

***THE BRICKWORKS ON BREEDON BRAND -
KNOWN LOCALLY AS GRIFFYDAM BRICKWORKS***



BY SAMUEL T STEWART - NOVEMBER 2020

FRONT COVER PHOTOGRAPHS

These show the remains of an updraft “Scotch Kiln” which still exists on the site of the former Brickworks on the “Bottom Brand”.

PREFACE

In the publication entitled “A Social and Industrial History of Griffydham and Peggs Green” (June 2018) by Samuel T Stewart, a feature is included on the history of brick making at what was referred to locally as Griffydham Brickworks. These were located on “Breedon Brand” which was still in Breedon parish in 1884.

The 1881/2 surveyed, 1885 published, 6 inch O/S map, confirms that too separate brickworks / brick yards were in operation on “Breedon Brand” at that time.

Subsequent research has identified the proprietors / tenants of the brickyards over a period of at least 11 years. These were William Hoult, Joseph Smart & Son and Henry Toon.

William Hoult operated one of the brickworks and the other was operated by Joseph Smart & Son followed by Henry Toon. The bottom brickyard is the one thought to have been worked by Joseph Smart followed by William Toon, although there is no concrete proof of that.

It has not proved possible to identify proprietors / tenants of either brickyards prior to c.1850 with any certainty.

The Brickworks have always been known locally as Griffydham Brickworks, but no evidence has been found to prove they were called that on official documents. However, later bricks were impressed with Griffydham, and in the case of William Toon, with his name also.

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NOTES

1. The brickworks would have also made roof tiles, floor tiles and sough (drainage) tiles.
2. O/S maps confirm that the brickworks were still in use in 1885 but are marked as being disused before 1901.

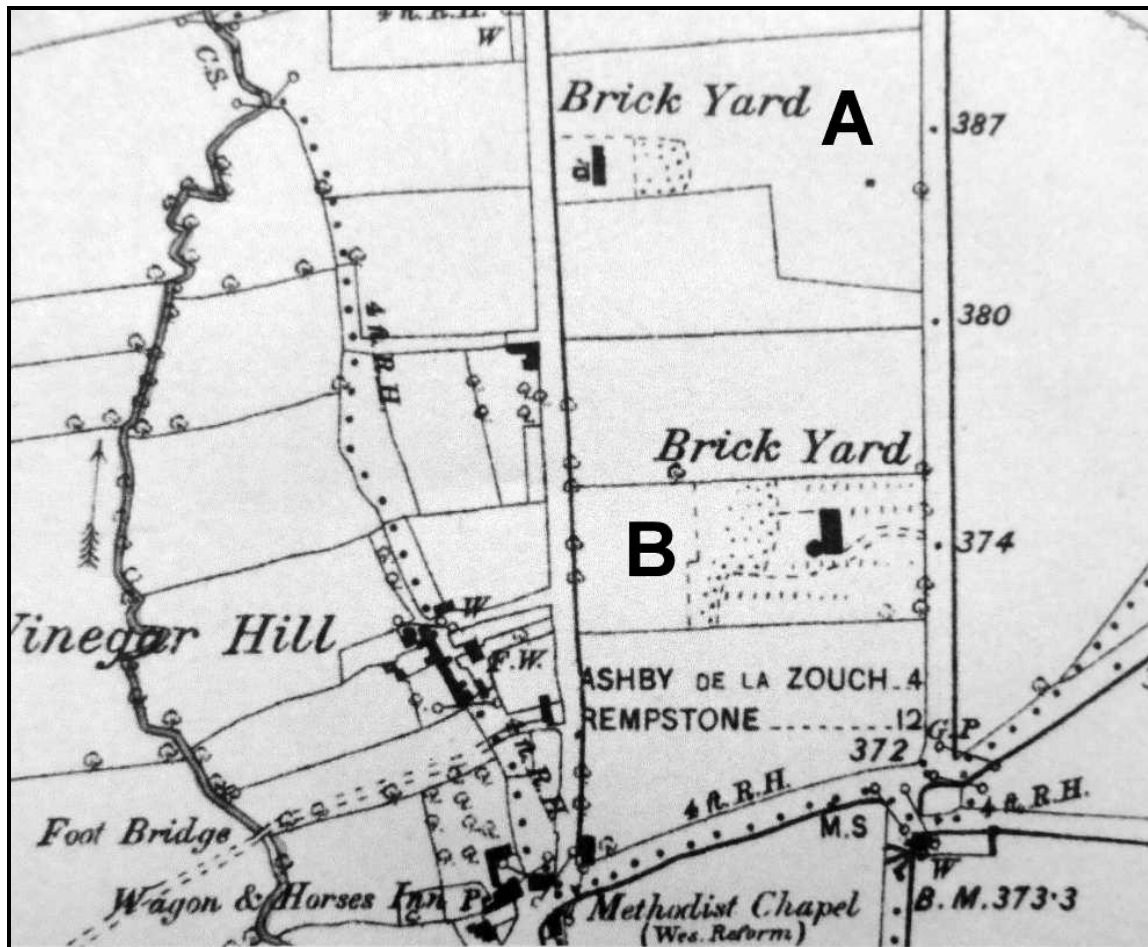
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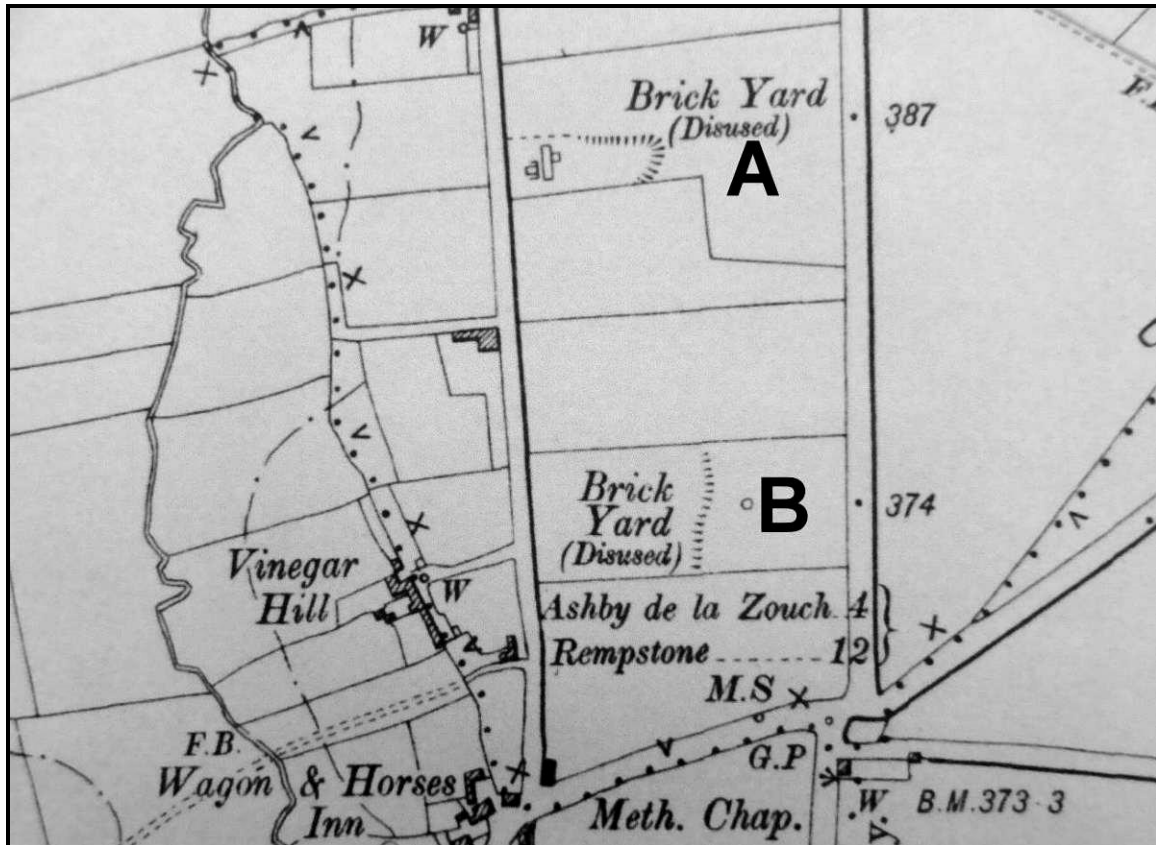
PART 1

LOCATION OF THE BRICKWORKS / BRICKYARDS ON THE BRAND

THE 1881 SURVEYED O/S MAP BELOW SHOWS TWO SEPARATE BRICKYARDS ON BREEDON BRAND MARKED A and B WHICH ARE REFERRED TO SUBSEQUENTLY AS THE TOP AND BOTTOM BRICKYARDS.



THE 1901 O/S MAP SHOWS THAT BY THEN BOTH BRICKYARDS HAD FALLEN INTO DISUSE. THE LATEST RECORD FOUND OF EITHER OF THEM OPERATING IS 1881.

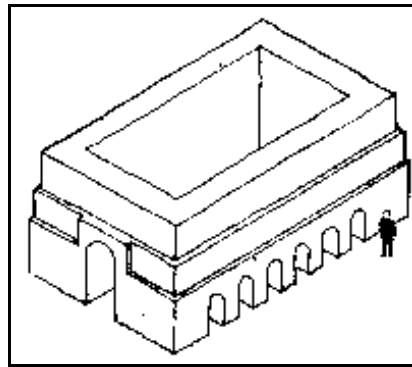


PART 2

UPDATED TECHNICAL INFORMATION ON THE BRICKWORKS

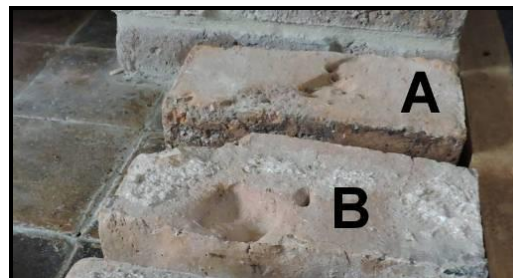
When the original history of the brickworks was written in the book entitled “*A social & Industrial History of Griffydam and Peggs Green*”, no actual evidence was available on how advanced the brickworks were with regard to the operational processes being used to manufacture the bricks.

The most common type of kiln used in the UK in the 19th century was an “Up-draft” kiln which was usually referred to as a “Scotch Kiln”. At least one of these was in use at Griffydam, parts of which have survived to this day, as depicted in the front page photographs. It consisted of a rectangular building which is open at the top and has side doors with arched fire holes built from fire bricks. The kilns could generally accommodate approximately 80,000 bricks at full capacity. Raw / green bricks are arranged in the kiln leaving gaps in between each brick to ensure an even burn. It took approximately three days to burn off the residual moisture from the bricks, at which point the firing was increased for the final burn. It took between 48 and 60 hours to completely burn a brick to achieve its optimum strength and colour. The bricks from the centre of the kiln would have been of the highest quality, whilst the ones from the edges were sometimes clinkered and unsuitable for exterior work. The open top of the kiln was covered with old bricks and turf to help conserve heat, though flames would often be seen at night rising from the top of the kiln.



An outline illustration of an updraft kiln similar to the one shown on the front page

Prior to mechanized higher volume brick manufacture, the hand moulded green bricks, were usually stacked in open-air “hacks” to dry for up to six weeks, protected from the weather and animals, by a covering of straw matting, tarpaulins, and later, wooden boarding with louvers. The temporary and seasonal character of the work meant that brick yard owners had little incentive to invest in buildings or expensive equipment. Natural environmental factors were accommodated as far as possible, and brick makers accepted a certain number of ruined bricks as an inevitable outcome of their business.



Moulded bricks damaged by animal hooves from a cottage in Griffydam

As time moved on, bricks were pre - dried in “Hovels” or drying sheds which had heated floors from flues running underneath which were diverted from newer designs of “Down – Draft” kilns.

In order to support the volumes of bricks being supplied to the Worthington to Ashby branch of the Derby to Ashby Midland Railway in 1871, brick manufacturing at Griffydam would have undoubtedly become mechanized and a floor heated drying shed for the green bricks prior to firing would most likely have been in use. The demand for increased volumes of bricks in the second half of the 19th century, coupled with the Victorian drive for mechanization, meant that by the mid 19th century extruded wire-cut and press-moulded bricks were in use.

Although, no physical evidence has survived the passage of time, at least one down draft kiln would have been in use where an underground flue was taken to a chimney from the base of the kiln which also provided the facility for the heat to be diverted for the underground heating of green brick drying sheds. **Green bricks is a reference to the raw moulded or pressed bricks which needed a period of drying prior to being stacked in the kilns for firing.**

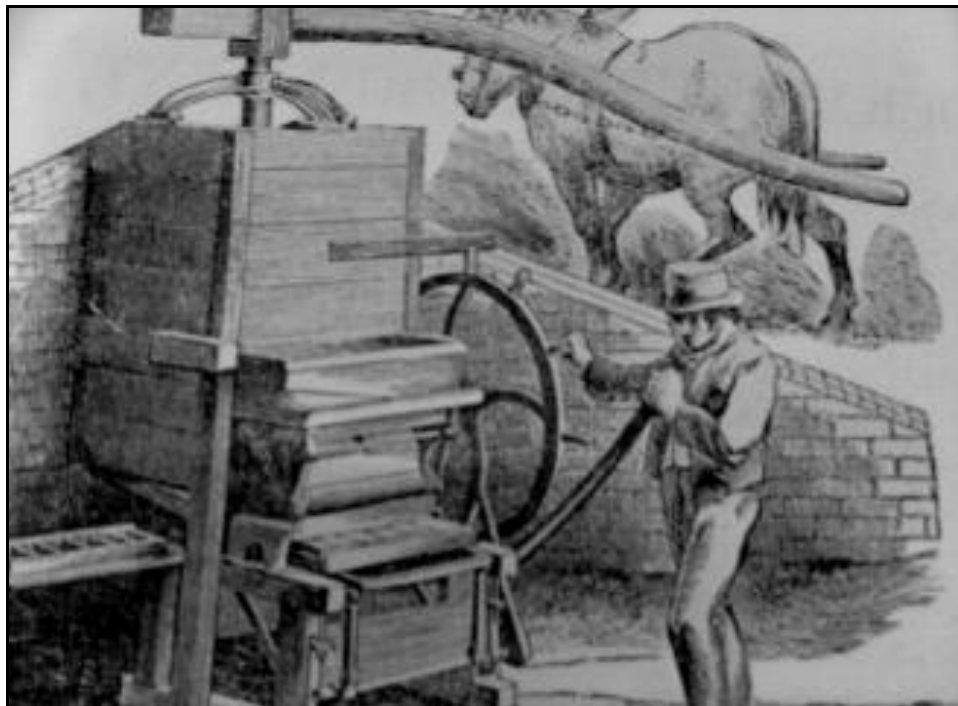


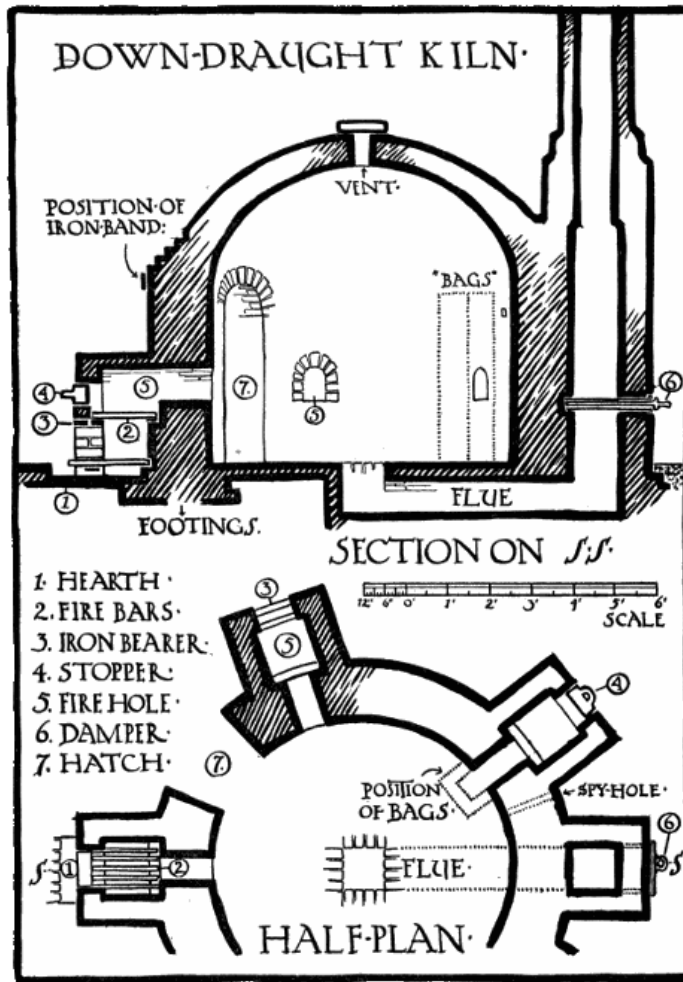
Photograph of the clay pit dug adjacent to the kiln on the front page



**A typical clay pit. Note the turntables and tramway
which would have led to the brick making area**

It is quite possible that a horse driven "Pugmill" would have been in use at Griffydam at some point, for mixing the clay as shown below





An illustration of a "Down Draft" kiln with chimney



The above photographs are examples of pressed bricks which have "Griffydam" impressed into them.

PART 3

WILLIAM HOULT – BRICKYARD OWNER ON THE BRAND

The newspaper articles in Part 5 provide some key information and a suggestion that William Hoult was the “owner” of one of the brickyard on the “Brand” from at least 1870 to beyond 1880. William is often recorded as being a farmer, and as we know the bottom brickyard was rented on an annual basis, it is probable that he owned the land on which the brickyards stood including the field that separated them. More importantly, the first article also confirms that William Hoult was supplying significant quantities of bricks to the Worthington and Ashby section of the Derby to Ashby Midland Railway. Due to its close proximity to the start of the Worthington to Ashby section, this is not really surprising, but prior to the discovery of the first newspaper article, there was no other evidence available.

In the newspaper article on page 12, William Hoult describes himself to the judge as *a brick manufacturer not a brick maker* which the author believes is significant, even though the judge didn't. In most areas, these small brickyard owners hired a brick master at a price per thousand bricks to superintend the site and take full responsibility for the output of the operations. He in turn contracted with moulders to temper, mould and hack the bricks. Each moulder then hired his own “gang” of subsidiary labourers and acted as their employer. This was similar to the “Butty” system employed in the coal mines (**see a typical agreement at the end of the publication**)

In the 1851 census for Thringstone (Peggs Green – Froggatt's Lane – In the Township of Thringstone at that time) Thomas Hoult (father of William Hoult) is recorded as an Inn Keeper (licensing records confirm the Red Lion) with his wife Elizabeth, daughters Mary and Jane and son William aged 14. They also had a servant; Richard Cooper aged 43, born in Worthington.

The 1861 census for Thringstone (Peggs Green - In the Township of Thringstone at that time) records William Hoult, aged 25 as a brick maker living with his mother Elizabeth, now a widow, and two sisters Mary and Jane. His mother is recorded as being a Victualler and grocer (licensing records confirm “Red Lion”). The reference to grocer probably refers to the shop next door. Elizabeth was born in Coleorton but Thomas's birth place was recorded as unknown.

The 1871 census for Thringstone records William Hoult as a farmer aged 35 and now living with his wife Sarah aged 20 who was born in Liverpool, plus a servant George Jones on Froggatt's Lane.

By July 1880, William and Sarah are recorded in the last newspaper article on page 14 as living in Castle Donington but still owning “*a brickyard in the bottom brand*”.

Except for the Post Office Directory of Leicestershire and Rutland, 1876, which describes William Hoult as both a farmer and brick maker, and the 1861 census describing him as a brickmaker, he is generally alluded to as a farmer.

NOTE:-

Froggatt's Lane was a branch of the Hinckley to Melbourne turnpike road which ran from Peggs Green, along the top road of Griffydham to the Rempstone cross roads, then down what is now Storden Lane till it met the Ashby to Loughborough turnpike road. At this time, this was in the Township of Thringstone which was part of the parish of Whitwick, and it is not possible to even hazard a guess as to where on Froggatt's lane he lived. The land on the east side of the top road at Griffydham was in the township of Thringstone at that time so it is extremely difficult to interpret the census records unless you understand the historical background of the geographical area, and even then it is difficult. The Griffydham census even adds more confusion. What is now Storden Lane was referred to as Froggatt's Lane and this was in the Township of Thringstone at the time so at least that aspect is clear.

PART 4

THE WORTHINGTON TO ASHBY SECTION OF THE DERBY TO ASHBY MIDLAND RAILWAY

In 1845, the Midland Railway, anxious to keep competitors away from the Leicestershire coalfields, purchased the Ashby Canal and its associated railways / tramways for £110,000. It then forged a line from the Leicester & Swannington railway at Coalville, through Moira to its recently-acquired Birmingham-Derby route at Burton-upon-Trent. One clause of the agreement required it to "keep the canal intact and in good repair for the purposes of trade until the completion of the railway and as long after as may be deemed expedient".

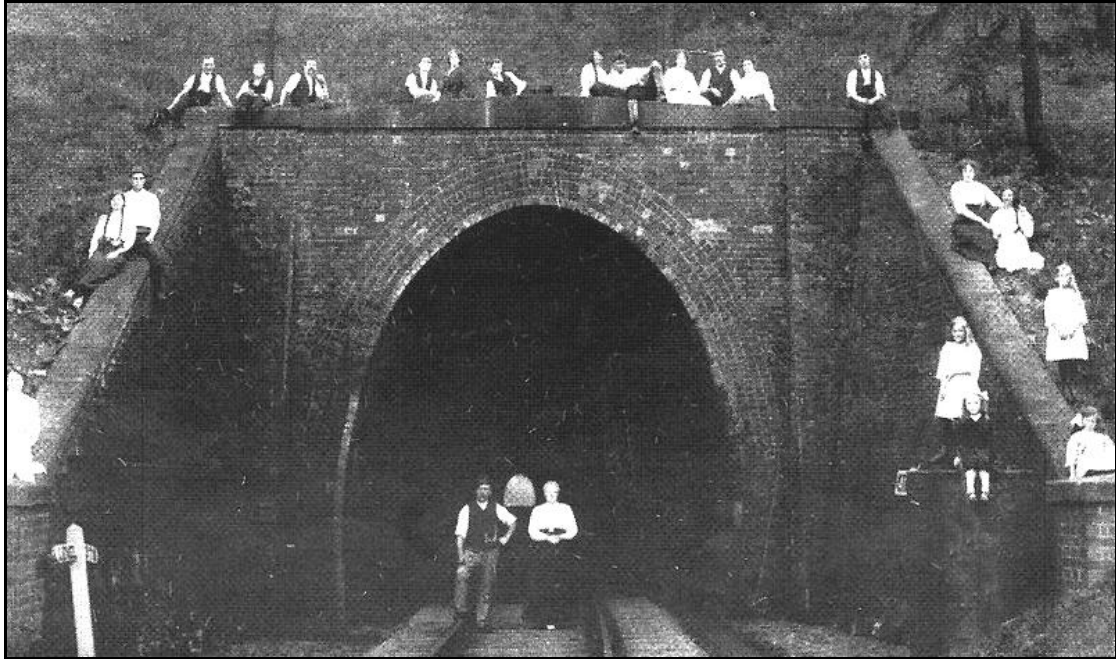
The Midland Railway, after gaining a Parliamentary Act, decided to build a line between Derby and Melbourne, which was opened on 1st September, 1868 and consisted of a double track line with stations at Derby Midland, Peartree, Chellaston and Melbourne. Just over one year later, on the 1st of October, 1869, the line was continued on as a single track from Melbourne via Tonge to Worthington.

The Midland Railway decided to subsequently extend its Worthington branch southwards into Ashby where it would connect with the Leicester-Burton line. This was laid mainly on the track bed of the original 12 ½ mile long horse drawn Cloud Hill tramway except for a few places where it was realigned to ease the curvature. The "Old Parks" tunnel was rebored to accommodate a standard gauge track and, as part of this work, it was shortened at its western end. When the new railway opened on 1st January 1874, just 308 yards of the original 447 yard long brick lined tunnel remained.

After the Second World War, the line's main use was that of transporting lime and lime stone from the Cloud Hill quarry and coal from New Lount Colliery via branch lines. The link from Ashby to Worthington eventually became redundant and was discontinued in 1955.



**A Steam Navy working on the Worthington to Ashby section
of the Derby to Ashby Midland Railway c.1872.**



Ashby Old parks tunnel after completion. Opened on January 1st 1874, it almost certainly incorporated bricks from Griffydam brickworks.

PART 5

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

Leicester Chronicle – October 14th 1871

ASHBY COUNTY COURT – THURS OCT 19TH.

William Hoult v Thomas Haywood. – Claim £3 4s., a set-off pleaded for £3 0s. – Mr. Higginson appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Wilson for the defendant. – Defendant is a builder living at Griffydham, and on passing plaintiff's brickyard one day, saw that he had a large stock of bricks, and asked him why he did not get rid of them. Plaintiff said that because no one wanted any. Defendant offered to get him a customer on the same terms he had been accustomed to sell bricks for his father, viz., 1s. per thousand. He took a sample of the bricks, and showed them to Mr. Lambert, agent for Messrs. Eckersley and Boyliss, the contractors for the formation of the new line between Worthington and Ashby. Mr. Lambert approved of the bricks, and said he would take all Mr. Hoult had – about 60,000. Defendant said he had better see Mr. Hoult about them. Mr. Lambert took the whole of plaintiff's stock, and in all had had from him **200,000**. – Plaintiff said that he never engaged to give defendant a commission on the sale of bricks, but, in conversation with him, said if defendant could get him a customer, he should be very much obliged to him. – In the course of his examination, plaintiff said he was not a brick maker himself, but a brick manufacturer. – His Honour pointed out that this was a distinction without a difference. – Mr. Lambert was called to prove that the defendant did not sell the bricks to him, but that he had bought them of plaintiff, though he did so as the result of Haywood's introduction. – His Honour said it appeared to him that there had been on the side of each party in this case a want of manly straightforward truthfulness. – **It was quite clear to him that the whole truth had not come out. He was satisfied, however, that plaintiff had engaged to give defendant a commission if he found a customer for the bricks, and he should allow the claim of £3. – Verdict for plaintiff for 4s.**

It could be interpreted that Thomas Haywood infers that William Hoult's father owned the brickworks prior to his son. Thomas Haywood was also the licensed victualler of the Griffin Inn on Elder Lane, Griffydham as well as a builder.

Leicester Chronicle – July 12th 1873

**LEICESTERSHIRE SUMMER ASSIZES
CROWN COURT , Thursday,**

**Before Baron Bramwell
(Jury – 21 men plus a foreman)**

WILLIAM HOULT (37), farmer and brick manufacturer, was charged with the manslaughter of Maria Weston, at Worthington on the 27th June. – Mr. Jacques prosecuted, and Mr. Merewether defended the prisoner. – Frederick Staniforth, labourer, living at Worthington, said on the 18th June he was standing near his master's house, on the road leading from Breedon to Worthington, at about eight o'clock. Prisoner came up in a basket trap, drawn by a pony. Prisoner passed him and stopped, and then turned towards Breedon. He beat the pony, which was galloping as fast as it could. – William Shaw, labourer, Worthington, said he was in the street in the village of Worthington about eight o'clock, and saw prisoner coming up with a pony and trap at a very fast pace. He had difficulty in getting out of the way of the pony and trap. – Mary Higglesfield said on the day in question she saw prisoner coming in a basket trap from Breedon. He was driving the pony very fast. Prisoner got up in the trap, and flogged the pony several times. – William Elliot, grocer, Worthington, spoke to seeing the prisoner driving at a furious pace at the time in question.

– Josiah Weston, haggler, said the deceased was his mother. On the evening in question he was coming with a horse and cart from Griffydam to Worthington, and met prisoner with a pony and trap. He (witness) had to back his horse to get out of the way of prisoner. – By Mr. Merewether : His mother had been run over by a post-boy named Broadhurst previously. She was deaf, but could hear when spoken to loudly. – Ralph Smith, labourer, who lived on the road leading to Griffydam, said he was standing at his door on the evening in question, and saw the deceased, who was coming from Griffydam to Worthington. She was near the roadside. Saw prisoner come up, and heard him shout when about three yards off the deceased, “Get out of the way”. He did not think there was time for her to get out of the way before the shaft struck her and knocked her down ; the pony trampled on her head, and the wheel passed over her. Prisoner, who was going very fast, whipped the pony after he had run over deceased. He told prisoner he had knocked deceased down, but he did not stop. Prisoner went on as far as his brickyard, which was about 300 yards off and then stopped. He (witness) went and picked deceased up. – By Mr. Merewether : Could not see prisoner if he had been looking in the direction he was coming when he first heard him, as there was a corner. The deceased was walking where the wheel of the trap would run. – James Cowlshaw, farmer, said he was riding on the road from Griffydam to Worthington on the evening in question, and saw prisoner driving at a furious rate. He rode on to the place where deceased was, and from information he received, he went after prisoner to the brickyard, and told him he had one over a woman, and injured her seriously. Prisoner replied he had as much right on the road as anyone else. He also added that he told her to get out of the way, but she would not. – Dr. Johnson, of Whitwick, said he saw deceased after the accident. He found several bruises on different parts of her body, and there was a bruise all up the leg, as also bruises on the head and temple. She was in a low state, and died on the 27th. He made a *post mortem* examination, and found the cause of death to be effusion of blood on the brain, caused by the injuries she had sustained. – Mr. Merewether, for the defence, said the deceased was deaf, but as the prisoner called out to her when three or four yards off, she had time to get out of the road. – His Lordship in summing up pointed out that the jury must satisfy themselves that the death of the woman was due to the criminal negligence of the prisoner. They must judge for themselves, if they found the death had been caused, whether the prisoner exercised proper caution. If they believed the evidence of the witnesses, the prisoner either could not or would not stop the pony when he saw the woman on the road. If he could not stop the pony, he had not been guilty of culpable negligence. If they found he had been guilty of culpable negligence, which had resulted in the death of this woman, and considered that he was a fit person for punishment, then they must find him guilty – The jury found the prisoner guilty, but recommended him to mercy on account of the deceased being deaf. – His Lordship said the deceased had been killed entirely through prisoner’s misconduct, which he considered a most cruel thing. **Taking into account the recommendation of the jury, he should not sentence prisoner to hard labour, as that would make him *the associate of thieves*, but he should order him to be imprisoned for four months, and condemn him to pay the costs of this prosecution.**

Based on the numerous times William Hault was involved in Court cases, one does get the impression that he was a bit of a rogue, not forgetting the 4 months imprisonment he was sentenced to for what nowadays would be a charge of manslaughter. Assuming William didn’t appeal and have his sentence commuted, then he presumably left things to his brick master to run the operation and probably his wife took care of the administration side.

Leicester Chronicle – August 23rd 1879

**COUNTY COURT
Before Mr. Barrow, Judge**

John Green Evatt and another v William Hoult.

Mr. Jesson for plaintiff, and Mr. Wilson for defendant. –

Action to recover £5 advanced by Plaintiff's to defendant on the faith of a contract entered into by him with them to supply bricks to order at Worthington, and which were never supplied. - Plaintiff produced a receipt signed by the defendant for £5 on account of "bricks delivered at Worthington Station", thus omitting the words "to be", but evidence being given that this was a mere clerical error, **judgment was given for the plaintiffs for the amount claimed with costs.**

Leicester Chronicle – July 3rd 1880

A Painful Case. – Hannah Saddington and Fanny Platts of Griffydham, two married women, of respectable appearance, were charged with stealing 87lbs. weight of coals, on the 21st ult., the property of William Hoult, brick manufacturer of Griffydham. – P.C. Hancock said: On Monday night at about quarter to eleven o'clock, I saw the two defendants coming from the direction of Mr. Hoult's, of Breedon parish. They were carrying something under their shawls. On seeing me they quickened their pace. I ran after them, overtook them, and said "What have you got here"? Mrs. Platts replied a bit of coal, master". I said, "I see its coal, and I suspect you have taken it from Hoult's brickyard". She replied "We have, our boys have been working for Mr. Hoult, and as he could not pay them their wages, he said we might have a bit of coal for it". I said "That may be so; but I shall take possession of the coal until I ascertain the truth of your statement. If I find it correct, all well and good; if not, you must take the consequences". The constable produced the coal in, two bags, one containing 44lbs. The other 43lbs. **Sarah Hoult said: I am the wife of William Hoult, brickmaker, and live at Castle Donington. We have a brickyard in the Bottom Brand.** On Tuesday morning defendants came to our house, at half-past one o'clock a.m. I was in bed and they called me up. I looked out of the window and said "Who's there"? They both answered "Come down; we are in great trouble". I replied "I shall not come down; tell me through the window". They both said "We have no coals, and we thought there would be no harm in fetching a bit, as the lad came for his money this afternoon and you did not give him all of it. We told him to ask you to let us have a bit of coal. But we have come to tell you that the Policeman says he will take us to Ashby to-morrow, unless we got a paper from you to say you gave us permission". They then said "Do forgive us this time, and we will do anything for you; we will give you a weeks money of the lads". I replied "I cannot do anything in it, as we have had so much coal taken before". They replied "We have never taken any before". I said "That may be, but scarcely a day passes but something is being taken from the brickyard". They again asked me to forgive them, but I said, I could not for we had kept Griffydham in coals long enough. – This was the case for the prosecution. The defendants, who appeared to feel their position very keenly, pleaded poverty. They said their boys had been working in the brickyard, and could not get the whole of their money. Mrs Hoult was again called, and asked if such was the case, and she said it was not so. – The bench decided to convict, defendants desiring to have the case settled at once. – **After a severe reprimand from the Chairman, they were each ordered to pay a fine of 5s.**

It is clear from the above, that after the women were arrested at about a quarter to eleven o'clock, they then walked all the way to William Hoult's house at Castle Donington to beg forgiveness, arriving there at half-past one in the morning!!

PART 6

JOSEPH SMART & SON – BRICK MAKER ON THE BRAND FROM c.1845 TO c.1880

This article is not intended to suggest that Joseph Smart was the first brick maker in Griffydam. In fact the author believes, based on his research, that brick making in a small way was being carried out on the Lower Brand in the early 18th century. What it does demonstrate is that Joseph Smart was making bricks at the same time as William Hault, so one presumes from this that they are operating the top and bottom brickyards independently.

Joseph Smart was first listed in the 1851 Griffydam census as a brick maker and he appears to be living next to the Waggon & Horses Inn on the Lower Brand with his family. He is also recorded as still being a brick maker in the 1861/71 census records. Joseph was born in Ticknall in 1824, and his wife Elizabeth was born in Kimberly, Notts. His son James, also living in Griffydam, was born in 1847 in Ridings, Derbyshire and he married Selina. They had a daughter Elizabeth, who was born in 1870. It is believed that Joseph Smart operated the bottom brickworks on the Brand

The landlord of the "Waggon & Horses" from 1845 to 1864 was John Nicklinson who was also listed in 1851 as a brick maker, presumably working for Joseph Smart. John must have been a busy man - landlord of a pub, farmer and brick maker.

In the 1851 census for Pegg's Green, Henry Smart (25) and his wife Fanny (22), both born in Ticknall, are both listed as brick makers. Also listed as a brick maker in the Pegg's Green 1881 census was George Smart, aged 44, again born in Ticknall, and living with his wife Amy, aged 45, and born in Breedon.

In the 1881 Griffydam census, Joseph Smart was recorded as still living in Griffydam, aged 57, and still as a brick maker, although we cannot take that as he was still operating the brickworks himself and could have been working for or with someone else. His wife Elizabeth was 57, and they had four grandchildren living with them, Elizabeth aged 11, Annie aged 9, Charles aged 7 and Sarah R aged 5 who were all born in Griffydam. His son, James Smart isn't listed in the 1881 census, but Selina, had died in 1879, which would explain why the children are with their grandparents.

It is not unreasonable to assume that the entire Smarts' mentioned are related, and sufficient information has been provided to enable those interested to research their backgrounds further.

A genealogy research document published by a descendant in New Zealand, confirms that Joseph Smart left Ticknall and moved to Ashby-De-La-Zouch before coming to Griffydam and setting up his brickworks. By 1885, Joseph had actually moved to New Zealand where he apparently set up another brickworks.

The following advertisement in the Leicester Chronicle 9 Aug 1879 confirms that at some point, Joseph Smart and his son James had formed a partnership with a William Wildblood and Sydney Haywood related to the Brickworks. The advert states they were trading as "Brick and Tile Merchants and Builders". The advertisement confirms that this partnership was dissolved 26th July 1879. The only other connection the author can find between the parties is in an indenture dated 24th May 1879 involving the purchase / sale of what is now 31, Top Road, Griffydam in 1879.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN,

THAT the PARTNERSHIP heretofore subsisting between us the undersigned, JOSEPH SMART, JAMES SMART, WILLIAM WILDBLOOD, and SYDNEY HAYWOOD, trading as Brick and Tile Merchants and Builders, at Griffydham in the County of Leicester, in the name of "Smart, Son, Wildblood, and Haywood," was this day dissolved by mutual consent.

Dated this 26th day of July, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-nine.

JOSEPH SMART,
JAMES SMART,
WILLIAM WILDBLOOD,
SYDNEY HAYWOOD.

Witness to the signing hereof by the said Joseph Smart & Sydney Haywood,
Edward B. Jennings,
Solicitor,
Burton-on-Trent.

Witness to the signing thereof by the said James Smart & William Wildblood,
George Burton,
Solicitor, Burton-on-Trent.

wa2365

The following newspaper article refers to Sydney Haywood investing £400 in the above business

Burton Chronicle – March 19th 1891

GRIFFYDAM

A LOCAL BANKRUPTCY CASE. – At the Leicester Bankruptcy court last week, Sidney Haywood, grocer, Griffydham, came up for his public examination. His liabilities were named at £71, and assets of £7 8s. – Mr. Sharp appeared for bankrupt, who said that he was formerly a labourer in the employ of Messrs. Stableford at Coalville. In June last year, hoping to improve his position, he took a grocer's shop. He had about £30 capital, mostly saved by his wife. He did not thoroughly understand the trade, but thought in a small place much knowledge would not be necessary. **About twelve years ago he had £400, and invested in a brickyard, which failed.** In July last he found that the grocery business would not pay, and then asked his principle creditor to rake some of his goods back, which he did, and he soon afterwards shut up the shop – Examination closed.

PART 7

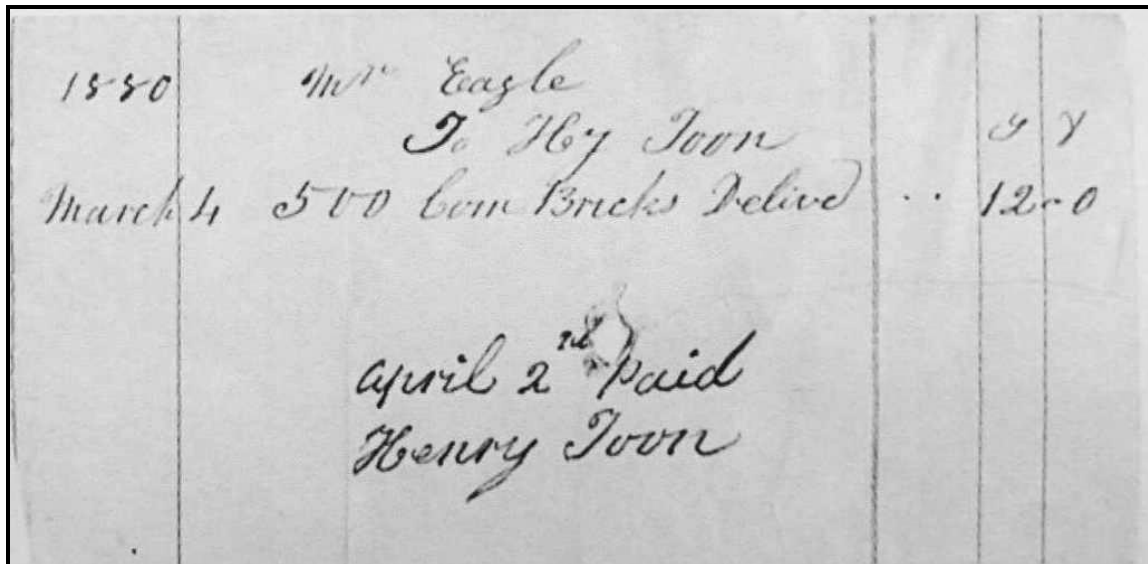
HENRY TOON

There follows copies of receipts for bricks purchased from the brickworks on the Lower Brand by Samuel Eagle Esq., together with a photograph of an actual brick impressed with Henry Toon's name. Samuel Eagle, who had purchased a house on Elder Lane in 1877 on a buy to let basis ran a Bakers and Grocers business in an area within Coleorton known as "Rotten Row", which was actually in the Township of Thringstone at that time.

The 1880 / 1881 dates on the receipts strongly suggests, that Henry Toon had taken over the renting of the bottom brickyard from Joseph Smart, but he was only there for a limited time based on the following newspaper article.

These receipts are the only records located for the price of bricks (commons) originating from the brickworks on the Brand, which is shown as being 25 shillings a thousand in 1881.

Bricks being supplied to the Coleorton Railway in 1834 from Coleorton Brickworks were 22s. per thousand but that was based on 900,000 bricks supplied. In the Coleorton brickyard ex kiln ledger for 1813 commons were 28s. per thousand.



1851

Griffydau Brickyard
 Mr Eagle
 To H^y Toon

March 21 250 6m Bricks Delivered
 22 150 do
400 at 25p Thow .. 100 0
 April 30 Settled
 H^y Toon



Machine pressed brick made when Henry Toon was operating the brickworks on the Lower brand. Impressed Griffydau.

The following transcribed newspaper article confirms that someone else owned the particular brickyard William Toon was operating from (William Hoult possibly??) as he only rented it.

Ashby de la Zouch Gazette – May 27th 1882

**MESSRS. AULT, SPRECKLEY, AND Co.,
AT THE WAGGON AND HORSES, GRIFFYDAM, LEICESTERSHIRE
ON MONDAY THE 5TH DAY OF JUNE, 1882
AT 5 FOR 6 O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING PROMPT
SUBJECT TO THE CONDITIONS OF THE SALE TO BE THEN PRODUCED**

All that close of Valuable Pasture Land, with the Kiln, Brick and Tile Open Shed, and other buildings standing thereon, called by the name of "The Brick Kiln Close", containing by survey 5a. 6r. 26p., or thereabouts, situate in the parish of Breedon-on-the-Hill, in a place there called "The Brand". And now in the occupation of Mr. Henry Toone.

There is an everlasting bed of clay of the very best quality, a good trade is being done, and sample bricks quarries and tiles can be seen in the yard.

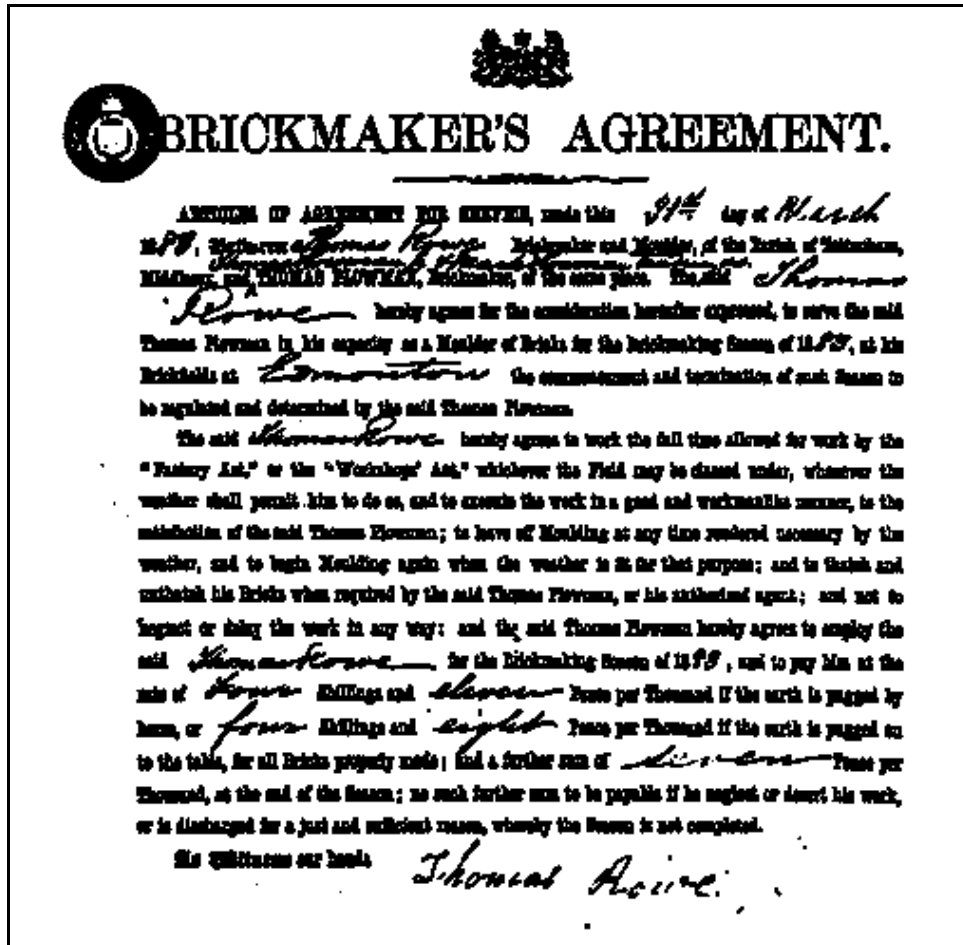
The premises are adjoined by the Hinckley and Melbourne turnpike and the Brand Roads, and are within a mile of Worthington Railway Station.

The tenancy is a yearly one and produces, with a guaranteed minimum royalty of £21, the rental of £43.

Further particulars may be had of the auctioneers St. Mary's Gate, Derby, or Mr. Alfred Heny, Solicitor, 4, Market-place, Derby.

PART 8

A BRICKMAKER'S AGREEMENT



Example of an 1883 Brick Makers Agreement

ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT FOR SERVICE, made this (31st) day of (March) 1883, Between (Thomas Rowe) Brickmaker and Moulder, the parish of Tottenham, Middlesex and THOMAS PLOWMAN, Brickmaker of the same place. The said (Thomas Rowe) hereby agrees for the consideration hereafter expressed, to serve the said Thomas Plowman in his capacity as a Moulder of Bricks for the Brickmaking Season of 1883, at his Brickfields at (Edmonton) the commencement and termination of such season to be regulated and determined by the said Thomas Plowman. The said (Thomas Rowe) hereby agrees to work the full time allowed for work by the "Factory Act," or the "Workshops' Act," whichever the Field may be classed under, whenever the weather shall permit him to do so, and to execute the work in a good and workmanlike manner, to the satisfaction of the said Thomas Plowman; to leave off Moulding at any time rendered necessary by the weather, and to begin Moulding again when the weather is fit for that purpose; and to thatch and unthatch his Bricks when required by the said Thomas Plowman, or his authorized agent; and not to neglect or delay the work in any way: and the said Thomas Plowman hereby agrees to employ the said (Thomas Rowe) for the Brickmaking Season of 1883, and to pay him at the rate of (4) Shillings and (11) Pence per 1000 if the earth is pugged by horse, or (4) Shillings and (8) Pence per 1000 if the earth is pugged on to the table, for all Bricks properly made; and further sum of (7) Pence per 1000, at the end of the Season; no such further sum to be payable if he neglect or desert his work, or is discharged for a just and sufficient reason, whereby the Season is not completed. As Witness our hands (Thomas Rowe).