

**A HISTORY OF THE  
WAGGON & HORSES, GRIFFYDAM  
& THE ADJACENT BLACKSMITH'S SHOP**



**THE WAGGON & HORSES IS ON THE RH SIDE c.1895.**



**THE WAGGON & HORSES c. 2014  
JUST PRIOR TO BEING CONVERTED INTO A PRIVATE RESIDENCE**

**BY SAMUEL T STEWART – MAY 2020  
UPDATED MAY 2023 / AUG 2024**

## PREFACE

**It is important to note that for a large part of its existence, the Waggon and Horses was actually in the Manor / Township of Worthington which was part of the parish of Breedon-on-the Hill. It was not until c.1877 when Worthington became a parish in its own right that the Waggon and Horses was moved into Griffydam together with part of the Lower Brand. Griffydam had formally been a hamlet within the Manor / Township of Worthington prior to it becoming a village within Worthington parish.**

The Waggon & Horses has a long and interesting history. It is proven to have been in existence as an Ale House / Inn / Public House and "possibly" a former Coaching Inn or Staging Post over a period **of at least 208 years** following which it was converted into a private residence, so, unlike many places of historical significance which have been demolished, this building has managed to survive through many difficult times. What a tale it could tell if only it could speak!

As Ale Houses were not required to be given a name prior to the 1825 Licensing Act, it is extremely difficult to define an establishment without a name before 1825 even though reasonably accurate records of licensees go back to the mid 1750s for Ale Houses. The author is of the opinion that the Waggon and Horses, based on records for other Inns of great age in the area, would have been built in the mid 1700s.

The author has his own memories of this establishment, particularly in that exciting period of the 1960s and 70s. This was an extremely popular place for young people around the locality and further afield. If you hadn't been to the "Waggon" you hadn't lived, and even to this day those happy days are talked about amongst those that experienced them. Young people would gather to listen to the unique 60s and 70s music on the juke box which the author seems to remember you could play five songs on for two shillings, and the music never stopped all night. Darts, and card schools (mainly brag) for money provided entertainment and they served a first class pint of mild in those days. We didn't have much money in those teenage years and had often run out by Saturday night, However, the land lady would allow you credit and marked up what you owed on a slate at the side of the bar which was paid for the next time you ventured in. Drinking after hours was a regular occurrence and when the warning came that the police had been spotted coming to the pub, those imbibers who were left inside, as I experienced, were ushered up the stairs at great speed to wait in their private accommodation until they left after a swift half. The author doesn't remember any serious trouble taking place there and there were no visiting gangs attempting to disrupt things. Happy days!!

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## PART 1

### THE LOCATION OF THE "WAGGON & HORSES"



EXTRACT FROM THE 1806 INCLOSURE / ENCLOSURE MAP



1885 PUBLISHED (1881 SURVEYED) O/S MAP

If we compare the above maps, we can see that the Waggon & Horses together with outbuildings (coloured Red) was there in 1806 directly opposite what became Elder Lane, Griffydam

## PART 2

### GENERAL INFORMATION INCLUDING DETAILS OF LICENSEES UP TO 1936

In 1806, and probably for many years prior, the Waggon & Horses would have been an Ale House within the farm house that existed there. Until the 1825 Licensing Act came into force, Ale Houses were not required to have a name, only a location was required. However, some were given name. We can see from the licensing records that the Waggon & Horses was named in 1825 in accordance with the aforementioned act.

Being on the Ashby to Rempstone turnpike road, It is possible that the Waggon & Horses may have been a Coaching Inn or Staging Post but no actual evidence to prove this has been found. These were a vital part of Europe's inland transport infrastructure until the development of the railway, providing a resting point for people and horses. There can be no doubt that the inn, as part of a farm, would have served the needs of travellers on the turnpike, for food, drink, and overnight rest accomodation. Good stabling for horses was available to the rear of the Waggon and Horses.

Heavy waggons of up to 4 tons, carrying coal and limestone etc would have travelled along the Ashby to Rempstone turnpike road and they could well have called there to feed and water the team of horses before attempting to climb the hill with their heavy loads. It cannot be a coincidence that a strategically placed Blacksmith's Shop existed opposite the Waggon and Horses, and this is featured later in the publication. The owner no doubt enjoyed a good trade in re-shoeing the horses and repairing waggons and harnesses. This hill was later known colloquially as Nickerson's Hill, presumably a slang derivative of Nicklinson who were licensees of the inn for many years. In 1927, sale documents confirmed that there was stabling to accommodate 7 horses.

The alehouse licensing records show that John Nicklinson senior received a Victualler's license in 1806 when Richard Cooper of Newbold, Coleorton stood surety. John Nicklinson senior was the landlord until 1844 when his son took over for a further 19 years. At that time it was normally a requirement for two people to stand surety. In the 1834 sale of the Breedon Brand Brickworks (5a. Or. 26p) including the bed of clay, brick kiln, drying sheds and other buildings thereon, it was recorded that they were in the occupation of John Nicklinson. It is assumed he was renting the brickworks and employing a brickmaker as he was the licensee of the Waggon & Horses at this time. The Nicklinsons' had a history of farming in the locality and it was quite common for a farmer to combine his farming activities with running an alehouse/inn as part of his home. His wife would have taken responsibility for this during the daytime.

It was recorded in the 1851 census, that John Nicklinson Junior was now the Licensed Victualler. John was living with his wife Mary, son John, Daughter Sarah, and neice Hannah Handford. They also had a housekeeper Jos Brook and a servant Thos Waterfield. **John and his family were all born in Griffydham.**

In Melville & Co's Directory & Gazetteer of Leics 1854, John Nicklinson is listed as a farmer, as well as a publican, at the Waggon & Horses. In 1855, he was recorded in "The Post Office Directory of Leics & Rutland" as a Beer Retailer (Waggon and Horses), also as a farmer and brick maker. Presumably he was employed at the Brick Works owned by Joseph Smart & Son at that time which were located on Breedon Brand, and in fact, Joseph Smart lived next to the Waggon & Horses at one time. The 1861 census shows John Nicklinson junior, was still the landlord at the Waggon & Horses and was still recorded as being there in 1863. **However, by 1871 he was living in Isley Walton as a farmer of 38 acres employing 5 labourers.**

In the 1870 version of Harrod & Co's Postal Directory of Derbyshire and Leics, Thomas Costelow is recorded as being Licensed Victualler and Butcher at the Wagon & Horses. In 1880 he was still at the inn. **Thomas Costelow (d.1892) and his wife Charlotte Harrison Costelow's (d.1917) graves are in Griffydam Cemetery.** By 1891, Kelly's Directory of Derbys and Leics recorded that a Frederick W Cox was at the Waggon & Horses. The 1901 census confirms Frederick W Cox aged 44 as Inn Keeper & Grazier **and born in Dyke, Lincolnshire.** His wife was named Annie, aged 42, who was born in Ashby Folville. The 1911 census lists Thomas Smith, aged 45, as Publican and Farmer (mainly agriculture) and born in Measham. His wife was named Harriet, aged 59, and born in Ticknall. The chart below lists the licensees from 1806 to 1939.

#### HOME GUARD

The headquarters for the Griffydam and Worthington platoons of the Home Guard was the *Waggon & Horses* and *Malt Shovel* public houses respectively. John (Jack) Ford, thought to have been the landlord of the Waggon & Horses at the time, was the commander of the Griffydam HG. An evacuee who came to Griffydam from London during the war and remained there afterwards, recalled in a recent interview that the Home Guard met in two Nissen huts at the rear of the Waggon and horses pub. One hut was for storage (presumably armaments and explosives) and the other was a meeting room with accommodation. After the war, squatters apparently lived in these huts.

The Waggon & Horses was still operating as a public house in 2014 after at least 208 years, however, it has now been converted into a private residence.

NAME OF LICENSEE	DATES LICENSE HELD	OWNER / LEASEHOLDER
John Nicklinson senior	1806 to Aug 27 <sup>th</sup> 1845	
John Nicklinson junior	Aug 27 <sup>th</sup> 1845 to Aug 27 <sup>th</sup> 1864	
Thomas Gostelow	Nov 5 <sup>th</sup> 1864 to April 16 <sup>th</sup> 1880	John Nicklinson, Isley Walton From 1872
Thomas Wilkins	Apr 16 <sup>th</sup> 1880 to Aug 28 <sup>th</sup> 1886	John Nicklinson
William Cox	Aug 27 <sup>th</sup> 1887 to Aug 25 <sup>th</sup> 1888	John Nicklinson
Frederick William Cox	Aug 27 <sup>th</sup> 1889 to Feb 11 <sup>th</sup> 1911	John Nicklinson's Exors
John Thomas Smith	Feb 10 <sup>th</sup> 1912 to Feb 8 <sup>th</sup> 1913	John Nicklinson Exors
David Else	Feb 7 <sup>th</sup> 1914 -	John Nicklinson Exors
David William Else	Feb 6 <sup>th</sup> 1915 to Feb 2 <sup>nd</sup> 1918	John Nicklinson Exors
Frank Howard Burton	Feb 1 <sup>st</sup> 1919 to Feb 12 <sup>th</sup> 1921	John Nicklinson Exors
George Kilby	Feb 11 <sup>th</sup> 1922 to Feb 11 <sup>th</sup> 1933	John Nicklinson Exors Z. Smith & Co. Ltd, Burton on Trent from 1927
William Morley	Feb 10 <sup>th</sup> 1934 to Feb 8 <sup>th</sup> 1936	Z. Smith & Co. Ltd, Burton on Trent
John (Jack) Ford (Commander of Griffydam Home Guard	1939	





The preceding photograph is of George Henry Kilby (b.1864, d.1946), who was landlord of the Waggon and Horses from 1922 – 1933 with his four sons from left to right:- Jack, Albert, Walter, Joe. He had a total of **ten children** with his wife Fannie (b.1870, d.1932). Prior to becoming landlord at the Waggon and Horses, he was **landlord at the Griffin Inn, Griffydam** for the previous five years. After leaving the Waggon & Horses, he became a coal miner and died in Griffydam in 1946.

George and his wife Fannie were buried in the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel cemetery and their headstone still exists.

**EDMUND COX - SECOND SON OF ANNIE & FREDERICK WILLIAM COX, LICENSEE OF THE WAGGON & HORSES FROM 1889 TO 1911.**

Edmund Cox, who was well known in agricultural circles, died at his home 'Newbold Farm' in April 1967 at the age of 78. He was born at the Waggon and Horses in 1889, the first year in which his father Frederick William Cox became the licensee. In his obituary in the Burton Observer & Chronicle - April 1967, it mentions that in his early life, he assisted his father and brothers in the family hay and straw business when it was customary to **turn out at 2.00.am. with three teams of horses for 'Leicester Hay Market'**. As the 'Haymarket Shopping Centre in Leicester is on the site of the old market place, it is not unreasonable to believe this is where it derived its name from.

## PART 3

### EXAMPLES OF PUBLIC FUNCTIONS HELD AT THE WAGGON & HORSES

The Waggon and Horses was used for public functions such as auctions, Courts Leet, and Oddfellow Lodge meetings.

#### COURTS LEET

The reader will find on the author's website a publication entitled "A Synopsis of the History of Court Leet and Court Baron" This is under Griffydam & Pegg's Green - subsection Law and Order

Transcribed from the Leicester Mercury - Saturday 15th October 1836

#### COURT LEET

The next Court Leet of the Manor of Worthington and Newbold, will be held at the Waggon and Horses on Wednesday October 26th at 11 o'clock

Transcribed from the Leicester Journal – October 7<sup>th</sup> 1836  
Manor of Worthington and Newbold with the members thereof,  
In the County of Leicester  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

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

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

**GILBERT STEPHENS**

Steward of the said Manor

**There is a record in the Leicester Chronicle confirming that the Waggon & Horses was still used to hold Courts Leet for the Manors of Newbold and Worthington in 1880.**

**Court Leet**, plural **Courts Leet**, or **Court Leets**, was an English criminal court for the punishment of small offences. The use of the word leet, denoting a territorial and a jurisdictional area, spread throughout England in the 14th century, and the term court leet came to mean a court in which a private lord assumed, for his own profit, jurisdiction that had previously been exercised by the sheriff. The court met twice a year under the presidency of the lord's steward, who, by the end of the 13th century, was almost always a professional lawyer and acted as judge. The two main functions of the court were to hold view of frankpledge (the pledge of responsibility made by each freeman) and to receive notices of accusation of crimes made by the juries, constituted in the Assize of Clarendon in 1166. Because serious cases were increasingly reserved to itinerant justices, the rights of trial of small, local courts became restricted to petty misdemeanors



only. The 17th-century jurist Sir Edward Coke held that a court leet could not imprison but could only fine or apply other pecuniary penalties, and as time went on its capacity to enforce its judgments became progressively weaker. After the 16th century the duties of the court leet were increasingly transferred to the justice of the peace.

## **THE GOLDEN FLEECE ODDFELLOWS LODGE No. 160**

**Transcribed from the Nottingham Review - Friday 16 October 1846**

**IMPERIAL ORDER OF ODDFELLOWS.** - The anniversary of the "Golden Fleece Lodge", No. 160, was held at host Nicklinson's, the Waggon and Horses Inn, Griffydam, on Tuesday, the 9th Instant. After the usual business of the lodge had been transacted, the brethren walked in procession, preceded by the Melbourne Military Band, to their parish church at Worthington, where an excellent sermon was preached by the Rev. W. Close, P.G.M. of Woodhouse eaves, after which they returned to their Lodge room in the same order, and upwards of seventy of them partook of a most excellent dinner. On the cloth being withdrawn, the worthy clergyman condescended to take the chair and Mr. Tugby, manufacturer, was called to the vice-chair The usual Loyal toast of "The Queen and the Royal Family" was given and duly responded to, as was also "Brother Lomas, our valued Surgeon", "Brother Bostock", "Brother Massey", "P.G.M. Sturgess, and the visiting brethren", "Our worthy Host", "Prosperity to the Lodge", "The Past and Present Officers" &c. In the course of the evening's entertainment, brother Mee sang "The Brave Old Nelson", with admirable effect, and Brother Sturgess recited the soliloquy of King Dick, in good style. The proceedings of the day were marked by order and good fellowship, and will long be remembered by all present.

*It is thought that the Mr. Tugby, manufacturer referred to, was the Spar ornament manufacturer who for a long period operated his business from the "New Inn", Pegg's Green. There are publications on the author's website which provide details on his activities.*

**Transcribed from the Leicester Journal 16<sup>th</sup> October 1846, page 3**

**Odd Fellowship** – *The Golden Fleece Lodge of the Nottingham Imperial Order of Oddfellows, celebrated their anniversary on Tuesday the 6<sup>th</sup> instant, at The Waggon and Horses, Griffydam. They assembled at their Lodge Room about ten o'clock in the morning and from thence proceeded through Newbold to Worthington Church, where an impressive and eloquent discourse was delivered to them by the Rev. W. Close of Woodhouse Eaves. After divine service they repaired again to the Waggon and Horses, where an excellent dinner was provided by worthy host Nicklinson. Messrs. John Bostock, Lomas, Sharpe and others favoured them with their company at dinner. The deservedly famous Melbourne Brass Band was in attendance, and performed most efficiently. The party dispersed at an early hour, highly pleased with the evenings engagement. (John Nicklinson junior had taken over as licensee from his father in 1845. Sharpe would most likely have been Joseph Sharpe, the owner of Griffydam Brickworks and John Bostock would have been the gentleman who was the lime burner at Breedon and Cloud Hill quarries and a farmer of some standing as was his father before him)*

**These reports confirm that the Golden Fleece Lodge was of an Anglican persuasion. The secretary of the Golden Fleece Lodge was Francis Barkby who resided in Pegg's Green in 1851, 61 and 71.**

## **Ashby-De-La-Zouch Gazette 15th March 1879**

**Thingstone Funeral of the Parish Clerk** – *On Monday, the funeral of the late Mr. Francis Barkby took place at St George's, Thringstone, in the presence of several hundred spectators. The deceased had filled the office of parish clerk for 53 years, and that of schoolmaster for 50. For 26 years he also faithfully discharged the duties of secretary to the Golden Fleece Lodge of the Imperial Order of Oddfellows, Griffydam, the members of which attended the funeral wearing hatbands and scarves. The Vicar (the reverend Mr. Pearson) and Mr. Churchwarden Johnson headed the mournful procession. Etc etc.....*

It should be noted that Frank Barkby was at one time the master at the Penny School, Pegg's Green which after the Sion Chapel, built in 1795 closed, the Penny School was held in this building.

**Please see the publication on the author's website under Griffydam and Pegg's Green entitled, "The Sion Baptist Chapel Pegg's Green Established 1795 and the Penny School". This is under subsection Religion.**

## PART 4

### THE 1927 SALE OF THE WAGGON & HORSES

In 1927, the owners of the Waggon & Horses, Dorothy Sarah Brearley, a farmer's wife, and Ethel Elizabeth Nicholson, sold the house to Zachary Smith & Co Ltd, brewers of Shardlow who closed in 1930 and were taken over by Marston Thompson and Evershed Ltd. The latter owned

**PARTICULARS.**

THE WIDELY-KNOWN AND POPULAR  
FULLY LICENSED COUNTRY INN

CALLED THE

**“Wagon & Horses”**

**GRIFFYDAM,**

occupying a unique position at the foot of Griffydam Hill, at the junction of the roads leading from Ashby-de-la-Zouch to Belton, Hathern and Loughborough, and the road leading from Coalville and Swannington to Breedon, Melbourne and Derby,

TOGETHER WITH

*The excellent Buildings surrounding an enclosed Yard and fronting the Main Road,*

**A CAPITAL ORCHARD**

well stocked with Fruit Trees and a useful Kitchen Garden adjoining in the rear,

**The whole Property covering an area of 0a. 3r. 8p.**

or thereabouts, and now in the occupation of Mr. George Kilby.

THE ACCOMMODATION IN THE LICENSED HOUSE comprises :—

On Ground Floor :—Large Tap Room, Large Club Room (which can be partitioned into Two excellent Living Rooms), Sitting Room, Spacious Kitchen, Large Dairy and Pantry, Enclosed paved Yard, Coal Place and other Out-houses, and Four capital Bedrooms.

In the rear of the house there is a large paved enclosed Yard surrounded by the following useful Buildings :—Cow Sheds for 6 Cows, Stabling for 3 Horses, Loose Box and Stabling for 4 Horses with Granary over, Pig Styes, Calf House, Meal House with room over which could be converted into Bedroom, and other Buildings.

An enclosed Flower Garden to the front and a Kitchen Garden adjoining.

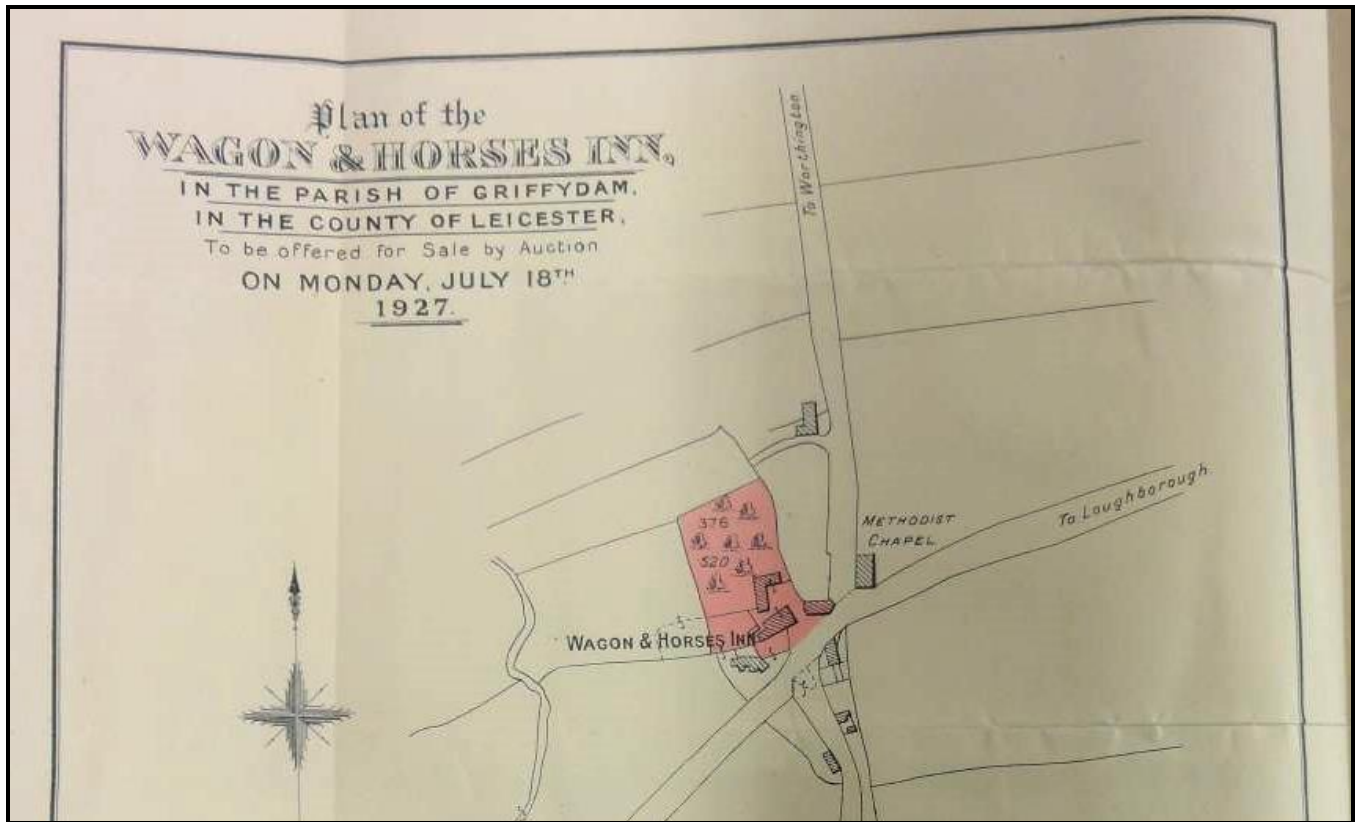
There is an excellent Orchard in the rear well stocked with full-bearing Fruit Trees.

Particulars and Plan of the Property now ready and may be obtained at the Place of Sale; the Auctioneers' Office; or from

**Messrs. FISHERS,**  
Solicitors, ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH.

Auction Office, Ashby-de-la-Zouch. Telephone 66.

The sales brochure for the auction held at the Waggon & Horses on July 18<sup>th</sup> 1927



**Section of 1927 Map of Waggon & Horses and surrounding buildings which accompanied the sales document**

The above map shows a building adjacent and to the east of the Waggon & Horses which apparently was a stable building which is not there anymore. The house on the opposite corner of Elder Lane is not there anymore either as it was demolished when road widening was carried out.

The detached building to the South-West appears to be on the site of the thatched cottage shown in the preceding old photograph and somewhat extended.

## PART 5

# NEWSPAPER REPORTS RELATING TO THE WAGGON & HORSES

## COCK FIGHTING

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

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

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

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

### **An alternative report**

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

Isaac Ward, Joseph Richards and William Edwards and Joseph Mee, were charged with unlawfully and wilfully aiding and abetting in the fighting of two cocks, at Griffydam, at 2 o'clock in the morning of the 11<sup>th</sup> inst. Mr. Brown of Ashby, appeared for the defence. – Sergeant Moore said, on Wednesday morning about 1 o'clock, I was passing the Waggon and Horses public-house. It was moonlight. I heard a conversation relative to making a match to fighting cocks. Mee said that his cock should fight that night. I remained some time, and in a little while they came out at the back door with candles to commence the fight. It was Ward and Mee. They commenced fighting the cocks. I and the other constable who was with me got over the wall, and got close to them. There was a great noise, and the betting was "two to one" on the old cock'. Richards I apprehended, and he was very violent. I had great difficulty in apprehending him, and was compelled to use my truncheon, and he called out to his comrades to come back and give it to the.....The landlady was at the door with a light, and said, on our appearance, "Oh dear: I thought how it would be". I found the dead cock I now produce in the yard (cross-examined): I was standing in the garden, about twenty yards from them. They had candles. There were seven or eight present. I found the dead cock in the yard. We secured a man each, and were not able to secure more. I struck Richards three or four times with my staff. I will swear I did not strike him 18 times. I have not seen his arm since. I might poke him in the ribs. (By the Bench): I used no more violence than was necessary to secure him. I know Richards. I know all that were there. They blew the candles out. I saw the cocks fight. I do not know whether the cock in my possession has a broken leg. The fight came off in a small yard, not far from the public road. The whole of the parties were stooping down, witnessing the fight. Ward said he hoped I would be careful of the cock, as he would sooner we hurt him than that cock. – P.C. Fardell spoke positively to three of the parties, but not so distinctly to Edwards. His evidence generally corroborated that of the first witness. – Mr. Brown urged that Mee was not present, and also that the police used undue violence. – Inspector Ward wished to say that they had been at a good deal of trouble after these affairs, for some time; and also that Richards never complained of any ill-usage when he came before him, nor when he went before the Magistrate. – The Bench were unanimously of opinion that it was a bad case, but as it was the first that had come before them, they would not inflict the greatest penalty, but if ever the parties came before them in the future, they would be very severely dealt with. – **Fined 30s. each, or one month's imprisonment.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **The Coalville Times – May 1916**

### **Coalville Police Court**

**Friday – Before Major Hatchett (in chair), Mr. H. J. Ford, Mr B.G. Hale and Mr J. W. West. The Chief Constable, Mr. E. Holmes, was present.**

#### ***Bona Fide Traveller Question***

Thomas Price, Wm. Horrobin, Thos. Kenney, Herbert Lakin, John Roach, Salue Robinson, Joseph Moore and Wm. Brealey, all Whitwick colliers, were summoned for being found on the licensed premises of David Else, at Griffydam, in the parish of Worthington during prohibited hours, on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, and Else, the publican, was summoned for opening his premises for the sale of intoxicants during prohibited hours.

Mr George Rowlett (Leicester) prosecuted for the police, and Mr J. F. Jesson (Ashby) for the publican, pleaded guilty. Inspector Dobney stated that he went to the Waggon and Horses Inn, kept by Else, at 11.15 am on the date named (Easter Sunday). Twelve men were in the house, and a young lady, whom defendant admitted, was specially engaged for holiday times, was playing on the piano a waltz, entitled "Fairyland". Witness had measured the distance, and found eight of the men lived under three miles away. Defendant told witness that he asked the men if they had come far enough, and when they said they had, he thought he could he could serve them with ale and bread and cheese.

Mr Jesson said the young lady was not playing for dancing, as there were no other ladies present, and the men would pay more attention to their beer than dance with themselves. Defendant had been licensee of the house for two years, and he promised to be more careful in the future. Defendant was fined £5, or one month.

Of the eight men, only Kenney appeared, and he pleaded guilty. Inspector Dobney gave the distances from the houses of the defendants to the public house, and these were under three miles. Mr Rowlett pointed out that if men deliberately walked beyond three miles for the purpose of getting a drink they were not bone fide travelers, and publicans made a serious mistake in serving them. Kenney said it was the first time that he had ever been to the house.

He was found 10/- or seven days, and the other defendants 15/- each or 14 days. The chairman said the magistrates wished him to state that the fact of men having walked three miles or over on Sunday morning did not entitle them to drink, if they had gone for that purpose.



## PART 6

### THE BLACKSMITH'S SHOP OPPOSITE THE WAGGON & HORSES

The "Post office Trade Directory of 1855" records that Joseph Mee was a Blacksmith at Griffydam. This is interesting, in that he would have been the grandfather of Edgar Mee who was at the Blacksmith's Shop in Pegg's Green in the 1950s. Edgar related in an interview with the Coalville Times that his grandfather came to run the blacksmith's shop at Pegg's Green from Griffydam in the 1850's when the current blacksmith had been "transported" for stealing iron.

In the Peggs Green 1851 census, Joseph Mee is shown as living with his family on Frogatt's Lane. This was an extension of the Hinckley to Melbourne turnpike road which ran from Tugby's Lane, Peggs Green to Rempstone cross roads and down what is now Storden Lane. His profession is given as a Blacksmith, and presumed to be working at the blacksmith's shop described below.

An old resident of the village described a rather strange shaped building, which was used as a "Blacksmith's Shop" on the north end of what was known as "Rose Cottage" shown in the following photograph. The same property is marked **B** on the following 1903 O/S map and the strange shaped extension can be clearly seen on the end of the cottage. The property was directly opposite the horse stables belonging to the Waggon & Horses which are marked **A** on the map. The Waggon & Horses is marked **C**.

Wagons would have continually broken down, with the horses losing shoes whilst travelling up *Nickerson's* (slang for *Nicklinson*) Hill on the Rempstone Turnpike Road. John Nicklinson senior & junior were landlords at the Waggon & Horses. The horses stabled there could well have been used to assist in helping to pull the wagons weighing up to 4 tons up the steep hill. Other stables for horses presumably used for farm work as well were situated at the back of the Inn. In the sale documents of 1927 they had stabling for up to seven horses.

There are no blacksmiths recorded in the 1851 census for Griffydam but in 1861 (after Joseph Mee had left to go to Peggs Green) John Massey, aged 41, is listed as a blacksmith living with his wife Zilpha (47) and family members. This was Zilpha's third husband.

No further records have been found of a blacksmith residing in Griffydam, until the September 1939 registration documents list George W Hyman and his son living at "Rose Cottage". The father's occupation is given as a "Shoeing Smith" and he was also a Special Constable. He was born on 7<sup>th</sup> May 1887. On the 1911 census he is listed as living on Derby Road, Ashby de la Zouch with his occupation given as "Blacksmith".



Photograph taken in the 1950's when Mrs. Richardson lived at the property marked **B** in the following map. It was unfortunately demolished to make way for a later road modification scheme. The stables opposite marked **A** had also been demolished by the time the photograph was taken.



1903 O/S Map



In the old photograph above taken c.1895, the building on the RH side is the Waggon & Horses.

The cottage in the centre is marked **D** on the preceding 1903 O/S map and the edge of the building on the LH side was part of the Blacksmith's Shop extension to the cottage **B**.

We do not have any knowledge about the thatched cottage in the centre at the time of writing. This was demolished at some point.