

*JOHN KENDRICK, A SUCCESSFUL &
RESPECTED LOCAL BUSINESSMAN,
AND HIS FAMILY*

<i>John</i>	<i>Kendrick</i>
<i>Hannah</i>	<i>Kendrick</i>
<i>John E</i>	<i>Kendrick</i>
<i>Elizabeth E</i>	<i>Kendrick</i>
<i>Sarah</i>	<i>Kendrick</i>
<i>Mary M</i>	<i>Kendrick</i>
<i>William</i>	<i>Kendrick</i>
<i>Samuel E</i>	<i>Kendrick</i>
<i>Geary</i>	<i>Kendrick</i>
<i>Alice</i>	<i>Kendrick</i>
<i>Ernest W</i>	<i>Kendrick</i>
<i>Arthur</i>	<i>Kendrick</i>

BY SAMUEL T STEWART - November 2020

John Kendrick is recorded in the 1855 Post Office Directory as being a Shopkeeper and Wheelwright in Griffydam. He would have been 27 years old at the time.

John, his wife Hannah and their young family are listed in the Griffydam 1861 census (see below), with John given as a grocer. The 1861 Gazetteer for Leicestershire and Rutland trade directory records him as being a shopkeeper.

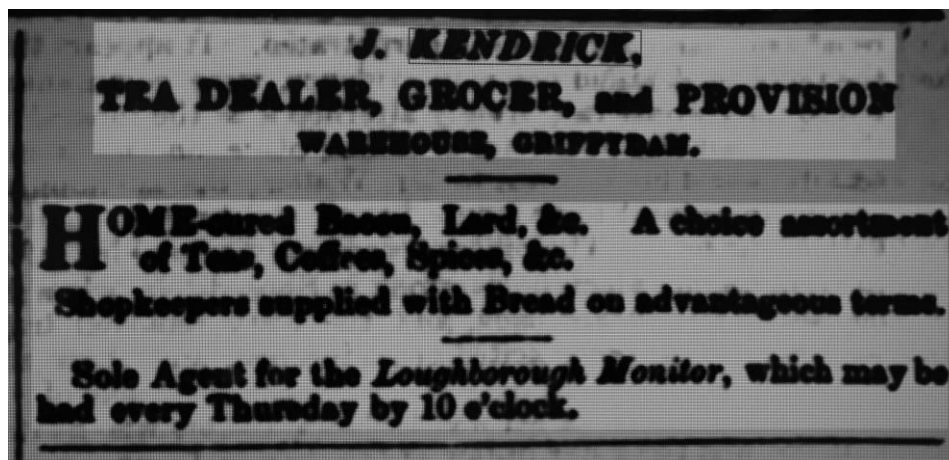
John	Kendrick	Head	33		Married	Grocer	Sweystone, Leics
Hannah	Kendrick	Wife		31	Married		Thornton, Leics
John E	Kendrick	Son	4			Scholar	Worthington, Leics
Elizabeth E	Kendrick	Daughter		2		Scholar	Worthington, Leics
Sarah	Kendrick	Daughter		8m			Worthington, Leics
Frances	Smith	Servant		12			Thornton, Leics

The three children were listed as being born in Worthington, but in the following 1871 census, they are shown as being born in Griffydam which seems more likely, on the basis that Griffydam is recorded in future censuses also. The fact that they had a servant living with them suggests they enjoyed a reasonable standard of living at that time. In 1863 they had a daughter Mary M who doesn't appear till the 1871 census list of course. They had a son William in 1865 but he only lived 6 months.

The following advert which appeared in the April 1862 Loughborough Monitor appears to show that John Kendrick had significant business acumen and had made considerable strides with his chosen trade in the seven years he has been recorded as living in Griffydam.

Loughborough Monitor – April 10th 1862
J. KENDRICK
TEA DEALER, GROCER, AND PROVISIONS
WAREHOUSE, GRIFFYDAM

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



The preceding advertisement suggests that as he could supply bread to other shopkeepers, he was also a baker. In Harrod & Co's Postal Directory of Derbyshire and Leicestershire of 1870, John Kendrick is listed as a grocer and baker a profession he continued to follow for the rest of his life.

Interestingly, John Kendrick decided to move onwards and upwards and put his Grocer's shop on the market to let as confirmed in the following advert in the Loughborough Monitor.

Loughborough Monitor – July 2nd 1863

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

The following articles from the Loughborough Monitor also suggests that John Kendrick was moving up the social ladder in Griffydham and the local area which he continued to do as we will see in further newspaper reports. The reference to Dr. Wale is quite amusing as he wasn't a doctor, he was a self styled druggist and chemist in Griffydham and a history of this entrepreneurial gentleman has been written by the author elsewhere.

Loughborough Monitor – August 21st 1862

OSGATHORPE

The quiet little village of Osgathorpe was enlivened on Tuesday, the 12th instant, by a tea party being held on the pleasure ground in front of the hall, kindly lent for the occasion by Mr. Field. About 130 sat down to tea. The trays were gratuitously provided by ladies in the neighbourhood, and upwards of £4 was realised, which was appropriated to the defraying of expenses. After tea, the youthful part of the company enjoyed themselves with rural sports in a field adjoining, until nearly seven o'clock, when all adjourned to a shed comfortably fitted up. The chair having been taken by Mr. Clarke, of Castle Donington, speeches were delivered by the Rev. T. Crosby, of Ashby de la Zouch ; Mr. Attwood, of Castle Donington ; Mr. Kendrick of Griffydham ; and other friends. After a unanimous vote of thanks to the ladies, who so kindly presided at the tea tables, and to the Chairman of the meeting, the company broke up, each one evidently satisfied and delighted with the proceedings of the day.

Loughborough Monitor – January 1st 1863

GRIFFYDAM

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

As further evidence of John Kendrick's standing in the community, he was elected as one of three constables for the Township of Worthington which included Griffydham and Newbold at the time, all still within the parish of Breedon-on-the-Hill. Elections for Overseers and Constables for the district were made at a special sitting at Ashby Petty Sessions usually held in April on an annual basis.

By 1871, the Kendrick family had increased by 5 in number, but were now living in another property in the village. They had another son Arthur in 1873, but he wasn't listed till the 1881 census of course. It is thought that they had moved to the property on Middle Road which later became Griffydam Post Office.

John	Kendrick	Head	43		Married	Grocer	Swepstone, Leics
Hannah	Kendrick	Wife		41	Married	Grocer's wife	Thornton, Leics
John E	Kendrick	Son	14			Scholar	Griffydam, Leics
Elizabeth E	Kendrick	Daughter		12		Scholar	Griffydam, Leics
Sarah	Kendrick	Daughter		10		Scholar	Griffydam, Leics
Mary M	Kendrick	Daughter		8		Scholar	Griffydam, Leics
Samuel E	Kendrick	Son	7			Scholar	Griffydam, Leics
Geary	Kendrick	Son	4			Scholar	Griffydam, Leics
Alice	Kendrick	Daughter		2			Griffydam, Leics
Ernest W	Kendrick	Son	2m				Griffydam, Leics

Two years later in 1873, a tragedy befell the family which is recorded in detail in the following newspaper report. Fortunately there was no loss of life. The outcome could clearly have been considerably worse, with a major explosion occurring under slightly different circumstances, as there was the opportunity for the gunpowder that was stored in the shop and highly volatile / inflammable benzoline (unpurified benzene) coming together after the benzoline had ignited and flared up. Benzoline or benzene in simple terms is an unrefined coal tar spirit.

Certain shops stocked gun powder, known as "black powder" at that time, as coal miners had to supply their own explosives and the shop would have also stocked fuses. Atkins at Swannington was another shop that stocked gunpowder which was known as John Hall powder there.

The following story was told by Mr. Bill Platts of Coleorton.....*In damp weather, John Hall Powder had to be stored in dry conditions and at his home a black box of it was kept on a narrow landing at the top of the steep stairs near to a chimney breast, a typical feature of miner's cottages in the local villages. As there was no electricity available at the time, candles were normally used to light the way to bed for the children, and they were want to leave them on the top of the black box, before getting into bed. I remember asking Dad how much John Hall Powder was stored in the box, and his wry reply was, "enough to make three cottages and the Kings Arms disappear"*

Clearly the lamp referred to in the narrative was a paraffin lamp, as there wasn't any gas available which John Kendrick confirmed. The less volatile paraffin (kerosene) petroleum based fuel oil had been used in lamps and lanterns for centuries as the main source of lighting, and paraffin is what John Kendrick should have received from his supplier. The reference to petroleum in the report appears to be another name for paraffin at the time.



Typical wickless paraffin lamp



Gunpowder storage box

Leicester Journal – November 28th 1873

Ashby Petty Sessions, November 22nd – Before Major Mowbray and H. E. Smith, Esq.

John Kendrick, a grocer, at Griffydam, v Edward Crawford, oil merchant, Loughborough.

Claim - £50 damages – Mr. Argyle, Tamworth appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Deane of Loughborough for defendant.

The jury were Messrs. J. Boden, Duffin, G. Carruthers, T. Dunncliffe, and George Bryan.

John Kendrick said he was a grocer at Griffydam. Defendant called on him on August 11th, and he ordered 12 gallons of the best petroleum. It came on the 13th in four three gallon tins. In a few days he opened one of the tins and poured the oil into one of his own cans, which was made for the purpose of selling the oil retail. His can was clean and there was a tap in it. When he opened the tin, he thought it did not smell as usual. On the 30th of August he was having his tea, and his wife went into the shop to trim the lamp, for he had no gas, and the shop was lighted by a lamp. She came back and took a candle to be able to see to draw some petroleum to put in the lamp. She had not been gone long before he heard shout out that the shop was on fire. He rushed in but could not get near to where the petroleum was, The shop was in flames, and filled with smoke. With difficulty he got out and fetched some water ; his face was burnt, and his whiskers singed off. The shop was spoiled, the window being burnt out, and the framework of the upper window also. He produced a detailed list of his loss. He wrote to defendant and told him what had happened, and he came over and wanted to take the oil back with him, but he plaintiff refused. Defendant told him if he would allow it he would have it examined, and if it were benzoline instead of petroleum, he would pay all damages. There was a little left in the tin, and he took it to Mr. Johnson of Ashby, to have it analysed, who said it was common benzoline. Mr. Johnson went

over and examined the other three tins, and advised him to bury it and let no one touch it. Defendant again came over and wanted to see and examine the oil, and after some hesitation he allowed him. He poured a little into a pot and put a lighted match to it. The vapour ignited before the flame touched the liquor He asked the defendant if it was not benzoline, and he replied he could not understand it. Cross-examined by Mr. Deane : He did not allow defendant to take the oil because he thought he thought he was not the proper person to test his own oil.. For twelve months he had had oil from no one else. He had gunpowder in the shop. His wife took out two tins with her. It was kept at the other end of the shop on a shelf. The oil was kept on the floor in the corner.. – Hannah Kendrick, plaintiff's wife, said, on the 30th of August she left her tea and went into the shop to trim the lamp. She trimmed it and then went to the tin for some oil. She set the candle down about a quarter of a yard from the tin. She put the measure under and turned the tap, when all went off into a flame. She screamed and called her husband, and then got out of the shop, taking with her two tin bottles, which were half full of gunpowder. They were properly corked up. She believed the detailed list produced by her husband was correct. She saw the defendant try the oil ; when he put the match over it it flashed off. Cross-examined : A policeman called at night, but he did not ask how the fire originated. She did not say a spark dropped and caused it. Re-examined : She said no spark fell. She was very careful, and the flame did not touch the oil. – Thomas Haywood builder, said he lived about 100 yards from plaintiff. He was about fifty yards off when he saw the fire. He went and found the shop in flames, and many things were burnt altogether, There was not much that was not burned or scorched. He had since cleaned, papered and painted the shop.. His charges were included in the list. He never heard any explosion of gunpowder. He waited till the fire was subdued.. – Mr. S. E. Johnson, pharmaceutical chemist, Ashby, said the plaintiff brought a vessel containing about half a pint of oil, which he examined and found it was the light spirit of benzoline. It threw off a vapour, which would ignite. He sent some of it to Mr. Young at Leicester by passenger train. – Joseph Young, analyst to the borough of Leicester and Rutland, said, he had examined samples produced. It was light benzoline ; none of the samples were petroleum. – Defendant was called, and said he dealt both in petroleum and bezoline. By act of Parliament he was not allowed to keep more than a small quantity in his front shop. He had a large cistern which would hold several hundred gallons, in some out buildings, and it was connected with the front shop by pipes and taps. He had a small cask of benzoline, containing about three gallons in the shop. He had also a large cistern, a long way off, containing benzoline, but these two were in no way connected. One would hold 40 gallons and the other several hundred. He got his oils from London. There was a test Society in London. He trusted to the firm he dealt with to send his oils genuine. He received the order for the 12 gallons of the best petroleum, and gave it to his daughter, who filled the tins in the front shop. He was in and out of the shop while she was filling them. The labels were his, and the writing on them his daughter's. The tins were similar to his. He was sure that there was not above a teaspoonful of oil when he tried it in the pot. He told plaintiff he could not account for it at all. It must have got changed, as all was drawn from one tap in the shop.. – Ellen Crawford, defendant's daughter, said, she assisted in the business. She put up the order on the 12th of August, among which was the plaintiff's order for petroleum. She drew it in the front shop from the petroleum cistern, into four three gallon tins. She did not leave the shop till the tins were filled. There was only two or three gallons of benzoline in the front shop. The taps of the petroleum and benzoline casks were two or three yards apart. She afterwards labelled the tins. She called over the orders with one of the men, and saw the tins put into the wagon in care of the waggoner. – George Pulford, waggoner, said he filled the cistern with the oil, which came in five barrels from London. P.C. Corner said Mrs. Kendrick told him she thought the oil caught fire from a spark. He found a tin in the shop which looked like a gunpowder tin. – Mr. Deane and Mr. Argyle having addressed the Court at considerable length, his Honour summed up, and the jury retired. On returning into court, they gave a verdict for the plaintiff for £30 and costs.

By 1879, John Kendrick was advertising his detached house "to let", so presumably he owned it. Being a shop keeper and baker in Griffydam must have been a profitable business. One presumes he now retained two houses in Griffydam:-

Ashby de la Zouch Gazette – March 15th 1879

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

In 1880, the family received the sad news that their daughter Elizabeth Ellen had died in Plymouth aged 21. She was brought back for burial to Griffydam as is recorded later in the article.

Ashby de la Zouch Gazette – March 6th 1880

DIED

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

Three months later, Elizabeth Ellen's sister Sarah was getting married at Griffydam.

Ashby de la Zouch Gazette – August 21st 1880

MARRIED

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

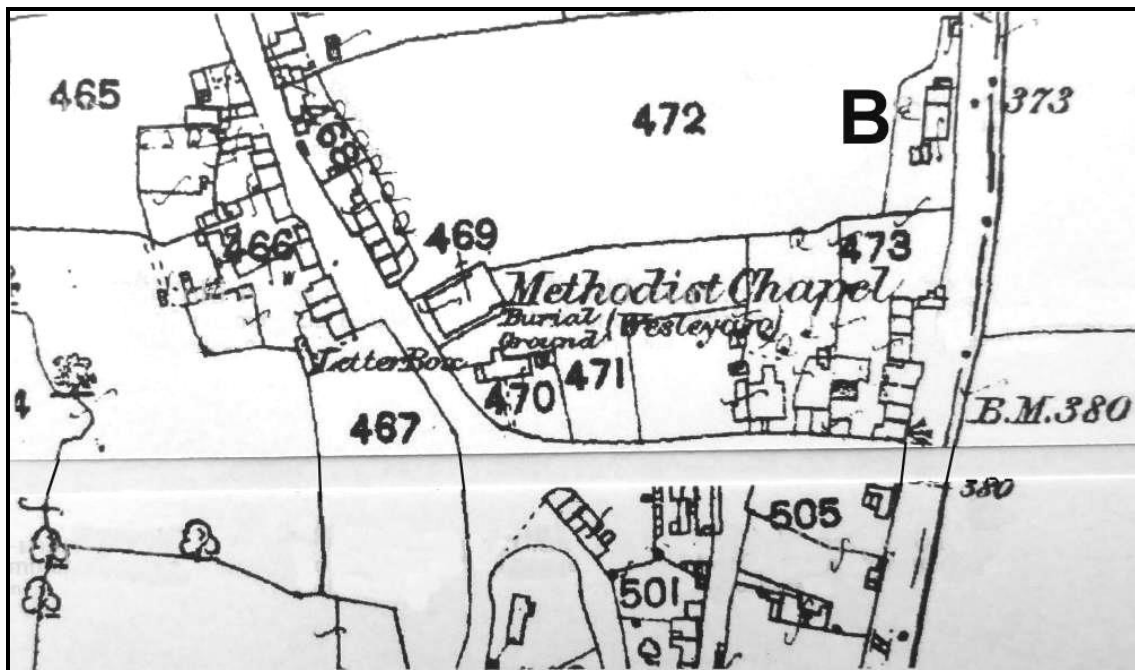
THE KENDRICKS CONTRIBUTIONS TO GRIFFYDAM WESLEYAN METHODIST CHAPEL

The Kendrick family were nonconformists and great supporters of the Griffydam Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, and there are numerous newspaper articles recording their involvement. John Kendrick is recorded as being chapel steward over a period following his move to Coleorton.

Geary and Ernest were musically talented and Ernest often played the chapel harmonium in various concerts as well as conducting the choir. They both are recorded as contributing to singing both alone and as part of a quartet. Ernest also played the organ / harmonium at Providence Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, Gelsmoor which was a sister chapel to Griffydam.

By the time the 1881 census below was published, Hannah had borne 10 children. We can conclude from evidence in indenture and conveyance documents, confirmed by the location in the 1881 census sheet that the family have moved to a property which now has a postal address of 39, Top Road, Griffydam, Leicestershire, which John Kendrick had purchased. The following map shows the location of that property marked **B**. Sarah, Mary and Samuel had presumably left home by the 1881 census, and Elizabeth Ellen had died in 1880.

John	Kendrick	Head	53		Married	Grocer	Sweptstone, Leics
Hannah	Kendrick	Wife	51		Married		Thornton, Leics
Samuel E G	Kendrick	Son	17			Farmer's ? Apprentice	Griffydam, Leics
Geary	Kendrick	Son	14			Scholar	Griffydam, Leics
Alice H	Kendrick	Daughter	12			Scholar	Griffydam, Leics
Ernest	Kendrick	Son	10			Scholar	Griffydam, Leics
Arthur	Kendrick	Son	8			Scholar	Griffydam, Leics



The above 1881/1882 surveyed O/S map shows the 7 perch plot with a property on it marked **B** to the east of Breach Close (472). This is the property that John Kendrick and his family moved to.

THE FAMILY MOVE TO ROTTEN ROW

The family's next physical move was when John Kendrick subsequently purchased Samuel Eagle Esq.'s bakery and grocery business in 1883. This was situated in "Rotten Row", an island of land within Coleorton which was part of the Township of Thringstone from 1764 till 1884. See the map on page 16 showing the location of Rotten Row in relation to the surrounding area in Coleorton. John Kendrick's business was within the Township of Thringstone for a short time until it officially became part of Coleorton. John Kendrick was evidently brother to Samuel Eagle's first wife.

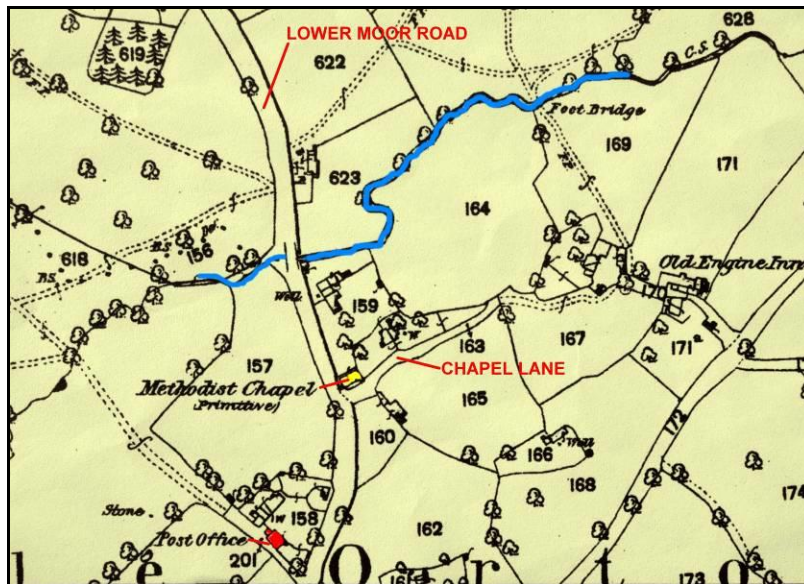
Samuel Eagle Esq. was clearly a man of some standing in Coleorton, as Kelly's 1891 trade directory includes him as a member of the court list following his retirement.

Shortly after John Kendrick took over the business from Samuel Eagle, who moved to a property somewhere else in Rotten Row, the shop also became a sub – post office. This is shown on the following 1885 issued O/S map. Wright's Trade Directory of Leicestershire for 1887/8 lists John Kendrick as a shopkeeper, baker and sub-post master, as does "Wright's Trade Directory" of 1892.

POST OFFICE.—John Kendrick, sub-postmaster. Letters arrive from Ashby about 7-15 ; box cleared at 6-15 on week-days, on Sundays at 11-45. Box at Rotten row, Thringstone, cleared at 6-15 on week-days, 11-45 a.m. on Sunday ; another on The Moor, cleared at 6 p.m. on week-days, 11-30 a.m. on Sunday ; one near the rectory, on Ashby road, cleared at 6-25 on week-days, 11-55 a.m. on Sunday.

In 1884, as explained above, the area of "Rotten Row" had now become a part of the parish of Coleorton.

The map below shows the Post Office and bakery in relation to the old Coleorton Primitive Methodist Chapel (now a private residence) on Lower Moor road. The blue line is the brook which flows out of Coleorton Fish Pond, on through Griffydam and finally into the Trent River. This was the first of three different Post Offices established in Coleorton, within a period of 160 years, all within a few yards of each other. The last one still survives in business today, which is quite remarkable.



Extract from the 1885 published O/S map
The P.O. is coloured red in the bottom LH corner

John Kendrick sadly died in 1900, a number of years after his wife Hannah, at the respective ages of 72 and 58. There is an anomaly which at the time of writing the author hasn't been able to solve. When the author and his wife carried out the audit of the Griffydam Wesleyan Methodist graveyard at Griffydam they recorded that John Kendrick's wife Hannah died in 1888 at the age of 58. Unfortunately the gravestone has now fallen over face down in the graveyard so we cannot check this information but it is now thought that it should have been recorded as 1883 and 53 as John Kendrick got married again in January 1884 as confirmed below.

Melton Mowbray Mercury & Oakham and Uppingham News – January 24th 1884
MARRIAGE

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

There follows further evidence of John Kendrick's social status in the community

Melton Mowbray Mercury & Oakham and Uppingham News – March 20th 1884
GRIFFYDAM

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

Before John Kendrick died at the end of 1900, he was putting up his six bedroom house at Griffydam to let which he had obviously retained ownership of. This presumably would have been what is now number 39 on the Top Road, Griffydam where they had their previous grocery and bakery business.

This is further evidence that John Kendrick had become a wealthy man for a small village community. He appeared to have purchased three properties in Griffydam, which he had retained ownership of when he moved to Coleorton.

Leicester Journal – April 27th 1888

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

GUILTY OF SELLING UNDERWEIGHT BREAD

Ashby de la Zouch Gazette – February 18th 1888
Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions

SELLING BREAD WITHOUT WEIGHING

Superintendent Holloway charged a number of bakers and sellers of bread with having, on the 27th of January, sold respectively to Dorothy Anne Holloway certain loaves of bread, otherwise than by weight such bread being not called "Fancy" or "French" bread or rolls. The defendants were.....Thringstone ([Rotten Row, Coleorton](#)) John Kendrick, Baker ; Herbert Rowell, baker, Griffydham.....All the defendants with the exception of Robinson and Underwood pleaded guilty. – Supt. Holloway stated that complaints had been made regarding the deficiency in weight of the bread, and the Chief Constable had directed that proceedings should be taken against the defendants. He accordingly obtained the assistance of Mrs. Holloway to make the sundry purchases. The case against Robinson was proceeded with first. – Mrs. Holloway stated that on the 27th January she went to the shop of the defendant, Robinson, at Coleorton. He was the seller of the bread. She saw the defendant and his wife, and asked for a loaf of bread, which the defendant supplied without weighing. Witness paid the defendant 2¼d . for the loaf, which was not "French " or "Fancy" bread, nor rolls. It was a half quarter cake loaf. – John Underwood was then charged with having, on the same date, unlawfully sold to Mrs. Holloway, a loaf, other than by weight. Witness stated that she then went to the defendant's shop at Whitwick , and he sold her a loaf, and he sold her a loaf, for which she paid 4½d. Defendant did not weight it. The bread was not "fancy" or "French" bread, nor rolls. – Supt. Holloway said that he weighed the bread and the deficiencies varied.

A 4lb. loaf supplied by John Kendrick, of Thringstone ([Rotten Row, Coleorton](#)), was 1oz 2 drs deficient

Herbert Rowell, Griffydham, 2lb. loaf, 10drs. Deficient.....

.....With the exception of Robinson and Rowell, who sold 2lb. loaves the loaves purchased were supposed to be 4lb. loaves. – Supt. Holloway observed that the bread got lighter after keeping, and within twenty-four hours after purchase, he found another ounce deficiency. The bread purchased he weighed in the presence of the defendants respectively. Mrs. Biddle's bread, it was stated had not been baked that day ; the bread of the other defendants had. The defendants, with the exception of Robinson and Ward, bread sellers, were all bakers.

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

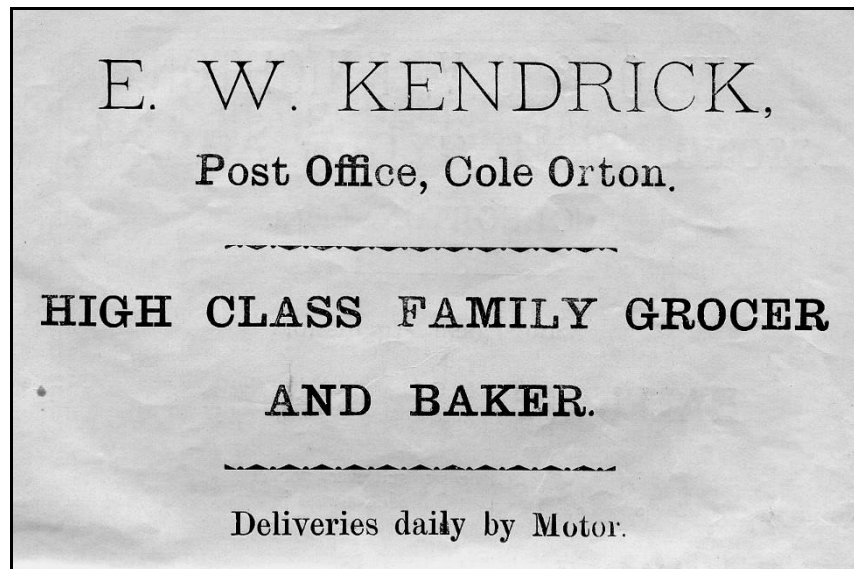
THE NEXT PERIOD IN THE HISTORY OF COLEORTON POST OFFICES

Following his father's death in late 1900, Ernest W. Kendrick was then recorded as being the proprietor of the business in Bennet's 1901 Business Directory for Leicestershire, and in Kelly's 1912 and 1916 directories. From John Kendrick's "Will" shown at the end of the publication, in which his son's Ernest and Geary were appointed as administrators of his estate, it can be deduced that Ernest had taken over the running of the business sometime prior to his father's death as it confirms that by the time of his death John had returned to live in Griffydam. The will also confirms that Geary was a Baker in Market Bosworth.

The 1901 census for Rotten Row shows Ernest W Kendrick aged 30, born in Worthington / Griffydam together with his wife Harriet aged 26, born in Eastwood, Nottinghamshire, plus brother Arthur T Kendrick aged 28 born in Worthington / Griffydam, as having taken over the running of the business.

Arthur was a journeyman baker and obviously they were carrying on the bakery business there as well as the post office and grocery side. As a journeyman baker, presumably Arthur travelled about the district selling the bread they baked. The 1911 census shows that Arthur had left the business, and was replaced by Vernon Knighton (see later information) as a baker / helper.

The following advertisement from the 1927 Coleorton Parish Magazine proves that Ernest Kendrick was still the proprietor at that time, and they were making daily deliveries by motor vehicle. By this time they had moved to the new post office which was only 50 yards south of the old post office on the same side as Lower Moor road.



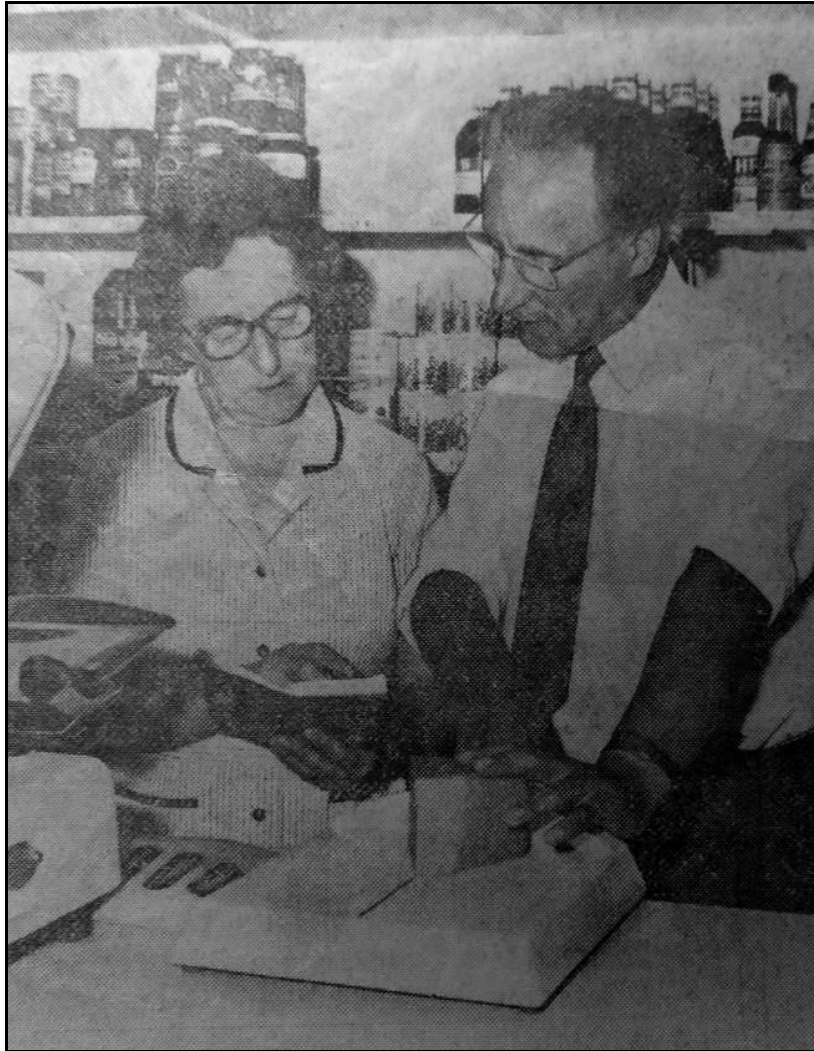
Unfortunately Ernest died in October 1933, as confirmed in the following newspaper article:-

Leicester Evening Mail – Tuesday October 24th 1933 DEATH OF COLEORTON MAN WHO WAS POST-MASTER FOR 34 YEARS

The death has occurred at Coleorton of Mr. Ernest William Kendrick, aged 62, who was postmaster for 34 years. He was a member of the parish council. The funeral will take place tomorrow afternoon at the Griffydam Wesleyan Methodist Church, where Mr. Kendrick was organist and choirmaster for more than 30 years.

Ernest Kendrick's wife Harriet carried on the business herself until she gave it up on the 12th of May 1954. Tragically she died at the Post Office 6 months later after a short illness. She had been at the Post Office for over half a century, from being married, till she passed away aged 79.

At some later date, Sid and Gladys Pitchford took over the business, until they moved to the new post office and stores, further down the road which is still in business as a sub post office and grocery shop. We know from the following photograph that they were at Kendrick's old shop in 1975.



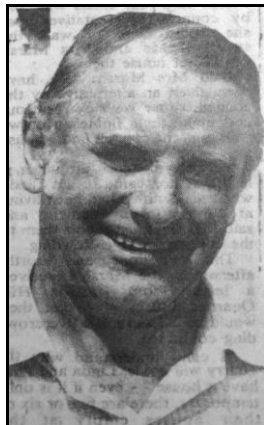
**Post Master Sydney Pitchford with his wife Gladys
preparing a grocery order at the former Kendrick's Village Post Office**
(Photograph from Leicester Advertiser 1975)



Kendrick's Post Office (now a private house) adjacent to Lower Moor road is on the left, with Knighton's Garage shop on the right. Their garage at the rear was reached by the yard between the two properties

The 1911 census for Rotten Row, lists a Vernon Knighton lodging at Kendrick's Post Office and shop where he was working as a helper/baker. Vernon was aged 19 at that time, and clearly had some business acumen, as in 1920, he and his wife Olive started what was to become known as Knighton's Garage. The garage showroom fronted the road and the repair / servicing garage, which was at the rear, was reached by the yard between the shop and the building next door, which was Kendrick's Post Office and grocery store.

Vernon Knighton started selling petrol in sealed tins at the start of his business, and eventually set up manual pumps located at the front of the showroom. Vernon and his wife lived in the semi-detached house to the right of the garage show room. They had two children, Josie and Peter. Josie got married to Rex Grace who eventually took over the running of the business c.1940.



He closed down the petrol sales c.1970 due to lack of profitability, but continued to run the service and repair side of the business until this closed in the early 1980's also. The other semi was occupied by May Knighton and her husband. May taught needlework and was president of the Coleorton Darby & Joan club for a period. The writer believes that Knighton's built these houses, and also owned the land opposite.

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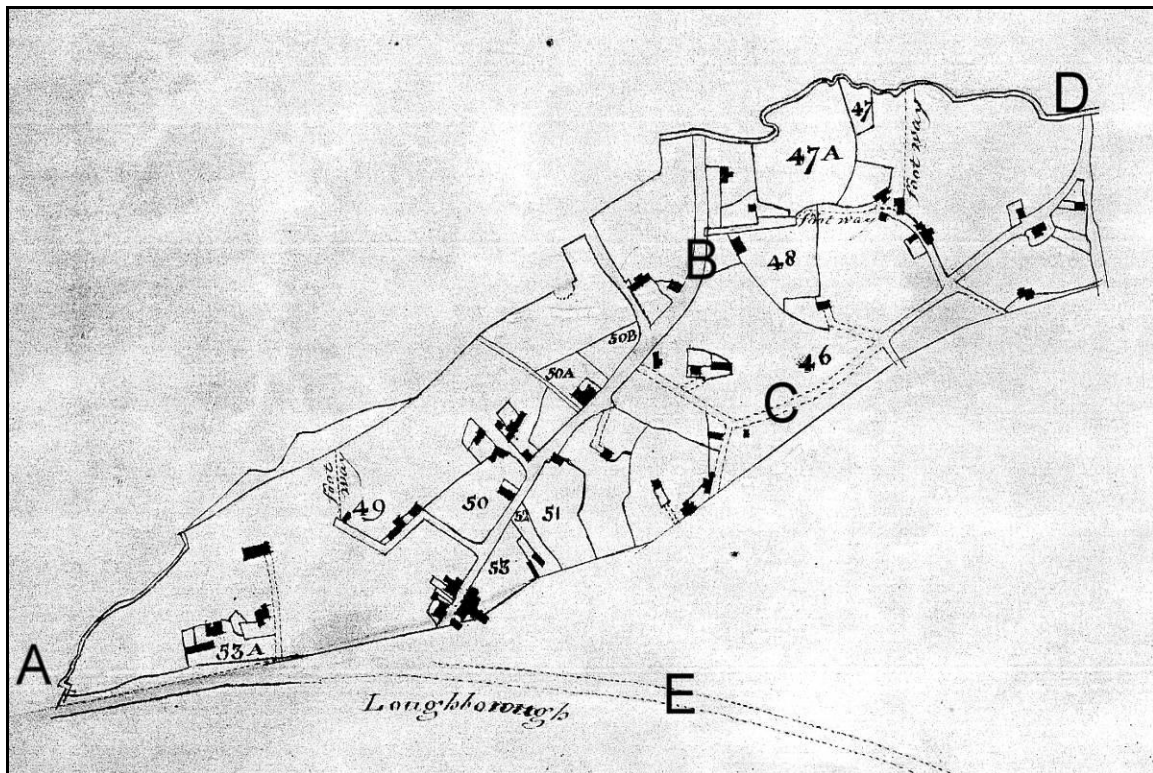
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From the 1927 Coleorton parish magazine

ROTTEN ROW

“Rotten Row” was an “Island of land” within the village of Coleorton which is shown on the following map, and details of how this came about is probably best explained as below:-

In the judicial reviews of the *Beaumont v Boulton* case held in Chancery, the following information is included..... Joseph Boulton Jnr., (defendant) stated, that soon after the commencement of the lease, an estate called “Rotten Row”, and the Manor of Thringstone, adjoining the Plaintiff’s (Sir George Beaumont’s) estate, was held forth for sale. That estate was supposed to contain valuable mines of coal, which might at a future time, be worked in competition with the Plaintiff’s estate. The price demanded was £2,000, though it produced a rent of no more than £10 per annum. The defendant’s father, Joseph Boulton Sr., proposed that it should be purchased for the Plaintiff’s benefit, but that proposal being refused, the defendant’s father in 1764, purchased it for his own use for £1,600 from Mr. Busby. He later stated that Rotten Row and the Manor of Thringstone, ought undoubtedly to have been Sir George Beaumont’s purchase, and not mine, as his deep coal adjoining to it, can never be got to advantage without it.



The area of “Rotten Row” – An island of land within Coleorton from 1762 till 1884

A = Coleorton Fish Pond, **B** = Lower Moor Road, **C** = Stoney Lane, **D** = The Woolrooms in Worthington parish **E** = Loughborough Road. The brook which subsequently formed the boundary between Worthington and Coleorton parish is represented by the double wavy line at the top.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

John Kendrick and his wife Hannah, with their two children Elizabeth and William are all buried in a single grave in Griffydam Wesleyan Methodist Chapel cemetery.

John and Hannah's son Ernest Kendrick's wife, Hetty and son Winson are also buried there.

Their daughter Mary Maria (known as Pollie) sadly died on the 9th of August 1883 at the young age of 21, but it is not known where she was buried.

Surname	Forename	Born	Age	Died (Year)	Died (Month)	Status Lived
Kendrick	Ernest	1871	62	1933	Oct 21st	Husband
Kendrick	Hetty	1875	79	1954	Nov 21st	Wife
Kendrick	Winson	1894	61	1955	May 8th	
Kendrick	John	1828	72	1900	Jul 25th	Husband & Father
Kendrick	Hannah	1830	58 (53?)	1888 (1883?)	Dec 22nd	Wife
Kendrick	Elizabeth Ellen	1859	21	1880	Feb 20th	Daughter
Kendrick	William	1865	6m	1866	Feb 11th	Infant 6 Mths

Ernest and Arthur Kendrick were admitted to the Griffydam Wesleyan Methodist Day School in Pegg's Green at the ages of 6 and 4 respectively in 1877 before the family moved to 39, Top Road, Griffydam.

Register No.	Admission date	Child's Christian name	Child's surname	Parent/ guardian Christian Name	Parent / guardian Surname	Address	Date of birth
162	07/05/1877	Ernest	Kendrick	John	Kendrick	Griffydam	18/01/1871
163	07/05/1877	Arthur	Kendrick	John	Kendrick	Griffydam	00/02/1873

DEATH ON OR AFTER 1st JANUARY, 1898.

456

WILL.

BE IT KNOWN that *John Kendrick of Griffyddam*
in the County of *Leicester* Grocer formerly of
Colecton in the said County of *Leicester*, Grocer,
and Provision Dealer and Postmaster _____
died on the *25th* _____ day of *July* 1900 _____
at *Griffyddam* aforesaid _____

and at the time of *his* death had a fixed place of abode
at *Griffyddam* aforesaid _____ within the District
of the Counties of *Leicester* and *Rutland* _____

AND BE IT FURTHER KNOWN that at the date hereunder written
the last will and Testament _____

of the said deceased was proved and registered in the District Probate Registry
of Her Majesty's High Court of Justice at *Leicester* _____
and that administration of all the estate which by law devolves to and vests
in the personal representative of the said deceased was granted by the aforesaid
Court to *Geary Kendrick of Market Bosworth* in
the said County of *Leicester* Baker and *Ernest*
William Kendrick of Colecton aforesaid Grocer,
the sons of the said deceased, the Executors _____
named in the said *Will*.

Dated the *4th* day of *November* — 1900.

Gross value of Estate ... £ 540 : 9 : 0.
Net value of Personal Estate £ 121 : 7 : 2.

Extracted by *Fisher, Jenson & Wilkins, Solicitors,*
Ashby-de-la-Zouch.
205a. Duty & Interest £ 1 : 4 : 5.

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23554—20000-11-99

JOHN KENDRICK'S WILL