

**AN 1806 ENCLOSURE ALLOCATION RELATING TO WHAT IS
NOW PROPERTY NO. 25. ON ELDER LANE, GRIFFYDAM
(INCLUDES SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION)**



No.25. Elder lane, Griffydam



Elder Lane, Griffydam c.1884

BY SAMUEL T STEWART - MARCH 2025

PREFACE

This publication adds to the several other publications written by the author in relation to land and property allocations at the time of the 1806 enclosure. We are fortunate to have both a schedule and accompanying map for the 1806 enclosure, which provides us with important historical facts about the area which it covers.

RECOMMENDED COMPLIMENTARY READING

These can be found on the author's website samuelstewart.com and are free to download and read. they appear under subsection "Multi Topic Books"

"A SOCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL HISTORY OF GRIFFYDAM AND PEGG'S GREEN"

"THE 1802 AND 1806 PARLIAMENTARY ENCLOSURE ACTS RELATING TO WORTHINGTON, NEWBOLD, GRIFFYDAM AND GELSMOOR"

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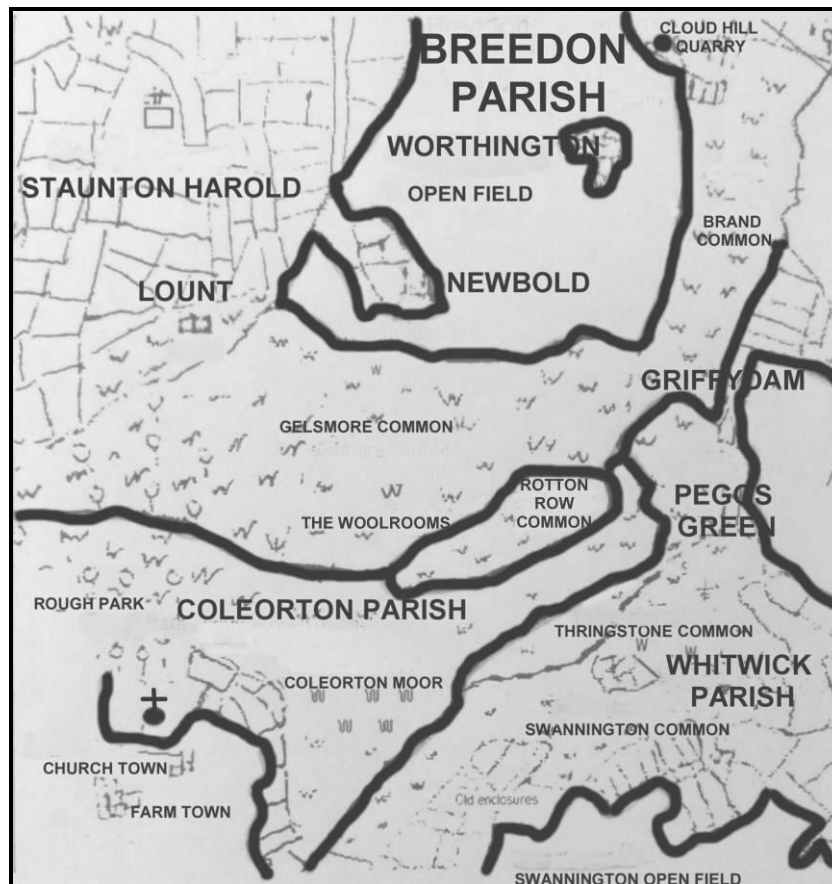
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INTRODUCTION

THE ENCLOSURE OF LAND IN ENGLAND AND WALES

When reading the following, one must remember that centuries ago Griffydam was surrounded by large areas of open moor land such as; Gelsmoor Common, Brand Common, and Thringstone Common etc. These commons would have been mainly open land, unsuitable for cultivation, but ideal for rough grazing. Sheep were allowed to roam free over these moors, and in doing so they would have maintained the scrub vegetation.



The map is a basic attempt to provide a picture of the open moorland in the locality of Griffydam based on an old map probably from about 1760

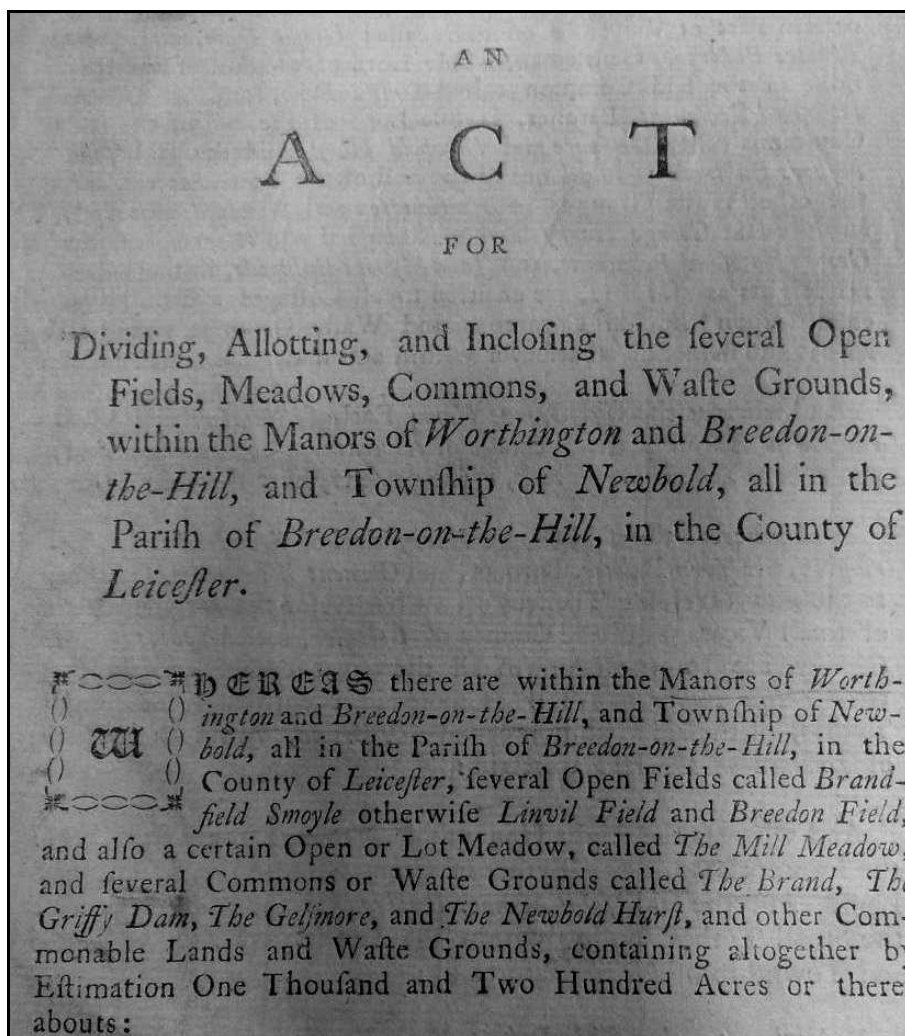
A series of Acts of Parliament dating from 1604 were passed which empowered the inclosure of open fields and common and waste land in England and Wales. Inclosure is an old spelling which later became referred to as enclosure.

We are dealing here with a specific Act of Parliament passed in 1802 which included the dividing, allotting and enclosure of land. At this time, the Parish of Breedon on the Hill included the manor of Breedon, the chapelry, township and manor of Worthington and township of Newbold. Gelsmoor and Griffydam seem to have been part of the latter. The enclosure enactment for Worthington including Newbold, Gelsmoor and Griffydam was not completed until 1806.

At the time of the enclosure, both George Harry, Earl of Stamford & Warrington and John Mynors Bulstrode, Gent were given as sole **Lords of the soil** of that common called Griffy Dam. Although we have no way of knowing the extent of the Griffydam common and waste land, it was probably relatively small. In 1863, the whole of the area of Griffydam was adjudged to be c.200 acres.

The original schedule for the enclosure is quite complex and in parts confusing, although it is very detailed in the information provided, which is quite unusual for this type of enclosure enactment schedule. The schedule is supported by a map drawn for the commissioners by the surveyor William Henry Smith **on which all the allotments of land are numbered, and can be cross referenced to the schedule. We therefore have a very good picture of the village in 1806, which can certainly be recognised from what exists today.**

EXTRACTS FROM THE 1806 SCHEDULE



And whereas the Right Honourable *Robert Earl Ferrers* is Lord of the Manor of *Worthington* aforesaid, and the said *George Harry Earl of Stamford and Warrington*, Sir *George Howland Beaumont*, Baronet, and *John Mynors Bullstrode*, Gentleman, are Lords of the Soil of the several Commons and Waste Grounds within the said Manor of *Worthington*, as follows: (*videlicet*) the said *George Harry Earl of Stamford and Warrington* is sole Lord of the Soil of a certain Part of the said Common called *Griffy Dam*, and *John Mynors Bullstrode*, Gentleman, is sole Lord of the Soil of the Residue of the said Common called *Griffy Dam*, and Sir *George Howland Beaumont*, Baronet, is sole Lord of the Soil of the said Commons called *Gelsmore* and *Newbold Hurst*, and the said *John Mynors Bullstrode* is sole Lord of the Soil of the Town Streets, and the other Waste Grounds in *Worthington* and *Newbold* aforesaid, and the said *George Harry Earl of Stamford and Warrington*, Sir *George Howland Beaumont*, and *John Mynors Bullstrode*, in their several Rights as aforesaid, are entitled to all Cottages and Buildings erected upon the said Commons and Waste Grounds, and to all Mines and Minerals whatsoever within and under the same :

All cottages or tenements standing upon the Brand and part of Griffy Dam are to be allotted to the Earl of Stamford and Warrington, as lord of the manor and soil. And all cottages and other buildings now standing upon the commons and waste grounds called the Griffy Dam, the Gelsmore and the Newbold Hurst, together with the gardens and intakes from such commons and waste ground used and enjoyed therewith, for or in respect of which, within 20 years immediately preceding the passing of this act, any rent or acknowledgement hath been paid to the said Sir George Howland Beaumont and John Mynors Bullstrode, or either of them, shall be deemed to belong to them the said Sir George Howland Beaumont and John Mynors Bullstrode, their heirs and assigns, according to their several and respective rights as lords as aforesaid, and shall be allotted to them according to their said several and respective rights by the said commissioners, upon a valuation to be made of such gardens and intakes, according to the unimproved state, and the quality and value of the common land adjoining thereto etc.

it shall be lawful for the said *George Harry* Earl of *Stamford* and *Warrington*, *Sir George Howland Beaumont*, and *John Mynors Bulstrode*, their Heirs and Assigns, according to such their several and respective Rights, Estates, and Interests as aforesaid, from Time to Time and at all Times hereafter, to have and enjoy the said Mines and Beds of Coal and Iron, Lime and other Stone, and Minerals, and the Rents, Issues, and Profits thereof, to receive and take to and for their own Use, and to dig, get, and work the same, and to cut, sink, dig, and make Pits, drive Soughs, and erect Engines and other Machines, Buildings, and Kilns, and to plumb, dial, level, and bore, and do all such Work, in and upon such Part or Parts of the said Commons and Waste Grounds, for getting, working, and draining such Mines and Minerals, as they respectively shall think proper; and to have and use convenient and necessary Places upon the Allotments or Parcels of the said Commons and Waste Grounds, for the laying of such Coal and Iron, Lime and other Stone, and Minerals, and of all Soil and Rubbish to be dug and gotten by setting, sinking, making, and digging such Pits, driving such Soughs, erecting such Engines, and doing such other Work as aforesaid; and also free Way and Passage from Time to Time and at all Times hereafter, into, through, and over the said Allotments of the said Commons and Waste Grounds, or any Part thereof, for the said *George Harry* Earl of *Stamford* and *Warrington*, *Sir George Howland Beaumont*, and *John Mynors Bulstrode*, their Heirs and Assigns respectively, and their or any of their Lessees, Tenants, Agents, and Workmen, and for all other Persons whomsoever, in the most convenient Di-

**EXTRACTS FROM 1806 INCLOSURE SCHEDULE RELATING TO
PROPERTY AND LAND ALLOCATED TO
JOHN MYNORS BULSTRODE (GENT)**

(This appears to be in exchange for land elsewhere, but the schedule does not make clear who then has ownership of the allotments)

- 1 rood 36 perches No.103 in Griffy Dam bounded outwardly by the allotment 102, westwardly by an intake belonging to Lord Stamford, northwardly by the allotment No. 104, and southwardly by the township of Thringstone (*this will be Pegg's Green at some point*).
- 1 acre 31 perches No. 104 at Griffy dam bounded eastwardly by the allotments 102 and 215, westwardly by allotments 92 and 93 and intakes belonging to Lord Stamford and secondly by the allotment 215 and an intake belonging to Lord Stamford.
- 3 houses and gardens Nos. 221 at Griffy Dam containing 8 perches in the occupation of Robert, Hannah and Thomas Heywood

- A garden No. 225 at Griffy Dam containing 10 perches in the occupancy of George Richards.
- A house and garden No. 226 at Griffy Dam containing 16 perches in the occupancy of John Dorkins.
- **A house and garden No. 227 at Griffy Dam containing 8 perches in the occupancy of Benjamin Smallwood.**
- Two houses and gardens No. 228 at Griffydam containing 30 perches in the occupancy of William Richards and Richard Winters.
- A house and garden No. 229 at Griffy Dam containing 8 perches in the occupancy of James Eames.
- 3 houses and gardens No.230 at Griffy Dam containing 22 perches in the occupancy of Charles Ward, George Stevenson and William Fowler.
- An intake No. 231 at Griffydam containing 18 perches in the occupancy of William Sharpe.

No.25. ELDER LANE, GRIFFYDAM

The 1806 enclosure schedule records an allocation to John Mynors Bulstrode (Gent), one of several wealthy landowners in the locality, which consists of a house and garden No.227 at Griffy Dam containing 8 perches (202 sq metres). This was one of 10 properties allocated to Bulstrode. No.227 was in the occupancy of Benjamin Smallwood who was born pre July 24th 1768 as this is the date of his baptism at St. Matthew's Anglican Church, Worthington. Benjamin Smallwood died about 22nd March 1852, aged 83. Benjamin's father's name was Samuel Smallwood and his mother's name was Mary Smallwood.



An extract from the 1806 enclosure map which accompanied the schedule and shows the property marked number 227 on Elder Lane. Just north of it is the property marked 228, which consisted of two houses and gardens containing 30 perches in the occupancy of William Richards and Richard Winters (see the preceding list)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION ON BENJAMIN SMALLWOOD AND HIS FAMILY

Benjamin Smallwood married Tamar Wardle on 10th February 1789 at Hathern where Tamar was resident. Their religion was Anglican. They had the following children and grandchildren. Tamar was baptised at St. Matthews Anglican church at Worthington on the 9th of January 1763. She died about 9 Mar 1834 age 71 in Griffydam. This suggests that Thomas and Tamar were living in Griffydam by 1834 and probably well prior to that date.

CHILDREN & GRANDCHILDREN OF BENJAMIN AND TAMAR SMALLWOOD

Thomas Smallwood, Mary Smallwood, Amey Smallwood, Sarah (Smallwood) Hoult, Hanah Smallwood, William Smallwood and Elizabeth Smallwood plus two grandchildren - Thomas and Benjamin Hoult.

Thomas Smallwood, b.1789. in Hathern. Died 1862

Mary Smallwood was born in Hathern in 1792 and baptised at St. Matthews Church Worthington on the 18th of March 1792. She died in 1875

Maria Smallwood born and baptised in Worthington 1792. Died 1849.

Amey Smallwood, born in Worthington and baptised at St. Matthews, Worthington on 6th April 1794

Sarah Smallwood, born in Griffydam and baptised at St. Matthews, Worthington on 6th April 1794

Twins

Sarah married John Hoult at Breedon Parish church on 20th October 1823 and they had 2 children, Thomas and Benjamin Hoult

Hannah Smallwood, baptised at St. Matthews, Worthington on the 11th of march 1798.

William Smallwood, baptised at St. Matthews, Worthington on the 12th of October 1800. Died in 1874

Elizabeth Smallwood, baptised at St. Matthews, Worthington on 21st of October 1800 - she died on the 17th of May 1820 in Worthington.

Were they twins ??

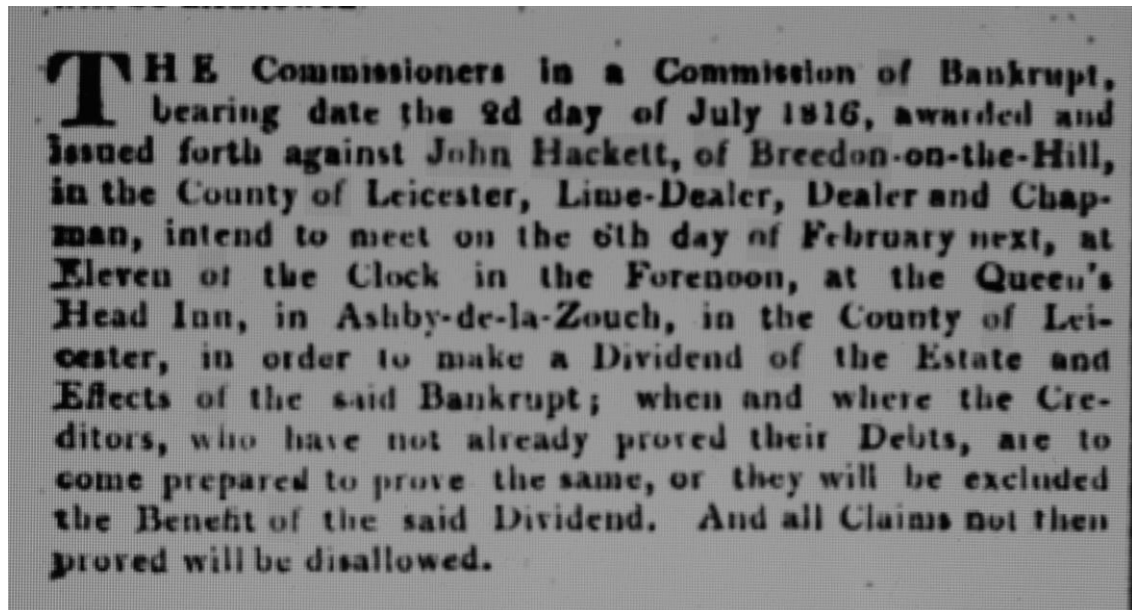
JOHN MYNORS BULSTRODE - ALLOTMENT NUMBER 227

John Mynors Bulstrode apparently immediately sold all the properties in Griffydam he had acquired of his allocation including number 227, which was sold to Benjamin Smallwood for £30. John Hackett of Breedon on the Hill Gentleman, Lime dealer / burner, and Chapman(Hawker). He was renting the lime works and kilns at Breedon in 1801. He also kept the Lime kilns Ale-House at Breedon from 1782 to 1813. He was a signatory and included on the Deeds; an amount of £30 and 10 shillings is referred to, which indicates he loaned some of the money to purchase the property. Benjamin Smallwood would not have had sufficient savings/earnings to purchase his property and

as it would not be possible for him to borrow from a bank, he would have approached a local person for a loan.

RELATED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION ON JOHN HACKETT

John Hackett held substantial land, a farm and the Brickworks on the Brand before he was declared a bankrupt in 1816.



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

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

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

	a	r	p
LOT 1			
A close in Worthington called CHANTRY	1	2	
LOT 2			
A close in Worthington called PEDMANS	4	3	8
LOT 3			
Another close in Worthington called PEDMANS	4	3	8

LOT 4

A Close in Worthington called Taylor's close
With the cottage standing thereon 6 1 3

LOT 5

A close in Breedon called Boulton clay-hill and
a piece of meadow land adjoining with part of a
stable standing thereon, and upon part of **LOT 2** 7 1 2

LOT 6

Two closes in Breedon called the top and bottom
Clay Hill 8 3 18

LOT 7

Two closes in Breedon called the Possession Bank and
the Short Broom Hill with the other part of the stable
mentioned in lot 5 10 0 34

LOT 8

Three closes in Breedon called the Dump, the Lower
Brownhill, and the Upper Long Brownhill. 10 1 30

LOT 9

**A close in Breedon called the Brand with the Brick Yard,
and Brick kilns and hovels standing thereon. The above
premises are in the occupation of John Hackett 5 0 26**

LOT 10

Two closes upon Charnwood Forest, near to the turnpike
road, leading from Ashby-de-la-Zouch to Loughborough
in the occupation of William Merriman 12 0 0

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

**TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION
BY MR. SHAW**

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

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

Beginning each morning at ten o'clock

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

pillows and caps, hovel of wheat, (about quarters), tarpawlings, drag rakes, rakes, forks, and most other essential implements.

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

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

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

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

The following appeared in the London Gazette Part 1.....Jan 1 to Jun 29 1822 , which is self explanatory.

As John Hackett is given as Lime Dealer, Dealer and Chapman (itinerant dealer or hawker in early modern Britain) then that is presumably describing his current status. Oh dear!!!

Hackett's name is not mentioned in later document as for one reason he had been declared a bankrupt in 1816, signifying Smallwood paid off the loan or not as the case may be.

We know that Benjamin Smallwood and his wife Tamar were living in Griffydam in what is now 25, Elder Lane, Griffydam in 1806. Tamar died in Griffydam on the 9th of March 1834, aged 71, and is buried in Griffydam Wesleyan Methodist graveyard. Benjamin died in 1852 aged 82 and is buried alongside his wife.

Benjamin is listed in the 1830 electoral register as a Framework Knitter, in Griffydam and in the 1841 census for Griffydam he is still described as a Framework Knitter, aged 70. Being a property owner with land, meant that Benjamin Smallwood had the necessary credentials to allow him to vote for the election of an MP for the West Goscote hundred.

PEOPLE ENTITLED TO VOTE

The English parliament of 1265 was instigated by Simon de Montfort, 6th Earl of Leicester, without royal approval. Simon de Montfort's army had met and defeated the royal forces at the Battle of Lewes on May 14, 1264. Montfort sent out representatives to each county and to a select list of boroughs,

asking each to send two representatives, and insisted the representatives be elected. Henry III rejected the new Parliament and resumed his war against Montfort, who was killed later that year at the Battle of Evesham, but the idea of electing Knights of the Shire as representatives of the counties, and burgesses from the boroughs, became a permanent feature.

By 1430, legislation limited the franchise to only those who owned the freehold of land that brought in an annual rent of at least 40 shillings (forty-shilling freeholders).

Forty-shilling freeholders were a group of people who had the parliamentary franchise to vote by possessing freehold property, or lands held directly of the king, of an annual rent of at least forty shillings (i.e. £2 or 3 marks), clear of all charges.

The legislation did not specify the gender of the property owner, however the franchise became restricted to males by custom. In subsequent centuries, until the 1832 Great Reform Act specified 'male persons', a few women were able to vote in parliamentary elections through property ownership, although this was rare.

THE 1841 GRIFFYDAM CENSUS

The 1841 Griffydam census records that Benjamin is living with his son - in - law Thomas Haywood (40), a Woolcomber and his wife Hannah, Benjamin's daughter Hannah married Thomas Haywood at St. Matthew's Church, Worthington on the 22nd September 1818. William Smallwood and William Freason were witnesses to the marriage. They had a son Joseph, aged 15, who was also living with them. For the next 40 years we have no definitive knowledge who the occupants of the property (now No.25. Elder Lane, Griffydam) or what happened regarding the development of the property to its current state.

WOOLCOMBING

There are several references to Woolcombers and Framework Knitters in Griffydam, including the preceding reference to Thomas Haywood who like most woolcombers would have been a journeyman travelling around the area and carrying out his trade following the shearing of sheep.

First of all, what is combing? Combing is a fibre preparation for a spinning method called worsted spinning usually carried out as a cottage industry by the lady of the house using a spinning wheel of which there were several designs. Combing arranges fibres in a parallel fashion, and removes noils (tangles and clumps of fibres), short fibres and stuff like vegetable matter.

True worsted spinning, of which there are many variants, generally means using long fibres (over 3in long), in a combed preparation, and drafting the fibre without twist, i.e. the twist is added after drafting. Drafting means, pulling out fibres from the fibre mass in order to twist them into yarn on the spinning machine. This results in a yarn that is dense, resists abrasion, has more-than-average tensile strength, shows lustre well, and does not felt easily. This is just the kind of yarn you would want to use for socks, for example. It would not be so good for blankets, where you want a lofty, airy, fluffy yarn which creates a fabric that traps lots of air.

Combing as a fibre preparation predates carding by 1000s of years. Indeed, it wasn't until the mid 1300s before metal workers found a method to create, easily and cheaply, the thin wire in sufficient quantity needed for the making the small teeth on the carding cloth. Wool combs, on the other hand, could be easily made from wood, bone, or metal and be serviceable. Wool combs come in various shapes and designs.

Wool combers were journeymen and seemed to have been a law unto themselves. According to the *Book of Trades* from 1815 'The business of the wool-comber is different in different counties; some, as the wool-combers in Hertfordshire, prepare it only for worsted yarn &c; others, as those in and near Norwich prepare it for weaving into camblets and other light stuffs.' The combs weigh about 2-4kg each, the teeth, made of highly tempered steel, are set into horn at an angle of around 80 deg to the handle. The number of rows of teeth vary from three to nine according to the type of wool being combed. The teeth of each row are progressively longer, increasing from about 10cm to 30cm. The width of the comb is approximately 18cm. The stout handle usually made of ash about 30cm in length, has two steel-lined holes, one at the side and one at the end.

The combs were warmed on a charcoal stove with a stone slab above leaving sufficient gap for the teeth of the combs to be inserted. The stoves held four combs, for it was usual for four combers to work together (according to the *Book of Trades*), each with his separate gear, so there were four pairs of combs, four benches, four bins to hold wool and another four for the noils. The combs were heated so that they would slide through the oiled wool easily and not damage the fibres. The heated comb was first put on a jenny, a wooden ledge attached to a post which held the comb with the teeth pointing upwards. The wool was lashed on by the comb, and when about half full, the comb was transferred to a pad (a metal bar) also attached to a post, which had to metal spikes corresponding with the holes in the handle, to hold the comb in a nearly horizontal position. The comber took the second comb, also warmed in the pot, and with both hands, swung it, rather like a chopper, into the fringes of the wool, each time getting deeper in and nearer to the stationary comb. This was known as jiggging. When sufficiently jigged, the comber drew off the wool into a continuous 'rope' called a sliver. After this, the fibres left at the front of the comb (milkings) and those at the back (backings) were added to the next lot of jiggging (the noils being discarded and placed in their bin). The process was repeated until all the short fibres were removed.

Combing as a trade was carefully controlled, e.g. to keep the numbers of men employed in the trade down, only the eldest son of a wool comber could be apprenticed. Combing proved difficult to be mechanised and continued to be done manually long after other processes were mechanised. Indeed, it wasn't until Lister perfected his mechanised combing device in 1850 before the trade started to decline rapidly, and in just a decade it saw its complete eradication.

The wool twisted and spun on the spinning wheel was supplied to the framework knitters in the local area of which there were many including Griffydam. Although a few Framework Knitters survived at this time, by the 1850 / 60s they had become very poor (*poor as a church mouse*) as a result of the fast growth of mechanisation in the Victorian period which was quickly incorporated into steam driven factories.

