

Coalville Times - May 1913

Friday May 2nd 1913 (Issue 1106)

Local News

Death of an old Whitwick Resident Mr James Harrison Hemsley

By the death of Mr James Harrison Hemsley, which occurred at his home on Church Lane on Tuesday morning, Whitwick has lost one of its oldest and best known inhabitants, and one who was held in great esteem.

The deceased, who was 71 years of age had recently taken up his abode in his new house in Church Lane, having just sold the property he had occupied for many years to Coalville Urban Council for an improvement at Pare's Hill, and he was only ill for a little over a week, being in fact able to continue at his work up to a fortnight last Wednesday. He had been a carpenter at the Whitwick Colliery for many years. He was conscious right up to the last and passed peacefully away. Deceased had been thrice married and leaves a widow, one son (Mr W Hemsley of North Street, Hugglescote) and five daughters for whom much sympathy will be felt.

Mr Hemsley, though possessing certain characteristics which manifested themselves when any of his tender points were assailed, was a man of most genial temperament and popular with all acquaintances. He was a strong Liberal and was one of the founders of the Whitwick Liberal Club, being for many years chairman of the directors and we can recall with what pride he used to hold the position and conduct the annual meetings of the company. He also was frequently a delegate from Whitwick to the Liberal Association meetings in Loughborough. Another office he held for many years was that of organist at the Whitwick Baptist Chapel where he was a prominent member, though latterly he attended the Wesleyan Chapel. It is interesting to note that his love of music has been handed on to his only son, Mr W Hemsley, who is a well-known 'celloist, is leader of the Coalville Adultschool Orchestra and whose services are much in demand at school sermons and other musical functions in the district.

It may also be mentioned that the deceased was one of the oldest oddfellows in Whitwick and held the position of treasurer of his lodge.

The funeral will take place at Whitwick cemetery this (Friday) afternoon.

(Original article also contains a photograph of James Harrison Hemsley)

Sports News

Football

Coaville Town win at Whitwick

Whitwick Imperial entertained their local rivals, Coalville Town on the Duke of Newcastle ground on Saturday and a fairly good encounter was the result. The home team was a weak one and the Town were at full strength.

It was unfortunate that the game was somewhat spoiled through the wind, the ball being very often out of the field of play. The visitors had the advantage of the wind in the first half and were soon two goals up to the good through good play by Smith and Thompson. Whitwick were within an ace of scoring, however on several occasions, but when the interval arrived the "Bottom End" men were leading by the two goals stated to Whitwick's none. In the second half the Imperial pressed a good deal but only managed to score on one occasion through Roach, who played a fine game at out wide left. The result was a win for Coalville by two goals to one.

Benefit Football

Also on Saturday, a match was played on the Central Ground, Coalville between the P.S.A. and Whitwick Swifts for the benefit of Mr Albert Glover, a former trainer at the P.S.A. club and a member of the committee who has been ill for over twelve months. The visitors won by six goals to two. A good number of tickets for the match were sold.

Cricket

Holy Cross Cricket Club – A general meeting of the members of the Holy Cross C.C. was held on Tuesday evening at the Hermitage Hotel. Father O'Reilly presided and there was a good attendance. Mr M. Noon was elected captain and Mr S. Briers vice-captain, Mr T. Hull treasurer and B. Stanyard secretary. Several new players are available and a membership of over 30 has been registered. The club will play on the new ground at the Hermitage and there are good prospects. The club is competing for the "Coalville Times" cup and in the second division of the Coalville League, opening tomorrow with a match with Markfield.

Friday May 9th 1913 (Issue 1107)

Local News

Whitwick Primitive Methodists and others in the district will regret to hear of a bereavement which has befallen Councillor Thomas W Walker, of Leicester, by the sudden death of his wife. Councillor Walker was a well-known preacher and occupied the pulpit at the Whitwick P.M. sermons. He was to have acted in a similar capacity at Bagworth P.M. chapel, Sunday but was prevented by this sad event. His place was taken by the Rev. W.H. Whiting of Whitwick.

Mr James Smith, of Loughborough and son of Mr Thomas Smith of Alma Villas, Whitwick, sets sail from Liverpool tomorrow to Australia. Mr Smith is joining his brother (Mr Joseph Smith, late of Whitwick) who left for Australia a few months ago.

Girls Guild:- The members of the Whitwick Church Girls Guild held a successful dance in the school on Saturday night, when there was a good attendance. The president of the Guild, Mrs J.J. Sharp who has interested herself in the event was unfortunately unable to be present owing to indisposition. Mr Dyer was the M.C. and Miss Adams played for dancing. Refreshments were given by the ladies of the Church Council. A sum of £2 6s was realised for the Churchwardens fund.

Catholic Procession:- According to the annual custom, on the first Sunday in May, the Catholics on Sunday held their procession. Years ago, it used to be a great event, which attracted thousands of visitors, but since the procession to Gracedieu Wood was abandoned and the proceedings confined to the churchyard, public interest has waned. This year it could not take place in the open-air at all, being confined to the Holy Cross Church, owing to the wet weather. Father Hurley of Loughborough was the preacher and Father O'Reilly assisted in the service. The Holy Cross Band was present.

Baptist Sermons:- Great success attended the Sunday School anniversary of Whitwick Baptist Chapel on Sunday last. There were large congregations at the services, which were conducted by pastor W. H. Wills of Burton-on-Trent, and the singing of the children and choir was excellent. Mr O'Geary conducted and Mr Albert Aris was the organist, an orchestra also assisting. The collection realised £17 2s 6d, which was about £3 more than last year.

Funeral of Mr Hemsley:- The funeral of the late Mr James Harrison Hemsley took place on Friday at the Whitwick Cemetery. The Service was conducted by the Rev. F.H.H. Labbett, the first part being held in the house and the hymn "Jesus, lover of my soul" was sung and "Rock of ages" at the graveside. The chief mourners were the widow and son, Walter: daughters Mary Ann, Edith, Lizzie: Mr Levi Clarke, son-in-law: Mrs W.H. Hemsley, daughter-in-law: Mr E. Haines, son-in-law: Mrs Edwin Hemsley, daughter-in-law: Mr T. Armson, son-in-law of Polesworth: Ethel and Gertie Clarke: Annie and May Hemsley; Evelyn and Alf Haines; George Hemsley (grand children): Emmie and Cissie Weston nieces and nephew: Mr T. Hemsley of Ellistown: Mr and Mrs Gregson, brother and sister-in-law: Mrs Shorthouse, sister-in-law and Mr Cresswell of Gresley. The bearers were Messrs Alfred West, E. Merriman, J. Higgins and H. Brooks. The body was enclosed in an oak coffin, the breast

plate bearing the inscription, "James Harrison Hemsley. Died April 29th, 1913 aged 71 years" Amongst those present at the funeral were Messrs Jacob Newbury, H. Allgood, S. Parry and T. Kelly and the colliery representatives were Messrs Jas Smith, enginewright, T. Popples, farm bailiff and P. Beard, bank foreman.

Coalville Urban District Council Whitwick Lodgers

The surveyor reported that during the month 928 people had been accommodated in the Whitwick lodging houses, compared with 927 for February and 569 for the corresponding month of last year. The half-yearly lime-washing of the lodging houses was in progress.

Births, Marriages and Deaths Burials

Wildbur – In the Whitwick Catholic Churchyard on April 26th. Mary, the widow of the late Samuel Wildbur, of Leicester Road, Whitwick, aged 90 years.

Coalville Police Courts

This day (Friday) – Before Major Hatchett (in the chair), Mr H.J. Ford and Mr B.G. Hale.

A Whitwick School Case

Zachariah Parker, publican, Whitwick was summoned for neglecting to send his children regularly to school – Mr T.G. Jesson of Ashby appeared for the defence and it was his application at the last Court that the case was adjourned for a fortnight.

Mr George Rowlett (Leicester) appeared to prosecute for the School Authority and said it had been asserted that the child had been kept away because she had been beaten by the headmaster, but he would show that it was nothing of the sort.

School Attendance Officer Gray stated that the child made 21 attendances out of a possible 33. When he went to the public house kept by the defendant he saw the mother: who said she would not send the child to school again until they had put her to further trouble. Henry T. Bastard, headmaster of the Whitwick Church School stated that in the Easter week it was reported to him that a woman named Bakewell had lost her wedding ring, and he spoke to one of the teachers about it. Later a daughter of Mrs Bakewell told him she had passed it on to Ivy Parker (the girl in this case). The girl Parker told him it was only a half-penny ring, but he told her to fetch it and sent the girl Bakewell with her. It was untrue that he punished the child in any way. She did not come, but in the afternoon, Mrs Parker came to the school in quite a calm manner and said she had not got the ring. He explained the circumstances to her and she seemed quite satisfied. In further conversation, Mrs Parker remarked that he should not have punished Ivy, whereupon he denied it and said there had been nothing to punish the child for and it was wicked of her to say so. He invited Mrs Parker into the school and to ask any of the teachers whether he had thrashed her. Mrs Parker seemed quite satisfied when she left and witnesses suggested she should punish the girl for telling such a lie. Two days later he sent for the girl, as she had not been to school, and a note was back that the child would not be sent again until the parents were put to trouble, on account of the way she had been treated.

Replying to Mr Jesson, witness said he did not accuse the child of taking the ring. When the other girl said she had given the ring to Ivy Parker, he told the latter to go home and fetch it. He might have put his hand on the girl's shoulder in a calm way but he did not strike her in the face. He did not tell the girl she must not come back to school again until she brought the ring. He did not ask Mrs Parker to show him all the rings she had in the house. The girl Bakewell all day contended that she gave the ring to Ivy Parker. The latter was aged 10 and Bakewell 11. He understood that the ring had been traced by Mr Rowlett. Ivy Parker did not deny that the girl Bakewell handed the ring to her.

Mrs Smith, one of the teachers, said she saw all that took place and she was quite sure Mr Bastard never touched the child.

Mr Jesson : He was quite calm and collected

Witness : Yes, quite.

Mr Jesson submitted that there was no intention on the part of the parents to violate the Act. If the parents had been misled, he suggested a dismissal of the case.

Ivy Parker was then called and she said she was going to twelve. She never had the ring. Mr Bastard took her out of class and he gave her a good hard shaking and struck her in the face. He also knocked her and pushed her into the door. He told her to go home again and not come back again until she brought the ring. She went home and told her mother.

By Mr Rowlett : Other school children and Mrs Smith were there and would see the schoolmaster's ill-treatment of her. When Mr Bastard spoke to her about the ring she did not say it was only a half-penny one. She told him she saw it passed to a girl at Thringstone and it was found in the afternoon. She states assertively that Mr Bastard struck her and kicked her.

Mr Rowlett : How long was he punishing you ?

The girl : For ten minutes (laughter)

Further questioned, she said she did not tell her mother that the master thrashed her for ten minutes. The Bench here interposed and Mr Jesson said he only wanted to establish that the parents kept the child away for what they believed to be a reasonable excuse.

Mr Rowlett said his point was that it was not a reasonable excuse and that they had aggravated the offence.

Sarah Parker, the mother, was then called and said her child was good and truthful and had hitherto attended school most regularly. When she came home on the date in question she seemed very much upset. When witness saw Mr Bastard he told her not to send the child until she brought the ring and witness said she had not had the ring. The child was ill after her ill-treatment and had to be kept in bed for two days. The child had marks on her and witness believed she had been knocked about. When she went to school in the afternoon, Mr Bastard admitted having thrashed the child and apologised to her for it.

By Mr Rowlett : She wrote the letter stating that she had been told by children who saw the thrashing, but she did not know their names. She could not give the name of any child who told her that. She did not question Mrs Smith at the school as to the alleged thrashing.

Ada Parker, aged 13, sister of Ivy, despatched to taking a note home from the master asking for her sister to be sent back to school and so have no more trouble and she took a note back from her mother.

The Bench, after lengthy deliberation, decided to convict. Defendant was fined 2s and 10s 6d towards the costs, which were heavy, or seven days.

Mr Tryon, of London, watched the case on behalf of the National Union of Teachers.

Sports News

Coalville Cricket League

There was to have been a full programme in the Coalville Cricket League on Saturday, but a disastrous start was made on account of the weather. Many of the matches were abandoned altogether, and in about three that was started, very little progress was made.

None of the first division matches were started. Two attempts were made in the second division. At Coalville on the Town ground, Hugglescote Albion 2nd made 72 for 4 wickets, against Coalville 2nd before the end came and at Markfield, the Town in the match with Whitwick Holy Cross made 35 for 3 wickets.

Football

Four new applications to join the Coalville and District Amateur Football League next season have been received. These were from Heather, Whitwick Amateurs, Measham United and Thornborough clubs.

The football match played on April 26th between Coalville Swifts and T. Webster's team raised £3 5s for the Coalville Nursing Association. It will be remembered that 12 months ago, the Swifts played a match for the benefit of the Titanic fund, but before the accounts were settled, the national fund was closed. The amount realised £3 and the Swifts committee have decided to give £1 each to the Whitwick, Hugglescote and Coalville Nursing Associations.

Friday May 16th 1913 (Issue 1108)

Local News

Goods to the value of £5 2s 17d were distributed at the usual time amongst the poor in the parish of Whitwick in connection with Dalby's Charity. Tradesmen's accounts have been paid and there remains a balance in the bank of £6 6s 2d. The annual income from this charity is £6 3s 8d received in quarterly instalments of £1 10s 11d each.

The proposed memorial window near the pulpit in the north aisle of the Whitwick Parish Church, although somewhat delayed, will be put in hand as soon as funds permit. The churchwardens thankfully acknowledge receipt of cheque for £10 10s towards this fund from the directors of the Whitwick Colliery Co. through Mr Lindley.

Women's Own:- A meeting of this society was held in the Wesleyan Schoolroom on Thursday afternoon. Mrs T.W. Bourne (president) presided over a good attendance. During the afternoon, solos were nicely rendered by Miss West of Leicester. A tea followed which was well attended and a good time was spent.

Colliery Accident:- A young man named John Webster aged 18 who resides in Margaret Street, was injured while at work at the Whitwick Colliery yesterday morning. He was conveyed home in the ambulance carriage and was attended by Dr. Burnett. On inquiry last night he was progressing favourably.

Coalville Police Courts

Friday – Before Major Hatchett (in the chair), Mr H.J. Ford, Mr B.G. Hale and Mr Wm. Sheffield.

Without a light

George W Storer, insurance agent, Swannington was summoned for riding a bicycle without a light at Whitwick on May 2nd. P.C. Jones gave the facts in the absence of the defendant who was fined 1s and costs 11s 6d or 7 days.

Drunk & Disorderly

Thomas Hurst, collier, Whitwick was summoned for being drunk and disorderly at Whitwick on April 22nd. He did not appear. P.C. Grewcock gave the facts and a fine of 7s 6d and costs 12s 6d or 7 days was imposed.

Lucy Springthorpe, widow, Whitwick was summoned for being drunk and disorderly at Coalville on April 25th. P.C. Grewcock stated the case in the absence of the defendant, who was fined 2s 6d and costs 12s 6d or 7 days.

Sports News

Football

Whitwick Swifts F.C. have applied for admission to the Coalville Football League making five new applications for next season.

Cricket

Division II – Whitwick Holy Cross V Hugglescote II

At Whitwick on Saturday May 10th. A late start was made owing to the rain. Whitwick batted first and totalled 41 and Hugglescote were dismissed for 30. S. Briers took 4 for 11.

The Whitwick team in batting order: M Noon, S Briers, A Richardson, J Roach, J W Orton, J Newell, B Stanyard, J Massey, T W Hull, T Parrish, A Massey.

Friday May 23rd 1913 (Issue 1109)

Local News

The Whitwick Nursing Association desire, through this medium, to acknowledge the receipt of £1 from the Coalville Swifts Football Club per Mr T. Hall.

At the Ashby County Court yesterday, Wm Heward, 25, collier, Whitwick, applied for an administrative order. His debts amounted to £9 8s and he offered to pay them in full at 5s a week.

Mr Albert Edward Hood of Whitwick, Leicestershire, butcher, who owned property at Barlestone and Whitwick, and other parts of the district, who died on 2nd of January last, left estate of the gross value of £4,482, of which £1,652 is net personality. Probate of his will was granted to his sister, Miss N. Elizabeth Hood, of Barlestone, Leicestershire and Mr Thomas Edward Jesson, of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, solicitor.

A boy named Moulton, of Alma Villas, Whitwick, was playing in Messrs Manfield's clay pit on Friday afternoon last when he fell into the water. One of Messrs Enoch Briers & Sons men named Benson, fortunately had some ropes handy and then rescued the lad, with some difficulty.

Sad case of Suicide at Whitwick

A tragic occurrence happened in Ratchett Hill Wood, on Saturday last and on Monday Mr Coroner Deane held an inquest on the body of a miner named Alfred Cresswell, aged 68 years, who was found dead hanging from a rock in the wood. Deceased lived in the Leicester Road, Whitwick and left home on Friday morning. He was highly respected.

Mr Storer W West was foreman of the jury.

The coroner said the history of the case, sad as it was, was short. The deceased had for six months been in indifferent health, and as often was the case after influenza, suffered from depression. He went out on Friday morning and was not seen alive again, but was found hanging in Ratchett Wood the next day. The jury had to find what was the state of the man's mind at the time. Coroner's juries were apt to jump to the conclusion that because a man committed suicide he was of unsound mind. That did not necessarily follow. A person might be in such a state that he did not realise what he was doing at the time, and yet not be mad. The Coroner and authorities were of the opinion that the "temporary insanity" finding should be ruled out altogether. They realised that it was a great responsibility to place on juries. He thought if this finding was ruled out it would be a good innovation. He knew juries found such a verdict out of consideration for the deceased's relatives, but they had to bear in mind that it cut both ways. It laid the family open to the stigma of insanity. He would therefore ask the jury to weigh the evidence up very carefully.

Ada Cresswell, daughter of the deceased, said she lived at home with deceased, who had been in poor health for some time, and had not been at work since before Christmas. He was always inclined to be a bit low-spirited. Deceased got up about five minutes to nine, and had his breakfast in bed. A

mate brought his club money and deceased sent out for a bottle of beer for him. He then seemed about as usual and often went out for a little walk. She had never heard him say anything about destroying himself, nor did she know of anything to upset him. Deceased did say that the doctor told him he had better go to the Infirmary, and that he needed to see another doctor in Leicester. He was in the habit of walking around Ratchett Hill Wood. He had left nothing in writing behind. There was no trouble at home or any suggestion of the stoppage of his field club. By the foreman: He might have worried about the illness of his brother-in-law at Loughborough.

Harry Springthorpe, collier, Leicester Road, Whitwick, said he formed one of the party to search for the deceased, and about nine they found him hanging in the wood. They went three parts of the way through the wood when witness saw deceased hanging from a rock. He patted his cheek and found it cold. They sent for his brother, Amos, and lifted him down. The police were also sent for. (At this point the rope and handkerchief which deceased had used, was produced, and witness explained the position of it.) Continuing, witness said the feet of the deceased were only about an inch off the ground. The body was quite cold. He had known the deceased all his life. Deceased's illness put him about, and he troubled because the doctor, he said, had told him he would never be able to do anything but weed the garden. He had done all he could to cheer him up.

Dr Burkitt said he had been attending the deceased for about six months. He started with influenza, followed by congestion of the liver. He got into a very low, nervous state. Deceased went to see witness twice or three times a week and was constantly worrying about not being able to get back to work. He saw deceased on Thursday last and witness then suggested that he should go to Leicester Infirmary and see somebody there. This he seemed to dislike very much. He advised deceased to do a bit of hoeing in his garden but he was not more despondent than usual. When witness went up to the wood he found deceased lying on the ground and rigor mortis was very marked. He appeared to have been dead about 13 hours. – By the foreman: the continued worrying would produce the depression.

The foreman said the deceased was a man of excellent character. He had complained to him many times and whenever he got into conversation with him he would always come back to the question of his illness and he (the foreman) really thought that it had affected his mind.

A verdict of suicide while temporarily insane was returned.

The funeral took place on Tuesday afternoon, and a great crowd watched the progress of the cortege from the home of the deceased to the Church. The Rev. H.T. Pattinson of Leicester, conducted the service and also officiated at the cemetery. Messrs E. Briers & Son had charge of the funeral arrangements, and several members of the Friendly Society held at the Foresters Arms, of which the deceased was a member, followed the remains as a mark of respect.

Deceased was one of the oldest members of the Grand U.O.O.F. Charnwood Lodge, and Messrs E. Briers senior, W. Kirk and Albert Springthorpe, were in attendance, representing the Order. Mr Briers read the usual service outside deceased residence before the cortege proceeded to the Church.

Coalville Police Courts

Friday – Before Major Hatchett (in the chair), Mr W. Lindley, Mr J.W. West and Mr Wm. Sheffield. Mr Holloway, police court Missionary was also present.

Bad Language

Rabbi Robinson, labourer and Mary Ann Robinson, his wife, of Whitwick, were summoned for using indecent language at Whitwick on May 10th. P.C. Jelley proved the case in the absence of the defendants. He said defendants used bad language both inside and outside the house. Complaints were made. Fined 3s 6d and costs 10s 6d distress or 7 days.

Drunk and Disorderly

John Jackson, bricklayer's labourer, Whitwick, was summoned for being drunk and disorderly on the highway of Whitwick on May 10th. Fined 2s 6d and costs 12s 6d or 7 days. Defendant did not appear.

Friday May 30th 1913 (Issue 1110)

Local News

The contents of the Whitwick Vicarage were sold by auction by Mr Ed Moore (of Messrs Moore & Miller) on Wednesday when there was a large attendance. For some of the lots we hear, there was keen competition and good prices were made.

Various rumours have been going about the district as to who will be the new Vicar of Whitwick, but we were officially informed yesterday, that nothing has yet been definitely settled.

The wedding is to take place in June of Miss E Burkitt, daughter of Dr J.C. Burkitt, J.P. of Whitwick and Mr Hancock of Putney. The banns were published at the Whitwick Parish Church on Sunday for the first time.

Mrs J. W. A. Mackenzie left Whitwick Vicarage on Wednesday morning and has taken a residence on the Forest.

Death of a Whitwick Tradesman Former Church Warden

We regret to record the death of a well-known and highly esteemed resident of Whitwick, in the person of Mr Isaac Foster, which occurred at his home in Silver Street on Tuesday afternoon.

The deceased had been in failing health for some time, but the end came rather suddenly and unexpectedly, as he was assisting in his barbers shop as recently as Saturday and only took to his bed on Sunday. Mr Foster, who came from Loughborough had carried on a hairdresser and tobacconist's business in Whitwick for many years, originally in Leicester Road and of later years in Silver Street. He was an ardent churchman and had served both as parish and vicar's warden for two terms. For many years had also been a synods man and only recently resigned the office of superintendent of the Sunday School, which he had filled with credit over a long period. He was most enthusiastic in matters for promoting the Church's welfare while his health permitted and he had a genial personality which made him much liked by all his acquaintances.

He leaves a son and daughter for whom much sympathy will be felt. The funeral will take place at Whitwick Cemetery this (Friday) afternoon.

Burials

Garratt:- At Whitwick on Saturday (arranged for) Rachael Garratt, aged 47 years of Hermitage Road.
Foster:- At Whitwick today, Isaac Foster, aged 54 years of Silver Street.

Sports News Cricket

Whitwick Holy Cross went to Coleorton and easily defeated the Beaumont 2nd, scoring 67 to 23. A Richardson 18 was the highest contribution to the Whitwick total and he took 3 wickets for 12 runs. S Briers scored 14 and took 6 wickets for nine runs.