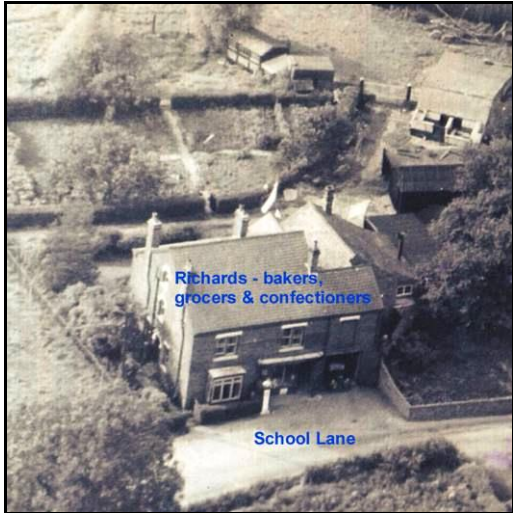
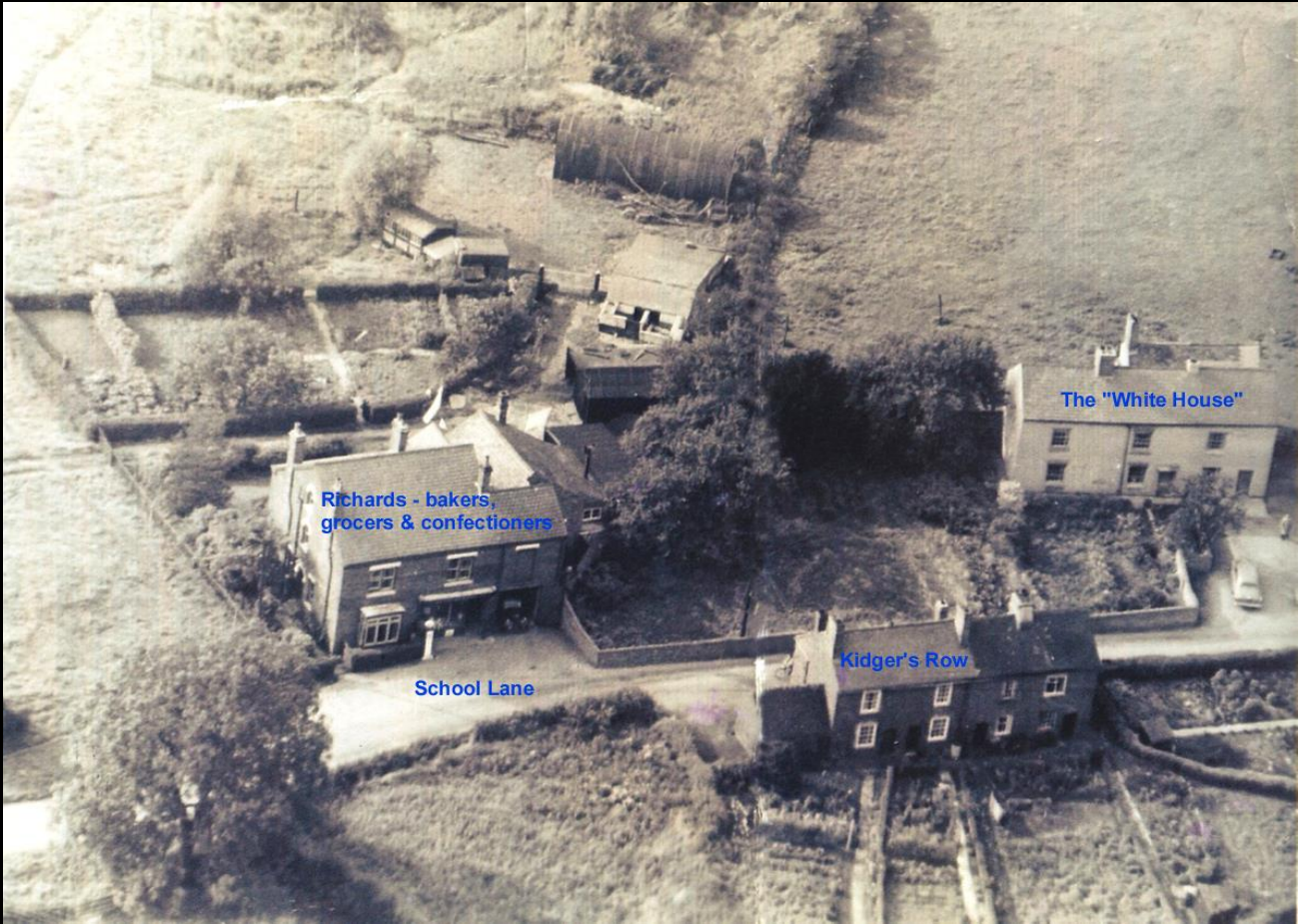


THE KIDGER'S and RICHARD'S FAMILIES OF PEGG'S GREEN



BY SAMUEL T STEWART - APRIL 2021

FRONT COVER PHOTOGRAPH

The aerial photograph taken in the 1950s shows the first known residence of the Kidgers family in Pegg's Green which became known as the "White House". The second photograph includes the farm buildings to the side of the White House which included an abattoir and a butcher's shop over a long period. The Kidgers' also built the Row of 4 terraced houses shown, which were originally two cottages. The house and associated buildings have been renovated over the years but are still recognizable from the photograph although the house is now named "Yew Tree Cottage". The property is situated off what is now School Lane at the bottom of the hill. The lane has had various names including Occupation Road, Froggarte Lane, Kidger's Lane and now School Lane.

The map on page 4 shows the "White house" plot outlined in red as it was when put up for auction in 1979.

Also included on the photograph is the Richard's family house built by James Richards which included a bake house and a grocer's and confectionary shop owned by Enoch and Millie Richards at that time the photograph was taken.

[Read on to learn more about the history of these two families both of whom were respected business people who contributed to the social and industrial fabric of the village and the wider community. Both families were non-conformists with the Kidgers associated with Griffydam Wesleyan Methodist Chapel and the Richards being staunch supporters of the Coleorton Primitive Methodist Chapel.](#)

The author is not a relative of either families but has wonderful memories when for a period of seven years from 1946 to 1953 he walked to the Griffydam schools through the area shown on the photograph and had the experience of visiting both establishments during that time.

NOTES

The censuses and trade directories in the area of Pegg's Green and Griffydam during the period covered can be difficult to interpret and it is helpful to have an understanding of the history of the road names and the geography of the area. Pegg's Green became part of the Township of Thringstone which in turn was part of the ecclesiastical parish of Whitwick during the 1807 enclosure which also serves to complicate matters. Pegg's Green did not become part of Coleorton parish until 1936.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to Andrea and Fred Allgood from Hertfordshire, for their contribution. Fred is related to the Kidgers through a maternal blood line, and it was due to him contacting the author via his website that led the author in conjunction with the Allgoods' to research the Kidgers of Pegg's Green.

Thanks to Michael Green for his input.

Thanks also to Hillary and Pat Howden and Sandra Dillon for information provided on "Kidger's row" etc.

Thanks to Mr. & Mrs Arnold for providing the aerial photograph, which will contribute to a clearer understanding for the readers of that area.

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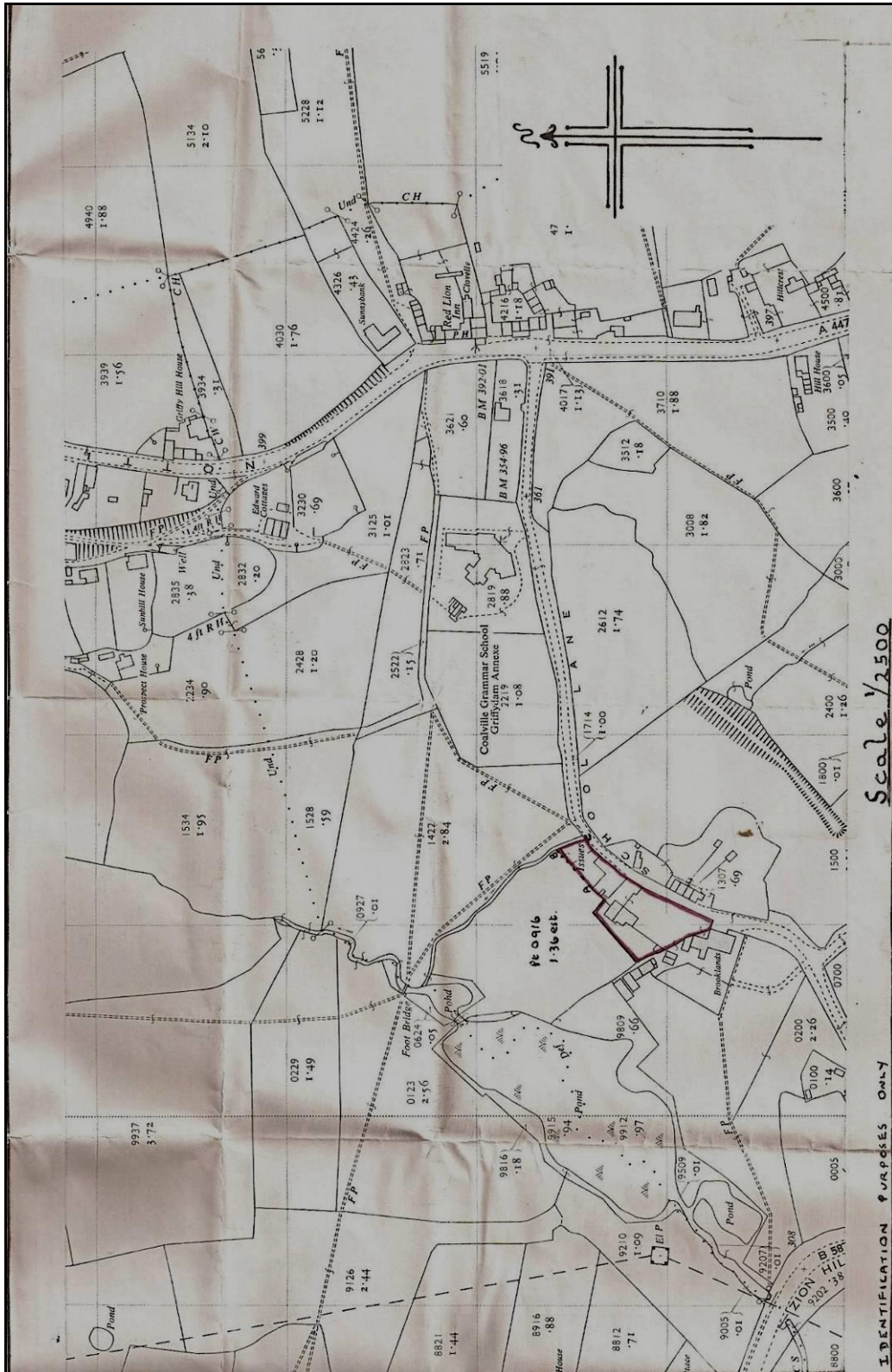
PART 2

PAGE 56 - THE RICHARD'S FAMILY OF PEGG'S GREEN

COMPLIMENTARY READING

"A HISTORY OF COAL MINING IN PEGG'S GREEN - EARLY 19TH CENTURY TO 1859" (Free to download and read on the author's website)

REFERENCE MAP



A MAP PRODUCED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE 1979 SALE OF THE "WHITE HOUSE" - THE "WHITE HOUSE" PLOT IS OUTLINED IN RED - INCLUDED FOR REFERENCE PURPOSES IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE FOLLOWING TEXT

PART 1- THE KIDGER FAMILIES OF PEGG'S GREEN

WILLIAM KIDGER (b.1771) AND HIS WIFE ELIZABETH (b.1770)

The Kidger families were non-conformists and were staunch supporters of Griffydam Wesleyan Methodist Chapel.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION ABOUT THE ABOVE WILLIAM'S MOTHER AND FATHER - William Kidger and his wife Mary.

William Kidger and his wife Mary had two sons - William Kidger, born in Newbold in the Ecclesiastical parish Of Breedon-on-the Hill on February 10th 1771. His brother Joshua was subsequently born in Worthington in 1775 to a William Kidger (a colliery overseer) and his wife Mary. They are thought to have had another son John who died.

William and Mary also had five daughters - Elizabeth (Cooper), Mary (Varley), Ann (Hood), Sarah (Toon) and Lettitia (Morris). William Kidger's "Will" made in Swannington on 22nd May 1804 named his executors as Thomas Kidger (a nephew and farmer of Coleorton) and his son William Kidger.

It is assumed therefore that they were living in Swannington at the time William made his Will in 1804.

WILLIAM AND ELIZABETH

It is thought that William and his wife Elizabeth were the first Kidgers' to have lived in Pegg's Green and resided at the "White House" shown on the front cover photograph. It is not known whether they actually built this property originally.

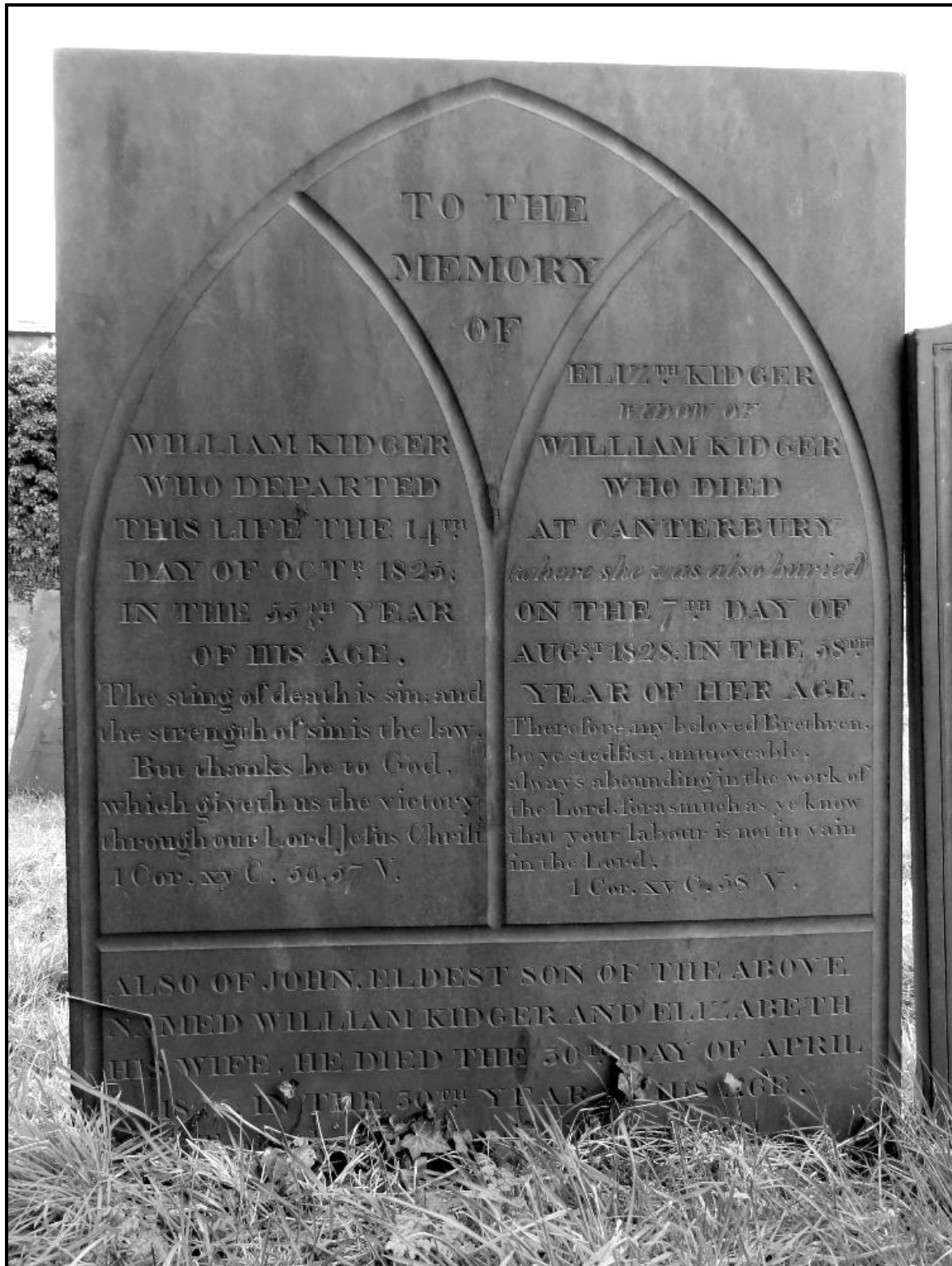
William (son of William & Mary above b.1771) and his wife Elizabeth (b. 1770), together with their eldest son John, (born Jun 7th 1795, died Apr 30th 1825) are buried in Griffydam Wesleyan Methodist Chapel graveyard in an adjacent grave to what is thought to be their other son William (b. 2nd May 1802) and his wife Hannah (b.1799) who are featured later. William and Elizabeth had another son Joseph, born February 13th 1800. In the 1841 census for Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Joseph is recorded as being a land surveyor and is later shown to be a land agent. He was living in Kilwardby Street, Ashby with his wife Ann aged 35 and six children - Elizabeth, 12; Anne, 10; William, 8; Louisa, 6; Edward 4yrs 6 mths and Emily,3 . In 1851, Joseph is recorded as being born in Thringstone (Pegg's Green ?). He died in 1882 leaving over £4,000.

William died at the age of 55 on Oct 14th 1825. Elizabeth died at the age of 58 on Aug 7th 1828. William and Elizabeth also had a daughter named Mary, who was born at Breedon on the Hill on 17th Sept 1797 and died 14th June 1847. They had another daughter confirmed in the 1826 *Methodist Recorder* who we know nothing about.

It is interesting to note that Elizabeth who survived her husband by 3 years died in Canterbury, Kent but was buried in Griffydam. The reason for this is that William and Elizabeth had a daughter Mary who married a John Tucker of Deal in Kent in Worthington St. Matthew's Church on 18th February 1817. Witnesses were John Kidger and Mary Hood. It is presumed therefore that Elizabeth went to live with her daughter Mary and son-in-law John Tucker somewhere in the area of Canterbury after her husband's death. It is known from a record in the "Methodist recorder" that John and

Mary Tucker were living in Ramsgate in 1821.

John Tucker was born 19th Sept 1794 in Deal, Kent and died 21st Sept 1842. Mary and John Tucker had a son Kidger Tucker who was a *Survey Draughtsman* b. 30th March 1834 and who died 23rd August 1913 in Johannesburg, Gauteng, South Africa.



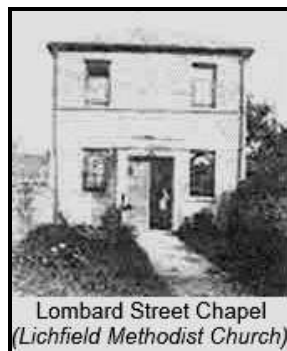
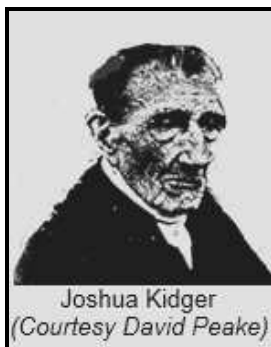
**WILLIAM KIDGER, HIS WIFE ELIZABETH AND ELDEST SON JOHN'S GRAVE
IN GRIFFYDAM WESLEYAN METHODIST CHAPEL GRAVEYARD**

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION ON JOSHUA KIDGER
(b.1775) THE SON OF WILLIAM KIDGER AND HIS WIFE
MARY, INCLUDING HIS NEPHEW JOHN KIDGER,
ELDEST SON OF WILLIAM KIDGER (b. 1771)
& HIS WIFE ELIZABETH**

OUR METHODIST ANCESTORS by Michael Green

William Kidger was born at Newbold in 1771 and his brother, Joshua, at Worthington in 1775 to William Kidger, a colliery overseer, and his wife, Mary. In his youth, William had attended Anglican services, but the turning point in his spiritual life occurred when, at the age of 21, he went to the Griffydham chapel in March 1791 to listen to the preaching of the sermon which followed John Wesley's death. He then became an ardent member there and played an important part in the great revival of 1794 when the Ashby circuit increased its membership from 450 to 700. As a result of his role in that revival, the then minister, Rev Joseph Pescod, appointed him a class leader.

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



The Lombard Street chapel opened in 1814. Interestingly, it seems that Joshua brought with him a feature of the Griffydham chapel which was the associated burial ground. Methodist chapels rarely had them, but the land in front of the chapel was set aside for one, albeit on a far smaller scale! Amongst the trustees of the chapel were William Kidger (b.1771), his brother, and James Burton from Swannington but there is no evidence that either had played any active role in its establishment.

It was necessary for Joshua to find further help with the work at the newly erected chapel and this time he called on another member of the family. This was John who was, William's son and Joshua's nephew, who was born in 1795 at Griffydam. On 27th December 1812 aged 17 he had been converted along with around 12 others at a prayer meeting at the Griffydam chapel. It was while working at a colliery near Alfreton, where he had been appointed a class leader at a chapel nearby, that he was called in the spring of 1815. He was engaged at Lombard Street for 2 - 3 years before returning to North West Leicestershire to live with his parents in Coleorton from where he moved in 1820 to Belton to carry on a grocer's business. He opened his house to both itinerant and local preachers and, in his mid-twenties, married Mary, one of the daughters of James and Ann Burton (founder of JMA) of Swannington. Sadly the marriage was only a short one. At the age of 29 he died on 30th April 1825 of scarlet fever.

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

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

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

THE MEMOIR OF WILLIAM KIDGER (b.1771)

AN EXTRACT FROM THE "1826 METHODIST RECORDER"

MEMOIR OF MR. WILLIAM KIDGER,

Of Cole-Orton, Leicestershire :

BY THE REV. BARNARD SLATER.

MR. WILLIAM KIDGER, father of the excellent young man of whom an account is given in the Methodist Magazine for March last, was born at Newbold, in the parish of Breedon, Leicestershire, Feb. 10th, 1771. From his early youth he appeared to possess a measure of the fear of God. The Christian conduct, and pious conversation, of a distant relation, discovered to him the value of religion ; yet, like many others in similar circumstances, he did not heartily embrace it till about the twentieth year of his age. At that time, being in the habit of attending the services of the Church of England, he was more fully awakened by hearing a funeral sermon preached by a stranger.

The first sermon he heard among the Methodists was preached at the chapel in Griffydam, in the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Circuit, on occasion of the death of the Rev. John Wesley, in March, 1791 ; and previous to the Conference in 1792, he received a note of admittance into the Methodist Society. From this period he became decidedly serious, and gave

Cont'd over page

himself "to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God." His prejudices against Methodism had been so remarkably strong, that he prayed, most earnestly, that God would save him, without his becoming a Methodist. He was at length, however, convinced of the advantages of Christian fellowship with the people whom he had ignorantly despised, and determined with them to bear the "reproach of Christ;" resolving that "this people should be his people, and their God should be his God."

It pleased the Lord, in the year 1794, to pour out his Spirit on the congregations and Societies in the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Circuit, and a considerable revival of religion took place, under the ministry of the Rev. Messrs. Joseph Pescod and William Hicks. In that year the Society was increased from four hundred and fifty, to seven hundred. In this revival Mr. Kidger took an active part, and in prayer and exhortation was made very useful. The late Mr. Pescod, marking his piety, activity, and ardent zeal, appointed him to be a Class-Leader; in which capacity he continued till his death. In that office he was eminently useful, and God made him a blessing to many. Clear in his own Christian experience, he was urgent with the members of his Classes to press into the kingdom of God. He thought that the religion which is not attended with the witness of God's favour, falls far below the scriptural standard. In spiritual things, he was extremely penetrating, and not easily imposed upon; specious pretensions to lofty attainments he keenly scrutinized, and if not accompanied by simplicity and godly sincerity, he did not fail to expose them, and show the individual by whom they were made his own heart. High attainments in Christian purity he ever encouraged; aware that they are the privilege of all the followers of Christ.

Warmly attached to the sacred Scriptures himself, he strove with all his might to direct the attention of the souls committed to his care, to the pure fountain of truth. He loved "the gates of Zion;" I believe he preferred "Jerusalem above his chief joy." He regarded her interests, with more than paternal affection; and the members of his Classes will long remember his faithfulness and zeal in watching over them, and in administering reproof, admonition, and comfort, as occasion might require. In the punctual discharge of all the duties of religion he continued, from the commencement of his Christian life, to the termination of his earthly existence. His perseverance was steady, he walked with God, for upwards of thirty-three years, without the slightest blemish on his moral and religious character.

As some proof of his uniform and holy walk, I subjoin a few extracts from his letters, chiefly addressed to his own children. His epistles are numerous and exceedingly valuable. The following were addressed to his daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Tucker, of Ramsgate:—
 "April 25th, 1821, I herewith give you an account of our memorable

Love-Feast. It commenced at two o'clock, and we left the chapel with some difficulty at half past five. Had there been time, I doubt not but scores, if not hundreds more, would have declared what the Lord had done for them. At the watch-night God was present in a most powerful manner. The cries of the distressed might be heard at a considerable distance. The friends from the neighbourhood joined most heartily in prayer, in behalf of the penitents; and He who is abundant in mercy, heard their united supplications, and released the prisoners. I know not how many were blessed with a knowledge of salvation; and we were obliged to leave many in distress. The first that found peace with God was a backslider. Many will bless God eternally for yesterday's mercies. It was indeed a high day."

" June 19, 1821.—I am glad to learn that you, and some others, are attempting to bring glory to God, by going forth to speak in his name. I wish you all success: work as for the Lord; feel for immortal souls; do all the good you can. Live and preach for God; think, and speak, and act for Him; and may you be made an abundant blessing. Pray that you may be eminent for piety. The work of God goes on among us.—Two individuals were very lately converted. The Lord's name be praised.

" A Missionary-Meeting will be held to-morrow at Ashby. I wish there may be nothing of lightness. The work which God is carrying on by our Missionaries is a great work; and I pray that what I do, and what others may do, for the furtherance of it, may be done in a godlike spirit. Jesus wept over Jerusalem; and could we weep over the heathen world, how profitable would it be to us, and how pleasing in the sight of God!

" Be bent upon being more holy; and try to promote it in others. Strive to draw each other into God whenever you meet together. It is to the disgrace of many of us who profess religion, that we should be so light and trifling when we meet. Could we always remember, "the Judge is at the door," we should act a better part. A poor backsliding Methodist was engaged in a dance at —, last week; and as soon as he had finished, he said he would never dance more. He immediately dropped down, and expired! He was once zealous in the cause of God."

" Jan. 3, 1822.—The Lord has spared us to see the beginning of a new year. The old one is gone; O what a report has it taken with it! What unfaithfulness on my part! The Lord be merciful to me! I do not recollect, on the commencement of a new year, that I ever felt more gratitude to God, or stronger desires to be entirely and eternally the Lord's. I hope it will be the best year we have any of us ever witnessed; and that it may be so, let us leave our concerns and ourselves in the hands of that God who careth for the sparrows, and hath numbered the very hairs of our head."

" Feb. 6, 1822.—Take as good care of your health as you can; and, above all, guard well the hidden treasure God hath committed to you.

May you never sustain any loss in spiritual things! Pray that you may ever enjoy communion with God, and go on from strength to strength in his ways. The promises of God hang in clusters, like the grapes of Canaan. They are for you, and for me; and O how exceedingly willing is our God to bless us! O for a faith like that of Abraham! I hope you are both labouring to be useful in the Redeemer's cause. Get your minds deeply affected with the awful fact that your fellow-creatures are dropping into hell, even while there is a Saviour at hand. Recommend Jesus Christ to lost sinners."

" Dec. 13th, 1823.—How very near eternity are we all living! O my children, let us daily pray that God may enable us to 'spend our life's short day, obedient to his will.' Let us seek for greater things in religion. I have lately found it to be very beneficial to be importunate with God as soon as I awake in the morning, that each succeeding day may be the best I ever had; and that I may be kept more watchful and more attentive to the teaching of the Holy Spirit: and I am sure that these prayers have been heard by my heavenly Father. It is well to begin the morning with God. In our own family, we have been improving in spiritual things."

" Sept. 20th, 1823.—A convoy of angels was in attendance this morning, at my dear mother's, to conduct her happy spirit to the paradise of God. She was truly happy, and so long as she could speak, she expressed the strongest confidence in God. She left a testimony behind her, which gave the greatest satisfaction to surviving friends. We are overwhelmed with gratitude to God, for his abundant goodness manifested to her. She called your mother, and said, 'My Saviour stands at my right hand,' and attempted to add, 'Heaven and earth shall pass away, but not one jot or tittle shall fail of all that God has spoken.' Just at the closing scene, she said, 'Happy, happy.' How valuable is religion! Let us honour God while we sojourn here, and He will honour us with his presence, when crossing the swellings of Jordan."

The following letter was sent soon after the death of his beloved son John; and it discovers his perfect reconciliation to that painful event.

" May 11th, 1825.—We were anxious to hear from you, and are truly thankful that the Lord supports you under the severe stroke; not that I would intimate, that God has done wrong in thus visiting our family, by taking away a beloved and affectionate son and brother: for, while writing this, with gratitude to my Maker I can say, I do not know that I have a desire within my soul to undo what my Lord hath done, supposing it were possible for me to undo it. I am thankful that the Lord gave me such a child; I may say such children; and as He has been pleased to resume what he gave, I am thankful that the Lord has taken him. I call upon you, and upon all my family, to say,

' Rejoice for a Brother deceas'd,
Our loss is his infinite gain.'

“ The many pithy sayings that fell from his lips would have affected you much, and, at the same time, have caused your souls to burn with love to God. He was a pattern of patience during his affliction. I never once heard him utter a word about worldly things. Jesus wept at the grave of Lazarus; and so do I, and you, and all of us, at the loss of my dear John; but how different is our grief from that of the men who sorrow without hope! I can assure you, the Lord supports us under the heavy trial, in a most astonishing manner. It might truly be said, that ‘Belton (the village in which his son resided) mourned.’ Such a feeling in the neighbourhood I have not seen produced on any occasion before. It is most gratifying, that a child of mine should leave such a character as he has done.”

These extracts, which might have been greatly extended, discover the man of God, and the Christian parent, aiding his beloved family in all that was good, soothing them under sorrow, encouraging them in affliction, and constantly directing their minds to the Saviour of men. The last six months of his life were, with him, a period of extraordinary trial. On the 30th of April his son John died, and from that time his house was a scene of almost constant affliction. His wife, one son, two daughters, and a grandson, were attacked with the cholera morbus, which was followed with the typhus fever, and brought them near the grave.

Mr. Kidger attended his suffering family by night and by day; and this, in addition to his ordinary engagements, rendered more pressing from the loss of that assistance which he usually derived from those who were then deprived of health, together with loss of rest, at length overcame his shattered frame. How he was supported in these trials, will the best appear in his own words. In a letter to Mr. Tucker, dated September 21st, but a short time before his death; the last, I suspect, he ever wrote; he remarks, “ In the midst of our afflictions we find the Lord to be very good. Though I never had such a house as I have lately had, yet, I thank God, I know it must be all for the best; and I wish to bear it all in a Christian spirit. I bless Him, that I am enabled to submit to his will. To God be all the praise. The Lord bless you; and may we all be made meet for the kingdom of our God, where separation, affliction, and distresses, are no more !”

On Thursday, October 16th, this amiable servant of Christ sunk under his complicated suffering. Medical aid was obtained. He said to a friend who called to see him on the 11th, that “ he had had stroke upon stroke;” referring to the afflictions of his family; “ but that the Lord had kept him from murmuring.”

His case not being deemed hopeless, it was thought the best, by his medical attendants, to keep him as still as possible. This prevented him from seeing many of his friends, to whom undoubtedly he would have spoken more largely of the goodness of God. To all, however, to

whom he did speak, there was the fullest satisfaction, that "the eternal God was his refuge, and underneath him were the everlasting arms." To one friend he said, "I find religion of value to me now." His mind was kept in perfect peace, and he possessed a constant sense of his acceptance with God, through Jesus Christ; and though willing to live, if such were the will of God; yet he had "a desire to depart, and be with Christ." Attempting, on one occasion, to take a little food, in doing which he found great difficulty, he said, "I cannot do with common fare; I must go and partake of angels' food." In the morning of the day on which he died, he said, "The Lord has been very good to me through the past night." For a short time he appeared better; but soon after his pain became very violent, and he gradually sunk under it. His family, with indescribable anguish, saw that death was fast approaching. Mrs. K. said to him, "You will soon be where the inhabitants shall not say, I am sick;" he replied, "I believe, I shall; God will not leave me." He spoke no more; but in a few minutes fell asleep in Jesus, on Friday, October 14th, 1825, in the fifty-fourth year of his age. "Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright; for the end of that man is peace."

I had the privilege of a close personal acquaintance with this admirable man for upwards of twenty-one years; during which time our friendship was uninterrupted; our hearts were knit together in Christian love.

1. His piety was deep, unaffected, and fervent. It was of an order that raised him above the level of ordinary Christians. A spirit of devotion rested upon him. It pervaded his mind, and imparted a sanctity to his whole life. Experimentally acquainted with the saving grace of God in his early days, he retained a clear sense of the divine favour to the end of his life. His consolations were abundant; his hope was full of immortality; and his gentleness, humility, and zeal, were known to all. His love to Christ was, I believe, supreme: he loved "the Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity." He understood religion well; he saw on what it was founded, and yielded up his heart to its sacred claims. He was deeply pious, without singularity; truly serious, without the least mixture of gloom. He regularly discharged all the duties of religion with fidelity. His piety was at once solid and rational.

2. Considered in the character of a friend, he will appear to great advantage. He possessed all those ingredients which are requisite to form true friendship. The law of kindness was written on his heart, and nothing was deemed too much for those who shared his confidence and affection. He possessed a large share of Christian sympathy; and hence he readily entered into the feelings of his friends. He was an able counsellor, and used to give a full view of any subject on which he was consulted, without reserve. As a friend he was also faithful, and failed not to deliver his soul. Manly and upright in his intentions, when he

saw it was his duty, he feared not to give reproof. Yet in his friendship he was eminently affectionate, tender, and kind.

3. Benevolence was extremely prominent in his character. He entered into various walks of usefulness with alacrity. Frequently was he known to apply to different parishes on behalf of the poor, and if he failed of success, he would relieve them himself. Such was his concern for the destitute, that, during a period when they suffered much, through the dearness of provisions, he and his family (on all occasions ready to second him in his acts of charity) cheerfully gave up one of their meals daily, to add to his ability of doing good to his neighbours. He sought not his own, but denied himself, that he might contribute to the comfort of others.

4. Humility was also distinctly marked in his character. He was "clothed with humility;" he had put it on as a garment. This temper was visible in all he did, and in all he said. It was at once seen in his countenance, in his language, and in his manners. It was not assumed to secure the applause of men; but his heart was humble; he had low thoughts of himself, and did not overrate his talents or his piety. During his last affliction, when a friend was speaking of his past usefulness in the church of Christ, it evidently gave him pain. He wished to hear no more on that subject; but that all the glory might be given to God, to whom alone it is due.

5. His integrity, as a tradesman, will be long remembered. Of industry, punctuality, and uprightness, he was a striking example. He was free from duplicity; and it was his constant aim, in all his dealings with others, to act openly, and without disguise. Every thing that bore even the semblance of imposition was viewed by him with abhorrence. The Lord greatly prospered him in business. Worldly prosperity has not unfrequently been attended by a decay of piety. "If riches increase, set not thine heart upon them." William Kidger felt the force of this admonition, and acted upon it. He sustained the smiles of the world with Christian simplicity.

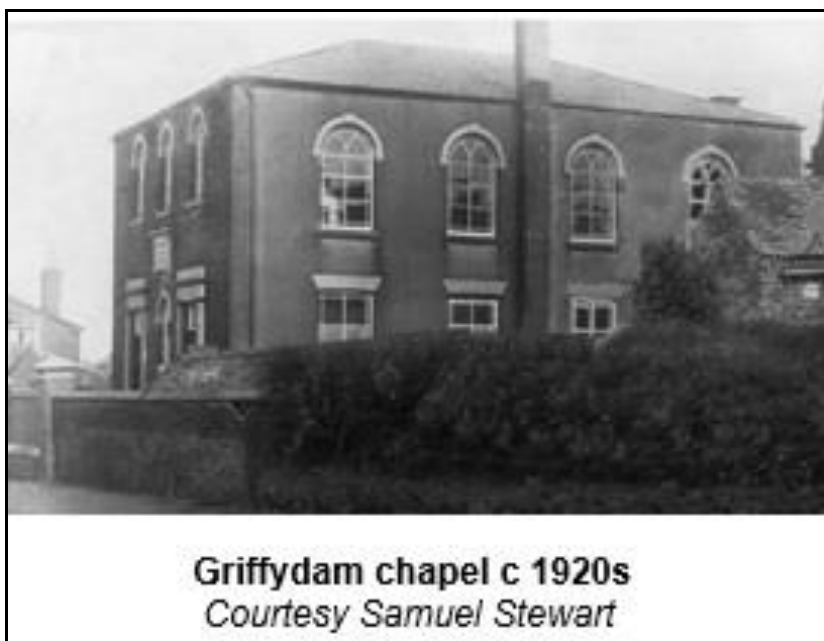
6. His attachment to Methodism was firm and cordial. He possessed a comprehensive acquaintance with its doctrines, which he heartily believed, on account of their strict accordance with the word of truth; he had also an accurate knowledge of its discipline, which he received and exemplified, deeply convinced that nothing more closely resembled apostolical simplicity; and he admired its numerous institutions, so admirably fitted to assist and encourage the souls of men in their journey to the kingdom of heaven. Viewing Methodism as a work of God, he afforded it all the help in his power, and liberally supported it both at home and abroad. He possessed a Missionary spirit, and was one of the most zealous advocates for sending the Gospel to the Pagan world, where every form of vice has been consecrated, and held up for the imitation of the worshippers.

7. As a man of prayer he was very remarkable. In public prayer he was fervent and animated. His gift in prayer was extraordinary and very powerful. Often have I seen considerable effects produced on the minds of his fellow-worshippers, when he has been addressing the throne of grace. His prayer was evidently the effusion of a heart which had been touched with "a live coal from the heavenly altar." Divine power accompanied his pleading.

THE GRIFFYDAM WESLEYAN METHODIST CHAPEL LOVE FEAST

INTRODUCTION - BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE GRIFFYDAM LOVEFEAST

By Michael Green



The Lovefeast originated from the meals shared by early Christians where the hungry were also given food. The meals also had two elements which were sacramental and, in time, the two separated and became Holy Communion and the Lovefeast. The latter gradually disappeared to be resurrected in the early part of the 18th century mainly by the Moravians by whom it is still celebrated today.

The Moravians had a strong influence on John Wesley, On the 1736 voyage to Georgia he had been impressed by their deep faith and peace during the dreadful storm and it was in 1743, while attending a meeting of Moravians in Aldersgate Street London, that he felt his heart "strangely warmed". It is unsurprising, therefore, that the Lovefeast became an established feature of Methodism from its very beginnings. It would have been held at Griffydam from the forming of the Methodist society there in the early 1760s. Prior to the chapel opened in 1778, it would have taken place in the homes of followers.

It was an annual event held on Easter Monday and the first account of it is found in a letter of 25th April 1821 from William Kidger, a Griffydam class leader, to his daughter and son in law, Mr and Mrs Tucker in Ramsgate, which began "*I hereby give you an account of our memorable Love Feast. It commenced at two o' clock and we left the chapel with some difficulty at half past five. Had there been time, I doubt not but that scores, if not hundreds more, would have declared what the Lord had done for them.*"

In 1856 it was felt that the time allotted for the Lovefeast was too short and a proposal was made that it should start at 1.00 instead of 2.00 pm which prompted an amendment that it should start at 11.00 am!

From the 1870s onwards, reports on the Griffydam Lovefeasts appeared in local newspapers Throughout the history of the Lovefeast it seems that the format remained largely unchanged. It opened with singing and prayer. The early Christian feast by now was symbolic represented by the passing round of water in the two handled loving cups followed by bread or biscuits, which was overseen by stewards. The remainder of the Lovefeast was taken up in prayer, testimony and song and the atmosphere was highly charged. The essence is well caught by the following account of the 1910 Lovefeast

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.....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.

The same report goes on to indicate the hymns sung which are much as would be expected but with surprises.

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 Jesus' name" etc.

"The saviour died upon the tree, Glory to the bleeding lamb" and "I shall wear a golden crown when I get home" are barely known today.

The chapel was always full to overflowing with some 500 there following the chapel's enlargement in 1862. The opening of the second railway station at Swannington in 1839 later to be followed by the one at Worthington in 1874 allowed those from further afield than the immediate neighbourhood to attend. A 1934 report recounts that "*There was a time when special trains brought people from Yorkshire and enthusiasts from other parts of the country attended in large numbers.*"

Following the end of the Lovefeast, a public tea was provided in the schoolroom and everyone attended the evening service at 6.00 pm taken by the Superintendent Minister or a guest preacher.

There were frequent conversions. One notable conversion was that of Mary Buck on Easter Monday 1830, who went on to become a celebrated female Primitive Methodist preacher.

By the beginning of the 20th century, the Lovefeast no longer took place in the vast majority of Methodist chapels but the collection for the poor, an important part of the Lovefeast service, became a part of Holy Communion.

By the 1930s the Griffydam Lovefeast had started to lose its appeal and the chapel was no longer packed on an Easter Monday .but in 1948 was still attracting a congregation of some 300. The last newspaper report was in 1950. While it does not give the number attending, it does mention there being 6 loving cups each 100 years old and that taking part were the twin brothers Mr. Walter Davies and Mr. Herbert Davies and Mr. John Johnson, who had attended all Griffydam Lovefeasts for more than 60 years. The latter, Local Preacher and Sunday School Superintendent, was always the first to be on his feet and speak.



The above photograph is taken outside of the newly opened Sunday school in 1932.

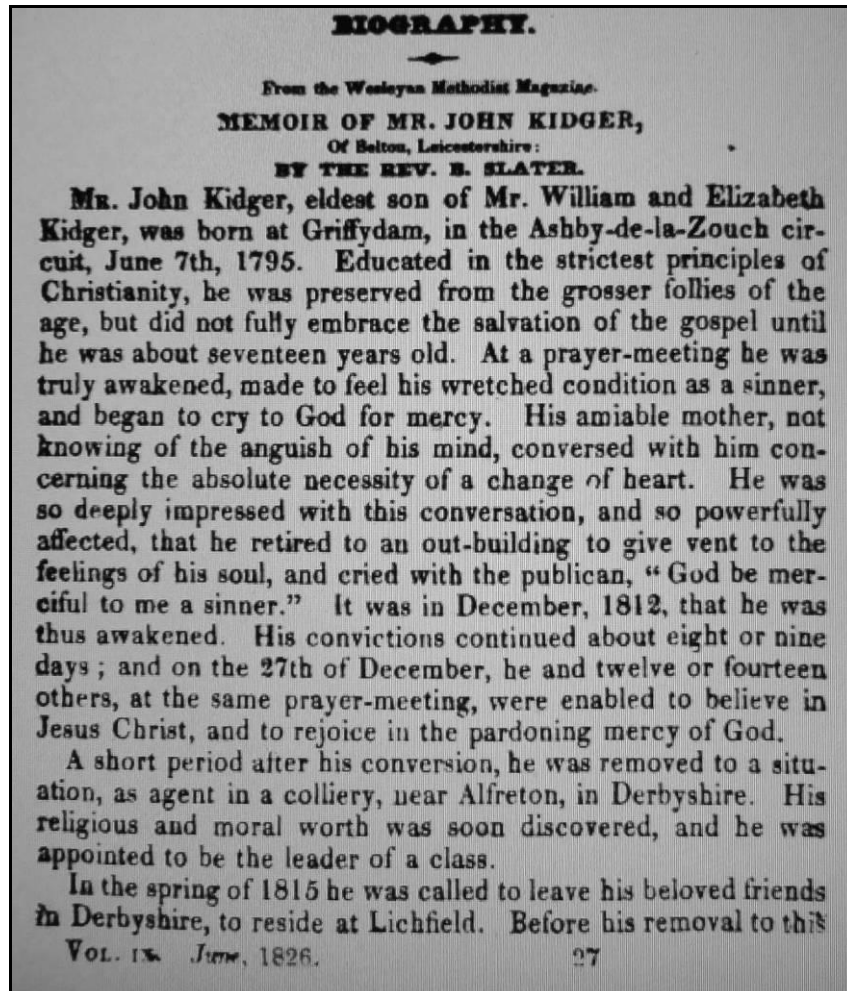
It is not known just exactly when the Griffydam Lovefeast ceased to be held but it was probably the late 1960s early 1970s. Speaking in 2014 the late Sidney Haywood aged 92 recalled that in the later years the service had become much shorter commencing at 2.30 pm and ending at 4.00 pm. By now people had become aware of how germs were spread and many declined the water. Everyone stopped for the evening service which commenced at 6.00 pm.

So, the Griffydam Lovefeast was continuously held for some 200 years. This has been surpassed, however, by the Methodist one held on the first Sunday in July in the barn at Alport in the Derbyshire Dales started in the 1760s and still held even last year via Zoom in view of the Covid pandemic.

Sadly, Griffydam chapel closed in 2005 - **Further information on the Lovefeast is recorded in the following memoirs of William Kidger.**

**JOHN KIDGER – ELDEST SON OF WILLIAM KIDGER
(b.1771) AND HIS WIFE ELIZABETH
A LOCAL MAN’S CONVERSION TO METHODISM**

AN EXTRACT TAKEN FROM THE 1826 METHODIST RECORDER



CONT'D OVER PAGE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WILLIAM KIDGER.

"Coleorton, July 24, 1815."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WILLIAM KIDGER (b.1802) AND HIS WIFE HANNAH (b. 1799)

The available evidence strongly suggests that William (b. May 2nd 1802 in Griffydam) and his wife Hannah followed William's mother and father into the "White House" after William's (b.1771) wife Elizabeth died in 1828. Hannah (nee Price 1799-1880) and married William in 1830.

Hannah was the daughter of Edward Price who in 1841 was recorded in the census as a "Coal Master" and living on Griffy Hill, Griffydam (between the Red Lion public house and the following sharp bend in the road) with his wife Sarah and son John, a mineral surveyor.

Edward Price became a partner in Pegg's Green colliery as did his son John. This William Kidger (b.1802) also became a partner at a later date. [See the publication on the author's website entitled "A History of Coal Mining in Pegg's Green Early 19th Century to 1859" for a detailed explanation.](#)

William Kidger (b. 1802) was also the secretary of the Griffydam Wesleyan Day School, situated on Froggat's Lane, now Nottingham Road, and he also became a partner in Pegg's Green colliery.

[See page 29 for further information](#)

It was through Hannah that the name Price was introduced as a Christian name in many of the future Kidger male offsprings'.

As William junior and Hannah's first two children were born in Nottingham according to census records and their following children in Thringstone (presumed to mean Pegg's Green which was part of Thringstone township), then the dates would coincide with the time of William junior's mother's death and add credence to them following his mother and father into the "White House".

In the 1841 census, William Kidger junior, aged 39, is listed as a butcher in Pegg's Green and living with his wife Hannah, aged 40 and 4 children – Joseph, 10; Eliza, 6; Edward, 3 and *Price*, 1 Month. There is a farmer living with them by the name of Mr. Howett, aged 30, and a lady named Sarah Tucker, aged 46 (presumably a relative of John Tucker from Deal, Kent). They have a male and a female servant suggesting they enjoyed a good standard of living.

Interestingly, their sons John, aged 13 and William, aged 11 are missing from the census and they are recorded as being at school at Borough St, Castle Donington.

Their daughter Sarah had died on July 5th 1837 aged 4 years and 5 months, and was buried in Griffydam Wesleyan Methodist Chapel graveyard adjacent to her mother and father's grave.



WILLIAM AND HANNAH'S DAUGHTER SARAH'S GRAVE

On February 10th 1849 William and Hannah's son Joseph passed away aged 17 years 9 months and is buried in the grave shown below, adjacent to his sister Sarah's grave and that of his mother and father.





William and Hannah's gravestone in Griffydam Wesleyan Methodist Chapel Graveyard. William died Dec 2nd 1890, aged 87, Hannah died Oct 7th 1880, aged 81. William, their second son is buried alongside them. He died Feb 6th 1884 aged 53

REFERENCE PAGE 25

William Shorlock was H.M. Inspector at the time and his report was written in the Log Book by William Kidger (School Secretary):-

Inspectors Report May 17th 1865:-

The instruction and discipline are in some respects satisfactory, but there seems to be a rather want of life and spirit in the teaching. A summary register for the weekly, quarterly and yearly averages is required. Floor dirty. proper books should be provided for the first standard. The instructions in sewing should be improved.

William Kidger, Secretary.

The owners of Pegg's Green Colliery in 1856 were given as Kidger and Co (William & Joseph Kidger) Joseph Kidger was also involved with Hall and Boardman's Colliery in Swadlincote. He was also a coal merchant with his own private owner wagons.

By 1857, control of the colliery had passed to Benjamin Walker and William Worswick. It had a short branch rail connection to the Coleorton Railway. For a time, Peggs Green Colliery remained outside the Worswick-Walker Empire, but it must have felt constantly threatened by the developments to the south. Expansion northwards was difficult owing to its proximity to the Thringstone Fault, but this was accomplished in a limited way in 1852 when Price and Company leased 23½ acres of main coal at £75 per acre under part of Griffydam from the Curzon family. Working of coal was made particularly difficult at Peggs Green by the easterly dip of the strata which caused the accumulation of large quantities of water draining from the old workings between there and Lount. Testing by means of a long boring rod was essential when driving headings towards the west. It was probably such difficulties that persuaded one of the main partners to withdraw from the company in 1857, thereby allowing Messrs Walker and Worswick to secure control, but by the end of 1859 the colliery had closed. A shaft was maintained for pumping until c.1950.

CLOSURE OF PEGG'S GREEN COLLIERY

The following notice appeared in "The London Gazette"- Jan 10th 1860

*Notice is hereby given, that the partnership heretofore subsisting between us the undersigned, Thomas Bostock, John Price, **William Kidger**, John Knight, Benjamin Walker, and William Worswick, under the style or firm of Bostock, Price and Co., and sometimes called the **Peggs Green Colliery Company**, or under any other style or firm whatever, has been this day dissolved by mutual consent - dated the third day of December 1859.*

On October 8th 1863, the drowning tragedy of three men occurred at the Califat Colliery (Coleorton No.2. pit) - Jerimiah Rose, Thomas Bird and Henry Clements lost their lives. **It is interesting to note that William Kidger was the foreman of the jury at the coroner's inquest and his son William also sat on the jury. (Please see the publication entitled "The Califat Coal Mine Tragedy" which is free to download and read on the author's website)**

In the 1851 census, William junior is listed as a farmer of 211 acres, employing 7 labourers.. His wife Hannah is now 50. 6 children are living at home - John, 23; William, 21 (butcher); Eliza, 11; Edward, 12; Price, 9; Ann, 5; Sarah Poyser, 21 - house servant: William Toplis, 16 - errand boy. Interestingly, Joseph is missing from the 1851 census as he is recorded as having died on 10th February 1849 (see page 7 showing gravestone).

An early newspaper report established that William Kidger originally killed his beasts away from the premises illegally. Hence an abattoir was established in the farm buildings adjacent to the "White House" at some point, probably between 1851/61

The 1861 census now lists William as a farmer of 245 acres employing 8 labourers and 3 boys. His son William, aged 32, is now farm bailiff. Edward, aged 22, is a shopman and his son **Price**, now 20, is a butcher. Ann, daughter, aged 15 is given as his assistant. They have a 14 year old girl, Harriet Greasley as a domestic servant and a 14 year old boy Frederick Bradley as an agricultural servant living with them. The reference to Edward being a shopman probably infers he looked after the sale of the meat products at the shop on the end of the abattoir.

Leicester Mail – February 29th 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 12th Oct. last. It appeared from the evidence of Mr. Kidger that on the above date, he sent him to pay a bill to Mr. Eagle, a shopkeeper, of Coleorton, giving him the 30s. He, however returned, and said that Mr. Eagle was not at home. He afterwards absconded from his employer, taking the money with him. – P.C. Cheshire proved apprehending the prisoner on a warrant, and telling him the charge. He admitted the offence, and said he had spent it.- **He pleaded guilty, and was sentenced to two months' hard labour.**

In the 1871 census William junior, living on Kidger's Lane, is now given as a farmer of 215 acres with 5 labourers and 3 boys, but is also a shopkeeper. William is now 69 and wife Hannah is 71. His son William, farm bailiff in 1861, and daughter Ann are still living at home unmarried and a granddaughter Edith is also listed. There is a 15 year old girl domestic servant, Harriet Chenery, living there also. William's son William died in 1884, and there is no mention of a butcher in the census. There were several butchers amongst the Kidger's families so it is hard to imagine they would have been short of help in that direction. Many years later it is recalled by locals, including both the author and his wife, that at the end of the abattoir, next to the road, there was a small extension where you could purchase meat etc from, so presumably that is where the reference to a shopkeeper comes from.

One has to ask the question as to who was now living at the "White House" following the death of Price Kidger's mother in 1880 and his father in 1890? The 1901 census does not register any Kidger's in Kidger's Lane even though James Richard's bakehouse and shop which was the next property to the "White House" is recorded. It is quite plausible that their son Price Kidger and his sons Edward Price and Henry Harry were working the farm and the butchers facilities associated with the "White house", and the house was being rented to another family although it is not possible to confirm that from the census records.

FRANK WILLIAM & AND MAUD HILDA KIDGER

In the 1911 census, Frank William Kidger, son of Price Kidger (William & Hannah's son), is listed as a butcher living with his wife Maud Hilda and had been married for less than one year, in a 7 roomed house. Frank is given as a butcher and was aged 33. We know that Frank William and Maud Hilda were married in the 2nd quarter of 1910 and had presumably moved into the "White House" at that time. Frank William died in 1932 and his probate named John Mee Kidger. They didn't have any children. In the 1939 England and Wales register, Maud Hilda Kidger (widow) was living alone at the "White House" and was described as a "Master Butcher - owner", so she was well equipped to run a business which she subsequently did for many years. Maud Hilda passed away in 1977.

The author recalls, that in the 1940's, early 1950's, beast were still killed in the abattoir / slaughter house adjacent to the farm house, and when attending school at Griffydam clearly recalls calling in the shop at the end of the slaughter house to beg a pig's bladder which could be inflated and used as a football.

Arthur Horne who used to work for Mrs. Kidger is recorded in the 1939 register as a 31 year old butcher, living with his wife Olive at "Sunnybanks" just north of the "Red Lion" public house (see map on page 4). This property was originally two dwellings with the house being named "Westbrook House" and the adjoining cottage named "Westward Cottage". Arthur Horne had a van and travelled around the locality selling meat from Maud Hilda's abattoir which he obviously prepared. Their sausages were reputed to be particularly good.

Maud Hilda and Frank William Kidger were both buried in Worthington cemetery and below is a photograph of their grave:



SEE THE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION ON THE "WHITE HOUSE" AND KIDGER'S COTTAGES / ROW ON PAGE 47

PRICE KIDGER AND HIS WIFE SARAH ELIZABETH

In 1871, William & Hannah Kidger's son Price Kidger is now listed as a butcher and living on Froggat's Lane, Pegg's Green, in the second house along from the Griffydham Wesleyan Methodist Day School in the direction towards the Red Lion public house. See the map on page 36 which shows this sizeable house directly across the road from the number 392 and north of the plot of land with the old toll gate house on it numbered 100. Price Kidger is living with his wife Sarah Elizabeth (nee.Templeman) both aged 29 and they have a daughter Elizabeth aged 1, plus a domestic servant Selina Edwards, aged 15.

This property is described as **PEGG'S FARM** house in various trade directories, details of which follow later. Price Kidger is known to have owned land at Osgathorpe and several acres at the rear of his farm house.

In 1870 they had lost their eldest son William who died August 19th, aged 10 weeks, and on April 10th 1875 his sister Sarah died, aged 5 years 2 months. **She was interred in the adjoining grave of Sarah Kidger (William junior and Hannah's daughter) in Griffydham Wesleyan Methodist graveyard.**



By the 1881 census, Price Kidger, aged 39 is now listed as a butcher and grazier in Pegg's Green and is living in the same house (**PEGG'S FARM**) with his wife Sarah, aged 39 and their six children - Elizabeth, 19; Edward Price, 9; Annie Elizabeth, 6; John Mee, 4; Frank William, 2 and Florence E, 1. There is a general servant Mary Oliver, aged 17 and a general servant / butcher named James Burton, aged 22, who later became a master butcher on Eggington Hill, Pegg's Green himself. This was further down the road, just before the junction with Anchor Lane. See the article in part 3 at the end of this publication.

Price Kidger's father, William Kidger junior, died in 1890, his mother Hannah had died in 1880.

In the 1891 census, Price Kidger, aged 49, is living in the same sizeable property (**PEGG'S FARM**), which reportedly had an impressive mahogany staircase. He is given as a butcher and farmer and living with his wife Sarah, aged 49 and 8 children - Edward Price, 19 (farmer's assistant); Annie Elizabeth, 16; John Mee, 14; Frank William, 13; Florence E, 11; Gertrude J, 9; George F, 8; Henry H, 6. Lucy Marshall 13, was a general domestic servant.

In 1901 Price Kidger, aged 60, farmer and butcher, still appears to be living in the same house (**PEGG'S FARM**), with wife Sarah, aged 59. The following children are living with them - Edward Price, 29, farm worker; **John Mee**, 24; Florence E, 21; Gertrude J, 19; George F, 18, railway clerk and Harry, 16, farm worker. For whatever reason, the census enumerator now refers to that area as Main Street which one can only assume it was renamed as that after it ceased to be Froggat's Lane and the turnpike road no longer existed. **It is noticeable that Frank William is missing from this census, as in 1901 he was listed as a journeyman butcher – single, and lodging in Alma Terrace Nottingham with the family of Alfred E Clark (butcher).**

Price Kidger died on the 18th May 1908 at the age of 67 and Sarah Elizabeth died on Dec 7th 1910, aged 69. They were buried in the Griffydam Wesleyan Methodist Chapel graveyard and a newspaper report of Price Kidgers funeral follows.



Melton Mowbray Mercury and Oakham and Uppingham News – May
28th 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 Griffydam, in the presence of a large concourse of relatives and friends.

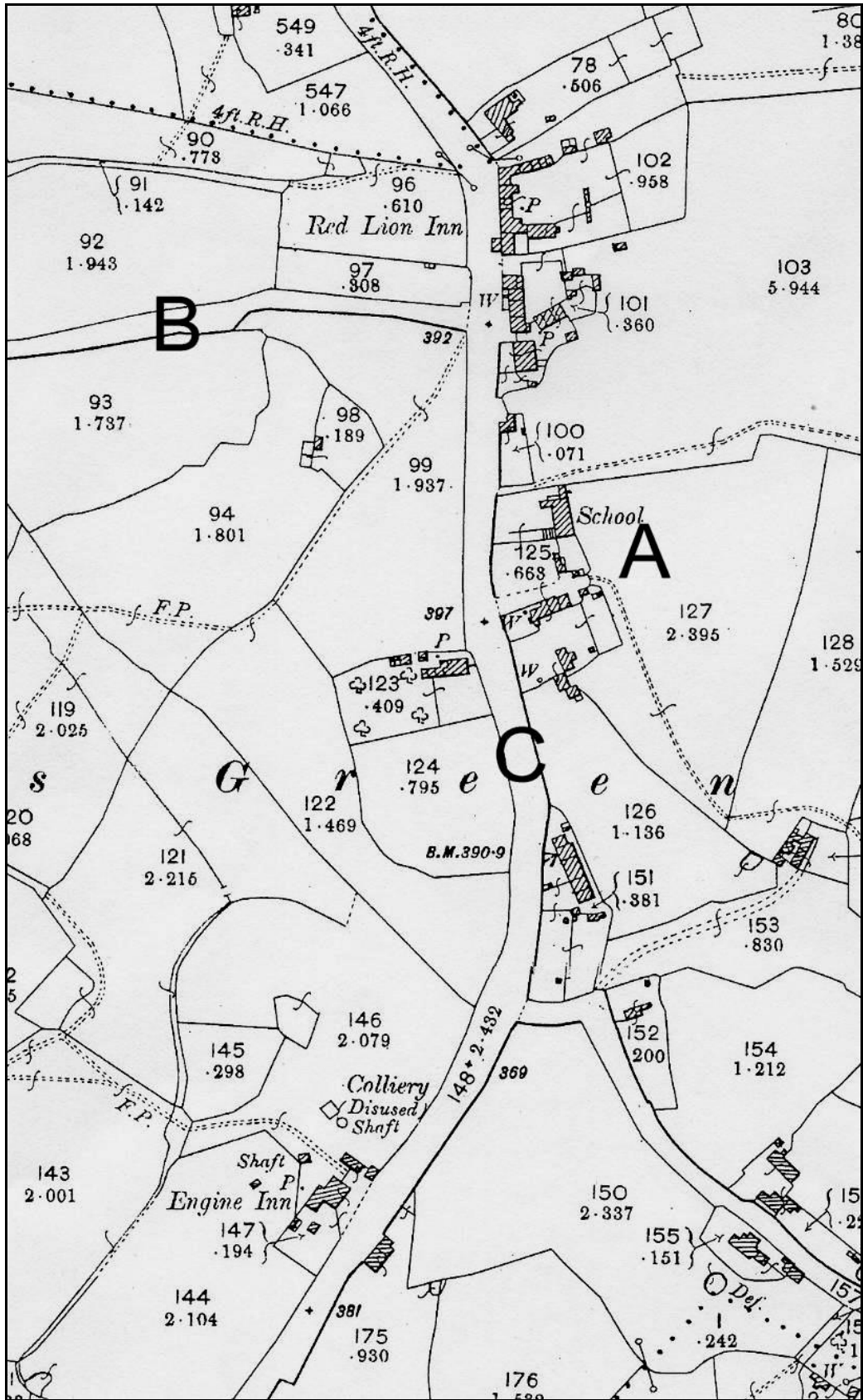
The deceased, who died at the age of 67 years, had been a guardian for thirteen years and was also chairman of Thringstone Parish Council, being appointed after the demise of the Rev. C. E. Crane, previous to which he was vice chairman. He served too, on the Osgathorpe Parish Council by request, having 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 18th, 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 Burton (Pegg's Green); Mr. F. W. Cox (Griffydam); 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 (Griffydam) and Mr. C. Gadsby (Osgathorpe).

There were numerous floral tokens from relatives and friends

On the following page is an extract from the 1903 O/S map which shows the location of Price Kidger's PEGGS FARM house. This the next property directly to the north of plot 100



EXTRACT FROM 1903 O/S MAP

A = Griffydam Wesleyan Day School

B = School Lane

C = Nottingham Road

JOHN MEE KIDGER

Kelly's 1928 trade directory confirms that John Mee Kidger, aged 51, a farmer is living at **PEGG'S FARM house (his father Price Kidger's house)**. From 1905 to 1909 he had been living in Leicester where two daughters were born. He had a butchers shop at 27 Bakewell Street. He returned from Leicester following his father Price Kidgers death in 1908 and subsequent children were born in Thringstone (Pegg's Green?) from 1910 onwards including Marjorie May Templeman Kidger who was born on Dec 13th 1910 in Thringstone (Pegg's Green?). By 1939, John Mee Kidger owned and lived at Lily Bank Farm in Thringstone village, where he resided until his death. It is reasonable to assume therefore that John Mee Kidger went to live in his father's house (**PEGG'S FARM**) after Price Kidger died in 1908 where he was able to carry on his butchers profession.

However, the following appeared in Kelly's 1912 and 1916 trade directories - **John Edward Price Kidger and Henry Harry (sons of Price Kidger) were listed as farmers at PEGG'S FARM, Thringstone, Leics (Pegg's Green)**. This could be interpreted that they resided at **PEGG'S FARM** house prior to John Mee Kidger moving there.

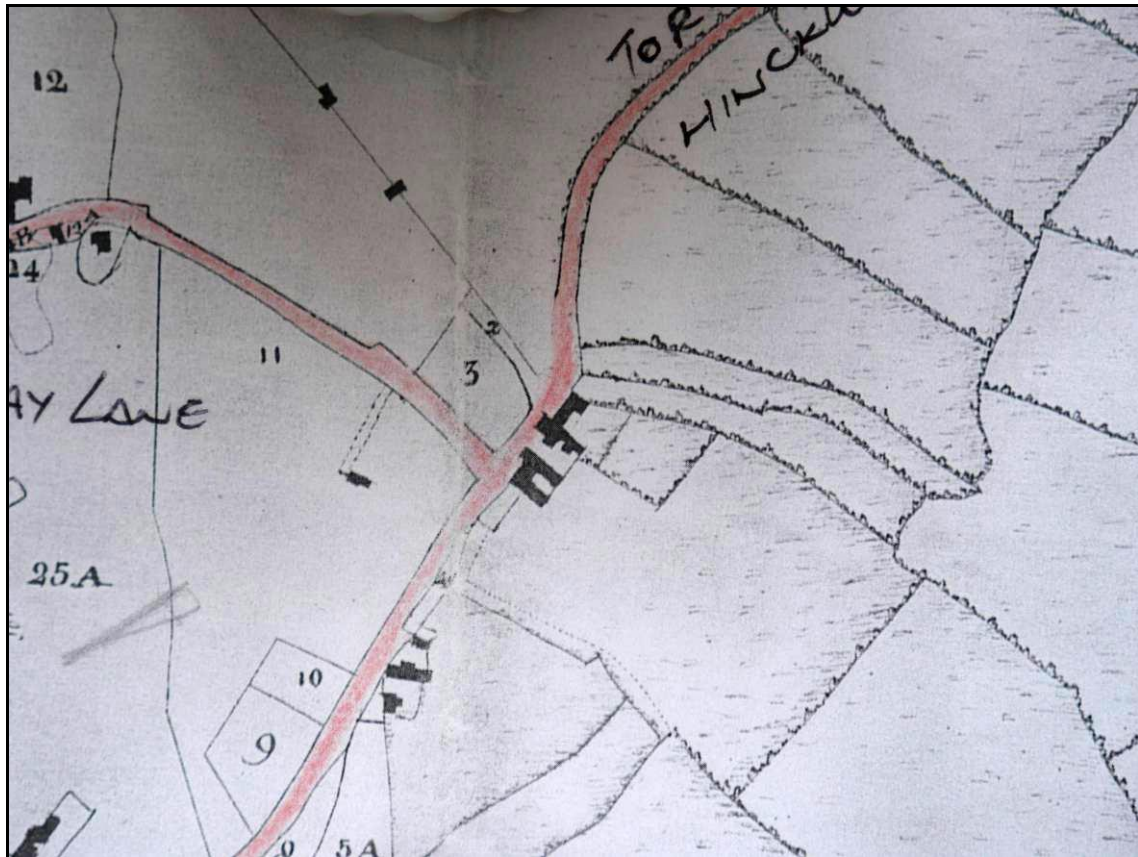
We know that John Edward Price Kidger (known as Price) and his wife Beryl were living in a cottage across the way from **PEGG'S FARM** house c.1975. After 1983, his sister Florence Rosa Stacey (married John Stacey) moved next door into a cottage described as being tiny but just right for a single person.. You entered through an old but functional kitchen at the rear of the property which led into a compact sitting room full of china and a grandfather clock. Upstairs there was one bedroom as the second had been converted into a bathroom. Beryl and Rosa Kidger were apparently not just sister in laws, but really good friends too.

John Mee Kidger was the maternal grandfather of Fred Allgood who is mentioned in the acknowledgements at the front of this publication and his mother was Marjorie May Templeman Kidger.

It seems that no one followed John Mee Kidger into his father's, Price Kidger's house, and it became derelict. Fred Allgood remembers it being derelict in 1960 with a tree growing out of the roof.

SOME THOUGHTS ON PEGG'S FARM

The author has not been able to find an explanation as to how Pegg's Green got its name, and the following is the author's personal interpretation of how this came about through Pegg's Farm.



**EXTRACT FROM THRINGSTONE TOWNSHIP AND PEGG'S GREEN
1807 ENCLOSURE PLAN**

Please note that the 1807 enclosure plan is not terribly accurate in terms of relative scale but is immensely important in terms of providing local history information.

The following refers to the buildings in the centre of the plan (opposite plot 3). These buildings are just to the north of what would be now the exit from School Lane hill onto Nottingham Road. The author's view is that the first U shaped building would have been the original Pegg's Farm House with a yard at the back with probably stables etc coming off the rear. The building to the north could have been farm buildings as well, possibly including cottages for rent to the farm workers.

This building is on the site where the Red Lion was opened c.1842. In fact the Red lion was almost certainly converted from the original Pegg's Farm House and this would explain why it was three stories which most farm houses of any standing were in those times.



THE RED LION – EARLY 1900's

The following 1876 sale description for the Red Lion also suggest it would have been a former farmhouse and not built specifically as a public house.

Leicester Guardian – February 9th 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 18th day of February, 1876, at Five for 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 Hoult.

In the author's view, the large house now known as "Yew Tree Manor" just to the south of where the former Red Lion stands (now a private residence) was built by Price Kidger (1841-1908) and recorded in numerous trade directories as being Pegg's Farm. Price Kidger was recorded as a butcher and farmer at Pegg's Green as far back as 1877. He was a member of the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Board of Guardians for 13 years, a district councillor serving as Chaiman of Thringstone Parish Council and by request on Osgathorpe Parish Council where he owned land. **This was obviously the land,**

including allotments and gardens to the rear of Price Kidger's, Pegg's Farm house that came up for sale in 1980 at the "Gate Inn".



THE HOUSE NOW ON THE SITE OF PRICE KIDGER'S PEGG'S FARM HOUSE IS CURRENTLY NAMED YEW TREE MANOR

RELEVANT TRADE DIRECTORY ENTRIES INCLUDING THOSE FOR PEGG'S FARM

Whites Directory, 1846 - William Kidger - Butcher - presumably at the White House

History, Gazetteer & Directory of Leics & Rutland 1863 - Willam Kidger , butcher - presumably at the White House

History, Gazetteer & Directory of Leics & Rutland 1877 - William Kidger, farmer - Presumably at White House - Price Kidger, butcher and farmer (under Thringstone, but presumed to be Pegg's Green

Wright's Directory of Leics & Rutland 1880 - Price Kidger, farmer & butcher, Pegg's Green - William Kidger, farmer and shopkeeper - presumably at the White House

Wright's Directory of Leics 1887/8 - Price Kidger, farmer and butcher, Pegg's Green

Kelly's Directory of Derbys & Leics, 1891 - Price Kidger, farmer and butcher, PEGGS FARM This is under Thringstone so will be Pegg's Green

Kelly's Directory of Leics & Rutland, 1895 - Price Kidger, butcher and farmer, Pegg's Green

Kelly's Directory of Leics & Rutland 1899 - Price Kidger, PEGGS FARM, Coleorton (another address error).

Also - Price Kidger, butcher and farmer, Peggs Farm

Also - Price Kidger, PEGGS FARM, Coleorton, Ashby-de-la-Zouch (another address error)

Kelly's Directory of Leics & Rutland 1908 - Price Kidger, butcher PEGGS FARM, Coleorton, Ashby-de-la-Zouch (another address error)

The address has now changed to Coleorton which often happened, but there is no reason to believe it is not the same property in Pegg's Green. The following two Kelly's directories revert to Thringstone, Leics, meaning Pegg's Green)

In Kelly's 1912 and 1916 trade directories, Edward Price Kidger and Henry Harry (sons of Price Kidger) were listed as farmers at PEGG'S FARM, Thringstone, Leics (Pegg's Green).

The references above to PEGG'S FARM after 1895 is of interest, although it is felt that the reference in two directories to it being in Coleorton is not correct. The relevant censuses confirm that Price Kidger did not move from the property indicated on page 11, neither interestingly did they make any reference to PEGG'S FARM.

Price Kidger died in 1908, hence no further references to him in trade directories.

In 1912 and 1916 Henry (Harry) and his brother Frank William were listed as farmers at PEGG'S FARM.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION ON
PRICE KIDGER (1841 TO 1908) AND HIS FAMILY**

THE FERRER'S CUP AWARDED FOR HARE COURSING



**STAUNTON HAROLD
1882
1ST PRIZE
WON BY
"SHINER"
BY EARL FERRER'S "WONDER" - "HIS" SCANDAL
WALKED BY
PRICE KIDGER OF GRIFFYDAM
(PEGG'S GREEN ???)**

Hare coursing is basically the pursuit of hares with greyhounds.

The cup, now in possession of a descendant of the family, was presumably awarded to Price Kidger on the basis that as Earl Ferrer's greyhound won the final race and therefore would have been awarded to him, it was decided to present it to Price Kidger who had walked the dog (thought to be the "Slipper"). Although the cup was awarded to Price in 1882, there follows an example of an "Open Greyhound Coursing Meeting" held at Staunton Harold in 1858. In 1882 Sewallis Edward Shirley, 10th Earl Ferrers (1847 to 1912) who had inherited the estate from his father at the age of twelve was residing at Staunton Harold.

Legal, formal hare coursing had a number of variations in how it was undertaken. Open coursing took place in the open field, and closed coursing (or park or Irish style) took place in an enclosure with an escape route. Open coursing was either run as walked-up coursing, where a line of people walk through the countryside to flush out a hare, or as driven coursing, where hares are driven by beaters towards the coursing field. In each case, when a suitable hare appears, a person known as a slipper uses a slip with two collars to release two dogs at the same time, in pursuit of the hare which was given a head start (known as fair law), usually between 80–100 yards. The chased hare would run at around 24-26 mph and the course lasted around 35-40 seconds over 0.3 miles. The greyhounds which pursued the hare, would be faster and start to catch up with it. As greyhounds are much larger than hares but less agile, they find it difficult to follow the hares' sharp turns which they make to avoid the dogs. The agility gave the hare an important and often crucial advantage as it sought to escape. Under some coursing club rules, the dogs were awarded points on how many times they could turn the hare, and how closely they force the hare's progress. In the UK, the contest between the greyhounds was usually judged from horseback, and the winning greyhound proceeded to the next round of a knock-out tournament. The 2003 UK coursing season ran from 1st October to 28th February.

EXAMPLE OF GREYHOUND OPEN COURSING MEETINGS HELD AT STAUNTON HAROLD BY THE 9TH EARL FERRERS, WASHINGTON SEWALLIS SHIRLEY (1822-1859),

During the time the 9th Earl was resident at Staunton Harold, the 1853 Railway act was passed for the proposed route of the Midland Railway section from Melbourne to Ashby. The map shows a rather interesting feature in the Township of Staunton Harold, namely a "racecourse". It has taken considerable research to find out why this was indicated on the map. This wasn't a horse racing course as first thought, but was actually an area used for "Hare Coursing". This was the forerunner of greyhound racing as we know it today, where an artificial hare / lure on a wire is chased around a track by greyhounds. Several newspaper accounts have been found, and an example of a hare coursing meeting held at Staunton Harold is recorded here. It took place only 3 months prior to the 9th Earl's death.

LEICESTER JOURNAL – DECEMBER 3RD 1858

STAUNTON HAROLD OPEN COURSING MEETING through the courtesy of Earl Ferrers, took place on Tuesday last the 30th ult. The day being unfavourable, it was thought it would prevent many from attending, but it proved quite the reverse, for we never saw such numerous company. There was some most splendid running, in fact, we may say, although a postponed meeting, it was in every sense a most successful one. The two dogs left in for the Ferrer's Cup, being bred by the same gentleman (Mr. Bradshaw of Barrow), their nominators, at his request, agreed to divide, although the Benedict party were anxious to run it out for the sake of the cup. Benedict was the

favourite at 6 to 4. Mr. Warwicks manner and decisions gave general satisfaction. The Stewards were, Mr. Brunt, Mr. T. Earp, and Mr. Wilson; judge, Mr. Warwick; flag steward, Mr. Bancroft; slipper, Mr. Peters; honorary secretary, Mr. T. Davenport.

THE FERRER'S CUP

For sixteen greyhounds at £3 12s. 6d each, the winner to receive £30 with a Silver Cup added, the second dog £10, the third and fourth dogs £3 each.

THE FERRER'S CUP		
Red	Against	White
J.R. Blount blk b MERRY		Earl Ferrer's blue b STELLA
Bancroft's blk d BILLY		J. Holliers blk & w d BENIDICT
Hawkesworth's r b HELEN		J. Smith's blk b p BRIDESMAID
Newham's fwn & w d TOPPER		Earl Ferrer's w & y b CAPSUL
Brunt's blk b BETSY BAKER		J. Smith's blk b p BESS
Davy's w & blk d MOSCOW		Woodward's r & wd WINDSOR
Cockram's Fn d CHESTERFIELD		J. Hollier's FN d ELLINGTON
T. Keetley's blue & w b p FAIRY THE SECOND		Woodward's bkd WETHERGAUGE

HEATS

1

Benedict	Merry
Topper	Helen
Bess	Windsor
Fairy the Second	Ellington

2

Benedict	Topper
Fairy the Second	Bess

3

Benedict and Fairy the Second divided the stakes

THE STAUNTON HAROLD STAKES

For eight puppies at £2 12s 6d each, the winner to receive £12, the second £6.

THE STAUNTON HAROLD STAKES FOR PUPPIES OF 1857		
J. Smith's blk b BESSY SANSOME		Woodward's fn d WIRKSWORTH
Earl's blk b FLY		Mellor's w & blk b DAISY
Campbell's fwn b PRINCESS		Woodward's blue d WELL-I-
	NEVER	
J. Radford's blk d RAILWAY		Mellor's w & blk d ALMA

HEATS

1.

Fly	Daisy
Well – I – Never	Railway

2.

Fly beat Well – I – Never, and won the stake

PHOTOGRAPHS OF PRICE & SARAH'S SONS



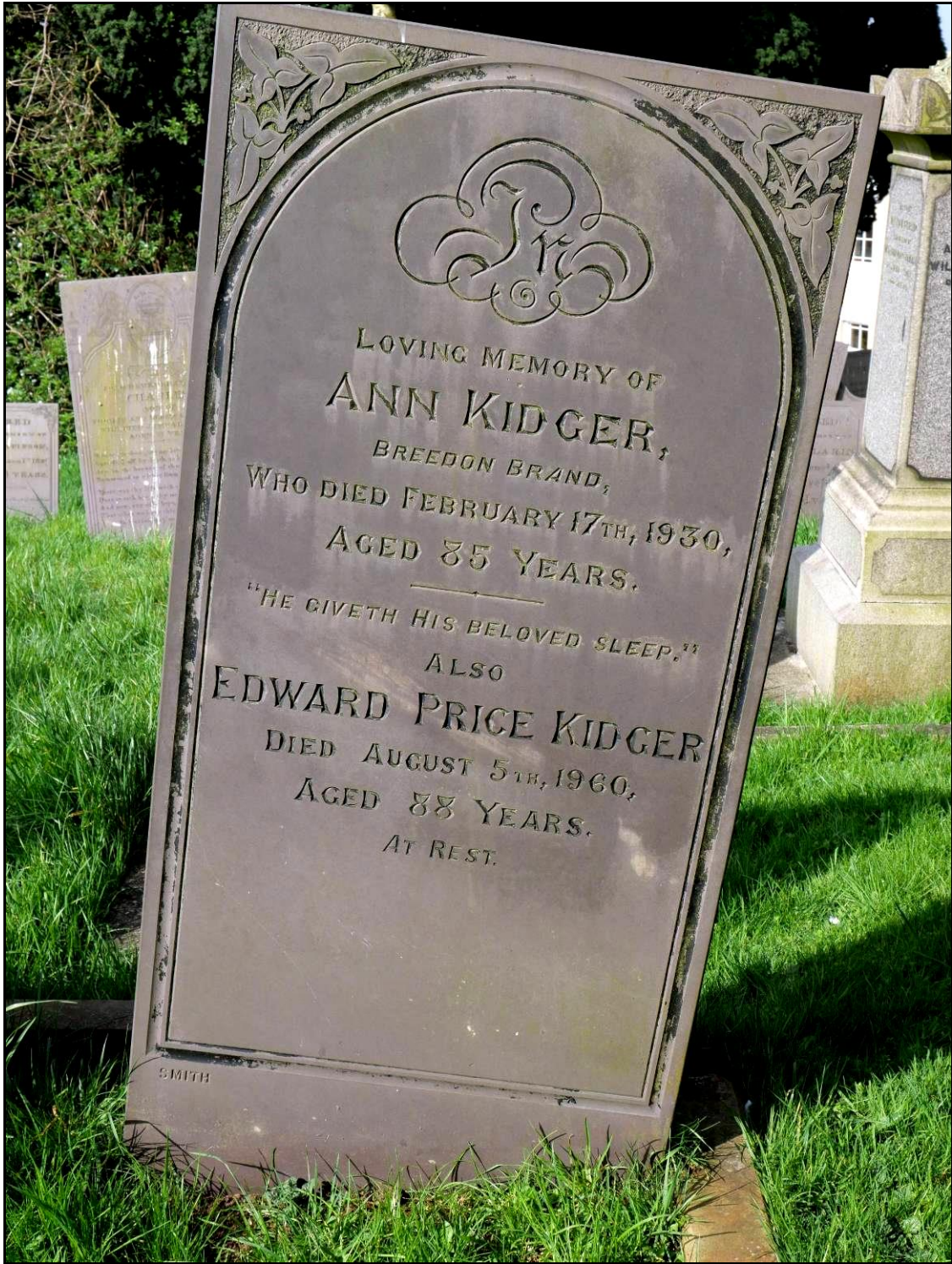
LH SIDE - EDWARD PRICE KIDGER
RH SIDE - HENRY HARRY KIDGER IN HIS ARMY UNIFORM

Apparently, Edward Price was kicked in the head by a horse at some point and needd ongoing family support. He is buried in Griffydam Wesleyan Chapel graveyard along with his Auntie Ann who was William Kidger junior and Hannah's daughter. She lived on the "Top Breedon Brand". See the following photograph of the grave.

The Coalville Times At War Friday March 10th 1916 (Issue 1253) gives these details of the COALVILLE TRIBUNAL -

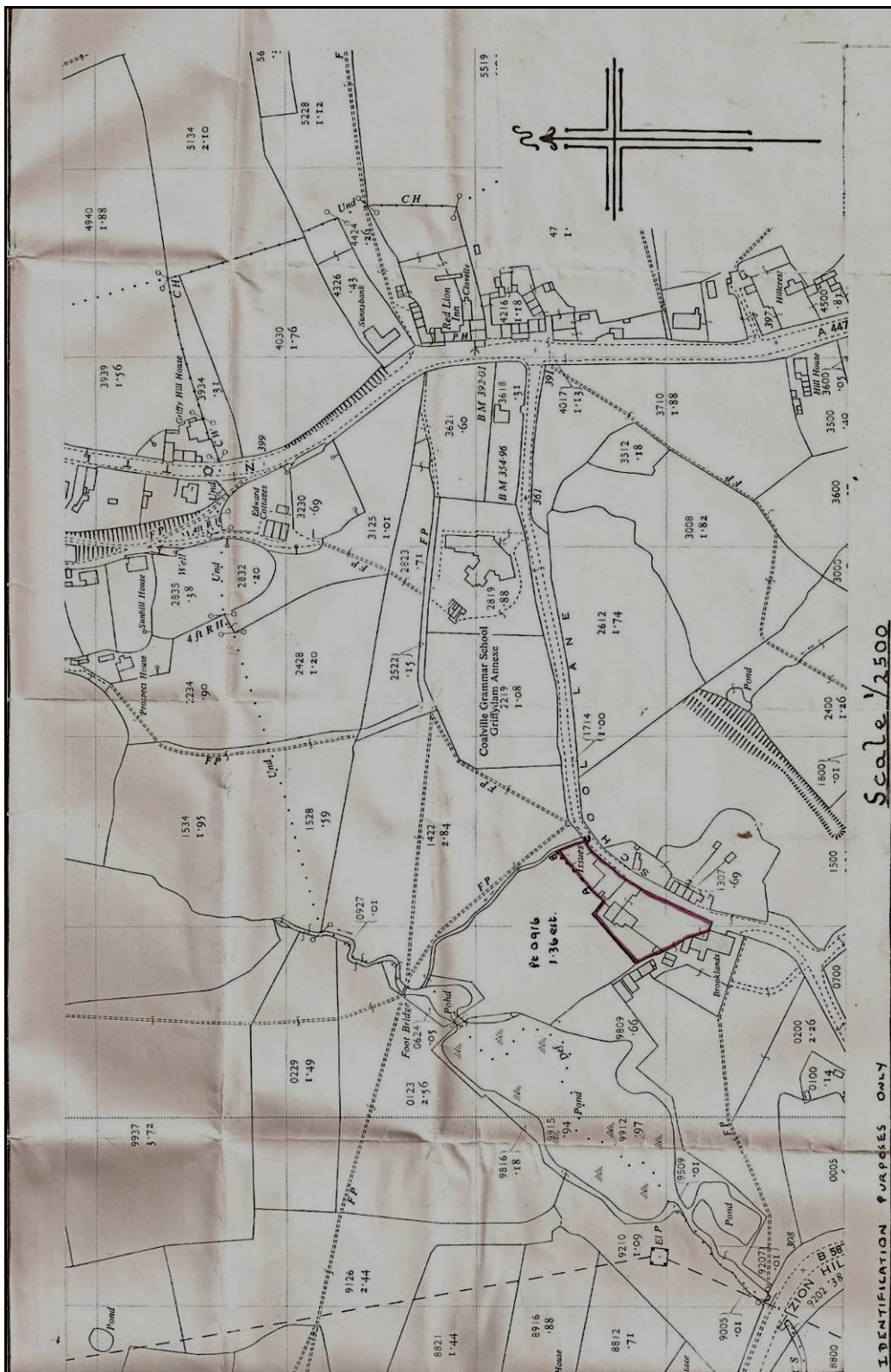
Henry Harry Kidger, butcher, Pegg's Green, aged 32, applied for total exemption on the ground that he was indispensable to the business he carried on with his brother. Answering Captain Phillimore, he admitted that his brother could slaughter. The latter was 38, and married.

This was quite common amongst farmers sons and there were a number of similar applications in the locality.



ANN AND EDWARD PRICE KIDGER'S GRAVE

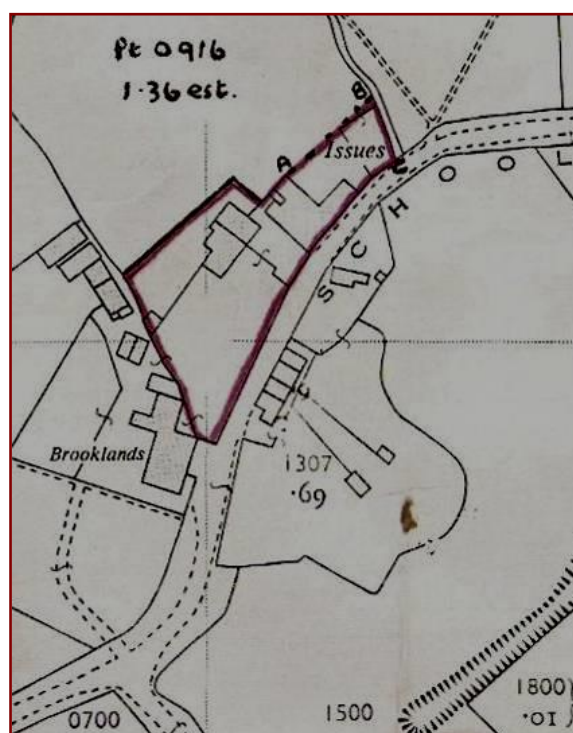
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION ON THE "WHITE HOUSE" AND KIDGER'S COTTAGES / ROW



**MAP PRODUCED FOR 1979 SALE OF THE "WHITE HOUSE" -
"WHITE HOUSE PLOT" OUTLINED IN RED - INCLUDED FOR REFERENCE**

Close inspection of the extract from the 1835 issued O/S map on page 35 shows that the "White house" existed at that time in some form together with farm buildings adjacent to it. There is no evidence available to prove who built the "White House" and when. The 1835 map also shows a building existed diagonally across the road from the "White House" where what eventually became known as Kidger's Row existed, first as two semi-detached cottages and later 4 terraced cottages. The latter are shown in the following enlarged extract from the preceding map approximately in the centre on plot 1307, together with two remote shared privies up the gardens. **They appeared as a terraced row of 4 cottages with the privies on the 1881 surveyed O/S map.**

The 1807 enclosure map does show buildings in that area and one of these could be judged to be the former "White house".



Kidger's Row / Cottages were first identified as being built in 1860 for the Kidger family, who lived in the "White house" diagonally opposite, which is now known as "Yew Tree House". Records show they were originally 2 semi-detached cottages – one occupied by **Mary Kidger** and the other by Joseph Hickling. However, by 1883 they were occupied by 4 families - Davis, Barnett, Elliott and Grant (still owned by the Kidger family). In 1932 they were occupied by Bradford, Walker, Elliott and Grant families. The 4 cottages were at one time known as "Kidgers Row" but by the time the Howdens' purchased them they were described as "The Terrace". The Howdens' subsequently developed them into one family property over a period of years.

They were originally small, brick-built cottages – two up, two down – with two shared outside "privies" at the top of the garden. One still exists rather precariously, and covered in ivy which the cottage current owners the Dillon's use as a garden store. The cottage is now known as "Froggarts' Cottage". Each of the 4 cottages measured 20ft from front to back and 12ft wide, 2 up 2 down, to accommodate whole families. Interestingly, for such a small building, the 4 cottages are on two levels – the front room being a step down from the back room, and as the lane sloped, they stepped down from one cottage to the next. There was no pavement of course so they stood directly adjacent to the road.

The original cottages had straightforward pitched roofs. In order to raise the height of the ceilings, the Howdens installed 4 dormer windows at the front. Although now rendered and painted, the original cottages were brick. They were solid brick, cavity walls not coming into general use until the 20th century, so they were probably quite difficult to heat. From the remaining chimney-breasts and flues in the house it would appear that each cottage had two fireplaces, one in each downstairs room. The author recalls them being in brick and that the front room was used as a kitchen and lead piping came through the wall into drains on the side of the road. Mains sewerage didn't arrive until the early 1970s.

The families had access to water from a well in the lane. School Lane had various names over the years. Certainly in 1920 it was referred to as Froggart's Lane, **presumably a derivative of Froggart's Lane which used to run along what is now Nottingham Road as an extension of the Hinckley to Melbourne turnpike.** For a long time the lane did not join with the Top Road in this area and the 1835 O/S map shows it didn't join with Froggart's Lane at the top of the hill due to the escarpment in that area, as it does now


When the Howdens purchased from Mrs Kidger, the stamped conveyancing document dated Feb 1978 describes the property as "parcel of land situate in School Lane (formerly Froggart's Lane)". In 1946, the will and probate of one Phoebe Hallam shows her resident at Froggart's Lane, Peggs Green. Other names on record are "Occupation Road", Kidger's Lane and currently School Lane.

THE SALE BY AUCTION OF THE "WHITE HOUSE"

Maud Hilda Kidger died in 1978 and the "White House" was put up for auction in 1979. There follows the advertising material related to the sale. This included the map shown on pages 4 and 28:-

LEICESTERSHIRE

**THE WHITE HOUSE
PEGGS GREEN
COLEORTON**



TO BE OFFERED FOR SALE BY AUCTION
by Messrs.

HACKNEY & SONS

at

**THE TRAVELLERS REST
GRIFFYDAM**

on

THURSDAY 28th JUNE, 1979
at 6.30 p.m.

Subject to Special Conditions of Sale

Auctioneers' Offices:—

16a Station Road, Hinckley. Tel. 32212/3	Harefield Road, Nuneaton. Tel. 383494
--	---

Vendor's Solicitors:—
Messrs. Hinckley, Birch & Exham, 20 St. John Street, Lichfield. Tel. 22491/2

Verged Red on Plan.

PARTICULARS

A Delightful Country Residence

known as

**THE WHITE HOUSE
SCHOOL LANE, PEGGS GREEN
COLEORTON**

which occupies a most quiet and pleasant position adjoining a village lane. The house, which possesses a wealth of internal charm and character, is constructed of brick (rendered) with tiled roof and affords the following accommodation:—

GROUND FLOOR

BREAKFAST ROOM

(16ft x 15ft) Quarry tiled floor. Tiled fireplace and hearth having attractive mahogany surround. Exposed central beam.

RECEPTION/DINING HALL

(15ft x 14ft 6in) Quarry tiled floor. Exposed central ceiling beam. Inglenook tiled fireplace and hearth with two built-in side cupboards having three drawers below and plate rack over. Two power points. Open railed staircase off having store below. Two further built-in cupboards.

SITTING ROOM

(15ft 2in x 13ft 4in) Concrete floor. Boxed in central beam. Tiled fireplace and hearth having built-in cupboards to side. Further range of built-in cupboards having attractive matching doors. T.V. point. Two power points.

KITCHEN

(15ft 8in x 12ft) Quarry tiled floor. "Rayburn" Regent solid fuel boiler with oven in tiled alcove supplying domestic hot water. Deep glazed sink (H&C and Soft). Electric pump for drawing soft water from well. Two power points. Second staircase with store below.

LARGE DAIRY

(12ft 3in x 8ft 10in) having large quarry tiles to floor. Tiled thrall to two sides. Wall shelving. Power point and light point. Beam to ceiling.

STAIRCASE TO FIRST FLOOR

BEDROOM No. 1

(15ft 3in x 14ft 9in) having pull light switch. Tiled fireplace and hearth and built-in cupboard.

BEDROOM No. 2

(15ft 2in x 13ft 3in) Tiled fireplace and hearth. Built-in cupboard to side. Two power points.

BEDROOM No. 3

(16ft x 15ft) Pull light switch. Two power points. Built-in cupboard.

BEDROOM No. 4

(12ft 3in x 8ft 10in).

BATHROOM

White suite comprising bath (H&C). bracket wash basin (H&C), low flush W.C., "Dimplex" wall heater, airing cupboard with copper cylinder.

OUTSIDE

A large cultivated walled garden is to the front of the house with established trees and shrubs. A rear garden adjoins open fields.

SERVICES

Mains electricity, water and drainage.

OUTGOINGS

Rateable value — £194.00

Current yearly rates — £137.04

THE BUILDINGS

are mainly situated to the side of the property and approached over the concrete entrance yard. Mains water and electricity are connected. We understand that the property was once the local butcher's premises with the shop and usual outbuildings complementary to that trade. There is also a disused baker's oven. Being mainly of brick and tiled construction they comprise:—

FORMER WASHHOUSE**WORKSHOP**

(13ft 6in x 11ft 4in) with concrete floor. Exposed beams to ceiling. Power point and light point.

OPEN FRONTED STORE

most suitable for conversion to garage, having brick floor with loft over.

GARAGE

(13ft 6in x 12ft 2in) having concrete floor. Sliding timber door. Exposed beamed ceiling with loft over. Disused baker's oven to rear with brick steps to loft over.

ADJOINING FUEL STORE**POTTING SHED**

to rear with copper.

LOOSE BOX**STABLE**

with concrete floor. Wooden partition brick mangers having hay racks over.

LOOSE BOX

(13ft 10in x 12ft 6in) concrete floor and exposed rafters.

LARGE LOOSE BOX

(27ft 5in x 12ft 2in) concrete floor with tiled food trough.

TWO PIG STYES AND TWO CALF PENS requiring renovation.

There is a small grass area at the rear.

The property in all extends to approximately

.60 OF AN ACRE

VACANT POSSESSION WILL BE GIVEN UPON COMPLETION OF THE PURCHASE

Clearly the "White House" didn't sell at the first auction at the "Travellers Rest" as a later auction was held on the premises.

By direction of the Exors of Mrs. M. H. Kidger
THE WHITE HOUSE
SCHOOL LANE, PEGGS GREEN
COLEORTON
Sale of the
ANTIQUE AND MODERN HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE
including: Mahogany Sideboards, Dining Tables, Mahogany and Oak Chests of Drawers, Elm Chest, Dining and Fireside Chairs, 3-piece Suite, Cottage-style 3-piece Suite, Mahogany Half Tester, Bedroom Suites, Mahogany Commode, Kitchen Cupboards, Carpets, Pictures and Prints, China and Glassware and many other items of interest
Also Various Old
FARM IMPLEMENTS
including: Pony Plough, Horse Hoe, Cake Breaker, etc.
Sale to be held on the Premises on
THURSDAY, 19th JULY, 1979
commencing at 1.00 p.m. prompt
Catalogues from the Auctioneers:
HACKNEY & SONS
16a Station Road, Hinckley. Tel. 32212/3.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION ON THE
ESCARPMENT AT THE TOP OF
WHAT BECAME SCHOOL LANE HILL**



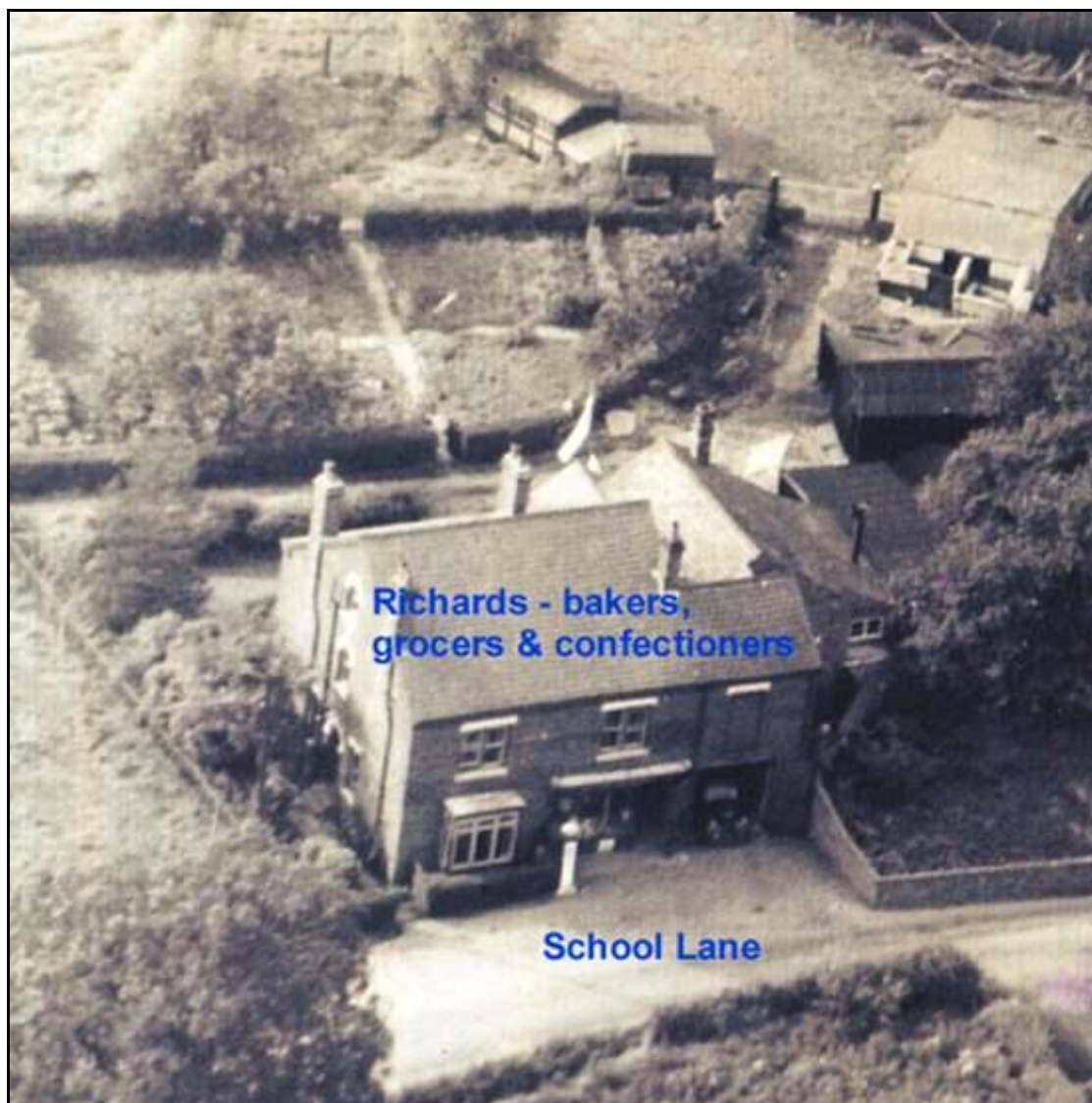
**EXTRACT FROM 1835 FIRST EDITION O/S MAP
(TWO YEARS AFTER PEGGS GREEN COLLIERY OPENED)**

This map has been included to show that the escarpment in the area at top of what became School Lane hill prevented vehicles joining with the Melbourne to Hinckley extension known as Froggat's Lane which ran from the Melbourne to Hinckley turnpike near Tugby's Lane along what is now Nottingham Road as far as Rempstone cross roads to meet with the Ashby to Rempstone turnpike road. Froggat's Lane also turned down what is now Storden Lane and continued on till it met the Ashby to Loughborough turnpike. It also continued on along the Top Brand to Redgate Toll Gate. There is some evidence to suggest that a trackway would have been in use through the escarpment but it is unlikely that it would ever have become a useable road for horse drawn waggons.

Just before the letter **A**, a track turned left towards Griffy Well and just after there returned up to the turnpike (Nottingham Road), thereby bypassing the escarpment. The track from Griffy Well up to the former turnpike is still in use.

PART 2

THE RICHARD'S FAMILY OF PEGG'S GREEN



RICHARDS BAKERY AND SHOP c. 1953.

Richard's Bakery and the adjacent grocery and confectionery shop was first opened by James Richards. Based on the 1903 and 1923 O/S maps we can determine it was built between those dates. The bakery closed c.1970, and was later converted into a private house, named "Brooklands".

James Richards senior, was recorded in the 1891 census as being a baker and grocer in Kidger's Lane (one of the former colloquial names for what is now School Lane), but the author cannot be sure where the original business was located. James Richards senior who died in 1909 was married to Sarah, who died in 1906 and they were buried in Griffydarn Wesleyan Methodist graveyard.

Presumably the new premises was built by his son James Richards junior, who subsequently died in 1934. James Richards junior whose wife was named Bertha and

their daughter Eileen were also buried in Griffydam Wesleyan Methodist graveyard also.

The Richards were staunch supporters of the new Coleorton Primitive Methodist Chapel, and it was recorded in the Trustees Book in 1924, that in order to purchase the "Chapel Field", Mr J Richards Junior would lend the money (£275) and that it would be paid back at 4.25% interest.

Following his death, James Richards junior left the business to his son Enoch. The bakery and ovens were on the RH side of the building and were accessed through an archway. There was a general grocery and confectionery shop to the left side of the bake house. This was somewhere that children on their way back home from Griffydam Infant School could buy goodies. The author has fond memories of going into this treasure trove to buy "liquorish wood" which the more senior members of the community will remember. You had to chew this and it gave off the flavour of liquorish. An old petrol pump (Shell?) stood at the front, which can be seen in the photograph and it was fascinating as a child to see it working and smell the petrol fumes.

Enoch ran the bakery, and his wife Millie looked after the shop which she came into from the house when the shop door bell rang as you entered. They had a white parrot which used to be in the hallway in a cage.

Eileen, Enoch's sister, lived with them for a time and. Eileen was one of the first people to own a car in the area, which from memory, was a "Lanchester" model. It can be seen in the entrance to the bakery in the preceding photograph.

Eileen built the row of houses at the bottom of Zion Hill and rented them out.. She eventually went to live in the property at the entrance to Stordon Lane (formerly Froggat's Road) just before the Rempstone cross roads

Wonderful bread and cakes were made in the bakery, and cream horns and vanilla slices were a speciality. Margaret Bannister, the author's Mother in Law worked there for many years filling the cream horns and vanilla slices.

There follows a photograph of James Richards junior's bread delivery van with Enoch Richards sitting on the running board. The vehicle is pre 1932 registration.

Their bread was delivered around the local area, and in the 1950/1960's they had two bread rounds, the vans were driven by Albert and Jimmy Weston who both lived on Zion Hill. The rounds were very extensive, and they delivered bread as far as the Holly Bush Pub at Cloud Hill quarry, where Albert could imbibe of a swift half or two it was recalled by his young delivery assistant at the time. The Holly Bush was demolished in 1965 so that the quarry could be extended.

The bakery closed c.1970, and was later converted into a private house, named "Brooklands".

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