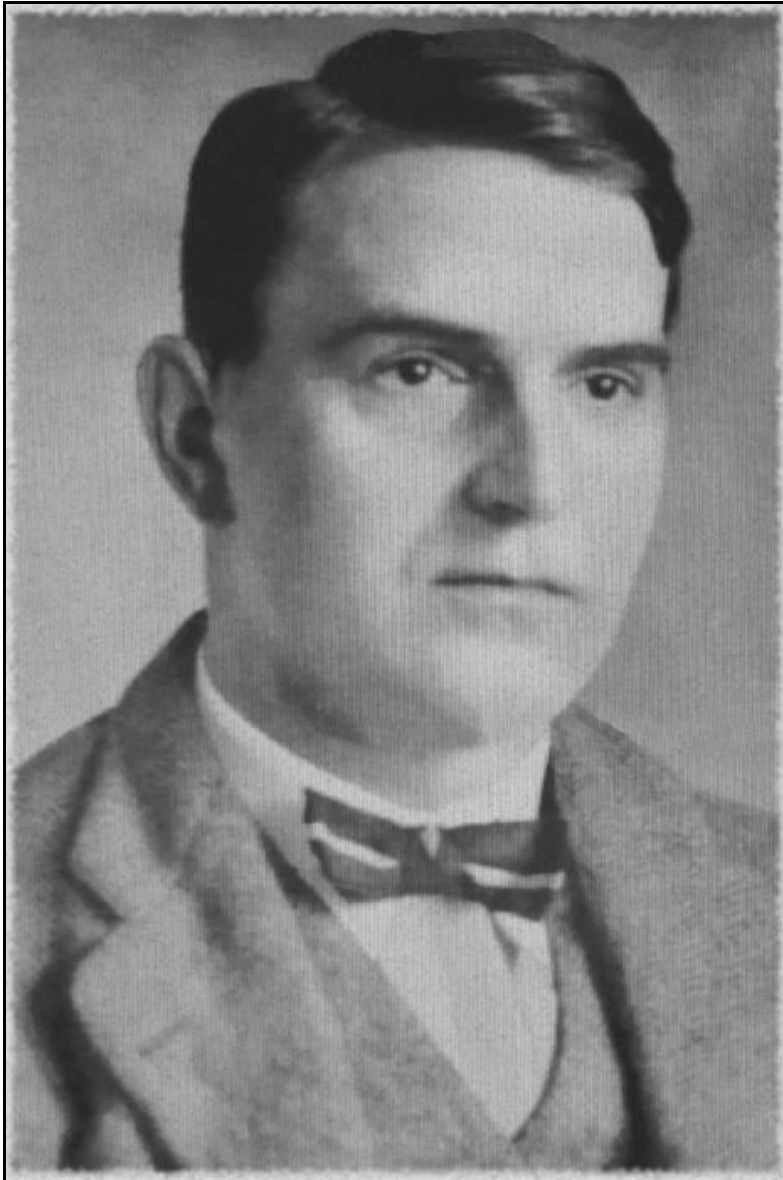


**FRANK HODGES - RESPECTED BUSINESS  
MAN & BENEFACTOR TO NEWBOLD**

(Includes supplementary information on Edward Martin)



**FRANK HODGES**

**BY SAMUEL T STEWART - DECEMBER 2021**

## **SOME COMPLIMENTARY READING**

The author has written numerous publication on social and industrial history on the locality. These are free to download and read on the author's website - <https://samuelstewart940.wixsite.com/mysite>

The following complimentary reading to this publication is recommended:-

- Newbold Brickworks
- Coal Distillation Manufacturing Plants at Newbold
- New Lount Colliery Pit Head Baths and Canteen
- New Lount Colliery Drift Mine Shaft and Man Rider Project
- In memory of Coal Miners Who Died Whilst Working at New Lount Colliery
- Coal Mining, Brick & Sanitary Pipe Making in the Vicinity of Newbold (plus supplements)
- A Drift Shaft From Disused Coleorton No.3. Colliery to New Lount Colliery
- Griffydam Home Guard With Supplementary Information on Other Local Home Guard Platoons (includes New Lount Colliery HG platoon)

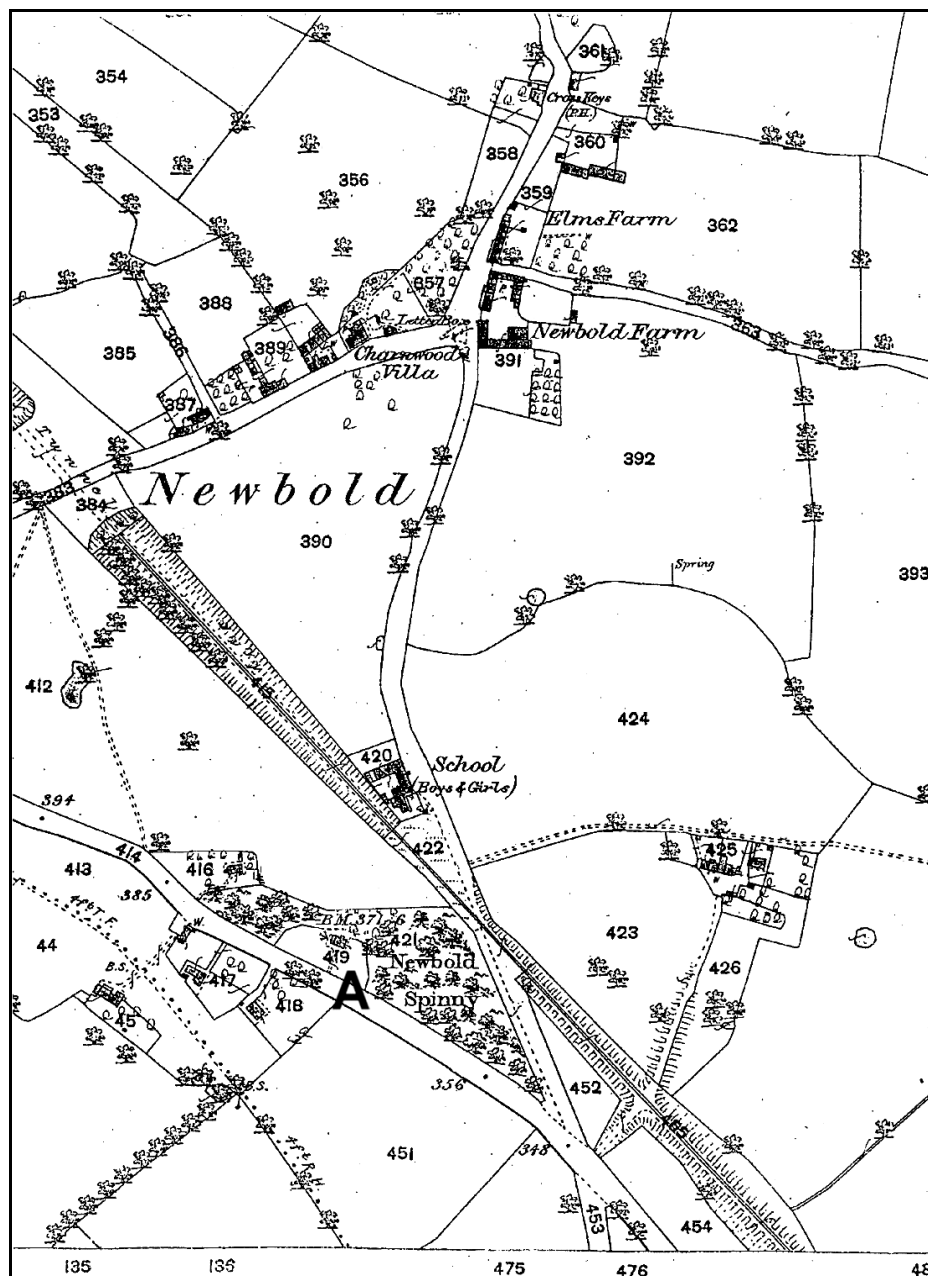
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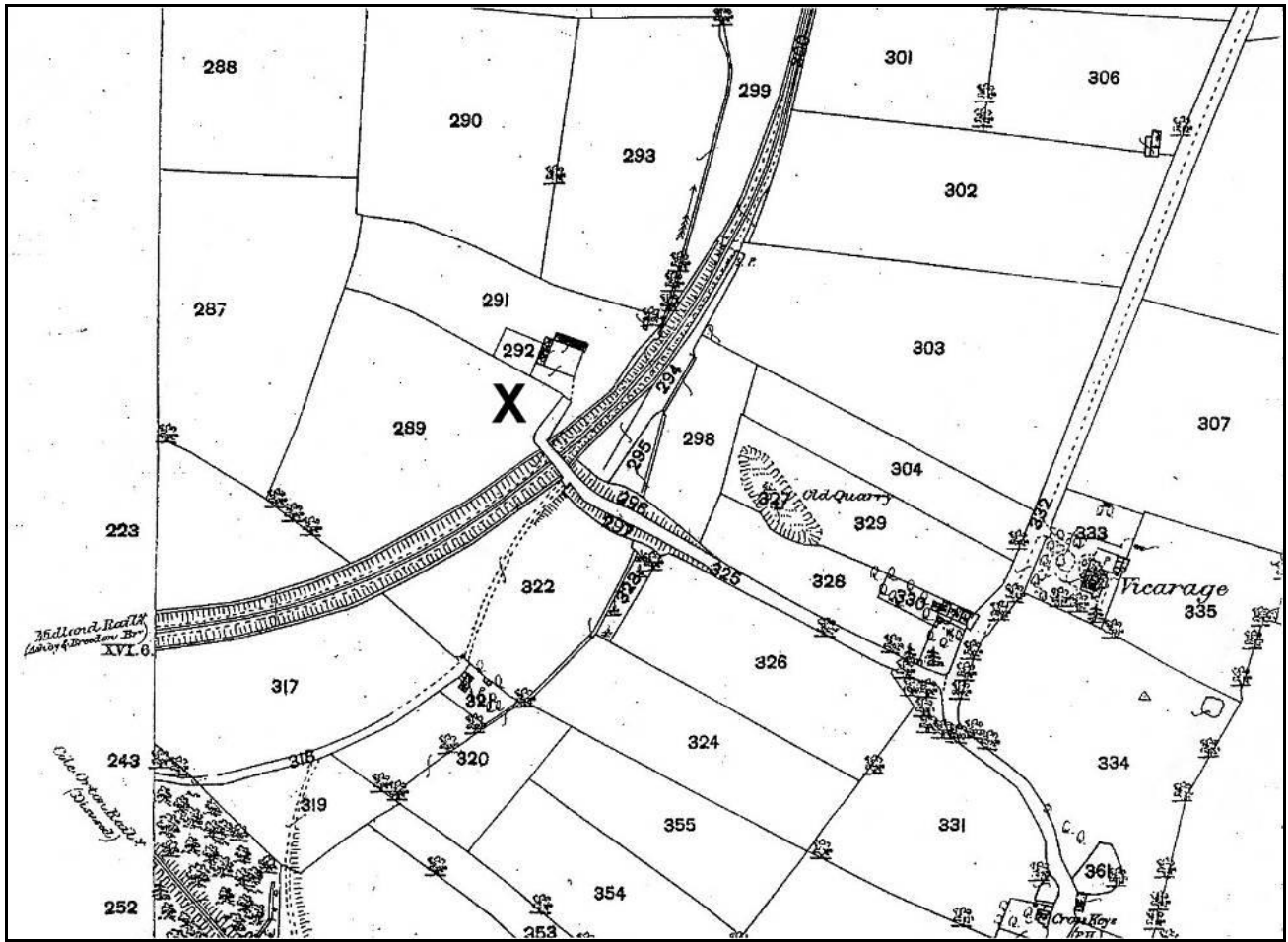
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## THE HAMLET OF NEWBOLD IN 1885

The purpose of including the following maps is to compare what the hamlet of Newbold was like 136 years ago with the changes in the village we see today. The catalyst for the increase in housing at Newbold was undoubtedly the opening of New Lount Colliery, Newbold Brickworks Company and Newbold Pipeworks. These initially being the houses organised to be built by Frank Hodges due to his association with New Lount Colliery etc., and at the same time the building of the council houses to the north was taking place.

The two following O/S maps show the extent of Newbold in 1885. The second map shows the area to the north, from the Cross Keys. We will refer to the hamlet of Newbold as consisting of a few houses to the NW side of Ashby Road, two farms and the "Cross Keys" public house with the public well in the centre at the junction of School Lane and Ashby Road. To the South and North are Newbold School and the rectory for St. Mary's Church, Worthington respectively. There were only a handful of other properties dotted around.





It will prove difficult for those relatively new to the village of Newbold to imagine what it would have been like in 1885 and subsequently when Staunton Colliery, Worthington Colliery, New Lount Colliery, Newbold Brickworks and Pipeworks and the Midland Railway were in operation, but hopefully this publication and others by the author will help to increase their knowledge of the social and industrial history that formed part of the fabric of this village.

## FRANK HODGES

### INTRODUCTION

Frank Hodges made a considerable contribution to the village of Newbold, and was the driving force behind several projects, provided employment, houses for managers and miners, and also had street lighting installed amongst other things.

He was also seen as somewhat of a “poacher turned gamekeeper” having been elected secretary of the MFGB (Miner's Federation of Great Britain) in 1919 who fought for the miners interests and negotiated their terms and conditions with the government of the day. However, in his own collieries he is recorded as developing a sound reputation as an employer, and was judged to have “marked vision and business capacity” in his colliery concerns.

Frank Hodges came to the local area when he was appointed Chairman and MD of The Leicestershire Colliery & Pipe Co. Ltd and M.D of New Lount Colliery which was in their ownership, with a remit from the Bank of England to resolve problems at the colliery which was performing badly and losing money.

On Jan 1<sup>st</sup> 1947, at which time Frank Hodges J.P. of “Rotherwood House, Tamworth Road, Ashby-De-La-Zouch was chairman and M.D., New Lount Colliery was nationalised and became part of the N.C.B. East Midlands Division, Area No.8.

Six months later Frank passed away at the relatively young age of sixty. He had been ill with heart trouble for two years, and seriously ill for about eight weeks. He passed away at a convalescent home in Ruthin, Denbighshire, on the morning of Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1947, leaving his widow, daughter and a granddaughter.

## TIME LINE FOR FRANK HODGES

- 1887** - Born in Woolaston, Gloucester in 1887 into a farming family
- 1893** - The family moved to Abertillery, Monmouthshire to find work in the mining industry.
- 1901** - Commenced work at Powell Tillery Pits, Abertillery, Wales, after leaving school at age 14 and later became involved in the Union movement. Worked under ground for 8 years.
- 1903** - Became a Methodist at 16 and began preaching.
- 1909 - 1910** Through his trade union links, he secured a Scholarship to Ruskin College, Oxford
- After a time in Paris, he returned to work as a hewer in the mines. This was hard work and he wanted something more intellectual. He successfully applied to be a trade union agent. He now felt he could change people's lives for the better, and started reforming the organisation.
- 1912** - Appointed Miners' Agent, Garw Valley South Wales Miners' federation
- 1919** - Appointed Secretary, Miners' Federation of Great Britain, He negotiated terms and conditions for miners, with the government and Lloyd George.
- 1923** - He won a seat as the Labour candidate for Lichfield under Ramsay MacDonald in the first Labour Government, and held the post of First Lord of the Admiralty. He lost his seat in the 1924 general election, so was only in Parliament for a short time.
- 1924** - Resigned as Secretary, Miners' Federation of Great Britain, on appointment as Civil Lord of the Admiralty. During this time he played golf with the Duke of York before he became George VI.
- 1925** - Appointed Secretary of the International Miners' Federation. Had performed this role in an honorary capacity since 1920. Resigned in 1927.
- 1926** - Vice Chairman, National Fuel and Power Committee.
- 1927** - Appointed as a Director of "The Bank of England" by Stanley Baldwin.
- 1927** - Appointed as a member of the Central Electricity Board.
- 1930** - New Lount was the first colliery in the Leicestershire Coalfield to have pit head baths, and these were opened on July 12<sup>th</sup> 1930 by Frank Hodges, who at that time was not shown as being on the board of Directors at New Lount colliery.
- 1933** - Appointed Chairman and MD of The Leicestershire Colliery & Pipe Co. Ltd and M.D of New Lount Colliery which was in their ownership, when he was directed by the Bank of England to resolve problems at the colliery which was performing badly and loosing money.

**1933** - Joined the board of L & N Coal Distillation Company Ltd at Newbold (owned by "The Leicestershire Colliery and Pipe Company Ltd"), and became M.D. of New Rockwood Colliery in South Wales.

**1934** - Had built and opened Newbold Brick Company Ltd, and also took control of Newbold Pipeworks, The Coal distillation Plant, and Newbold Haulage Co.Ltd.

**1936** - Provided Newbold with modern street lighting. Switched on by F.H. in March.

**1936** - Purchased a 300 Acre dairy farm (Smoile Farm) near Newbold in Leicestershire and the tenancy of another 700 acre farm at Coleorton. He became noted for his modern methods of farming, and was active in the National Farmer's Union. The farm employed at least 6 people during the war, when the land girls arrived. The farm had a herd of 150 Ayshire milking cows. Milk was sold throughout the village, to New Lount Colliery and International Combustion at Derby, both of whom he was a director of.

**1947** – Died.....On his death he left a legacy of £132,959.

Frank Hodges was also a director of many other companies – The Securities Management Trust Ltd (a subsidiary of the Bank of England), National Combustion Engines, International Combustion Ltd, Derby, William Beardmore and Co. Ltd, Granville Shipbuilders, Co-Operative Printers, the Glasgow Iron and Steel Company, The Lancashire Cotton Corporation, **The Newbold Brick Company Ltd**, and Motherwell Brick Company Ltd.

Frank Hodges had a remarkable career, and his death was the occasion for substantial obituaries in several national papers and journals.

### **Leicester Evening Mail - Wednesday 04 June 1947**

#### **PITBOY TO FARMER - THE DEATH OF FRANK HODGES**

Former managing director of the Leicestershire Colliery and Pipe Works, and one time secretary of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain, has died in a nursing home in Wales. Starting life as a pit boy in South Wales, Mr. Hodges had a brilliant career, first in politics and later in industry and commerce. He was Civil Lord of the Admiralty in the first Labour Government in 1923. During the past 12 years he had lived at Ashby and had devoted a great deal of time to the study of agriculture. His exemplary farming method influenced farmers over the district, and he provided a further stimulus to good husbandry by founding some years ago the Hodges Cup for the best-managed farm in the area.

## **SOME GENERAL INFORMATION ON NEWBOLD INCLUDING BENEFICIAL IMPROVEMENTS PROVIDED BY FRANK HODGES**

"The Field", which was bounded by School Lane, Ashby Road and the Railway Cutting, was given to the village by the wife of Frank Hodges, for use by the children. A circular paddling pool was built near the middle of the field. There was a water tower over a well (sited approximately opposite the rears of No.14-16 School Lane, but this proved to be inadequate to supply the necessary amount of water and was supplemented or replaced by water supplied via New Lount Colliery. Drinking water was drawn from the well which stood at the junction of School Lane and Ashby Road, which was a local landmark where the buses stopped. The well was condemned, as was the water tower / well when an outbreak of typhoid occurred. At the bottom of "The Field", bounded on two sides by the Coleorton Railway cutting was a sewage filter bed, the discharge from which was possibly routed to the area of "Cylinder Pit".

### **THE NEWBOLD HAULAGE COMPANY**

Before Frank Hodges took over full control of New Lount Colliery, his brother Dick Hodges was living in Ashby and was doing haulage work for the "Coal Distillation Plant" at Newbold, at which time he purchased a new lorry and subsequently did haulage for New Lount Colliery. This was perhaps the embryo of what became the "Newbold Haulage Company" of which Frank Hodges took charge.

**Leicester Evening Mail - Tuesday 19 September 1933**

#### **COLEORTON COMPANY**

Richard Hodges (Newbold) Limited, Newbold, Coleorton. Leicestershire, has been registered as a private company according to Jordan's Daily Register, to take over the business of a haulage contractor carried on at Coleorton by it. Hodges nominal capital is £2,000. Permanent directors are R Hodges, Newbold, Coleorton. Leicestershire; A. P. Carter, Newbold, Coleorton; A. Hodges, Newbold, Coleorton.

### **NEW HOUSING IN NEWBOLD**

The children of the Hodges family in Abertillery, consisted of Frank and five brothers John, Arthur Harry Dick and Albert. The father's name was Arthur. Apparently both Arthur sen'r, Arthur jun'r, Harry and Dick came to Newbold at some point and lived in the houses that were organised to be built by Frank Hodges through his involvement with New Lount Colliery. A family by the name of Carter also lived in Abertillery and one of the sons, named Abe and another through marriage named Ed. Court came to Newbold also.

"The Close" was being built using London Bricks and the first house was completed c.1932. These six properties were occupied as built - No.1. by Abe Carter; No.2. by Ed. Court; No.3. by Arthur Hodges, jun'r; No.4. by Arthur Hodges sen'r; No.5. by Harry Hodges and No.6. by Dick Hodges.

Subsequent to the building of "The Close", Frank Hodges was responsible for the building the properties on the West side of School Lane and those on the South side of Ashby Road (formerly Ashby Lane). Frank Hodges used the last but one house ("The Halt") on Ashby Road whilst the re-furbishment of his future house "Rotherwood" on Tamworth Road, Ashby was taking place. The bricks for these



properties were supplied by the Newbold Brick Company Ltd which was opened by Frank Hodges in 1934.

The council houses to the north of the village (Cloud Hill View) were being built at about the same time as "The Close".

## **STREET LIGHTING FOR THE HAMLET OF NEWBOLD**

**Leicester Evening Mail - Friday 20 March 1936**

### **MODERN LIGHTING IN VILLAGE OF NEWBOLD**

#### **SWITCHING ON CEREMONY**

Villagers of Newbold, near Ashby-de-la-Zouch, cheered last night when Mr. Frank Hodges pressed a switch and the village was flooded with light for the first time in its history. Thanks to the generosity of Mr. Hodges, who is managing director of the Leicestershire Colliery and Pipe Co Ltd., the village has been provided with a modern system of electric lighting. The ceremony of switching on the current was performed in the centre of Newbold and was watched by a large crowd which included Mr. J. A Staley and Mr. W. P. Musson, chairman and clerk respectively of Ashby Urban Council, and a number of councillors, in addition to officials of the company. A vote of thanks was proposed by the Rev. R. J. Canham, vicar, and seconded by Mr. E. Martin, manager of the Newbold Pipe Works.

**Apparently, five street lights in all illuminated the village, the poles being installed in the front gardens of certain properties. Two were on School Lane, one at "The Close" and two on Ashby Road. Newbold would have been one of the earliest villages to have street lighting.**

## **DID THE "AIR RAID SHELTER" EVER GET BUILT?**

**Leicester Evening Mail - Tuesday 26 April 1938**

### **DIRECTOR'S HINT AT IN NEWBOLD MEETING PRESIDING**

At a meeting at Newbold, near Ashby-de-la-Zouch, last night, to discuss air raid precautions, Mr. Frank Hodges, managing director of Leicestershire Colliery and Pipe Co., hinted that the company might provide a bomb-proof shelter for the village. "It would cost a lot of money and I don't know how far my company are prepared to go," he said. "We must wait and see what the Government or local authorities are prepared to allow towards such shelters."

## **NEWBOLD CLUB**

Frank Hodges was the driving force behind the creation of Newbold Club . A bungalow opposite "The Close" had a large extension built on the rear to form the club. The building accomodated a bar, cellar, bowling alley, snooker tables, darts etc. It became the centre for numerous village functions. The president was Frank Hodges and the Chairman J. B. Laban.

## **FARMING**

From 1935, Frank Hodges lived at "Rotherwood House", Tamworth Road, Ashby surrounded by park land. He devoted a great deal of time to the study of agriculture. His exemplary farming methods influenced farmers over the district, and he provided a further stimulus to good husbandry by founding the Hodges Cup for the best-managed farm in the area.

### **ELECTRIC FARM**

His 300-acre dairy undertaking at Smoile Farm, near Staunton Harold, was started primarily to supply high-grade milk to the canteens of two enterprises in which he was interested - the Leicestershire Colliery and Pipe Co., and the International Combustion Works at Derby.

From a small, carefully selected group of dairy animals, Mr. Hodges built up a herd of 150 Ayrshire cattle. When a group of foreign farmers toured England in 1946, Smoile Farm, which is completely electrified, was one of the show places.

Frank Hodges addressed the visitors from a microphone set up near the dairy sheds, explaining that, as a director of the Central Electricity Board, he advocated 100 per cent electrification of the farming industry.

At Home farm, Coleorton, Mr. Hodges reared and fed a large herd of beef cattle, mostly Herefords. It was during the war that he took over parkland at Coleorton. Bushes and scrub were cleared with bulldozers and a considerable quantity of food was produced.

# THE NEW "NEWBOLD BRICK CO. LTD" PLANT OPENED BY FRANK HODGES IN 1934 - WITH AN 8 MILLION BRICKS ANNUAL CAPACITY

Transcribed from the Leicester Evening Mail -  
Tuesday 6th November 1934

## GARDEN CITY PLANNED NEAR ASHBY BRICKWORKS OPENED - NEWBOLD'S CHANCE OF PROSPERITY

Brickworks with present plant for an annual output of 8 million bricks were formally opened at Newbold, near Ashby today.

Newbold Brick Company Ltd., a new enterprise in this part of the country, promises to be one of the most flourishing industries in Leicestershire. Plans are already prepared in expectation of considerable development in the area, and, if this materialises, the little village of Newbold will become the centre of a thriving district.

With the development of the works, accommodation will have to be found for the increasing number of employees, and with this in view, the company has formulated plans for a settlement on the lines of a "Garden City" in which with the brick workers will be able to live close to their work. The plans provide for playing fields, a recreation ground and a paddling pool.

### CENTRAL LOCATION

The works have been built on the most modern lines with the "Hoffman" 22 chamber continuous kiln having a capacity of 220,000 bricks. It is the first kiln of this type in the country. **The entire brick making plant is all-electric. ??**

Special attention has been to transport facilities in choosing the site, which is central for supplying such towns as Derby, Nottingham, Loughborough, and Burton-on-Trent. A railway siding at the works allows for rapid loading and dispatch of bricks to all parts of the country.

After inspecting the works, a party of officials sat down to a luncheon. Mr. J. W. Farmer of Coalville, proposed the success of the new brickworks, to which Mr. Frank Hodges, chairman of the company and chairman of "The Leicestershire Colliery and Pipe Company", ([owners of New Lount Colliery](#)) responded.

### RISK - MR. HODGES REPLY

Mr. Hodges said that some of his friends had criticised him for risking too much in these new works. His reply was he saw no grounds for excessive caution with brick imports at the rate of 400 million bricks per a year, and of a quality which ought never to be permitted to go into buildings - at any rate, those intended for human habitation, even if after the next 5 years, the building boom came to an end. His experience taught him that a good article would sell in a time of depression and the works producing it stood a better chance of carrying on, than the one whose product could only sell in a boom. There was a strong demand for high grade as well as common bricks. At Newbold they are fortunate in their supply of raw materials. The clays were varied, accessible, and extensive. With this background he had conceived it only a matter of prudence to install the very latest type of plant or kilns.

Among those present were Major H. E. Roberts, chief goods manager of the L.M.S., Mr. R. Hardy, Mr. E. D. Hardy, Mr. T. Gray (Manager of the "Glasgow Iron & Steel Company"), Mr. W. Allison (General Manager) and Mr. E. Martin (Manager of the "Newbold Brick Company")

## **ALTERNATIVE REPORT - SURPRISINGLY SIMILAR - CONSIDERING THEY ARE FROM TWO DIFFERENT NEWSPAPER COMPANIES**

**Transcribed from the Nottingham Journal -  
Wednesday, 7th November 1934**

### **MODEL VILLAGE FOR WORKERS MR. FRANK HODGES AND LEICESTERSHIRE ENTERPRISE EIGHT MILLION BRICKS A YEAR**

Visions of a "Model Village" to house the workers concerned were glimpsed by Mr. Frank Hodges, presiding at a luncheon at Newbold, near Ashby de la Zouch yesterday to inaugurate the opening of a new "Brickworks Enterprise" which is capable of turning out 8 million bricks a year.

#### **HUGE IMPORTS NECESSARY**

Mr. Hodges, speaking as the chairman of the new venture - "The Newbold Brick Company" - said he had been told, that the building boom "could not go on forever" - that he was risking too much.

His reply was that he saw no ground for excessive caution with brick imports still growing at the rate of 400 million bricks per annum, and of a quality which ought never to be permitted to go into buildings, at any rate, those destined for human habitation. Even if after the next 5 years, the building boom came to an end, his experience taught him that a good article would still in a time of depression and the works producing it stood a better chance of carrying on than the one whose product could only sell in a boom. There was a strong demand for high grade as to do his best to meet it.

#### **HUGE CAPACITY**

The capacity of their first kiln was approximately 8 million bricks a year. As they developed they would be able to build other kilns with their own bricks, as part of a plan for which the layout was specially designed.

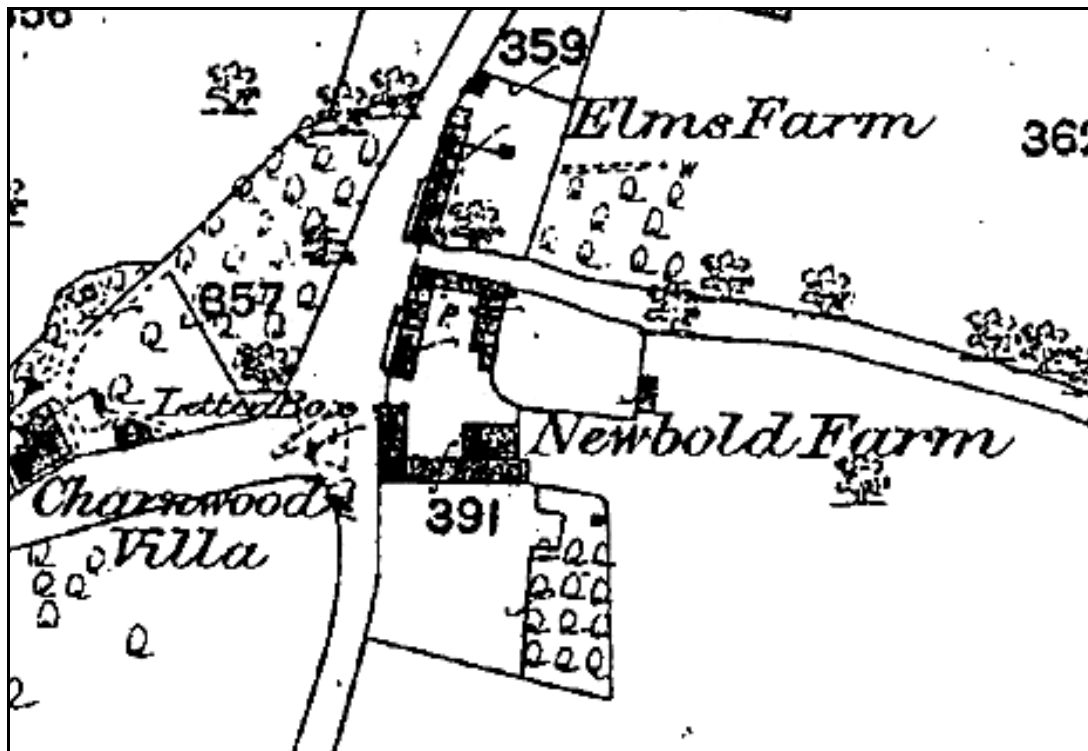
One of the things he would like to accomplish as a permanent reminder of his work in the area, would be to construct a model village, near this very spot in which a good number of the work people, in all the concerns over which he had control could be happily and comfortably housed at cheap rentals, but under conditions as near the ideal as possible. In a year's time he hoped to see the village materialise.

**EDWARD (TED) MARTIN**  
**(THE NEWBOLD VILLAGE HALL**  
**THE NEWBOLD GLOVE FACTORY)**

Edward Martin (1894-1939) lived at Newbold Farm and was the manager of the pipe works department of the Leicestershire Colliery and Pipe Company Ltd at Newbold, and held positions in the social and public life of the district. He was a member of the Newbold and District Hospital Society, a member of the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Rural Council and a member of the Worthington Parish Council. Unfortunately, at a great loss to the community and his family, Ted Martin passed away at the young age of 45.

One interesting bit of research that has come to light is that Newbold Village Hall was located on Edward Martin's property, and owned by him. It is thought to have been the building directly to the left of the letter **N** in Newbold on the 1885 map below, which can be related to the maps at the beginning of the publication.

The Village Hall, was used for New Lount Colliery, Newbold Pipeworks, Newbold Brickworks and Newbold Haulage Company staff parties annually. Apparently, amongst the bands that appeared at these high profile functions were Eric Robinson, Nat Temple and possibly Joe Loss.





**STAFF DANCE - Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hodges (Mr. Hodges with arms folded on front row) with the staff of the New Lount Colliery at the annual Christmas dance at Newbold Village Hall (from Leicester Chronicle - Saturday December 22nd 1934**

## **THE DEATH OF EDWARD MARTIN**

**Leicester Evening Mail - Saturday 16 September 1939**

### **MANAGER'S DEATH**

The death occurred at his home, The Farm, Newbold, Worthington, to-day of Mr. Edward Martin, who was well known in the Ashby and Worthington district. Forty-five years of age, Mr. Martin was the manager of the pipe works department of the Leicestershire Colliery and Pipe Company Ltd. He was a member of the Newbold and District Hospital Society, a member of the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Rural Council and a member of the Worthington Parish Council.

**Leicester Evening Mail - Tuesday 19 September 1939**

### **Lorry Of Wreaths**

Striking tributes to Mr. Edward Martin, of Newbold, were paid when the funeral took place at Worthington, yesterday. Mr. Martin, who was 45 was manager of the Newbold and Lount Pipe Works and had occupied important positions in the public and social life of the district. Family mourners were: Mrs. Martin (widow); Mr. R. Martin (son); Miss Joan Martin (daughter); Miss M. Tomlinson, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Martin, Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Martin. Mr. and Mrs. George Martin. Mr. John Martin. Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Martin. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Martin, Mrs. Warren. Mrs. Jeffries. Miss Jeffries, Mr. and Mrs. F. Rath. Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Laban. Mrs. Gaunt. Mrs. S. Hill and Mrs. Kidger. Others present included Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hodges. Mr. H. Evans and Dr. and Mrs. P. M. Garry.

Workmen who acted as bearers were: 'Messrs. J. Stevenson. A. Bird, W. Hicklin. F. Bennett. J. Campion, J. Morley, W. Pepper and W. Rowell.

**One of the firms lorries was filled with the wreaths (presumably Newbold Haulage company)**

## **THE NEWBOLD GLOVE FACTORY**

When the Second World War was declared, the village hall was used as a "Glove Factory" at some point, presumably to make gloves for the Home Guard or soldiers.