

Coalville Times – July 1915

Friday August 6th 1915 (Issue 1222)

Local News

The Whitwick Ward has been divided into six districts and the work and distribution and collection of the papers has here been undertaken by Misses. F. West and Carr; Misses Henson and Amy Henson; Messrs. J. T. Briers and F. Ducker; J. W. Eagles and A. Pegg; John Pegg and George West, and F. E. Needham and S. Turner.

The papers will be delivered between the 9th and 14th inst., and must be filled up by the 15th, all persons between the ages of 16 65 years, being required to sign the forms which will be called for on the 16th to the 18th. The enumerators are sworn to secrecy and if they communicate without lawful authority any information acquired from the forms, they are liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months or a fine not exceeding £20, or both. The Coalville Urban Council have appointed a sub-committee to carry out all the necessary details, consisting of Messrs. W. Fellows and S. Armson (Hugglescote), A. Lockwood and C. W. Brown (Coalville) and M. McCarthy and T. Kelly (Whitwick).

Whitwick Boy Drowned

While Catching Fish on Sunday Afternoon

Inquest

The deputy-coroner for North Leicestershire, Mr T. J. Webb, held an inquest at the Whitwick Institute on Tuesday morning, touching the death of Harry Pares Chappell, aged 8 years, of the City of Dan, Whitwick, who was drowned in a pond on Holly Hayes Farm, on Sunday afternoon.

Emma Chappell, single, residing in the City of Dan said the deceased was her son and would have been nine next birthday. Witness sent him to school on Sunday afternoon, he came back and said there was no school. Before he went out she gave him a flag, but took it off the cane so he should not wave it as it was Sunday. He put the flag in his pocket and carried the cane in his hand. That was the last witness saw of him. He had not been in the habit of going there. She did not think he knew where it was, but was taken there by others. The boy was not subject to fits and was in good health.

John Brotherhood, aged 10, of Leicester Road, Whitwick, stated that on Sunday afternoon the deceased, two boys named Richards and Newman and himself, went to the fish pond. Chappell had a cane in his hand and he got through the wires round the pond. He lay down and leaned right over the edge of the pond facing the water and poked it with his stick. He tried to catch hold of a fish, but the fish slipped out of his hand and he fell in head first. He came up and his head came out of the water and then he went down again, backwards. Witness did not see him again. He ran and told Mr Berrington's son. Deceased was the only one inside the wire fence when he fell into the water and no one touched him.

Several jurors remarked that the boy had given his evidence very well.

The Coroner said he did not think it necessary to call another of the boys, who was only seven years old. He could not tell them any more.

John Joseph Clarke, yard foreman at the stone quarries, residing in Leicester Road, stated that he was in Holly Hayes Wood about 3.45 and heard of a boy being in the pond. He assisted in dragging and found the body at 4.35, in about 6 feet of water and about 6 feet from the side. The pond was paved around the edge with stones and was also guarded by a wire fence.

By Mr S. W. West (foreman): There was a cart road to Mr Berrington's house but it was private and the boys would be on trespass. There were small fishes in the pond.

The Coroner said they had Mr Berrington there, but he could only say that he was fetched and could not see anyone in the water. The jury did not think it necessary to call him.

The Coroner said there was no doubt that the boy had been in the water for over an hour when the body was recovered. Water and fishing always had an attraction for boys and as this boy seemed to be more venturesome than the rest this unfortunate accident occurred. It was a pity that there happened to be no Sunday School that afternoon or the boy might have been alive now.

The foreman said it was a sad accident and he did not think anyone was to blame. There was no doubt that he was a somewhat venturesome boy. The verdict was "Drowned by misadventure in the fish pond on Holly Hayes Farm." P.C. Grewcock acted as the Coroner's officer.

Whitwick and Thringstone Citizen Corps

Sunday August 8th: Company drill at Headquarters at 10.30 am. Sunday Evening – Memorial Service, Company will assemble at Headquarters at 5.45 sharp and march to Thringstone Church for Memorial Service to the late Private Hall, killed in action.

Do You Know

That about 50 boy scouts from Leicester are in camp on Mr H. Hewe's farm at Whitwick?

That a great patriotic meeting is to be held at the Whitwick Picture Palace next Thursday night?

Coalville Urban District Council

The monthly meeting of the Urban Council was held at Coalville on Tuesday night, Mr T. Y. Hay presiding. There were also present Messrs. R. Blower, M. McCarthy, A. J. Briers, C. W. Brown, F. Griffin, B. G. Hale, W. Fellows, and J. W. Farmer, with the clerk (Mr J. F. Jesson) surveyor, (Mr G. F. Hurst) gas works manger (Mr J. W. Eagles).

Plans: New Factory at Whitwick

The following plans were recommended for approval; Stable and coach house, Park Road, Coalville, for Mr M. McCarthy; two cottages, Donington, for Messrs. Davenport and Parker; Factory, North Street, Whitwick, for Mr G. F. Burton; and extension to factory, Mantle Lane, Coalville, for Messrs. R. Walker and Sons.

Mr Farmer, moving the adoption of the report said they were pleased to notice the proposed extension of a Coalville factory and the building of a new factory at Whitwick, which they hoped would be for the benefit of the district generally. Mr McCarthy said they were delighted to have this new factory at Whitwick, which, with the machinery, would cost between £4,000 and £5,000, and ground was reserved to make it double the size. He was sure they were much indebted to Mr G. F. Burton, a Whitwick man, bred and born, for having financed the building. A company of very high standing were finding the machinery. Mr Burton was prepared to build another factory in Whitwick for the manufacture of boots and shoes if a firm could be found to take it up. The report was adopted.

Surveyor's Report

The Surveyor was authorised to serve a statutory notice in a Whitwick case of bad drainage. He reported Messrs. Moseley Bros. for an alleged breach of the Cowsheds Order, having reference to accumulations of manure. They had now lime washed the sheds. Mr McCarthy said plenty of farmers had accumulations of manure. The surveyor said this was a bad case. On the motion of Mr Griffin it was referred to the Highways Committee.

The surveyor reported that the Whitwick lodging house returns were 562 for last month against 631 the previous month and 801 in the corresponding month of last year. The whole of the premises were inspected on August 5th and found satisfactory.

A night soil defaulter at Whitwick reported and the usual proceedings were ordered. Tenders were received for oil etc., for the street lamps and were referred to committee.

A Dangerous House at Whitwick

The clerk reported that a tenant of a house at Pares' Hill, Whitwick, owned by the Council, who was under notice to leave and was given an extra month, was still in occupation. The Council were not drawing rent. The house was in a dangerous state and it was a question whether the Council would compel the woman to leave or let her stay a bit longer. She had had notice that the Council would not be responsible in case of an accident. The surveyor said the house was getting worse and the children had had to be moved from one bedroom. It was agreed to insist on the woman leaving. The Council then went into committee.

Coalville Police Court

Friday – Before Major Hatchett (in the chair), Mr W. Lindley and Mr B. G. Hale.

Drunk and Disorderly

Robert Lee, rag and bone gatherer, Whitwick, was summoned for being drunk and disorderly at Whitwick, on July 24th. P.C. Jelley proved the case and defendant, who did not appear, was fined 15s or seven days.

Paid

George Limb, collier, Whitwick, was summoned by Elizabeth Ottey, widow, of the same place, for the non-payment of £1 1s arrears under an affiliation order. When the case was called on, Inspector Dobney stated that the money had been paid.

Round the Theatres

The Picture House, Whitwick

There have been extra big "houses" here during the holidays, and a rare good programme was provided. The chief film at the beginning of the week was No. 17 of the "Million Dollar Mystery," entitled "The Battle of Wits." Norton receives a note asking him to meet Florence at the house of a certain General Aspinwall, whose wife, the note states has invited her to tea. The reporter finding everything is apparently in order, goes to the address given and is invited to drink a glass of wine with the old general. He smilingly assents. Something about the servant who hands him the wine makes him hesitate and raise the glass in the air before him as his white-haired host proposes the toast. Norton sees in the wine the mirage of an old enemy at his back, about to strike with a heavy stick. With great presence of mind, Norton dashes the contents of the glass over his shoulder. Then a desperate struggle follows. Assistance comes to Norton when most needed, and the conspirators are locked in the iron-walled vault in the cellar, intended as a death room for Norton. When the police arrive, however, the birds have flown, thanks to the scheming Countess. – Others were excellent. The "turn" is "The Seven Elysian Boys and Girls" in a novel vocal and dancing scena. This troupe has had a fine reception, their "show" being A1. Patrons should see them during the week-end. Amongst an excellent list of films for the week-end is one, "The Convict's Bride," a good one. A number of prisoners, including Donati, Francisco and Diago, escape from where they are incarcerated, and land on an uninhabited isle. A girl is washed ashore and the men draw lots for her. She falls to Francisco, who already is in love with her. This creates trouble with Diago, who fires the forest. Francisco and the girl survive the conflagration, and when they are rescued it is to look forward to a life of happiness. – Patrons will enjoy this. – Full particulars of next week's excellent list see advertisement columns.

Friday August 13th 1915 (Issue 1223)

Local News

A gift to the Whitwick Parish Church is acknowledged in the current issue of the Parish Magazine, as follows:

We have great pleasure in accepting from the Misses. Pyemont, daughters of the Rev. Samuel Pyemont, a former Vicar of Whitwick, an excellent engraved portrait of the Rev. Francis Mereweather, M.A., Rector of Coleorton and Vicar of Whitwick from 1819 to 1864, a period of 45 years. We are exceedingly thankful to the Misses. Pyemont for their kind

gift; it makes a good picture and has been hung in the Vestry. The same ladies have also promised to give us a portrait of their father as soon as it is ready.

We are able to publish further particulars this week concerning Whitwick's new industry of which mention was made in this column a few weeks ago. The building of the new factory has been undertaken by Mr G. F. Burton, who has entered into an agreement to let it on a long lease to Messrs. Hanford and Miller, a well-known firm of hosiery manufacturers, of Derby Road, Loughborough. The factory is being built in North Street, Whitwick, the contract having been let to Messrs. W. Moss and Son, of Coalville, and the work has been commenced this week. It is expected that work will be found for about 70 girls at the start and the building is being so arranged that it can be extended to double its size should it be considered expedient to do so at some future time.

The architect of the building is Mr T. J. McCarthy, of Coalville, who has played a prominent part in the development of the scheme. We understand that Messrs. Hanford and Miller intimated to Mr McCarthy some time ago that they were prepared to start a factory in the district providing the building was established. This appeared no easy matter at the start, but in Mr G. F. Burton, Mr McCarthy found his man. Mr Burton is to be highly complimented not only on his enterprise but also on his patriotism, for his public-spirited action amounts to patriotism at this time in one of its best forms. In the first of a series of articles which we publish today on "How to Save" it is pointed out that when a man builds a house he provides labour, but when a man builds a factory he provides not only the labour necessary for the building, but also labour in making the goods which the factory produces, the tendency of which is to cheapen that particular commodity to the benefit of the general public. And in equally favourable circumstances, Mr Burton will not stop at this. He has informed us that he is prepared to build a factory for the manufacture of boots and shoes on land he occupies in Talbot Street, providing some reliable boot and shoe firm can be found to take up the scheme. Here's a chance for the Coalville Trades Extension Society to get a move on. We have not heard of them lately.

Advertisement

Wanted – Smart youth to the Butcher. Apply J. Toon, Leicester Road, Whitwick.

To Let – House and Shop, for particulars, apply Mrs Benson, Whitwick.

For Sale – 3 Spring Carts, 1 Heavy Cart, 2 Drays, 5 Sets of harness. Apply W. Stinson and Son, Whitwick.

Whitwick and Thringstone Citizen Corps

A public meeting was held in the Whitwick Picture Palace last night presided over by the Rev. M. J. O'Reilly. There was a good attendance. The chairman regretted that Whitwick had not responded enthusiastically to the opportunity of joining the corps. He hoped the men present who were not eligible for the army would join the local corps and put their heart and soul into it.

Major Stanhope Rolleston (Commandant of Leicester V.T.C.) addressed the meeting at some length on the value of the Citizen Corps and Major Burkitt, M.D., made a stirring

appeal for recruits. A vote of thanks to Major Rolleston was heartily accorded. Previous to the addresses being given the proprietors of the Picture House gave a good show of pictures and the star artistes engaged gave a special turn which was much enjoyed. At the conclusion the members of the Citizen Corps appeared on the stage and led the singing of the National Anthem.

Do You Know

That the Whitwick Church Sunday School has been closed for four Sundays and will be reopened on the 29th inst?

That the Rev. E. Pillifant, of Madeley, Shropshire, is officiating for the Vicar of Whitwick, (the Rev. T. W. Walters) while the latter is on his holidays?

Round the Theatres

The Picture House, Whitwick

There is a fine lot of films showing here this week, and good audiences have attended. A very good 'turn' is also to be seen. This is Wray and White, the premier comedy couple, in song and story, and they have made a decided "hit" receiving much applause – No. 18 of the "Million Dollar Mystery" was the chief film at the beginning of the week, viz., "Trapped by the Flames." The society columns of the daily newspapers announce the fact that Princess Parlova is about to give a masked ball. Being an inactive member of "The Black Hundred," Braine, through the Countess, forces the Princess to extend invitations to Norton and Florence and supply four blank invitations to be used by members of the gang. The Countess learns in what disguise Florence and Norton plan to go to the ball, and she and Braine immediately secure costumes similar. By this means, Florence is lured away by Braine, believing him to be Norton, and finds herself in the hands of the gang. They bind her to a chair and threaten to explode a clockwork bomb beneath her unless she discloses where the million dollars are hidden. The absence of Florence causes Norton and Jones to follow up the matter. Just before they arrive on the scene the bomb explodes prematurely, which partially shatters and sets the house on fire. Norton dashes in, discovers Florence and drags her to the window, and by means of a rope lowers the girl to Jones, who is waiting below. The reporter then attempts to descend by the rope, but the flames burn it through and the plucky young fellow falls with a sickly thud to the ground. – A very interesting part. – Others were good. – For the week-end "Surgeon Warren's Ward" is an excellent production, and must be seen. Army Surgeon Warren is in love with his ward, Alice Barth but has a rival in Captain Gordon. The captain proposes to her, but is refused. She loves Warren and when he asks her to become his wife, accepts. Their betrothal is announced at a military ball. Gordon is jealous of his successful rival, and bribes a girl of the underworld to go to the ball and charge Warren with betraying her. Despite Warren's denial, the girl's story is believed. He is court-martialed and dismissed from the service. He goes to a lumber camp in the North-West. Gordon woos and finally weds Alice. But the sweetheart of the girl of the underworld is jealous of Gordon. He accuses her of perfidy. She repents of her action, and the two go to the army headquarters where the girl confesses. An investigation is started, Gordon, fearing disgrace, deserts, taking his wife with him. He tells her he has leave of absence and they are going on their honeymoon. They wander from place to place until their money is gone. Finally they reach the forests where Warren is working. Gordon, facing starvation steals from the lumber

camp. He is caught, shot and wounded. Warren then saves the captain from the wrath of the lumbermen. He asks about Miss Barth, and Gordon tells him she is dead. Warren is suspicious, and trails Gordon to the shack, where he finds Alice nearly dead from starvation and the hardships she has undergone. A message from the army post arrives, and tells of Gordon's perfidy and Warren's reinstatement. Gordon sees he is trapped and ends his life. Alice never really has ceased to love Warren and gladly goes back to the post with him. – Next week's list, see advertisement columns.

Sport

Football

Whitwick Imperial F.C.

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Whitwick Imperial Football Club was held at the Duke of Newcastle Inn, on Monday night, Mr W. Brooks presiding. The secretary, Mr Geo. Waterfield, in his annual report, stated they had started the season with £6 0s 2d in hand and finished £1 10s 7d in debt, so that there was a loss of £7 10s 9d on the season's working. The receipts were £115 compared with £171 the previous season. From a playing point of view, the club was very successful, winning the championship of Leicestershire Senior League for the first time, also the Hinckley Cup and were runners-up for the Coalville Cup. In all they played 26 matches, of which 19 were won, 2 drawn and 5 lost, and they scored 86 goals against 39. In the English Cup Competition they made profit of £3 7s 6d, and in the Coalville Cup competition a profit of £21 14s 7d, while on the Loughborough Cup they lost 11s 6d and the Hinckley Cup £5 5s 7d.

Six players had joined the colours and the club had to resign from the Coalville League before the season had ended. The report and balance sheet were adopted.

It was decided to ask all officers and committee to remain in office for the present, it being stated that fresh arrangements would have to be made in regard to the secretary-ship after Mr Waterfield, who has enlisted, was removed from the district. It was decided to join the Leicestershire Senior League Combination for the coming season.

Friday August 20th 1915 (Issue 1224)

Local News

During the past two weeks, Mrs J. J. Sharp, has received 29 packets of cigarettes from Mr W. Higgins' box, and 16 packets, 13 loose, and 4d from Coalville Liberal Club box, which have been sent to the 5th Leicesters at the front. Letters of thanks have been received from Major Toller and Capt. Sharp, as well as from many of the soldiers. Up to date, 851 packets and 173 loose have been sent out.

Eggs for Wounded Soldiers

Collected by Mr R. Sharp, Whitwick.

Previously acknowledged: 1315

Mr A. Morris	20
Mr T. Hay	14
Mr W. Brown	14
Messrs. Coleman and Sons	14
Mr R. Sharp	12
Mrs S. Butler	10
Mrs H. Ward	10
Mr Wilkins	10
Mrs H. Underwood	8
Mrs J. Henson	8
Mr W. T. Moss	7
Mr J. Glyn	7
Mr P. Aris	7
Mrs F. Burton	7
Mr F. Sear	7
Mr T. Cooper	7
Mr J. Moore	6
Mr B. Holland	4

Whitwick Quarryman in the Trenches

Interesting Letter

The manager of the Whitwick Granite Co., Mr J. H. Robinson, has received an interesting letter from one of the quarrymen, Pte. E. Freer, now at the front. He is a Shepshed man, one of four brothers serving in the army, two of whom have been wounded. One of the latter, George, is also employed at the Whitwick quarry. The letter is as follows:

“Dear Sir, - Just a few lines hoping it finds you quite well as it leaves me at present. I wish to thank you for the parcel and letter which I received quite safe. I am sure it will give you much pleasure to know I got it at the right time. It was fairly a livener for not one of us had a cigarette, and we could not get any. We are in the trenches and have been in 16 days. We don't know when we shall get out. I am sorry to say it was my brother that got wounded and I was talking to him at the time. When the shell burst over us there were nine or ten wounded with it. So we are not having it all honey, as a good many in England think. We shall soon have had six months of it now. I think it will not last much longer, as we are getting plenty of shells for them now. We have not been in a charge yet, but we have held some good positions. We are holding one of the most important parts in the line now. I think we shall soon be getting a rest; its about time. We have had a rough six months of it.

We have found one D.C.M. hero in the 5th Battalion, a chap from Measham, named Starbuck, and he was worth it. They found a German mine under our trench ready for blowing up, and they got over a thousand pounds of stuff out which was a risky job but it saved many a man's life as I think it would have soon gone up. It is terrible when they blow the trench up. I helped dig that other poor lot of chaps out the last time they blew us up. There were Melton and Coalville chaps in it.

I think this is all I can tell you at present, hoping to more good news for you next time."

Whitwick Deed Case

Before His Honour, Judge Moore Cann at the Ashby County Court yesterday (Thursday), Martha Spencer, widow, of Hall's Lane, Whitwick, sued Albert Clarence Spencer Williamson, an infant, and Charles Williamson, factory hand, both of Whitwick, for the delivery up of a deed and damages for detention, and for cancellation of a deed.

Mr H. H. Joy instructed by Messrs. Crane and Moore, Coalville, was for plaintiff and Mr Marriott, instructed by Messrs. Sharp and Lancaster, Coalville, for the defendants.

At three o'clock the court was still occupied with other cases, and Mr Marriott suggested that as they could not possibly finish in that day the case be adjourned. He understood that His Honour was willing to take it on a special day at Coalville. The Judge said that was so if they could find him a proper place to sit.

Mr Sharp said that could be arranged. His Honour asked whether it was a case that could be finished in a day.

Mr Marriott: I think so.

It was suggested that the case be heard at Coalville on Saturday (tomorrow) at ten o'clock.

The Drink

John Birkinshaw, labourer, Whitwick, was summoned at Loughborough on Wednesday for being drunk and disorderly at Shepshed, on August 18th. P.C. Highton said the man was using bad language to some children. Defendant said he was sorry he had too much beer. They were late at work on the day. Fined 5s or five days.

Coalville Police Court

Friday – Before Major Hatchett (in the chair), and Mr H. J. Ford.

Affiliation

Joseph Hall, collier, Whitwick, was summoned by Bertha M. Hurst, single, to show cause, etc. Defendant admitted the paternity and was ordered to pay 3s per week to date from birth until the child is 14 years of age and 16s costs.

No Light

Thomas Kenney, collier, Whitwick, was summoned for riding a bicycle without a light at Swannington, on August 6th. He did not appear. P.C. Sibson gave the facts and defendant was fined 7s 6d or seven days.

Bad Language

Joseph Horrobin, collier, Whitwick, was summoned for using bad language at Coalville, on August 2nd. P.C. Bursnall said the defendant used the language in Ashby Road, saying they had his wife in a house and he wanted to take her home. Fined 16s or seven days.

Violent Conduct

Walter Jakeman, collier, Whitwick, and Arthur Hunt, banksman, Thringstone, were summoned for violent conduct at Whitwick, on August 3rd. Jakeman appeared and was informed that the case would be adjourned for a fortnight, owing to P.C. Jelley's illness. A fresh summons against Hunt was allowed.

Drunk and Disorderly

William Howe, collier, Whitwick, was summoned for using bad language at Whitwick on July 31st and for being drunk and disorderly on August 7th. P.C. Grewcock gave the facts as to the offence on August 7th and defendant was fined 12s or seven days. His mother paid. In the first case in which P.C. Jelley is to give evidence, it was decided to issue a fresh summons.

Round the Theatres

The Picture House, Whitwick

There have been good audiences here during this week, and another fine programme is to be seen during the week-end. There are two excellent "turns," viz., Will Titman, the Anglo-Continental eccentric and patter comedian. He is a descriptive vocalist of a very high order and his patter is a speciality. He has been accorded a fine reception, and patrons should see him during the week-end. – Crayford, the Kentish mystic, has also been well received and should not be missed. – The "star" for the first half of the week was No. 19 of the "Million Dollar Mystery." Some time after the incidents in the last episode, a note is put into the hands of the Countess in mistake as she leaves the Hargreaves' Mansion by a man who whispers, "It will put an end to the persecution of your father Stanley Hargreaves." The envelope contains a blank sheet of paper and fearing a plot, the Countess hurries to one of the meeting places of the gang – a secret cave, in the wood. Florence, who was out when the Countess called, happens to catch sight of her entering, and out of curiosity, finds the entrance and follows her in. She overhears the story of the blank sheet of paper, which the Countess tells the conspirators, and watching her opportunity, manages to obtain possession of it. The conspirators depart, but return for the missing paper. Florence escapes by means of an underground river, in which she is later on discovered, half drowned, by Braine. He takes her into his motor boat, but threatens to throw her into the river again unless she tells him all he wishes to know. A series of incidents brings Norton on the scene. The men fight, both fall out of the boat into the river. Florence saves the day by running down with the motor boat another boat containing the conspirators who come to assist Braine. – A very good part. – For the week-end (in addition to the above "turns" and a further splendid list of films). The "star" picture is "Woman's Debt." Thelma Morrison is engaged to Bob Cameron, but marries her employer to save her father and mother from poverty. Years after, Thelma becomes a social butterfly, and gambles whilst her child dies. Thrilling scenes follow, in which she locks her former lover in a vault and realises the true love of her husband. A real good picture. – Others are good. – Next week's list, see advertisement columns.

Friday August 27th 1915 (Issue 1225)

Local News

There will be very little football in Coalville and District this winter, it being realised that there is a sterner task for the young men to perform. The Coalville League has been abandoned for the season and there will be no cup or medal competitions. The Leicestershire Senior League is being continued as a combination, with six clubs, two of which are in Coalville (Town and Swifts) and one at Whitwick, and these will afford a little relaxation for those whose duties are at home and others who are too old for military service. There are, of course, many young men in this district who are rendering their country good service in the coal mines and other necessary works, and there can be no harm whatever in these indulging in a game of football on Saturday afternoons, providing a little recreation for themselves and some diversion for spectators who during the week and engaged in a matter which helps to keep the old flag flying.

Absentee

Michael Roach, of Whitwick, was brought before Mr B. G. Hale, at the Coalville Police Court on Saturday, charge with being an absentee from the Royal Naval Reserves, stationed at the Crystal Palace, London. He had been apprehended by Inspector Dobney, at Whitwick, on the previous day. The magistrate ordered him to be handed over to the custody of the naval authorities.

Whitwick Quarrymen in the Forces

The following is a list of employees serving with the colours from the Whitwick Granite Co., Ltd., Whitwick.

Thomas Crowson, Leicestershire Yeomanry.

Lakin Manderfield, 8th Leicesters.

Fred Harrington, 5th Leicesters.

George Freer, 5th Leicesters.

William Thorpe, 5th Leicesters.

George Walker, jun., 5th Leicesters.

Charles Stanford, 5th Leicesters.

Ernest Laundon, Royal Marine Artillery.

F. Spurr.

W. Hurst, 5th Leicesters.

L. Martin, 5th Leicesters.

Allen Lucas, 5th Leicesters.

Charles Milward, 1st Leicesters.

Ernest W. Hicklin, 5th Leicesters.

Allen Rose, 8th Leicesters.

James Hickling, 8th Leicesters.

John Rodgers, 8th Leicesters.

George Walker, sen., 5th Leicesters.

Ernest Freer, 5th Leicesters.

William Gibson, 5th Leicesters.

James Cotterill, 5th Leicesters.
S. Unwin, 5th Leicesters.
G. Harry Bexon, 5th Leicesters.
George H. Clarke, Army Service Corps.
A. Bowley, 5th Leicesters.
John Heighton, Royal Naval Division.
Harry Chapman, 10th Leicesters.
J. Waterfield, 5th Leicesters.
Percy Whittaker, 5th Leicesters.
J. Bramley, 10th Leicesters.
G. J. Hudson, Royal Navy.

Hugglescote and Whitwick Lads at the Front

Interesting Letter from the Trenches

We have received the following letter, addressed to the Editor, dated August 14th:

“Dear Sir, - I now take the pleasure of writing these few lines to you to let the people of the Coalville district know how we are getting on at the front. We are now out for a little rest after three weeks in the trenches, but it was pretty easy all but for one place, and they sent three bombs before we had been there five minutes. We had the luck to have our August holidays in the trenches, but did not mind because we hardly thought of it until we got out into the billets. During the first week we had three casualties by one of their bombs, the sort of bombs they call sausage bombs. They look about three feet long and turn over and over in the air until they reach the ground and then they make a noise like the bursting of a big shell. I expect we shall soon be back in the trenches again and we are ready after having a bath and change of clothing. I am pleased to say that there is a good many men from Coalville and roundabout answered the call of the country and although there is a lot gone west, there is still some left to share the fighting against the Huns. We have seen a few sights out here, some that we should not like to see in England. We will now bring our short letter to a close with best respects to all in Coalville and District.”

J. B. (Hugglescote)
W. H. B. (Whitwick)

Do You Know

That the Whitwick property dispute action is to be resumed at the Ashby County Court on Monday next?

Whitwick Family Dispute

Alleged Gift of a House

Judge Sits at Coalville

A Remarkable Case

At a special court at Coalville, before His Honour, Judge Moore Cann, on Saturday, a case adjourned from the Ashby County Court was heard in which Martha Spencer, widow, of Hall's Lane, Whitwick, sued Albert Clarence Spencer Williamson, an infant, and Charles Williamson, factory hand, both of Whitwick, for the delivery up of a deed and damages for detention, and for the cancellation of a deed of gift of a messuage and premises at Pares' Hill, Whitwick.

Mr H. H. Joy instructed by Messrs. Crane and Moore, Coalville, was for plaintiff, and Mr Marriott, instructed by Messrs. Sharp and Lancaster, Coalville, for the defendants.

Mr Joy, opening the case, said the plaintiff was an old lady, 86 years of age. The action was for the return of a deed dated 1884 relating to property owned by the plaintiff at Pares' Hill, Whitwick, and for a declaration that a certain document dated 2nd February, 1914, which was a deed of gift to the younger defendant should be set aside on the ground either that the plaintiff never signed it at all, or if she did, she did not understand what it was she was signing, and the signature was obtained by the elder defendant under circumstances which should not be allowed to stand. What plaintiff said was that she never signed it, at any rate, that she had no knowledge of signing it, and never intended to sign it.

The Judge: Is it a suggestion of forgery?

Mr Joy said he could hardly say that.

Proceeding, counsel said that plaintiff was married in 1852 at the age of 23 to Mr Warrington. There were no children of the marriage, and Mr Warrington having died, plaintiff was married again in 1894 to Mr Edward Spence, who had children by his first wife and one of these was Mrs Williamson, wife of the elder defendant. Mr Spencer died in 1904 and during her widowhood, the plaintiff seemed to have been very industrious and accumulated a sum of money. Spencer also had some property in Leicester Road, Whitwick, and that property he left to the plaintiff as tenant for life and then to Mrs Williamson, his daughter by his first wife, and her sister, Mrs Whitmore. From that period up to 1915, the old lady apparently lived by herself at Pares' Hill, Whitwick, at the property adjoining the Wesleyan Chapel, bought by her in 1884. She had five nieces – Emma Berrington, Elizabeth Williamson, and three others – up to 1913, and during that period of her widowhood Emma Berrington and her husband acted practically as son and daughter to the old lady and looked after her in every way. Mr Berrington practically managed things for her during the whole of that time, though in regard to her property affairs, she was usually advised by Mr West and Mr Stinson, members of the Wesleyan Chapel. On September 4th, 1908, plaintiff made a will, which was prepared by Mr Crane of Coalville, and he produced this for His Honour to see the plaintiff's signature, also that to a codicil executed on July 8th, 1912. About the end of 1912, plaintiff had a severe illness, lasting about 26 weeks, which did not improve her mental condition. Early in February 1914, Mrs Williamson, wife of the elder defendant, died. Williamson became very assiduous in his attentions to the old lady. He used to go to see her practically daily and apparently he had some arrangement with her whereby he attended to the garden and shared the produce with her, but Mr West and others were often there, and there was never any indication that plaintiff took Williamson into her confidence in regard to her property. In 1913, Dr. Hamilton, of Coalville, received a message from the defendant Williamson to go and see the plaintiff. He was not her usual doctor and was rather puzzled, but he went. He (the

doctor) would tell the court that he found the plaintiff partly deaf and partially blind and her mental powers very dull, and it was clear that her mind was a blank. She said she could not remember having sent for him and addressed him as Dr. Burkitt. Dr. Hamilton saw the plaintiff again this August and he would say that in his opinion the plaintiff at the beginning of 1914 would certainly not be fit to appreciate and execute a deed relating to her property. Early in 1914, a curious thing happened. Apparently, Mr Williamson was very anxious to know how matters stood as regard the old lady's money, because his wife having died, the property which was going to her after the tenancy for life of the old lady did not go to him, but to some other lady. He made enquiries at the London City and Midland Bank, Coalville, but the manager declined to give him any information as to the old lady's financial affairs. Later, defendant called at the bank with a solicitor and told Mr Williams (the manager) that the old lady wished him to go to her to talk over her affairs. Mr Williams went, but could not make the old lady understand anything. All he could get from her was, 'I am very ill, I have had a stroke.' Mr Williams would tell them that from what he saw, he would not honour cheques signed by the plaintiff without ascertaining the circumstances under which they were signed. At the time of his visit, Mrs Berrington was there too and there was some disturbance between her and Williamson, when Sergt. Betts came on the scene. He would be another independent witness who would say what he thought of the old lady. Coming to the early part of 1915, counsel said the old lady left her lonely habitation at Pares' Hill and went to live with the Berringtons, leaving the next door neighbour, Mrs Broadhurst, to look after the Pares' Hill property. In April 1915, the defendant Williamson appeared at the property claiming a right of way to the garden and when this was disputed by Miss Broadhurst, an assault took place resulting in police court proceedings. During these proceedings, Williamson produced a deed, dated 1884, as a vindication of his right to go there. Enquiries were set on foot as to how defendant became in possession of the deed. The plaintiff had kept all her papers in a bundle at the property at Pares' Hill. On May 14th, 1915, Messrs. Crane and Moore, who had been consulted, wrote to the defendant asking for the delivery of the deed which was produced in the police court, stating that their client (the plaintiff) was at a loss to understand how it came into defendant's possession and that if it was not returned proceedings would be taken for its recovery. On May 17th, Messrs. Sharp and Lancaster replied for the defendant, stating that the plaintiff knew the circumstances under which the deed came into his possession. Plaintiff's solicitors wrote that defendant had no right to the document, and that they had instructions to proceed. Messrs. Sharp and Lancaster replied that in November, 1913, they were seen by Williamson and asked to prepare a deed of gift. They told him they would require the deed of conveyance and when the engrossment was prepared it was handed to Williamson to obtain the signature, he having stated that he did not wish them to call on plaintiff in order not to excite comment from members of the family. It was a curious circumstance, continued counsel, that a document should have been sent to an old lady, 86 years of age, for her to sign without any steps being taken to see that she understood it or knew what she was doing. The deed was dated February 7th, 1914, and what he would like to draw His Honour attention to was the signature. On every other document to which they had access, the signature was 'Martha Spencer.' In this particular case it was 'M. Spencer,' which was certainly something unusual. Though Mr Berrington, Mr West, and other friends had been continually seeing her, none of them knew about this deed of gift. For some reason or other, it was apparently carried out with the greatest secrecy. Counsel suggested that it was clearly a case where the old lady did not knowingly execute the deed, or, if His Honour thought that she had sufficient mental capacity, the circumstance under which the signature was secured were such that it should be set aside.

The old lady was then called and Counsel explained some difficulty in getting her to answer the questions. She said that she had lived at Whitwick all her life.

“Did you ever give your house away to anyone?” asked Mr Joy.

“No, I never have,” she replied. “If he has put it on, he has done it on his own account.”

Mr Marriott: You are quite friendly with Charles Williamson. – Yes, but not friendly enough for him to take my writings. (Laughter)

The Judge said there must be silence in court.

At the suggestion of the Judge, Mr A. West, with whom the plaintiff was familiar, acted as interpreter to the questions put by counsel for the defendants. When Mr West asked the plaintiff whether she knew him, she replied, “Yes, its Master West. The Lord bless you.”

Replying to these questions, plaintiff said she was fond of the boy Clarence, but could not strip herself for him. She gave him some shares in the Whitwick Liberal Club, but did not remember saying that she would make some provision for him. She could not make herself destitute for him. His father had some property and could see to him as well as her.

Did you say to Charlie that you would like to give the blind boy a house and garden? – That would not justify Charlie coming to my house and taking my papers.

Did you say you would give Clarence a house and garden? – No, I should never strip myself like that.

You have other property bringing you in about 30s a week? – Nothing of the sort; it doesn't make £1 and then there are rates and everything to pay.

Further questioned, she said she did not say that she wanted the gift to Clarence kept quiet from the Berringtons. She was living with the Berringtons now but never paid them anything. They did not owe her money. She did not lend Sam Berrington £200 when he took a farm and she had not lent Joseph Berrington money. Asked whether she wrote the signature ‘M. Spencer’ she asked, “What's the meaning of it?”

It is a deed giving the house and garden to the boy – I have never given it to him.

Did you write ‘M. Spencer’? – I don't think I did. They had better take my life and be done with it. I am miserable and they should not torment me. When further questions were put, the old lady replied, “I don't want to be worried like this.”

The Judge said he was sure that neither Mr Joy nor himself would take advantage of anything Mr Marriott could not put to the plaintiff.

Dr. Hamilton, of Coalville, then spoke of his two visits to the plaintiff and said she was inclined to wander. She did not realise what she was doing. Dr. Logan, of Ashby, said he had examined the plaintiff and concluded that she was incapable of having any legal documents explained to her.

Mr Williams, manager of the Coalville branch of the London City and Midland Bank, gave evidence as to plaintiff's transactions at the bank and of his visit to her, at defendant's request, but said he could make nothing of her.

By Mr Marriott: He believed the signature 'M. Spencer' on the deed of gift was that of the plaintiff. The plaintiff signed all notices of withdrawal from the bank.

Charles E. Crane, solicitor, Coalville, deposed to preparing plaintiff's will in 1908 and a codicil in 1912. He had some difficulty in getting the plaintiff to appreciate the contents.

By Mr Marriott: The codicil was a great deal more simple to explain than a deed of gift.

When did she become incapable of having legal documents explained to her? – I did not see her between 1912 and 1914 – a lapse of two years.

By Mr Joy: Mr West looked after most of the plaintiff's papers and affairs and advised her.

Sergt. Betts, in khaki, formerly police sergeant at Whitwick, said he had known the plaintiff for some years. She wanted a lot of looking after and in his opinion was not capable of looking after herself. He had been to the plaintiff's premises when disturbances had occurred over a right of way, but he never heard it suggested that plaintiff had given her property to anyone.

By Mr Marriott: It was not usual at Whitwick for people to talk to the policemen about the disposal of their property. (Laughter)

William D. McCarthy, architect, Coalville, said he collected rates at Whitwick and called on the plaintiff in that capacity. He had difficulty in making her understand. Usually Mr Berrington paid. The only time plaintiff paid the rates when no one was with her was in 1912.

Alfred E. West, shop manager, Whitwick, said he had known the plaintiff for 50 years. She had made it a practice of getting his advice in regard to her affairs and in that connection he had continually seen her, sometimes two or three times a week. Of late years it had been difficult to make her understand things. The deeds of the Leicester Road property were in his possession as one of the executors.

Questioned by Mr Marriott, witness said he did not think plaintiff understood the deed of gift. He had heard her say scores of times that she was leaving the house and garden to Mrs Berrington for her kindness and attendance on her. He had never heard her say she wanted to give it to Clarence. He added, though some protest was made by counsel, that plaintiff was continually in fear of Williamson going to the house.

Replying to the Judge, witness said the plaintiff was about the same that day as in 1914, a little better if anything.

Questioned as to her income, witness said some of her tenants had lived rent free for two or three years. (Laughter)

Levi Clarke, boot maker, Pares' Hill, Whitwick, said he had known the plaintiff for 24 years. She was not capable of looking after her affairs.

Nellie Broadhurst, of Whitwick, having spoken as to the assault case, this concluded the evidence for the plaintiff.

Mr Marriott submitted that he had no case to answer.

The Judge ruled otherwise, remarking that it was admitted in evidence that the defendant was the only witness of the signature to the deed and there was no one but him to explain it to her.

Defendant was then called and said he was a factory hand, employed by Messrs. Seale and Co., Whitwick. He was 56 years of age and the younger defendant was his son and was 17. The latter was partly blind. Defendant was nephew of the plaintiff. His wife often nursed her and while doing that met with an accident. She was ill for 15 months and died in 1914. Defendant also used to do jobs for the plaintiff. The latter expressed her desire to give the house and garden to the boy, Clarence, and defendant saw Mr Sharp to prepare the deed. Mr Sharp wanted a copy of the conveyance and when he told the plaintiff she gave him the deed (produced). When the deed of gift was prepared, he fully explained it to the plaintiff. She thought there was not room for her to write 'Martha Spencer' in full and he said 'M. Spencer' would do. She said she should want to live in the house as long as she liked, but he was not to say anything about it as the Berringtons would not like it.

The Judge remarked that the deed was dated three months after the execution. Counsel said that could be explained by Mr Sharp, who was ill at the time.

Defendant, proceeding, said he did not ask plaintiff to give the house to the boy and brought no pressure on her to do so. It was at plaintiff's request that he asked the bank manager to go down.

By Mr Joy: He was not disappointed at being left nothing in the late Mr Spencer's will. Something was left to his wife, subject to the life interest of the plaintiff, but his wife died. The gift of the house to the boy was never mentioned between him and the plaintiff when anyone else was present. He paid Mr Sharp for preparing the deed.

By Mr Marriott: He had no reason for keeping the matter quiet except at the request of the plaintiff.

John Joseph Sharp, of Messrs. Sharp and Lancaster, Coalville and Loughborough, said he had known both Mrs Spencer and Mr Williamson for 30 years. He was solicitor for the plaintiff's late husband and wound up the estate. That was in April 1904 and that was the last time he saw the plaintiff professionally. But he had seen her occasionally at Whitwick since. He considered her capable of understanding things and thought she would resent any suggestion to the contrary. When the defendant saw him and told him his aunt wished to give the house to the boy, witness said it could be done by deed of gift and he would want to see the title. Defendant later brought the document of 1884. When the engrossment was prepared he suggested that he should call and see the plaintiff, but defendant said she did not want him (witness) to go as there may be trouble with the Berringtons if they got to know. Witness said he did not mind and told defendant he must

explain it to the plaintiff before she signed it. He asked about a witness and he (Mr Sharp) told him that if the plaintiff wished it kept secret, he (Williamson) might witness the signature.

Mr Sharp then explained the circumstances which delayed the dating of the deed, pointing out that he had been ill and that the deed was kept at Somerset House for some weeks owing to a question as to the stamp duty.

Dr. Burkitt, of Whitwick, said he had known the plaintiff for 30 years. She had had good health and a good constitution. He last attended her in October, 1912, for bronchial catarrh. She was a woman difficult of persuasion any way. Even in medical treatment she would want to know why certain things should be done. She was undoubtedly slow in grasping any subject, and, of course, her deafness rather increased that. Until one got used to her and she used to them, it was rather difficult to explain things to her. If she had no illness between the time he last attended her and early in February, 1914, he thought she would then be perfectly capable of executing any deed.

Mr Joy: What makes her keep alluding to her illness, when asked questions?

The Doctor: I noticed she said that when she did not want to answer questions.

You think she is cute. – Yes, for a woman of her age.

The case was then adjourned to Ashby on Monday, August 30th.

Mr Marriott asked for it to be at Coalville, but the Judge said he had to consider the officials at Ashby.

Soldier Charged with Stealing a Bicycle

Remanded at Coalville

Before Major Hatchett, at the Coalville Police Court, on Monday, Edward Clarke, a private in the 3rd Leicesters, who appeared in khaki, was charged with stealing a bicycle, value £5, the property of Archibald William Lee, at Whitwick, on August 3rd last.

Police Inspector Dobney deposed to receiving information of the theft of a bicycle at High Tor on the date named and from his enquiries ascertained that the defendant had been in the neighbourhood. He traced him to 177, Trafalgar Street, London, and saw him there on Sunday morning with the bicycle in his possession. He told the prisoner he should arrest him on a charge of stealing the bicycle and he made no reply. Witness took him to Rodney Street Police Station, Wandsworth, where he was detained until being brought to Coalville. On his arrival at Coalville after being cautioned, the prisoner made and signed a statement in which he admitted stealing the bicycle.

Asked whether he had any question to put to the witness, prisoner made no reply.

Supt. Lockton asked for a remand to the Coalville Petty Sessions on Friday and the accused was accordingly remanded in custody.

Round the Theatres

The Picture House, Whitwick

Patrons are well provided for here again this week. There is a strong list of films and a most excellent "turn," Miss Margaret Tueskie and Co., presenting a splendid dramatic repertoire. "The Ace of Hearts," and "Adonis in Kilts" were the two pieces presented nightly at the commencement of the week, and these were very much enjoyed. The acting of Miss Tueskie leaves nothing to be desired, she is well supported by first-class actors. The whole "show" is splendidly staged, and should not be missed. They have received loud applause for their efforts. The company will give during the week-end two extra good pieces, viz., "The German Spy," and "A year after." Patrons must see these. – The star picture was No. 20 of "Million Dollar Mystery", ("The Secret Warning"). It is discovered that the piece of paper mentioned in the last episode contains a message, written in invisible ink, from a high Russian official who seeks to have Braine and the Countess deported for offences committed in their native country. The paper is given to Norton for safe keeping and this action is witnessed by a spy of "The Black Hundred." The knowledge that Norton has the paper is made known to Braine, who, with other members of the gang, follow Norton after leaving Hargraves' house, and when a favourable opportunity occurs, makes a desperate attempt to secure it. The reporter puts up an excellent fight, is knocked unconscious, recovers and makes another attempt to defend himself. The butler saves the situation by shooting at the conspirators from a window in the mansion. The conspirators then run away, without having found the valuable paper, owing to the fact that Norton has changed the hiding place. The spy saw the paper put into Norton's cap, but later it was concealed in the reporter's necktie. – For the week-end the "star" is "Charlie in the Park." Charlie takes entirely too much interest in a spooning couple on a park bench and is thrown off the bench. He flees, and in his flight he runs into a tramp who has 'lifted' the pocket-book of the girl "spooning." Bricks are thrown and both the giant and the tramp are knocked out. The girl finds her pocket-book gone and accuses her sweetheart. She then jilts him. He goes to the river to commit suicide, but has not the courage to jump in. Chaplin finds him, and after taking the man's watch and money, helps him to carry out his wish to die by kicking him in. A policeman tries to arrest Chaplin. A fierce battle ensues in which Chaplin hurls them all into the river. – Others are good. – Next week's list see advertisement columns.