyard, the Rector conducting a service.

*Until the end of the widespread phasing out mentioned below, in English common law suicides were felons. The crime was punishable by forfeiture (great loss of property) to the monarch and what was considered a shameful burial – typically with a stake through the heart and at a crossroads. Burials for felo de se typically took place at night, with no mourners nor clergy; the place was often kept secret by justices of the peace, coroners and local undertakers.*

*An Act revoking the 1823 Felo de Se Act received Royal Assent in 1835 meaning no more persons committing suicide were to be buried in the manner described above*

## **Loughborough Monitor – August 21<sup>st</sup> 1862**

The quiet little village of Osgathorpe was enlivened on Tuesday, the 12<sup>th</sup> instant by a tea party being held in front of the hall, kindly lent for the occasion by Mr. Field. About 130 sat down to tea. The trays were gratuitously provided by ladies in the neighbourhood and upwards of £4 was realised, which was appropriated to the defraying of expenses. After tea, the youthful part of the company enjoyed themselves with rural sports in a field adjoining, until nearly seven o'clock, when all adjourned to a shed comfortably fitted up. The Chair, having been taken by Mr. Clarke of Castle Donington, speeches were delivered by the Rev. T. Crosby of Ashby de la Zouch; Mr. Attwood of Castle Donington; Mr. Kendrick of Griffydham; and other friends. After a unanimous vote of thanks to the ladies, who so kindly presided at the tea tables, and to the Chairman of the meeting, the company broke up, everyone evidently satisfied and delighted with the proceedings of the day.

### **ADVERTISEMENTS**

#### **Loughborough Monitor – January 16<sup>th</sup> 1862**

##### **GRAMMAR SCHOOL – OSGATHORPE**

**Conducted by Mr. C. E. Warner and assistant master.**

Pupils are carefully prepared for commercial and agricultural pursuits, being thoroughly taught the usual branches of a liberal education, including book-keeping and practical land surveying.

The situation is healthy and every attention paid to the domestic comfort of the pupils.

##### **Terms and references on application**

**The School will be re-opening on Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> January 1862**

##### **LADIES SCHOOL – OSGATHORPE**

Mrs. C. E. Warner informs her friends and the public of the neighbourhood, that it is her intention to "open a school" for the education of young ladies, on Monday January 27<sup>th</sup>

##### **Circular of Terms on Application**

## **Loughborough Monitor - 28<sup>th</sup> December 1865**

### **OSGATHORPE GRAMMAR AND COMMERCIAL SCHOOL**

The usual examination of the pupils of the above school having been concluded, the prizes were awarded on Monday, the 19<sup>th</sup> inst., by the Rev. T. N. Bland, rector, with a few appropriate remarks to each recipient. The specimens of writing and mapping were quite equal to former occasions. The papers of Gill, in most subjects particularly arithmetic, were far in advance of his class which entitled him to the chief prize. The following is the award—Boarders: proficiency in English and arithmetic—First Gill; Third W. Smith : Writing and drawing—Clark : Good conduct prize Greensmith class- First Bolesworth, second Maggieston. Daily pupils – First, Thos. Cowlshaw; Second, Field; Third Geo. Johnson.

## **Loughborough Monitor – April 13<sup>th</sup> 1865**

### **WESLEYAN CHAPEL – OSGATHORPE**

On Sunday, April 16<sup>th</sup> 1865, two sermons will be preached in the above place of worship, by the Rev. S. M. Brough, of Didsbury College. Services to commence in the afternoon at two o'clock and in the evening at six o'clock. – Collections in aid of the trust fund, will be made at the close of each service.

## **Leicester Mail – March 31<sup>st</sup> 1866**

The rectory of Osgathorpe, near Loughborough, has become vacant by the death of Rev. Thos Naylor Bland, M. A., formerly of Trinity College, Cambridge. The Benefice which is worth £250 a year is in the gift of the Marquis of Hastings.

## **Loughborough Monitor – April 19th 1866**

### **Ashby de la Zouch County Court – Thursday April 12<sup>th</sup> - Webster v Rennox (Rennocks?)**

This was an action to recover 25s. the value of a suit of clothes. The plaintiff at present is residing at Swadlincote, but was a formerly bound apprentice to the defendant, who is a cordwainer, carrying on business at Osgathorpe, by the guardians of the Loughborough Union, they at the same time giving a premium of £5, and two suits of clothes. Things went on very favourably until a few weeks back, when complaints were made by the youth to the board, of the gross ill usage of his master towards him. Both parties were requested to appear before the guardians, and the result was that the indentures were cancelled, and plaintiff was set at liberty. He returned to Osgathorpe to his master, and demanded his clothes, which defendant refused to give up. He afterwards by the advice of several influential parties entered the case in the county court. After the service of the summons, defendant forwarded the clothes to plaintiff's place of residence, who refused to take them in, on the grounds of the expenses of court. - Mr. Dewes for defendant urged that as plaintiff had been discharged through his own bad conduct, he had forfeited all right to the articles.- His Honour, however, was of a different opinion, and gave an order for the delivery of the clothes with costs. The decision was received with general satisfaction by the court.

### **Leicester Journal - August 30<sup>th</sup> 1867**

**Petty Sessions, August 28<sup>th</sup>.**—Before E. C. Middleton, and C. Shakespeare, Esqr's.

Mr. G. Holloway was charged by Mr. Kidger, keeper of the Belton toll gate, with evading tolls on the 9th May last.—Mr. Giles appeared for the defence. He admitted the facts as alleged about defendant crossing the turnpike road through the side gate, but denied his liability, stated that although he had been in the constant habit of going through that gate, he had never been before asked for toll, consequently it could be no evasion. The defendant had gone to Osgathorpe to do business, and had proceeded thence to Ashby, having paid toll at two gates, and returned through the same side gate.—The Bench retired short time, and on their return said, as the defendant had a right to go to Osgathorpe without paying toll, and he having paid at the other two gates between Osgathorpe and Ashby, they considered he was not liable, and dismissed the case, directing **each to pay their own costs Thomas**

## **The Loughborough Monitor – August 29<sup>th</sup> 1867**

### **MARRIAGE CELEBRATIONS FOR REV. WALTER AUGUSTUS WILLIAMS AND HIS LADY**

The inhabitants of Osgathorpe will long remember the past week in consequence of the rejoicings that have taken place on the occasion of the marriage of their worthy and well respected rector. On Wednesday, all the children were invited to the rectory grounds and regaled in a bountiful manner, with tea, cake and fruit, and thoroughly enjoyed themselves in numerous games till the shades of evening dispersed the happy party. The ladies of the village contributed much to their comfort and amusement.

On Friday the whole of the adult population of the village, male and female, were also invited to the rectory to supper. A very large tent from Coalville was erected in the grounds, and decorated with evergreens, mottoes and herbs by the pupils of the Grammar School. Soon after six the party assembled and received by the rector and his lady; and headed by the Snibston Colliery Band, walked in procession to the ground. They were soon seated at the capacious board, where the good old English fare of rounds of roast beef and plum pudding awaited them. After the repast, the health of the rector and Mrs. Williams was proposed by Mr. White, amidst great cheering, and responded to in very feeling terms by the rector, who expressed his earnest hope that the same kindly feeling exhibited by all on this occasion by all, would through the divine blessing, encourage them at all times to strive to live together in Christian fellowship and love. Many of those who had been assisting afterwards partook of the fare; in fact, during the evening

all comers were made welcome. The evening was spent by the younger of the party in "Tripping it Lightly o'er the Grass", in which they were heartily joined by many of the inhabitants. About ten o'clock the band played "God Save the Queen" and the party broke up, highly gratified with the treat they enjoyed, it having been the most social and pleasant gathering that has taken place in the village during the present generation.

### **Leicester Chronicle - February 15<sup>th</sup> 1868**

#### **SHEEPSHED.**

**Charge of Rape** - Samuel Wain (24), of Sheepshed, labourer, was charged before E. C. Middleton, Esq., at the Police Court, Loughborough, on Friday, the 7<sup>th</sup> inst, with committing a rape on Mary Ann Quenby, in the parish of Sheepshed,

The prosecutrix Mary Ann Quenby, said "I am the daughter of Lott Quenby, of Osgathorpe. I was 13 years of age in last December. On Thursday evening, the 30<sup>th</sup>, I started from Osgathorpe at 4 o'clock to go to Sheepshed to fetch some work, Eliza Horrobin went with me to Sheepshed about five o'clock. Mr. Griffin, the person to whom we went not being at home, we waited till he came home. We started from Sheepshed to return home from about half-past seven to eight o'clock. When we got to Mr. Freeman's, Eliza Horrobin left me, and went into his house. I walked on towards home. When I got to the top of the hill the prisoner passed by me, I was then alone. He did not speak to me nor I to him. It was a light night, and I could see him well. He had on light-coloured trousers, a light-coloured slop, a velveteen coat on the slop, and a low, flat-crowned, muffle hat. When the prisoner had passed me, I turned back to meet Eliza Horrobin, I met her in a very few minutes coming on the road. We stood talking for a few minutes, and then went on. When we got to the bottom of the hill, we turned off to the foot-road which went through the first field, and about half way through the second field, and then Eliza Horrobin shouted out, "Oh Mary, here's a man coming." I said to her, "Oh ! Eliza, how you frighten me." As soon as I had said that, I saw the man who had passed me before. He said, are you frightened? He then put his arms round Eliza Horrobin, and looked in her face, and said, "who are you ?" She did not answer him, and he let her go. He then put his arms around me. Eliza Horrobin went away, and I tried to get away, but could not. He asked me to give him a kiss, I asked him to leave go, or I should turn back and fetch a policeman. He then began to pull me about. [Witness here detailed particulars unfit for publication.] When he had done what he wanted he went away in the direction of Sheepshed, I got up and went towards home. As soon as I got through the fields I met Eliza Horrobin waiting for me against the hedge. I told her what had happened, we walked on together to Belton, and went to my aunt, Ann Waldram, I told her how I had been treated and waited at my aunt's till the carrier's van came. We went to my home at Osgathorpe, I told Mr. Kidger, the carrier, how I had been served. When I got home to my father a neighbour named Darby was there, I told her and my father how I had been treated. On Monday, the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February, between eleven and twelve o'clock in the morning, I was in the house with my father, and I saw the prisoner go by the window, I knew him again directly I saw him, and told my father. Directly after, the prisoner and a man named Bailey came in. Bailey asked me if he was the man who I said had been ill using me and I told him he was not. Wain then said "Was it me?" I told him it was. I am quite sure that the prisoner Wain is the man who ill-used me and this statement was corroborated by Eliza Horrobin. Evidence was given by Lott Quenby (the girl's father) and also by several persons who had seen the prisoner in Sheepshed that same night, and spoke as to the dress he wore. Mr J Toon, surgeon, of Whitwick, said he examined the prosecutrix on Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, and was quite satisfied that the offence had been committed. He had examined both the prisoner and the girl, and found both to be suffering from a certain disease. P.C. Hancock and P. C. Bott, who apprehended the prisoner at two o'clock on the morning of Tuesday, at his father's house, where he was in bed, stated that he denied having a dress on as described by the witnesses on the night in question. **This concluded the evidence, and on the prisoner receiving the usual caution, he replied firmly "not guilty". He was then committed to take his trial at the ensuing Crown Court.**

**CROWN COURT**

**THE TRIAL**

**On Wednesday, Baron Martin took his seat at half-past nine o' clock.**

**A charge of rape at Sheepshed.**

Samuel Wain, 24, labourer (imp.), was charged with feloniously assaulting Mary Ann Quenby, at Sheepshed, on the 30th January, and against her will violently ravishing her. Mr. Palmer prosecuted, and the prisoner was undefended. Mary Ann Quenby said she was turned 13 last December. She was in the habit of going to Sheepshed for work from Osgathorpe. On the 30th January she went to Sheepshed with Eliza Horrobin from Osgathorpe, and went to Mr. Griffins for some work. They left Sheepshed between seven and eight o' clock in the evening and on the way Horrobin left her. On the top of Carr Hill she passed the prisoner Wain. He had on plaid trousers, a velveteen coat, and a Muller hat. When he passed her she turned back to meet Eliza Horrobin. She met her, and then turned up the footpath with Horrobin. The prisoner turned and came after them. The prisoner laid hold of Eliza Horrobin, and said Who are you? She did not speak to him, and he let her loose and walked away. He then put his arms round prosecutrix, and she said If you please will you leave loose of me, if you don't I will turn back and fetch the police. He said, Eh, eh, what do you say, and prosecutrix said, please let loose of me. He then pulled her clothes up and threw her down on the ground. She began to scream, when he put his hand on her mouth and prevented her. [The evidence here was unfit for publication]. Prisoner then got up and went towards Sheepshed. Prosecutrix then got up and caught Eliza Horrobin, and complained to her. She went with her to her aunt, Mrs. Waldram, and complained to her. She also complained to the carrier, and rode with her to Osgathorpe. When she got home she told her father and Mrs. Darby what had occurred. On the following Sunday she was examined by Mr. Toon. On the following Monday the prisoner came to her father's house and asked if he was the man, and she said he was. Prisoner said he had heard that she had put it about that it was he and a man named Bailey. Then Eliza Horrobin proved walking with prosecutrix when prisoner came up to them. She corroborated the statement of the prosecutrix as to the prisoner accosting them. She walked away, and saw prisoner throw Mary Ann Quenby down, and heard her screech, but was frightened, and dared not return to help her. Lott Quenby said his daughter came home the night in question between ten and eleven. She looked as if she had been crying, her bonnet was bent, and she seemed to have been mauled. He took her to Mr. Toon, and gave information to the police. When the prisoner came to his house his daughter said, Oh father, that's the man, and the last witness also identified him. A Jeremiah Hopkins said he knew the prisoner at the bar, and on the 30th January he was talking to him in the Market. He had on a dark coat, a light slop, and a muller hat. Prisoner cross examined the previous witness to show that they had erred in the description of his dress, but was unable to shake their evidence. A Ann Darby, wife of George Darby, of Osgathorpe, said on the night of the 30th of January, about ten o' clock, she was at Mr. Quenby's. Mary Ann came home crying, and complained of what had happened to her. She examined her, and found injuries about her person. P.C. Richard Hancock said on Tuesday, the 4th February, went he went to Wains father's house with P.C. Bott. He saw the prisoner, who said in answer to a question whether he had been to Osgathorpe, that he went there to know if he was the man, and they said was not. Witness told him he was informed to the contrary. He was in bed when they first arrived, but got up. Witness here detailed a conversation between himself, Bott, and the prisoner, as to the clothes worn by the latter. There was a Muller hat in the house and P.C. Bott gave similar evidence, adding that he examined prisoner's shirt at Loughborough, on which there were several stains of blood. Mr. Toon said on the 2nd February he examined the prosecutrix; she was greatly bruised and scratched. This witness stated that the actual offence had not been completed, but on the Wednesday afternoon found her suffering from gonorrhoea. On examining the prisoner he found him suffering from the same disease. This was the case

against the prisoner. **The Learned Judge expressing himself strongly on the vileness of the case and sentenced the prisoner to two years in prison.**

#### **Leicester Mail     September 12<sup>th</sup> 1868**

**STEALING POTATOES** —John Bennett, of Osgathorpe, was charged with stealing 10lbs of potatoes from a garden at Osgathorpe, the property of Jos. Moseley, 28<sup>th</sup> ult.—P.C. Geo. Ball said from information received he went to defendant's house and told his wife her husband was suspected of stealing prosecutor's potatoes. She fetched some from the bedroom and they answered to sample of Mr. Moseley's. He then searched the house, and found a quantity in a chimney. The wife said the potatoes had been grown in their own garden.—Defendant denied the charge, and called a witness who swore that he well remembered defendant purchasing the seed of the potatoes produced, and saw him but few days ago getting the potatoes up.—**The bench said there was a doubt upon the matter and dismissed the case.**

#### **Leicester Mail – June 20<sup>th</sup> 1868**

##### **LOUGHBOROUGH COUNTY COURT – Before Mr. Sergeant Miller (judge)**

**A JUVENILE CRIMINAL** – William Bennet, a diminutive lad, twelve years of age pleaded guilty to a charge of stealing two live tame pigeons, value 2s. 6d., the property of Joseph Belcher of Belton, on the 1<sup>st</sup> of June. – A young man in the employ of Mr. Knight, of Osgathorpe stated on the day mentioned, defendant came to his master's house and asked him to buy two pigeons. He enquired where he had obtained them from, when he replied, he got them from Leicester, and upon that he gave him 2s 6d. for them. – Prosecutor identified the pigeon produced (the other one having flown away) as one of them stolen from him. – **The young defendant was sentenced to 14 days imprisonment; if again brought before the magistrate, to be severely whipped.**

#### **Leicester Mail – March 14<sup>th</sup> 1868**

**A CAUTION TO PIGEON SHOOTERS** – Charles E. Warner of Osgathorpe, charged Edward Burton, of the same place, with killing a pigeon, his property, on the 20<sup>th</sup> ult. – Complainant, who appeared to be very deaf, said he had no wish to press the case, but merely wanted to put a stop to the practice of youths going about the village with guns to the great nuisance and danger of the inhabitants. – **The bench cautioned defendant and ordered him to pay 16s., or seven days.**

#### **Leicester Mail - Oct 6<sup>th</sup> 1869**

Joseph Jarvis charged Samuel Jarvis, his brother, with stealing one pickling cabbage, of the value of 8d. at Osgathorpe, on the 21<sup>st</sup> last. **Mr. Dewes appeared for the defendant in this case, which was dismissed.**

#### **Leicester Journal - October 8<sup>th</sup> 1869**

Samuel Jarvis, jun., of Osgathorpe, labourer, was charged by Hannah Jarvis, wife of Joseph Jarvis, with having on September, at Osgathorpe, stolen a certain cabbage plant of the value of 8d., the property of Jos. Jarvis. —Mr. Dewes appeared for the defendant.—From the remarks of Mr. Dewes, it appeared that an ill feeling existed between the families of Joseph Jarvis and Samuel Jarvis, who were brothers.—**After hearing the evidence on both sides, the case was dismissed.**

#### **Leicester Mail - October 2<sup>nd</sup> 1869**

**OSGATHORPE.** Harvest Thanksgiving and Festival. — On Friday last, the 24<sup>th</sup> inst. a very earnest and impressive sermon was preached in the parish church of Osgathorpe by the Rev. Walter A. Williams, the rector, from Matthew ix38, "Pray ye, therefore, the Lord of the harvest that

lie will send labourers into His harvest;" after which a collection was made, and the proceeds handed over to the Church Extension Society, Leicester. The church was tastefully decorated with suitable mottoes for the occasion. By the kind permission of Mr. Miller, an extensive tent was erected in one of his fields, and the joint efforts of committee consisting of Mr. Kidger, Mr. Mosely, Mr. Hollingshead, Mr. Mackie, Mr Josiah Branson, W. Branson, Mr. Goodman, Mr. Gilbert, Mr. John Rennocks, Mr. Wm. Rennocks, Mr. Platts, &c. (aided by subscriptions kindly given by John Bostock, Esq. Breedon Lodge, and Mr. Henry Miles, of Osgathorpe). A hot dinner was provided for the labourers, their wives, and children. An ample supply of roast beef and mutton, together with potatoes, cabbages, and turnips, and some really excellent plum puddings, cheese, &c., appeared to be heartily enjoyed by the recipients, who well and truly aided in the consumption thereof, to the extreme gratification of the purveyors, Messrs. Goodman and Gilbert. The gathering was much indebted to the exertions of Mr. J. P. White, who kindly presided over the committee and the dinner, adding every care and conviviality for the comfort, enjoyment, and amusement of those who participated in the treat. Moreover, they were much indebted to Geo. L. Vaughan, Esq., for permitting the attendance of the Snibston Colliery Company's splendid brass band, which exceedingly enhanced the cheerfulness of the afternoon by melodious and well executed performances, for it truly said that Music will soften rocks, and bend the knotted oak. With such effects it cannot be wondered that the pleasures of the day were so much increased, and that satisfaction and enjoyment were visibly manifested in every countenance, the faithful index of the mind. The decorations were very good, and tastefully displayed. Superb and elegant flags floated the breeze, and other displays of evergreen arches and ornamental emblems were erected suitable for the occasion. We must, however, not forget to remind the sons of toil of the great First-cause by whom it was ordained that man should live by the sweat of his brow; also of His promise that seed time and harvest shall never fail," and that, therefore, while impressed with feelings of great joy and gladness, we ought to feel sincere gratitude and thankfulness to the great Giver of all good things. After the dinner was over and some "nut brown ale" supplied, our president (Mr. White) gave the usual loyal and patriotic toasts, i.e., "The Queen and Royal Family," "The Bishops and Clergy of the Diocese," and Christian ministers of every denomination," "The Agriculturists," coupled with the name of Mr. Kidger, who responded in neat and impressive speech, and concluded by giving the health of the labourers, upon whom he passed some pleasing and welcome words of praise. Then came the sports of the day, viz., cricket and sack racing, for which three prizes were given to be contended for, and also produced merriment. Dancing afterwards commenced in right earnest, the band playing till the evening drove the merrymakers under the tent, which was well lighted up. The tables being removed, dancing was again carried on, and another supply of ale provided. Shortly before nine o'clock, our highly esteemed president closed the evening with many very amusing and laughable remarks, in the course of which, and after the toast of "The Ladies" had been proposed Mr. Bennett, the president jokingly touched upon the ladies bonnets, and reminded those present of the different funny names given to them, viz., "The coal-scuttle bonnet," "The cottage bonnet," &c., ascending to the present day, the very acme of perfection being, as Punch said, "a postage stamp tied on by two short strings" — of course ambitions of our Queen's image on the crown. The company, after giving the health of Mr. Kidger and Mr. White with musical honours, retired expressing their sincere thanks, and hoping that they might have another bountiful harvest home next year, and as bountiful festival as that just terminated. On Sunday last, a thanksgiving sermon was preached at the Wesleyan Chapel by Mr. Cash, of Ashby, to a numerous assembly, from 1 Peter v. 7. "He careth for you;" and after a most eloquent and impressive discourse collection was made in aid of the funds of the Loughborough Dispensary.

### **Derby Mercury – February 8<sup>th</sup> 1871**

William Wright of Osgathorpe, cordwainer, was charged by his master William Goodman of Osgathorpe, with having on the 22nd of January, unlawfully absented himself from his service. Defendant did not appear – **Warrant issued for his apprehension.**

### **Derby Mercury - September 10th 1873**

**MARRIAGE- WHITE to KNIGHT** Aug 26th, at St. Mary's, Osgathorpe, by the Rev. Walter A. Williams, M.A., rector, Jason Herriott, Reeves, eldest son of Mr. John Puxley White, Mount Pleasant, Osgathorpe, to Louise, youngest daughter of the late Mr. John Knight, of Vine Rouse, Osgathorpe, **and formerly of Stordon Grange, Leicestershire.**

### **Leicester Daily Mercury – October 2<sup>nd</sup> 1875**

Wm. Carrier of Osgathorpe, farm servant, was **fined £1. 1s. and costs, or 21 days** for having on the 17<sup>th</sup> of September assaulted his master Herbert Hollingshead.

### **Leicester Daily Mercury – January 6<sup>th</sup> 1877**

Lot Quenby, Osgathorpe, died suddenly a few days ago, and an inquest was held on the body by Mr. coroner Deane at the Royal Oak on the 1<sup>st</sup> Inst, when **a verdict of “natural causes, probably apoplexy,” was returned.**

### **Ashby de la Zouch Gazette – September 28<sup>th</sup> 1878**

William Davenport, of Osgathorpe, higgler, pleaded guilty to having, on the 5<sup>th</sup> of September, at Coalville, a steelyard in his possession which was unjust – The defendant being an old man, and Sergeant Hardy having given him a good character, **a fee of 5s. only, and costs, was inflicted.**

### **Ashby de la Zouch Gazette – December 7<sup>th</sup> 1878**

**DEATH OF Mr. C. E. Warner.** – Many of our readers will notice with regret the announcement of the death of Mr. C. E. Warner, of Osgathorpe. Mr. Warner was the son of the late Mr. Warner, of Ashby de la Zouch, who was for many years master of the Grammar School here. When quite a young man, Mr. C. E. Warner was selected by the Trustees of Burton's Charity as headmaster of the Loughborough High School, and he continued to hold the appointment until the opening of the new Grammar Schools. A year or two afterwards he removed to Osgathorpe, where he established and conducted a private school for many years. His death will recall many pleasant memories of school life, and of the generous genial disposition and sterling integrity of the old master.

### **Ashby de la Zouch Gazette – August 16<sup>th</sup> 1879**

**ASHBY PETTY SESSION.** – William Siddons, of Osgathorpe, was fined 10s. 6d. and costs for having on the 10<sup>th</sup> July kept a dog without a license authorizing him to do so.

### **Ashby de la Zouch Gazette February 8<sup>th</sup> 1879**

#### **OSGATHORPE.**

**FATAL GUN ACCIDENT** —An inquest was held on Tuesday, at the Royal Oak Inn, Osgathorpe, before Mr. H. Deane, coroner, on the body of William Baker, who died under the following circumstances. -The deceased and a man named Thomas Burton, a collier, went out together about ten o'clock on Saturday morning for the purpose of shooting wood pigeons. Deceased was carrying a single-barrelled gun, and while getting over a hedge the gun exploded, and the contents lodged in deceased's right arm. Burton assisted him home, where he was attended by Mr. J. A. Wood, surgeon, of Sheepshed, who, together with Mr. Donovan, surgeon, did all in their power to restore the deceased, but the wound was of so serious a nature, and the deceased had lost such a quantity of blood, that the case was apparently hopeless from the first. He never rallied sufficiently to permit the arm being amputated, and ultimately died from exhaustion.—**The jury returned a verdict that deceased was "Accidentally Shot."**

## Ashby de la Zouch Gazette – June 21st 1879

**THRINGSTONE. SAD CASE OF SUICIDE BY DROWNING.**—An inquest was held on Monday, at the George Inn, Coleorton, Leicestershire, before Mr. Coroner Deane, touching the death of a man known as " Frank," otherwise Francis Shrides, aged 45 years, who had been found drowned in a pond by Thomas Wyman.—Eliza Pesnett said her husband kept the Fox Inn, at Thringstone. She had seen the body of the deceased, and identified it as that of a man who had been lodging at their house since November last. He gave the name of "Frank" when he first came, and she did not know him by any other name until lately. He came to work at Mr. Mann's as a bricklayer's server. He worked for Mr. Mann about five weeks, and then went to the South Leicestershire Colliery, to work on the bank. Witness often asked him where his home was, and if he had a wife. He said he had none, and had lodged in Leicester seven years, and followed his own trade of brush maker. Sometime in the beginning of this year, he joined a money club. He then gave the name of Francis Shrides. On Friday and Saturday the 6th and 7th of this month, she noticed that he seemed very still and quiet, and she said, " Frank, don't you feel well?" He said, "I don't feel well at all; I feel so bad at my chest." On Sunday, the witness and her husband were awoke by their boy calling them. The boy and deceased slept in the same room. Her husband found deceased had fastened the door, and the boy and deceased were inside. Deceased was walking about the room with an open knife in his hand. He let the boy out and then fastened the door again. He stayed in the room until between seven and eight o'clock, when her husband fetched Mr. Mann. They asked deceased to open the door but he said he should not, there were a lot waiting for him. Mr. Mann and Mr. Pesnett broke the door open. Deceased looked very wild and said, "I shall do my best if you want me." They said they would take him a walk and he would feel better. They took him across two fields and he left them. He was brought back by John Hall, at ten minutes past two and at half past two, turning out time, as deceased was going out, her husband asked him to lie down, but he said, "I'll go a bit of a walk." He went out and never returned.—James Wardle deposed to going in search of deceased, and finding him in a field near Osgathorpe, with an open knife in his hand, and witness asked him if he was going home. He said "no." He looked very wild. Witness urged him to go home. He said, "There's a bother; I might have done something; there's a town's talk about me."—Thomas Wyman deposed to seeing a thing in the water in the pond on Monday, and thought it was a dog or cat. Witness did not go to the field again until Sunday, when some girls cried out, "There's a man in the pit." He ran and saw that it was what he had seen on the Monday, and was the body of a man.—James Bradley said he lived at Thringstone, and knew "Frank," who used to lodge at Pesnett's. He heard a week last Sunday that deceased was not altogether himself, and went to him on the canal side, at Osgathorpe. He looked very wild. Witness said, "Come, Frank, come and go back with me". He said, "No, Jim, I shan't go back to-day; I'm going in this water, and the first man that comes up to me, I'll run this knife in him up to the haft." He pulled a knife out of his pocket and opened it. Witness said, "Frank, you must not talk so; no one wants to hurt you." He said, "I'm sure there is; they have been watching and peeping after me all the morning." He also said, "The next time you see me, you'll see me drowned here." He pointed to the water, and witness tried to induce him to go home, but he would not. He read a good deal, and spoke like a well-educated man.—**The jury, after hearing the evidence, returned a verdict that deceased drowned himself whilst in a state of temporary insanity.**

## Derby Mercury – January 21<sup>st</sup> 1880

The Rev. W. A. Williams, vicar of Osgathorpe, and Mrs. Williams have again made their annual New Years gift of a large piece of beef to thirty poor parishioners. Thirteen poor families have received the benevolent gift of nine tons of coals from Mr. J. P. White of the Scotlands, Coalville. The farmers were kind enough to give the drawing of the coals.

## Ashby Gazette – February 28<sup>th</sup> 1880

**ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS.** – John Tivey, of Osgathorpe, licensed victualler (*Gate Inn*), John Cheatle of Ashby, carriage builder, and William Wildblood, of Coalville, were charged with having

travelled in a carriage on the Midland Railway Company's railway, not having previously paid their fare, and with intent to avoid payment thereof. There were two charges against Wildblood, who pleaded guilty to each charge. – **All the defendants were fined 10s. 6d. each for each offence, and costs.**

### **Leicester Chronicle - September 24<sup>th</sup> 1881**

#### **OSGATHORPE**

**Cricket Match.**— On Saturday afternoon a very friendly game of cricket was played on the Osgathorpe Cricket Ground between Osgathorpe C.C. and Sheepshed C.C. The ground was not in very good condition owing to the incessant rain, and consequently the scoring was not large on either side. The Sheepshed team eventually proved victorious. At the conclusion, both teams adjourned to the Grammar School, where a substantial repast was gratuitously provided by Mr. E. Serres. Ample justice having been done to the repast, Mr. E. Serres proposed "Success to the Sheepshed Club," coupling with it the name of Mr. Smith, the captain. Mr. Smith suitably responded. Dr. Watson next proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Serres for his great kindness in making such provision for the Sheepshed and Osgathorpe players. This was seconded by Mr. J. G. Foston, and carried with loud and prolonged applause. Mr. Serres responded. The rest of the evening was spent in a pleasant manner, songs being sung by several gentlemen

### **Derby Mercury – August 16<sup>th</sup> 1882**

Thomas King was charged with stealing £32. 7s. in money and a watch chain, valued £8., the property of Thos Johnson, at Belton, on the 7<sup>th</sup> inst.- Mr. Deane appeared for the prosecutor, who is a farmer at Osgathorpe, and stated that he had sold a horse on Monday and took the money with him to Belton, where he saw the prisoner at a public-house. At night, the prosecutor and prisoner proceeded home to Osgathorpe, and when they got part of the way they sat down by the side of a ditch, and the witness fell asleep. When he awoke he missed his property, and the prisoner was gone. - **Remanded for seven days.**

### **Ashby de la Zouch Gazette – May 27<sup>th</sup> 1882**

#### **CRICKET – COLEORTON V OSGATHORPE**

This match was played on Saturday last, at Osgathorpe, the visitors winning with greatest ease.

#### **SCORE – OSGATHORPE - 3**

**TEAM** – E. E. Serres, C. Jarvis (1 run), S. Matchett, J. A. Goodman, W. Keetley, P. King, W. Gilbert, R. Bostock, W. Tanser, J. Adcock (2 runs), Joseph Gilbert.

#### **SCORE – COLEORTON -111**

F. Smith (1), J. Whyman (10), S. Walker (1), T. Williams, Jun (28), T. Greasley (6), H. Rowell (6), W. Bradford (1) G. Haywood (10), T. Williams (19), J. Billing (11), W. Richards (1).

### **Leicester Chronicle – January 28<sup>th</sup> 1882**

#### **DEATH OF MR. JOSEPH PLATTS –**

The intelligence of the death of Mr. Joseph Platts who died at Osgathorpe on Monday, has caused general regret. He was a thoroughly active, energetic and assiduous businessman, and commanded the highest esteem and respect from those whom he came into contact. For many years he was the minister of "The General Baptist Church", Belton. His remains were interred in the burial ground connected with the place of worship on Thursday, January 19<sup>th</sup>.

### **Leicester Chronicle - September 22<sup>nd</sup> 1883**

**OSGATHORPE. The Wake.** — This festival, which is usually welcomed with great warmth, has been celebrated during the present week, with a considerable number of people attending the holiday. Shooting galleries, cocoa nut alleys, and steam velocipedes afforded ample amusement for the younger portion of the holiday makers. The Sheepshed cricketers played a match on the Osgathorpe ground, but owing to a dispute the game ended in an even draw. On Tuesday, the Charnwood Club played their closing match, after which the members sat down to tea, and subsequently spent a pleasant evening. The weather has been fine, and of course the holiday was thus made more enjoyable.

### **Ashby de la Zouch Gazette – November 1<sup>st</sup> 1884**

**ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS.** — William Pepper, of Osgathorpe, licensed victualler (*Story Arms*), pleaded guilty to riding on the shafts of his waggon, at Ashby, on the 10<sup>th</sup> October. — P.C. Chapman said he met the defendant, who was riding on the shafts of his waggon. He cautioned him, and the defendant got off and walked by the side of his horses, but directly afterwards he noticed that the defendant was again riding on the shafts. — The defendant in answer to the charge, said he was tired. — Fined 21s. and costs, or 21 days imprisonment.

### **Ashby de la Zouch Gazette – August 8<sup>th</sup> 1885**

**WEDDING FESTIVITIES.** — On Wednesday, the 29<sup>th</sup> Ult., this pretty village was *en fete*, the occasion being the return of Mr. E. E. Serres and his bride from their wedding tour on the Continent. Garlands and Wreaths were suspended across the principle street, and all the inhabitants turned out to welcome the happy pair. Mr. Serres has been for some years head master of the Grammar School and his bride, Miss. Saunders, R.A.M., is a niece of the Vicar, The Rev. W. A. Williams.

### **Ashby de la Zouch Gazette – August 22<sup>nd</sup> 1885**

**ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS. SATURDAY, AUG. 15 - "Before Major Mowbray, A. E. Smith, Esq., and the Rev. W. B. Beaumont.**

Thomas King, carrier, and Eliza Hinds, wife of George Hinds, labourer, both of Osgathorpe, were charged with having assaulted Mary Ann King, at Osgathorpe, on the 29<sup>th</sup> July. From the evidence, it appeared that on the day in question Thos. King assaulted the complainant, his wife, and on her leaving home to go down to her mother's, Mrs. Hinds met her and said, "now I will finish what he began," and she caught complainant by the hair of her head and struck her in the face several times.—King pleaded guilty, and several witnesses were called to prove the assault by Mrs. Hinds. Mr. Musson appeared for Mrs. Hinds.—**Fined 10s. 6d. each and costs, or 14 days' hard labour.**

### **Ashby de la Zouch Gazette – August 29<sup>th</sup> 1885**

**ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS. SATURDAY, AUG. 22. Before Sir Mylles C. B. Cave**

Thomas King, of Osgathorpe, collier, was charged with having, on the 15<sup>th</sup> August, at the parish of Osgathorpe, killed a lamb, the property of Mr. Jason White, with intent to steal part of the carcass of the said lamb.— Mr. White said: On the evening of the 17<sup>th</sup> inst. I visited that part of my farm which is near the old Canal Junction, and against my hay stack there I found a portion of a dead lamb, which was my property, and near to it I found a lamb's foot, which had been cut off just above the hock. After I had made some inquiries I fetched P.C. Darby, and he examined the lamb in my presence. We found two holes cut in its neck, which had been done with a small knife, and one of its hind legs had been twisted out of the hip joint, and the flesh torn and hacked away up to the loin, and the entrails exposed. The lamb was very much bruised, and appeared as if it

had been most brutally ill treated. The policeman then went away, and returned about half-past eleven that evening in company with P.C. Chapman and the prisoner. I said to the prisoner, "Well, King, I am sorry to see you here. I did not think you would do me any harm; but I am glad it is found out, for it has nearly cost my shepherd, Darby, his place." The prisoner replied, "Darby is not to blame." I afterwards saw P.C. Darby test the holes in the lamb's neck with a small shut knife, and it clearly appeared that the holes had been made by that knife.—Mary Smith said "I am a widow, and live at Osgathorpe, and on Saturday night, the 15th inst., the prisoner, just before dark, came to my house and said", "May I stay until it is dusk?" and he sat down and smoked his pipe. After he had sat down some time he said "Give me a cloth," and I fetched him a white towel. He said "Give me something darker," and I gave him my apron, the one now produced by P.C. Darby. The prisoner said, "I have got something quite ready, and I have got to go as far as the junction for it." He then went away, and returned with a leg of lamb wrapped in it. The apron was covered with blood, and he put the leg of lamb into the pot to boil, which pot he had put on the fire before starting out. When the lamb was boiled, he took it out of the pot, and ate part of it for his supper, and the next morning he had some more for his breakfast, and the lamb bones he put in his pocket, and went away with them.— P.C. Darby proved apprehending the prisoner, who, in answer to the charge, said " All right," and to comparing the wounds in the lamb's neck with a pocket knife, the prisoner's property, and that the depth and width of the wounds were of the same depth and of the same width as the knife blade.—**Committed to take his trial at the ensuing Sessions.**

#### **Ashby de la Zouch Gazette – September 19<sup>th</sup> 1885**

**ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS.** – Jane Hunt, wife of John Hunt, collier, of Osgathorpe, pleaded guilty having on the 5<sup>th</sup> September, at Ashby, stolen one pair of boots, of the value of 8s. 11d., the property of Thomas Williscroft. – From the evidence of Mr. Williscroft, it appeared that the defendant, at about five o'clock on the evening in question, went into his shop and asked to be shown some boots, and three pairs were shown to her, one of which pairs she purchased and paid for, and at the same time she paid for them one of the remaining two pairs was missed, and she was asked if she knew anything about them. She replied "You put them in the window", and she left the shop. The police were then communicated with, and the next day P. C. Achurch found the defendant's son wearing the boots. – The case was not pressed, owing to the defendant having a large family. - Fined 21s. without costs, or 21 days imprisonment.

#### **Leicester Chronicle - November 27<sup>th</sup> 1886**

**ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH. PETTY SESSIONS,** Saturday - Before H. E. Smith, Esq. (chairman), Hon. P. Hastings, and the Rev. W. B. Beaumont.

**A WORTHLESS HUSBAND** – Thomas King, collier, Osgathorpe, was charged with neglecting his wife and five children, in consequence of which they became chargeable to the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Union. - George Farmer, Clerk to the Guardians, gave evidence as to the wife and family having become chargeable and stated that defendant was an able bodied man, and could obtain regular work if he would do it. This was the second time they had become chargeable to the funds of the Union. – Charles Jarvis said he had lived near defendant and his family for a long time. Defendant behaved in a brutal manner towards his wife and children. He frequently came home drunk and turned his wife out at midnight. Defendant's wife had recently been confined, and since then defendant had ill used her and beat her twice. Witness had several times provided the children with food.- Elizabeth Hallam, mother-in-law to defendant, also gave evidence as to the way in which her daughter had been treated, and said at the time of her confinement defendant ate the gruel which had been provided for his wife, and she in consequence was twelve hours without food. -€P.C. Hardy also spoke as to defendant's character, and said he was always drunk. -€Defendant said he was willing to keep his children, as he always had done. He denied having ill used his wife. **The Bench sentenced him to one month's hard labour, and cautioned him as to his future conduct.**

### **Leicester Chronicle - January 7<sup>th</sup> 1887**

**OSGATHORPE.** Seasonable Liberality.— The poor and aged have been favoured with a new year's gift in addition to the Christmas gift of coal, Mr. Samuel having given a piece of beef to 16 families in greatest need. .

**OSGATHORPE.** This village came in for a share of the bounty of the Christmas season. J. P. White, Esq., of Coalville, sent 21 loads of coal to the old people, widows, and others in great need, Messrs. Adcock, Kidger, and others doing the carting free of cost. This village has suffered very much from the depression of trade.

### **Ashby de la Zouch Gazette – March 3<sup>rd</sup> 1888**

**REFUSING TO QUIT.** - James Goldstraw, collier of Osgathorpe was charged with having, on the 11<sup>th</sup> inst., refused to quit the George and Dragon Inn, Thringstone, and with causing a disturbance. – Defendant did not appear. – **Defendant was fined £2 2s. and costs, or one month's hard labour.**

### **Leicester Daily Mercury – February 24<sup>th</sup> 1890**

Thomas Richards, William King and Walter Bradley, colliers of Osgathorpe were charged with trespassing in search of game on land in the occupation of Eliza Worledge, at Osgathorpe on 4<sup>th</sup> of February – Benjamin Worledge said he saw defendants in one of his mother's fields, on the 4<sup>th</sup> of February, running a hare with a lurcher dog. He did not wish to press the charge against King and Bradley because they were quiet, but Richards was very impudent and threatened to break the fences – **Richards was fined 10s. 6d. and 9s. costs, or 14 days; King and Bradley were fined 5s. 6d. and 9s. costs, or seven days**

### **Leicester Chronicle – June 17<sup>th</sup> 1893**

On Monday evening, Mr. T. F. Ferrier, conductor of the "Iddesleigh" van lectured in the National School, Osgathorpe, on Ireland and House Rule. Mr. Serres presided, and there was a crowded attendance. The vicar of the parish, Re. W. A. Williams was amongst the audience.

Mr. Ferries said that the people were continuously saying, "Let the Irish Govern Themselves", well, if the Irish were united, their cry fore home rule might be listened to, but they were the most disunited people the World had ever seen .....

### **Nottingham Evening Post June 20<sup>th</sup> 1893**

#### **SUICIDE AT OSGATHORPE.**

Mr. Henry Deane, Coroner for North Leicestershire, held an inquest at the Royal Oak Inn, Osgathorpe, last evening upon the body of Elizabeth Sharpe, aged 42 years, the wife of Thomas Sharpe, grocer, of Ibstock. Deceased had been staying with her sister, the wife of Thomas Platts, a grocer, Osgathorpe, for about six weeks, for the benefit of her health. Early on Sunday morning Mr. Platts was aroused by a slight noise as of someone walking along the passage, and saw the deceased pass the bedroom door. He spoke to her, but she made no reply, where upon he followed her to her room, and asked what was the matter. She replied that they (meaning her family) were ruined, and that her children would be homeless. This was quite a delusion. She appeared to be wild in her manner, and witness noticed blood in the washing basin, and a pair of scissors lying close by. There were marks also upon deceased's throat and arm. A small bottle which had contained liniment stood empty on the mantelpiece, and in a stern determined manner deceased said she bad taken it. Deceased had also taken about a dozen aconite pills. In the living room a carving knife was found with a small spot of blood upon it. Medical assistance was immediately sent for, and deceased had to be held down. There bad been nothing strange in her manner except the delusion to being ruined.—Mr, Sharpe said there was no truth in the delusion, but the fact that she had had to pay heavy doctor's bills for some 15 years, and latterly £40 for eight months medical attendance, had considerably preyed upon her mind.—Dr. Serres, surgeon,

Osgathorpe, said when he reached the house deceased was rolling in agony. He stayed with her till seven o'clock, when she died in great agony. He came to the conclusion that she had taken aconite poison, which had caused her death. The wounds to the arm and throat would not have proved fatal.

### **Leicester Chronicle – January 21<sup>st</sup> 1893**

#### **FUNERAL OF THE LATE MRS. WILLIAMS. –**

In St. Mary's churchyard, Osgathorpe, on Monday afternoon, the body of Mrs. Janet Williams, wife of the rector of Osgathorpe (the Rev. Walter Williams M.A.) was laid to rest in the presence of many mourners of a large circle of parishioners. The deceased lady died on the 11th inst, after a short illness at the comparatively early age of 49. She was actively interested in the affairs of the parish and poor, to whom she was charitably disposed. The unmistakable grief of the parishioners in the church during the service and at the graveside was evidence of the loss the parishioners sustained by the death of their rector's wife, who leaves a large family to mourn her loss. The deceased lady was also warden of the Osgathorpe and district habitation of the **Primrose League**, of which she was an active supporter. The funeral procession left the rectory, which is close to the church, in the following order, at 3 o'clock:-

The Rev. T. Pearson, vicar of St. Georges, Swannington; Dr. G. Cardno' Still, of Shepshed; the deceased's medical attendant, Mr. H. G. W. Howe of Ashby de la Zouch; Mr. Jno. Knight of Coleorton. The coffin next was borne by six of the parishioners, and was followed by the Rev. Walter Williams, the husband of the deceased, and the following sons and daughters:-

Mr. Walter Williams, Mr. Jas Williams, Miss. Mary Williams, Mr. Henry Williams, Mrs. Edith Williams, and Master Alfred Williams with nurse Clara Perry – the old family nurse. Amongst other mourners were Mr. David Morrison, brother of the deceased (London), Mr. Henry Morrison, and Mrs. Edward Serres nephew and niece of the deceased. Mr. Herbert Sanders, Mr. Jno Maitland (London), Colonel Evans (London), brother in law of the deceased, and Mr. Edward Serres, of Osgathorpe. On the arrival of the body at the church gates, the opening sentence of the burial service was read by the Rev. T. Pearson, who also conducted the service in the church and at the grave. On entering the church, a funeral voluntary was played on the organ by Mr. Inwood, organist of the Whitwick parish church.

Amongst the congregation were the Rev. Blakesley, vicar of Belton; the Rev. George Crossley, vicar of Breedon; and Dr. Serres of Osgathorpe. There were many floral tributes in affection. The shell and coffin were made by Mr. John Knight of Coleorton and Mr. H. G. W. Howe, undertakers, of Ashby, carried out the whole of the funeral arrangements.

### **Leicester Chronicle - Apr 28<sup>th</sup> 1894**

#### **THE DROWNING CASE AT OSGATHORPE**

**INQUEST** - An inquest was held on Monday afternoon at the Storey Arms, Osgathorpe, before the deputy coroner, Mr. A. D. Bartlett, on the body of Sarah Ann Springthorpe, whose death by drowning took place on Fridav. — Elizabeth Ann, the wife of Joseph Springthorpe, a collier, of Osgathorpe, said the deceased was her daughter, and was two years old in February. On Friday morning last, about ten o'clock, she went out of the house to play in company with her brother, aged three. Witness's house was opposite the brook which ran through the village. A few minutes after the child had gone out, witness saw several persons running to her mother's house next door, and on going there she saw her child lying in her mother's lap apparently dead. Her sister went for a doctor, and the neighbours used means to restore life by rubbing, but the child never regained conscious. - Jane Allen, wife of Thomas Allen, a colliery clerk, of Osgathorpe, said that about 10.15 on Friday morning she was looking out of the bedroom window into the street, and saw something in the brook. She at once went to the bank, and saw the body of the deceased lying on its left-side with the head under water. It was in the middle of the brook, and witness had

to go into the water to get it out. The water was rather deep that morning. — Mr. J. J. Serres surgeon, Osgathorpe, stated that he was away from home at the time and a message of the accident was sent to him, but his wife went down and practised Sylvester's method of artificial respiration for an hour until witness arrived. The child was quite dead when he saw it. There was a slight bruise on the forehead and another on the right elbow, but neither were serious. Death was due to drowning. — **A verdict of accidentally drowned was returned.**

**Leicester Chronicle - October 17<sup>th</sup> 1896**

**DRUNK AND DISORDERLY** – Eliza Hines, wife of Geo. Hines, collier, of Osgathorpe for being drunk and disorderly at Osgathorpe on the 24<sup>th</sup> September was sent to prison for seven days. Wm. King, Collier of Osgathorpe for being drunk and disorderly at Osgathorpe on September 24<sup>th</sup>, **was fined 2s. 6d. and costs, 23s. in all.**

**DRUNKENNESS.**– Samuel Pickering, collier, of Osgathorpe, for being drunk at Osgathorpe on the 26<sup>th</sup> September, **was fined 2s. 6d. and costs.**

**Leicester Journal – March 27<sup>th</sup> 1896**

**FOOTBALL – Osgathorpe Grammar School v Whitwick United.**

At Osgathorpe on Tuesday in fine weather, the visitors won the toss and played with the sun at their backs. Each team passed in turn. At half time neither side had scored. The home team subsequently forced matters and scored four times in quick succession through Stimson (3) and Darby (1). Result Osgathorpe four goals, United nil.

**Leicester Chronicle - Aug 29<sup>th</sup> 1896**

**SAD OCCURRENCE AT OSGATHORPE.**

**An inquest was held at the Grammar School. Osgathorpe, by Mr. H. Deane on Friday evening, touching the death of Miss Ethel Emma Vibert, aged 32, who was found lying dead beneath her bedroom window at the Residence (Almshouses) on Thursday morning.**

— Miss Alice Vibert said that last year, the deceased, who was her sister, suffered from influenza, and in December it became necessary to have her removed to the Leicester County Asylum. From that institution she was discharged on the Thursday of the previous week, when witness went over and received her into her care from the matron, and since then she had lived with her mother and witness. Witness was given to understand that her sister was entirely restored to sanity, and on Wednesday, a letter to that effect was received from the Lunacy Commissioners. From the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> the deceased was at home, and beyond being a little quieter than usual, she evinced nothing to indicate depression. On Wednesday evening she went to bed apparently in a brighter mood than was her wont. She occupied a room by herself on the third storey of the house. Witness had received no intimation from the authorities that her sister would require watching. And they heard nothing during the night. They knew of nothing likely to disturb or excite her in any way. Early on Thursday morning the servant called them up, and they saw the deceased lying dead on the grating immediately below her window. No letter had been found. Witness knew of no history in their family of mental derangement. — Ellen Goff, domestic servant at Mrs. Vibert's, said that on the previous morning she saw the deceased's body about half-past six. First of all, however, she saw blood down the kitchen window, which was underground, and after discovering the body outside, she acquainted the other servant of the fact. Deceased only had on her nightdress. The bed had the appearance of having been lain on. Witness was not aware that the deceased was in the habit of leaving the bedroom window open. — Dr. Serres, of Osgathorpe, deposed that the deceased had been a patient of his for about 12 years, and twice he attended her for influenza. She was a governess for a while away from Osgathorpe, but was removed from her situation to the asylum, suffering from acute mania, so that witness did not see her until she returned on Thursday week. About four days ago, he gave her some medicine for dyspepsia, and at that time she appeared to him to be quite sane. On Wednesday night, at half-past six, he saw her outside the house, and she told him that she was going up for a bottle of medicine. They walked back to his house together, and all the way she was chatting and laughing. After staying at his house about half an hour, the deceased walked home with his wife. During the time she was at the house she was rather quiet, but there were no indications

whatever of mental disturbance. She told him that she had a horror of Leicester, told him of many things that happened there, and expressed the hope that she would never have to go again. Witness believed that she had told her mother that she was afraid that she would have considerable difficulty in getting another situation after having been at Leicester. Beyond that he was not aware that she was occasioned any depression by her knowledge that she had been at the asylum. When he saw her on Thursday morning, he found a fracture of the skull, there being a clear incised wound three inches in length. Through one of the wounds he was able to see the brain, and there was an abrasion on the right knee-cap, and a contusion about the nose from which blood had been flowing. He was of opinion that she had come head first, having fallen a distance of about 30 feet. Death would be almost instantaneous. He expected she must have had a bad dream. The bed had been slept in, and she had evidently been reading out of a prayer book which was on the bed. There was a table before the window, and a chair by the side of it. The body was cold, but her face was warm, and the occurrence must have taken place a quarter of an hour or twenty minutes before she was found by the servant girl. He would have thought the asylum authorities would have told the relatives to have watched her, although he did not think she had any premeditated intention of suicide— The Coroner remarked that it was hardly to be a case of somnolence, when she climbed over a table and a chair.— The doctor replied that sleep-walkers did very curious things, and he had known people walk down the beach into the sea. The singular part of this case was that she was sane when she went to bed. She must have slept at night and have had something to disturb her.— The Coroner observed that acute mania sometimes came on in a few seconds. He inquired whether there was any indication that this was a case of sleep-walking.— The Doctor: No ?? —**A verdict was returned that the woman had killed herself in the manner described, while suffering from acute mania following influenza.**

## **THIS IS THE FATHER OF SARAH ANN REFERRED TO EARLIER IN 1894, WHO WAS DROWNED IN OSGATHORPE BROOK.**

**Leicester Chronicle - June 19<sup>th</sup> 1897**

### **THE MINING FATALITY AT COLEORTON.**

**INQUEST** - Mr. H. Deane held an inquest on Wednesday evening at the Grammar School, Osgathorpe, on the body of Joseph Springthorpe, aged 27 years, collier, residing at Osgathorpe, who was killed in the colliery at Coleorton (Bug & Wink) on Monday. — John Springthorpe, father of the deceased, said he and his four sons were working at the colliery at Coleorton (Bug and Wink), and about one o'clock on Monday he was working about six yards from the deceased. The deceased was setting some timber under the stone that fell, and witness, hearing a shout, looked round, and found that the stone had fallen on him. They removed the stone, but his son was quite dead.— On being examined by Mr. Hewitt, Inspector of Mines, witness said that the roof was propped, but not barred all the way. He did not think it necessary for it to be barred all the way; a prop would do just as well. The roof in their stall was not extra good, and at this time it had sunk. There had been no weight on the stall that morning, but there had been before. — James Springthorpe, brother of the deceased, said he was a collier, working in the same stall with his brother. He was near his brother when the accident happened, The deceased was pulling a lump of coal down, when a stone came with it, and fell on him. Witness got him from under, and helped to get him home.— On examination by the inspector, witness said that there was no interval between the coal and the stone, both falling together. There was a distance of about three yards between where they were, the coal, and the last bar. They were supplied with plenty of bars, but they only made the roof safe as far as the tub went. There were two props under the stone that fell. They could not set a bar four feet away from the last bar that was already up on account of the roof having sunk.— When asked by a juror whether he considered it safe to work under the place, witness answered in the affirmative.— Answering the doctor, he said that the deceased was in a sitting posture when the stone was removed. His face had been pinned to the ground.— Richard Booth, residing at Coleorton. said he was under manager at the Coleorton Colliery. About 10.30 on the day of the accident, he went to the colliery, and to the stall in which the deceased was working. The stall was well timbered. He left them soon after filling coal to a tub. He was called about one o'clock, and told that there had been an accident. He went to the place and

found some men just getting the stone off the body. — In answer to the inspector, Booth said he left no orders when he went away in the morning, as everything seemed satisfactory. As a rule they generally barred as far as the tub went. He did not think it impossible to get a bar near the place where the stone fell. There was a natural break in the face. — Dr. John Serres, living at Osgathorpe, said he examined the body when it was at home. There were abrasions on the knee, legs, and chest, and the face was discoloured. He had no doubt that the man died from suffocation, due to the fact that the stone fell and did not leave aeration for the blood. — **The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death" without attaching blame to anyone.**

#### **Leicester Journal - December 31<sup>st</sup> 1897**

**An American Sale of Work** was held at the Harley Grammar School on Monday under the superintendence of the Misses Williams, assisted by Mrs. Miller and the Misses Miller, Mrs. Wasse and Miss J. West. The profits of the sale were for the payments of the debt on the repairs and improvement fund for St. Mary's church. The business commenced at 3 p.m. and was continued till 9.30 p.m. The stalls were well patronized, and in the evening the room was crowded with visitors. The various articles, including some good specimens of needle-work, were mostly sold, and the special clothes stall was completely cleared. The stall for sweets and lemonade, kept by the Misses L. H. and E. M. Williams, proved very attractive. The proceedings were enlivened by singing and music, which included a performance by Master A. J. Williams on the violin. The sum realized by the sale and the entrance payments exceeded £9.

#### **Derby Mercury – May 26<sup>th</sup> 1897**

##### **SHOCKING FATALITY AT OSGATHORPE**

A child aged three and a half years, named Joseph King, son of Mr. Joseph King, farmer, of Osgathorpe, met with a shocking death on Tuesday. The boy was playing in a field where his father was loading sticks, and got on a tree butt (*presumed to be a large log*). This rolled over onto him, and the unfortunate child was crushed to death.

#### **Nottingham Evening Post - March 5<sup>th</sup> 1906**

##### **SUPPOSED SUICIDE AT OSGATHORPE.**

**FOUND DEAD IN A POND** - About half past eight yesterday morning George King, farmer, aged 59, of Osgathorpe, was found drowned in a pond on his farm, with a bag containing about 561bs. in weight hanging from his neck. Deceased's wife states that he got up about six o'clock and went out of the house after lighting the fire and placing the kettle on the bars. As he did not return by eight o'clock, she told one of their milk customers about him being missing, and a search was made. David Statham, collier, looked round the buildings, and traced him from home along the road and up to the side of a pond. A fork, rake, and ladder were utilised, but the body was not discovered until Walter Pickering, a coachman, got into the water and fetched the dead body out.

#### **Leicester daily Post – August 20<sup>th</sup> 1906**

**VETERAN FOWL STEALER.** – John Parker an aged labourer, of no fixed abode, was charged with the larceny of a fowl, value 2s. 6d. at Osgathorpe on the 16<sup>th</sup> inst. – William Walter Hatton, licensed victualler at Osgathorpe deposed that the prisoner had been in his employ a month, and was discharged on the 15<sup>th</sup> inst. – The following morning he found prisoner asleep in his outhouse, and the same day missed a fowl, and informed P.C. Jesson whom he accompanied to Ashby and was present when the prisoner was apprehended. – Sarah Ann Farmer, wife of Thomas Farmer, of Ashby, stated that on the 16<sup>th</sup> inst, prisoner called at her shop and asked her to purchase the fowl for 1s 7 ½ d. which she paid him. – **Prisoner was sentenced to 3 months hard labour, the chairman stating that he had several previous convictions against him for this very offence.**

**Leicester Daily Post - November 4<sup>th</sup> 1907**

**SCALDING FATALITY AT OSGATHORPE**

The Loughborough Coroner has been informed of the death of Stanley Wm. Baker, the four year old son of Isaac Baker, A quarryman of Osgathorpe. The child died on Friday as the result of scalds sustained on October 30<sup>th</sup>, by the upsetting of a saucepan of boiling water. It appears that Mr. Baker was nursing another of his children when deceased tried to climb on his father's knee. Mr. Baker pushed the boy back, and his sleeve caught on the handle of a saucepan which was on the fire. The contents of the saucepan went over the lad, who was severely scalded about the face, shoulders, arms, and back. It is stated that there was no fireguard protecting the grate.

**Nottingham Evening Post - Jan 26<sup>th</sup> 1907**

**BURNING FATALITY AT OSGATHORPE.**

A sad burning fatality occurred at Osgathorpe yesterday morning. Having taken her children's breakfasts to bed, Elizabeth Tivey, a widow, removed the fireguard and went off to feed the cattle. On returning, she found her four year old daughter Maud Hannah in flames near the fireplace. The child, who was in her nightdress, was wrapped in a hearthrug, and the flames were extinguished. The burns were dressed with linseed oil by the mother and neighbour. Dr. Atkinson was summoned, but death ensued about midday.

**Melton Mowbray Mercury & Oakham & Uppingham News – January 31<sup>st</sup> 1907**

**BURNING FATALITY AT OSGATHORPE – DANGERS OF UNGUARDED FIRES**

A sad burning fatality at Osgathorpe on Friday morning. It appears that Elizabeth Tivey, a widow, took her children's breakfast to them in bed on the morning in question and then went to feed the cattle. When she came back at about 7 o'clock, she saw her daughter, Maud Hannah, aged 4 years, standing before the fire with her night dress in flames. The mother at once wrapped her daughter in a hearth rug, and with assistance of a neighbour, put linseed oil on the burns. Dr. Atkinson was sent for and applied a further dressing to the wounds, but about 12.15am, the child died from shock after suffering great agony

**Leicester Daily Post – July 22<sup>nd</sup> 1908**

**OSGATHORPE CHURCH BAZAAR**

**PROPOSED TOWER FOR 12<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY CHURCH –**

Miss Imogen Booth, daughter of the right honourable. Charles Booth, of Gracedieu Manor, on Tuesday at Lady (Dowager) Beaumont's residence, Swannington, opened a bazaar in aid for the fund for the restoration of Osgathorpe parish church tower. The Rev. H. M. Williams, the rector, says in a statement he has issued "this ancient church dating from the 12<sup>th</sup> century was restored in the year 1860 when the present beautiful chancel apse was added. For lack of sufficient funds, it was then only possible to erect a temporary wooden turret, which became unsafe and had to be removed in the year 1897 leaving the bells enclosed beneath the roof. Steps were at once taken to raise a fund for the building of a tower on the south side of the church which should both serve to carry the bells and also provide a much needed choir vestry. The late rector as the result of unceasing efforts, succeeded in raising £600 for this purpose, and a further sum of £250 is now required to complete the work which he began".

Lady Beaumont's residence was an ideal rendezvous for the event, and the visitors including the Rev. Canon Broughton (vicar of Hugglescote); the Rev. C. Shrewsbury (vicar of Thringstone); the Rev. H. Robinson (rector of Coleorton); the Rev. W. H. Hepworth (rector of Shepshed); Mr. T and Miss Cope (of Osbaston Hall), Miss de Lisle, Dr. Hamilton, Miss Chester, Miss Rouse, Mrs. Firth, Mrs. W. and Miss S. Moss, Mr and Mrs. T. Atkins of Swannington, Dr J. C. S. and Mrs. Burkitt of Whitwick and Lady Beaumont.

The exhibits were staged in a tent in a field adjoining Swannington House, and summer weather gave hopes of a successful venture. A surprising rich collection of "goods" common to bazaar were for sale. The stall holders were: L. Beaumont, Lady Morton, Mrs. G. Bailey, Miss Miller, Miss Pearson, Miss Parker, Mrs. H. Walker, Miss Clay and others.

There were concerts, selections by the Coronation band of Coalville, performances by the veteran and popular Signor Trevor, late of Ashby de la Zouch, who gave ventriloquial and conjuring entertainments, and dancing, together with competitions for dolls, cakes, polishing and hat trimming. Mr. Noyes Jones, of Coalville organised the concerts. Mr. A. J. Williams managed a rifle range. Mts. Baker has a "Baker's Oven" to surprise her patrons; Mrs. Atkinson a "Blackbird Pie". Miss Morton of Osgathorpe conducted a "Sally Stall", and there were a number of other amusements.

The Rev. H. M. Williams in introducing Miss Booth, read a letter from the Rev. R. Bailey, vicar of Swannington, wishing the movement success. The rector paid tribute to Mr and Mrs. Booth for their assistance and regretted that Mrs. Booth, who had been announced to open the bazaar, was unable to attend, but said she had forwarded a handsome donation, and her daughter would declare the bazaar open. The Booth family were well known, and it would be impertinence to compliment them on their interest in such movements. They had but to turn to Gracedieu Manor for help. Indeed all the parishes round the locality could say the same, and he was obliged to Miss. Booth for her attending.

Miss Booth said she was extremely sorry her mother was unable to open the bazaar, but she would be pleased to hear of the kind references made by the rector. Miss Booth congratulated the organisers on the glorious weather, and beautiful grounds placed at their disposal by Lady Beaumont, and wished the bazaar every success. The bazaar was largely patronised during the day.

#### **Melton Mowbray Mercury & Uppingham News – February 27th 1908** **COALVILLE PETTY SESSIONS**

**ALLEGED ASSAULT** - Charles Pepper, collier, of Osgathorpe, was summoned for assaulting Robert Knight, labourer of Osgathorpe on the 8<sup>th</sup> inst.- He pleaded not guilty. – Knight said that Pepper the defendant, caught hold of his neckerchief, and witness thought the defendant intended "gouging" his eyes out when he got him on the floor. He explained that he hawked oranges and nuts, and believed that the occurrence was due to his refusal to let defendant have the articles on trust. – Mr. Sharpe defended. – Defendant said that he called at prosecutors for some nuts. Knight abused him and got a poker, with which he struck at him. He did not strike Knight but defended Knight's blow. – Elizabeth Pepper, wife of the defendant, said no blow was struck by her husband. Knight's face was bleeding though. – The case was dismissed, Pepper being ordered to pay 4s. 6d. costs and Knight 4s.

#### **Melton Mowbray Mercury & Uppingham News - December 19<sup>th</sup> 1908** **OSGATHORPE LUCKY.**

Osgathorpe earned a couple of lucky points at Long Whatton. The Whatton players seem to be becoming more used to League football but they weren't blessed with ordinary luck or Osgathorpe would have retired a defeated team. The greasy state of the ground and the smallness of the knobs on the Whatton players boots, were the only things that prevented them from netting the ball. The slippery state of the ground seemed particularly to bother Bates, of the home vanguard. He worked his way to within a yard or two of the Osgathorpe goal and should have easily scored on two or three occasions, but each time he slipped to the ground and lost some of the most promising opportunities of scoring. Whatton had the better of the game, but Osgathorpe were better able to take full advantage of the opportunities which presented themselves, and consequently they bagged what game was to be had, and Whatton lost a good chance of securing their initial victory.

#### **Melton Mowbray Mercury & Uppingham News – November 26<sup>th</sup> 1914** **KILLING HOMING PIGEONS.**

John William King, grazier, Osgathorpe was summoned at Coalville, Friday, for killing a pigeon, value 10s., at Osgathorpe on the 16<sup>th</sup> October, the property of J. Caddick of Coseley, Staffs. He was also summoned for killing a pigeon the property of Rolife Bros, Lincoln, at the same time and

place. – He pleaded not guilty. – **Mr. J. T. Hinks appeared for the prosecution, and referred to the notice sent by the chief constable as to stray pigeons and to the precaution against German spies.** – Inspector Dobney stated that the defendant had been served with the police notice, requiring those who possessed carrier or homing pigeons to notify the police of any stray pigeons which might join their lofts. He found three pigeons at defendant's place, and two of the birds were ringed. He told defendant he wanted to see the birds liberated. Defendant declined to liberate them and killed the three birds. Witness reported the matter to the homing society. – P.C. Jones corroborated. – Defendant did not deny killing the birds and said he was ordered to do so. – Evidence was given by the owners as to the value of the birds, one of which flew from Nantes this year. – Defendant was fined 5s. 6d. and costs in each case, and ordered to pay 10s. for each of the two ringed birds, or 7 days each. Sentences to run concurrently. The fines, costs and value of the birds amounted to 5 guineas, which defendant declined to pay and went to the cells.

### **Loughborough Echo - Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> 1915**

#### **OSGATHORPE. CHILD'S DEATH.**

T. J. Webb, Deputy Coroner, held an inquest on Tuesday, at Osgathorpe, into the circumstances attending the death of the unnamed daughter of Harry Price Knight, farm labourer. Evidence was given by the father that deceased was 16 days old, and was a healthy baby. She was taken to bed with witness and his wife on November 28th, and the child slept between them. About 3.30 a.m. his wife woke him, and told him the child was dead. Dr. Atkinson said in his opinion death was due to suffocation from overlaying. There was a slight flattening of the child's right cheek as if from pressure. The position of the child, as described by the father, was dangerous. **The jury returned a verdict of accidental death**

### **Loughborough Echo – December 3<sup>rd</sup> 1915**

#### **LOUGHBOROUGH SECOND POLICE COURT – A NARROW SQUEAK**

Joseph Lager, grazier, Osgathorpe, pleaded not guilty to allowing a pig to stray on the highway at Belton on November 23<sup>rd</sup>. – P.C. Payne said he had complaints of the pig being out all night, and on November 22<sup>nd</sup> he found it on the highway. It had a narrow escape from being run over by a motor car. – The defendant said he turned the pig into a field to pick up acorns, and it must have got through the fence. – **The case was allowed to be withdrawn on payment of costs.**

### **Leicester Daily Post – August 25<sup>th</sup> 1917**

#### **COALVILLE PETTY SESSIONS – “BANKER”**

John H. Allen, John W. Gee and Radford Gee, colliers of Thringstone, who did not appear, **were each fined 10s. 6d. or seven days for gaming with cards and coins at Osgathorpe.**

### **Leicester Daily Post – August 24<sup>th</sup> 1918**

Bernard Lord, Collier, Thringstone, summoned for riding a bicycle without lights at Osgathorpe. **Fined 7s. 6d. or 7 days.**

### **Leicester Daily - Post March 10<sup>th</sup> 1920**

The Osgathorpe v Thringstone match at Osgathorpe was played only 40 minutes when Thringstone were leading by two goals to none. A dispute arose, according to reports, as to spectators rushing onto the ground, and the matter had been dealt with by the L.F.A. The match was ordered to be replayed at Osgathorpe. Thringstone to be allowed travelling expenses, and the rest of the gate to be paid to the league. The Osgathorpe representative told the committee his club got no gate money at the matches.

### **Nottingham Evening Post – March 28<sup>th</sup> 1923**

The sobriety of George King, 45, colliery fireman of Osgathorpe, who on Saturday fell down the shaft of Coleorton Colliery, was the subject of some conflict of evidence at the inquest yesterday afternoon. The medical evidence disclosed terrible injuries to all parts of the body. The coroner

(H. J. Deane) said that on the facts before him, he thought a proper inference to draw was that the deceased went into the place while he was not sober and fell down the shaft by accident. He recorded verdict accordingly.

### **Taunton Courier & Western Advertiser – April 4<sup>th</sup> 1923**

#### **270 FEET FALL DOWN PIT SHAFT**

George King, colliery fireman of Osgathorpe, Leics, was killed by falling 270 feet down a pit shaft at Coleorton Colliery.

### **Leicester Daily Mercury - October 3<sup>rd</sup> 1931**

**COLLISION DURING MATCH CAUSES FATAL INJURY.** A collision between two players in a Loughborough and District League match, resulting in the death of one of them, was described at an inquest at Loughborough last night on George Arthur Draper (21), of Coleorton. The match was between Osgathorpe Victoria and Shepshed Athletic on September 19, and both players were members of the Osgathorpe eleven. Draper was taken to Loughborough Hospital on September 20th and died there on October 3. Thomas Townsend, of Griffydam, with whom Draper collided, told the Coroner that they had both been life-long friends. Draper was playing in the left-half position and when he kicked the ball he (witness) who was on the left-wing went back for it. "I thought he had kicked the ball for me but he ran forward and reached the ball a split second before I did," witness said. "I attempted to avoid him but I caught him in the stomach with my knee. "A Pure Accident". Witness said Draper collapsed and moaned and was taken from the field. He returned however, but left again after being hit by the ball. Draper's father said his son went home from the match in pain and was taken to Loughborough Hospital the following day. After explaining to him how the mishap occurred, his son said it was a pure accident. Dr. R. Stamford, who operated at the Hospital, said Draper had an internal rupture. "I expected him to live not more than two days" said Dr. Stamford, "but he made a remarkable recovery and I thought he was going to get better." The Coroner (Mr. H. J. Deane) returned a verdict in accordance with medical evidence that death was due to general peritonitis due to the injury Which Draper sustained. Mr. Deane added that he wished Townsend to understand that he considered the mishap to be a pure accident.

### **Birmingham Daily Gazette - Aug 22<sup>nd</sup> 1932**

#### **OSGATHORPE GALA**

The Griffydam and district annual effort for the Loughborough Hospital took place on Saturday in a field lent by Mr. T. Tivey, at Osgathorpe. It was opened by Mrs. Taylor, of Ashby, supported by the Mayor and Mayoress of Loughborough. There was a six-a-side football contest for schoolboys, various competitions, selections by the Snibston Colliery Band, and an onion competition in which the prize winners were I. Hartshorne, C. Brewin and T. Clifford. A carnival dance was held in the Osgathorpe School in the evening.