

# Coalville Times – February 1913

## Friday February 7<sup>th</sup> 1913 (Issue 1094)

### For Sale

Splendid Sittings of White Wyandotte eggs. Record layers, 3s per sitting. J. C. Stinson, Sharpley House, Whitwick

### Local News

We understand that Mr B. G. Hale, J.P., has been invited to oppose Mr M. McCarthy in the Whitwick division at the ensuing C.C. election and that Mr Hale is considering the matter.

### **Parochial Tea and Social**

The Shrovetide parochial tea and social were held in the school on Tuesday, there being a large attention. Messrs. W. Fern and George Underwood were the M.C.'s and Mr R. West played for dancing. A good number played whist.

### **P.M. Church**

The annual Shrovetide effort by the Whitwick Primitive Methodists was a great success, the proceeds exceeding last year's total. The Rev. S. R. Woodall, of Oldham, formerly a minister in this district, preached on Sunday and in the afternoon gave an address at a service of praise presided over by Mr Arthur Toon, of Swannington. On Monday evening the rev gentleman lectured on "One of the miracles of the 19<sup>th</sup> century," which, he said, was the growth of Primitive Methodism. Mr John Ward, of Whitwick, presided and said it was during Mr Woodall's stay in that district that he received a note from him authorising him to go out on trial as a local preacher. Thanks to the lecturer and chairman were accorded on the proposition of Mr J. Newbury. There were a large number at the tea on Tuesday, trays being given by members of the congregation. Mr J. T. Ward, of Hugglescote, presided at a public meeting in the evening addressed by the Revs. S. R. Woodall, J. Blayney and W. H. Whiting.

### **Will of Mr C. T. Church**

Mr Charles Thomas Church, of Ivy Dene, Forest Road, Coalville, formerly in business at Whitwick as a grocer, baker and corn dealer, a former member of the old Whitwick Local Board, and who died on the 8<sup>th</sup> December last, aged 74 years, left estate of the gross value of £9,283 2s 6d, of which £6,484 19s 1d is the net personality, and probate of his will, dated 25<sup>th</sup> November, last, has been granted to his widow, Mrs Sarah Church, Mr Thomas William Bourne, of Market Place, Whitwick, draper, and Mr Charles James Kilpack, of North Avenue, Clarendon Park, Leicester, wholesale provision merchant.

Testator left £10 each to Coltman, Annie, John Willie and Charles Church.

£10 to his sister-in-law, Ann Church.

£25 each to the trustees of his will.

£500 to his son, Charles Thomas Church, of Sydney, New South Wales.

£500 to his grandson, Charles Thomas Church, son of his late son Joseph.

£50 each to his daughters, Fanny Elizabeth Allen, Sarah Jane Bourne, Harriett Martin, and Annie Edith Morris.

His freehold residence and effects there to his wife, Mrs Sarah Church, and the residue of his estate he left upon trust for his four said daughters in equal shares.

### **Conservative Association**

At the annual meeting of the above association, which was held at the Conservative Club, Dr. Burkitt presiding over a good attendance. Officials were elected as follows: President, Mr E. M. P. de Lisle, vice-presidents, Messrs. T. Y. Hay, M. McCarthy, W. Lindley, G. F. Burton, H. Bastard, F. Blow, I. Foster, R. Alcock, and Dr. Burkitt. Mr G. F. Burton was appointed chairman in the place of Dr. Burkitt, who resigned the office. Mr G. West was elected hon. registration secretary. Delegates to the Loughborough Divisional Council were chosen as follows: Messrs. H. Bastard, F. Blow, G. E. Bramwell, H. Bunce, S. Haywood, H. G. W. Howe, J. Holt, F. Limb, H. Williams, J. West, C. E. Crane, J. Bakewell, A. Underwood and H. Ward. – A hearty vote of thanks was accorded Dr. Burkitt for his services to the association. – A discussion on the work of the association resulted in the adoption of a proposition made by Mr Howe to re-form it on an extended basis, and to that end the meeting was adjourned to Wednesday, February 12<sup>th</sup>.

### **Whitwick Vicar's Claim**

*What Led up to the Arrest*

*The Fate of Mr Mackenzie's Son*

*Said to have been killed by Wolves.*

Full details are to hand in regard to the claim of the Rev. J. W. A. Mackenzie, Vicar of Whitwick, in the Isle of Man Chancery Court, the week before last, against the estate of the late Miss Murray, of Ramsey, which, unfortunately, led up to his arrest on a serious charge.

While riding in Dr. Roe's motor car in July, 1911, Miss Murray met with an accident, in which she was killed. She left a will dated February 15<sup>th</sup>, 1911, leaving legacies of £100 each to her sisters, and £30 to Annie Corkill, and the residue of her estate to Mr Mackenzie. Miss Murray's estate is being wound up by the Court, Dr. Roe, of Ramsey, being her trustee, and the Rev. J. W. A. Mackenzie sought to establish a claim against the estate for £640 6s 1d. Messrs. Nelson and McWhannell appeared for the trustee, Mr Farrant for the claimant, and Mr Hughes-Games for Cecil S. Hodges and Edith Joyce, his wife, and Nora Joyce Murray, sisters of the deceased, who are beneficiaries under the will.

Claimant, giving evidence in support of his claim, said that in July, 1910, he lent deceased £300 to help her sisters in Canada; and in the following year received a promissory note for the amount. He drew the money from his agents (account produced from agents), and paid it to Miss Murray. In the September following, Miss Murray wrote him for £100. He had to borrow it at heavy interest, agreeing to pay £50 for the loan (note produced). On the back of the note were the numbers of the Bank of England notes he received from the money-lender, and paid into Miss Murray's account. (Bank statement produced, showing the notes paid in). On July 11<sup>th</sup>, 1911, Miss Murray said that the claimant should have an

acknowledgement of the money she owed, and gave him two cheques, one for £300 and one for £162, the latter to cover the £100 loan, with interest and expenses. She asked him not to cash the cheques, as she had nothing to meet them. Later on in the day, she said that as cheques were useless, she would give him a promissory note. He wrote out one at her request, and later she gave it to him signed. Witness had also made a will, making Miss Murray his residuary legatee. Miss Murray met with an accident shortly after and died on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. On July 14<sup>th</sup>, he and Miss Murray went into the accounts of the partnership for the year, and drew up the balance sheet (produced). It showed that he had put £420 capital into the partnership against her £25. The balance sheet also contained a profit and loss account, and showed a balance in hand (profit) of £27 3s 9d. Miss Murray signed the balance sheet, and he was now claiming that £27 3s 9d as being due to him. He did not know that at that time the partnership account was overdrawn, but he understood Miss Murray had not paid into the account all the money she had received on behalf of it. There was a ledger and a small book kept by Miss Murray, but the executors stated that they could not find those books. After Miss Murray's death he found that the partnership account was overdrawn £89 6s 11d and he arranged with Dr. Roe, the executor, to pay off that overdraft, so as to release Miss Murray's securities. It was paid off by the sale of partnership property, and he now claimed that amount as being due to him. Dr. Roe wrote him that he would pay the £89.

Witness underwent a very severe cross-examination at the hands of Mr Nelson and Mr Hughes-Games. In answer to the former he said that he was a frequent judge at poultry shows on the other side of the water. All his judging fees went into the partnership fund. Miss Murray exhibited at shows where he had acted as judge. Once he gave a bird of hers a card, but it was one that he did not know. At another show he recognised one of his own birds, and passed it over. The balance sheet he produced had been sent him by Dr. Roe, pasted in the scrap-book produced. He could only account for his lending a lady he had only known from January to July, £300, by the sudden friendship they formed for each other. She was, he understood, sending the money to her sisters in Canada, and, as he was sending his boy out to them, he thought that they would look after him better, knowing that he had lent their sister money. His boy was, however, turned adrift in a week. For months they could get no word whether he was alive or dead, and now they said he must have been killed by wolves in the woods.

Mr Nelson: *The only inducement you had for lending the money is what you have said?*

Witness: *That was the only inducement. On the Wednesday before Miss Murray's death, she showed him a number of banknotes in her sitting-room at the Hospital. There were two £50 notes, three £5 notes, and some others. Those notes had not been accounted for by the executors, and his lawyers in England had written to Messrs. McWhannell and Nelson about them on January 16<sup>th</sup>, 1912. He last saw the partnership ledger on the day of the accident, when he and Miss Murray walked down to Dr. Roe's house and had tea. When Miss Murray was dying she told him where the will was, and he went to the Hospital on Saturday, and got a communion service to administer to her the sacrament.*

In answer to Mr Hughes-Games, witness said that he had expended over £800 on the farm and money lent. The promissory note was given to Mr LaMethe, and sent by him to witness's solicitors, Messrs. Sharp and Lancaster, who gave it to him, and he sent it to Mr Farrant. It had not been tampered with, and that he knew of.

Mr Hughes-Games: *When Mr LaMothe had it a distinct impression of Miss Murray's signature could be seen on the reverse side of the note.*

Witness could not tell. He never had been told any reason why Mr LaMothe gave the case up. He did not think that the signature had been traced in pencil or with a sharp instrument, and then inked over. He had never had any reason to examine the signature so close as Mr Hughes-Games had.

Mr Hughes-Games: *I thought that you would have had more.*

Witness: *You thought wrong.*

Mr Farrant: *Is this a question or a sparring match.*

Witness: *The Church and the Law often do.*

Continuing, witness said that he had never observed any peculiarities about the signature such as picking of the 'L'. He had not observed any unnatural smoothness of the paper. He had not compared the signatures on the notes with those on the cheques. He had only had blank cheques signed by Miss Murray when he went personally to buy stock. He had filled up the cheque for £300 and £160 but that was his common practice when on the Island. That could easily be ascertained by the production of the cheques. On the day of the accident Miss Murray gave him a cheque for £5 for his Deaconess Fund. After her death he never filled in blank cheques with her name. On July 14<sup>th</sup> 1911, the accounts of the farm were made up to July 1<sup>st</sup>. She signed the promissory note and the cheques against his will. He had no objection to the balance sheet being removed from the scrap-book if the book was not destroyed. He had not in his possession a cheque book signed in blank, and that did not account for his getting the cheques for £300 and £160. He could not tell how the cheque of July 15<sup>th</sup> was a number earlier than the cheque of July 14<sup>th</sup>. The signature on the balance-sheet had not been traced in black lead, then in ink lightly, the black lead rubbed out, and then inked again.

Re-examined: *No suggestion had ever been made till now that the promissory note and cheques were wrong.*

Annie Corkill, who had been with Miss Murray at Noble's Hospital, and afterwards at Ramsey, for 20 years, deposed that Miss Murray often discussed business with her. She knew that Miss Murray kept the books of the poultry farm, and Miss Murray told her about the financial affairs of the farm. Within a week or so of her death Miss Murray came to her in the kitchen with a promissory note for £300, which she said she wished her to witness by signing. Witness repeated the contents of the note word for word.

Cross-examined: She remained at the Hospital three weeks after Miss Murray's death, then went to Mr Mackenzie's for 10 months, and afterwards returned to the Island. Mr C. T. Hughes-Games, sworn, said *"I was instructed about a year ago by Miss Murray's sisters to resist the claim put forward by Mr Mackenzie. In June last, in Mr LaMothe's office in Ramsey, he was told that Mr LaMothe was acting for the claimant, who was anxious that he should see witness and arrange a compromise. He said that he would not admit a penny of the claim, and Mr LaMothe said that he could not see how they could get over the promissory note. The note was produced. I examined the note carefully, and observed a marked sheen on the letters. I pointed that out to Mr LaMothe. I turned the note over, and there was, then, perfectly visible, the impression of the name through the paper. Since then that impression has disappeared. I said to Mr LaMothe that the signature was a forgery caused by tracing and then inked over. He made no comment. Both he and Mr Cowley afterwards informed me that they had ceased to act for the claimant."*

The case stood adjourned till Thursday.

On Thursday, Doctor Roe, one of the executors of the will, gave evidence. He stated that after Miss Murray's death he saw the partnership ledger in claimant's possession. He considered that the signatures to the promissory note and the balance sheet of the partnership were not those of Miss Murray. In cross-examination letters were read from the witness to Mackenzie, in which he begged him not to bring the case into Court, as it would ruin him (witness). It also meant it would become known that he, as a Commissioner, knew of the partnership and supported Miss Murray's proposals before the Board. It also meant that every poultry club in England would know claimant judged Miss Murray's and his own fowls. It would also mean Miss Murray's name and reputation being ruined. There was no doubt about the latter. Asked to explain, witness said that the public would put a wrong construction on what had occurred which would injure him as a medical man. He did not know then that Mackenzie alleged that bank notes were missing, and the letters did not refer to them. – Thomas Ed. Acherson, manager of the Lloyd's Branch at Ramsey, considered the signatures on the note and the balance sheets very doubtful, but could not say that the signatures would not have passed him if there were no suspicious circumstances. Mr Farrant, who spoke for three hours, ridiculed the idea that Mr Mackenzie had committed forgery, or induced Miss Corkill to commit perjury. – The Clerk of the Rolls said that he was not satisfied with the balance sheet or the promissory note, or with the signatures. He disbelieved Miss Corkill's evidence as to her having seen the note signed. He was also of opinion that the ledger had been in the claimant's possession after Miss Murray's death, and considered it remarkable that the executor had found no papers among Miss Murray's effects making reference to the amounts claimed for. The plaintiff had to prove his claim; it rested on him to do that, and he had not satisfied him that the claim was a just one, and it would be dismissed with costs. – On the application of Mr Hughes-Games, acting for the legatees, the documents in the case were impounded.

## **Police Court Proceedings**

### *Strange Story of a Bracelet*

### *Accused Committed for Trial*

How Mr Mackenzie was subsequently arrested and taken back to the Island was briefly reported in our last issue. On Wednesday morning he was brought before the High Bailiff of Douglas (Mr J. S. Gell), and charged at the instance of Police-Superintendent John Thomas Quilliam, that he did, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of January, 1913, feloniously utter, dispose of, and put off a certain forged undertaking for the payment of money, which said forged undertaking is as follows:

*“Cronk Ruagh, Ramsey, Isle of Man.*

*I, Leila Eleanor Murray, hereby acknowledge to have received the sum of three hundred pounds (£300) from the Rev. J. W. A. Mackenzie, of Whitwick Vicarage, Leic, which sum I promise to repay him.”*

L. E. Murray

With intent thereby to defraud etc.

Mr Ramsey-Moore appeared for the prosecution, and Mr Lay for defendant. Mr Moore, having outlined the case, the clerk to the Chancery Court (Mr John Cannell) deposed as to

the evidence given by the defendant when making his claim, and produced the promissory note.

### *Photographs of the Questioned Signature*

Wm. Henry Warburton said he was a photographer carrying on business in Douglas. On the instructions of the Chief Constable, he photographed the promissory note in question. He produced the negatives.

Mr Moore said the allegation of the prosecution was that the signature in question was first done with black lead or some other sharp instrument, and so to get an imprint the person making the forgery had gone over it with a pen to produce the signature. Witness said the negatives were as they came from the camera, and had not been re-touched or varnished. The first negative was a small one of the signature taken from the back. No. 2 was an enlarged view of the back, No. 3 was an enlarged view of the front, and No. 4 was also an enlarged view of the front taken with a side light, the idea being to throw a side light across to show up the grooving. In cross-examination, witness said he could not see anything on the small negative except "L. E. Murray."

### *Handwriting Expert's Conclusion*

Gerald Francis Gurrin said: *"I am a member of the Royal Microscopical Society, and have devoted my life to the study of handwriting, and I am a handwriting expert practising in London. I have had eleven years' experience, and have dealt with large numbers of forged and disputed handwritings. I am regularly consulted by the Treasury and Crown offices in such matters. I came to the Island yesterday, and devoted sometime last night, and practically the whole of today, to the examination of the document involved in this case"*.

Mr Moore: *You were informed it was an extremely serious case, and involved the honour of a clergyman.*

Mr Lay: *I object to that.*

Mr Moore: *You were informed of the seriousness of the case?*

Mr Lay: *I take it he will speak the truth whether it is serious or not.*

Witness: *Yes. I have examined a bundle of cheques which are admittedly the genuine signatures of the person, L. E. Murray. I had sufficient specimens before me to acquaint myself with her signature. I had also submitted to me the promissory note, which forms the subject of this inquiry. The common outstanding characteristics of Miss Murray's handwriting are that it is quickly and lightly written with very little pressure.*

Mr Moore: *Do you mean that the mouth of the nib would not have been opened?*

Witness: *It might have been slightly but there is no discernible pressure. The mouth of the nib would not have been opened to any extent, but then it would depend upon the nib that was used. The light pressure of Miss Murray's signature is consistent throughout. I saw all the signatures, also those on the two cheques produced. I also saw the signature at the foot of the balance sheet.*

Mr Moore: *Looking at the signature on the promissory note, what is the thing that strikes you as the characteristic of that signature?*

Witness: *It is practically the opposite to the other signatures on the cheques as far as the pressure is concerned. The ink is darker and heavier on the promissory note, pointing to the slower execution. As I have examined them, I have formed a conclusion on the whole of them. I examined the signature in question with a very strong glass, with a very powerful lens.*

Mr Moore: *What did you find in each letter?*

Witness: *I found the signature is characterised by the fact that an indentation is visible in a number, if not all, of the letters.*

Mr Moore: *In what portion of the letter is that found?*

Witness: *Generally in the centre, and generally deviating from the centre to the side, but mainly in the centre. It is a single indentation such as would be produced by a pencil, and has no indication of a double indentation such as would be produced by a pen if that amount of pressure was used.*

Mr Moore: *Are you satisfied in your own mind that the indentations have been caused otherwise than by a pen?*

Witness: *Yes. It is a single indentation, whereas a pen would produce a double indentation. Neither is it an indentation produced by a stylographic pen as distinguished from a fountain pen. A stylographic pen would make a clean mark. I made a careful examination of the ink strokes throughout, and found in several places, particularly at the base of the letter 'L' and at the top of the letter 'E,' certain strokes other than ink strokes of a purple or bluish tinge, such as might have been produced by pencil or carbon paper. After getting in a certain light with a strong glass, the actual glint of this substance could be seen. It is not ordinary ink.*

Mr Moore: *Did you also examine the back of the promissory note?*

Witness: *Yes. Both the signature and the body of the document, although I did not pay much attention to the latter. My special attention was paid towards the signature. I could see on the back, the outline of the signature which appeared on the face of the document, and in order to fix the effect of the light, the photographs taken by Mr Warburton were taken under my direction. This No. 3 photograph was taken with the object of showing down the centre of the each letter where the indentation or groove appears, and the photograph clearly shows that grooving. That shows the indentation, particularly the letters 'M' and 'L'. That is by direct light. The next photo (No. 4) was taken with the object of showing the lines appearing outside the ink lines in certain places – for instance, at the base of the 'L' and the top of the 'E'. They are seen clearly, but not so clearly as with a powerful glass. No. 2 is an enlargement of the back of the note showing up the indentations, which it does fairly well.*

The High Bailiff examined the photo print with a magnifying glass.

Witness: *It is no use using the glass on the print. It is necessary to do it with the original.*

Mr Moore: *Dealing with the back of the note, have you any doubt whatever that these are the marks of the grooving of these letters there?*

Witness: *They seem to me to correspond exactly with the grooving. It is also seen in front.*

Mr Moore: *From these observations are you in a position to give us any conclusions, having in mind the seriousness of the case? Will you state your conclusions – to what extent your opinions are certainties?*

Witness: *The strongest points are the points of fact – such as, for instance, the existence of the indentations on front and back; the appearance of writing in matter other than ink, and also the substance appearing to be pencil, which is seen particularly on the letter 'L'. These actual facts, to my mind, point only to one conclusion, namely, that the signature is not a natural signature, but one produced by some mechanical means – such, for instance, as a tracing or carbon paper.*

Mr Moore: *I want to put it more seriously whether, in expressing your view you feel in our mind any doubt?*

Witness: *Oh, no doubt whatever, particularly as the things I have pointed out are facts, and not opinions.*

Mr Moore: *You were not asked to direct your attention in any way as to whose signature it was?*

Witness: *No. I was simply asked whether it was a forgery or not. It was not my instructions to say who did it.*

The High Bailiff: *In your opinion, it is a forgery?*

Witness: *It is, sir.*

Mr Moore: *In your practice, do very many doubtful cases come before you?*

Witness: *A number, a very large number.*

Mr Moore: *Does this fall into that category?*

Witness: *No. I might say traces of a signature having been tampered with are sufficient to damn the signature.*

Mr Moore: *In this case the interference goes through the whole signature?*

Witness: *Yes.*

Mr Moore: (producing the signature of Miss Murray to a balance sheet). *This was also submitted to your examination?*

Witness: *Yes, it is difficult, if not impossible to say anything about it, for the reason that it has been gummed on paper and smudged in the process. But I did take a tracing of it, and I find that tracing if super-imposed on the signature to the note corresponds with it as regards the letters 'L' and 'E', and the word 'Murray' with the exception of the letter 'Y'. Taking the 'L' and 'E' they correspond, and the first part of the word 'Murray' corresponds with this exception, that if the letters 'L' and 'E' in this tracing are placed over the same letters in the signature, then the word 'Murray' does not correspond in location; you have to shift the paper; then 'Murray' corresponds. If one were producing the signature from the tracing, in all probability the tracing paper was moved before the word 'Murray' was written, and the same is true with regard to 'Y'.*

Mr Moore: *Is the correspondence so close and so accurate that it would not be produced by a person writing their name twice?*

Witness: *I hardly think so. It is difficult to say on account of the smudge, but I hardly think so. I think that points to one of two conclusions – either one of these signatures was reproduced from the other, or both were produced from some other. The fact that the word 'Murray' does not correspond in location when the tracing is over the letter 'L' and 'E' would be accounted for by the moving of the tracing paper or other medium employed. The same applies to the difference in position of the letter 'Y'.*

The High Bailiff: *I do not see any of these documents with a turned-up tail on the 'Y'.*

Witness: *I might have gone into the details of dissimilarities, but the fact that there are these features I have mentioned rendered it unnecessary.*

### *Cross-Examination*

Mr Lay: *Have you ever been engaged in connection with a Manx case before? – I have not been in the Island before in my life.*

*I did not ask you that: have you ever been engaged in a Manx case before? – No.*

*Or any case connected with the Isle of Man?*

*Not as far as I know.*

*You have not given your opinion on any writing? – If I have it was not disclosed to me that it was in connection with the Isle of Man.*

Mr Lay: *I will postpone my cross-examination to a later period, if necessary.*

Mr Moore: *I propose to give formal evidence of arrest, and then will request your Worship to remand the defendant to Friday.*

### *The Arrest*



Police-Constable John Henry Fayle deposed: *Under the authority of a warrant issued by a justice here, I proceeded to Leicester on Saturday, and having had the warrant backed by a local justice of the peace, I arrested the defendant on Monday at Whitwick, about 18 miles from Leicester. The warrant was read to him, and he was cautioned and charged. He said, "I do not understand it." I did not have any further conversation with him as to what he meant. His room was searched.*

Mr Moore: *I do not propose to go into it today, but there were certain articles of jewellery and documents found which will be produced. (To witness): Among the articles of jewellery found, was there \_\_\_\_\_.*

Mr Lay: (interrupting): *I cannot see the connection of this, for the life of me.*

The High Bailiff: *I do not see the connection at present. We shall see later on, I suppose.*

Mr Lay: *I do not wish to shut anything out because I know it may tell against me, but I do not see what this has to do with the charge.*

The High Bailiff: *I do not see the connection at present.*

Mr Moore: *It has a bearing on correspondence which was produced at a previous court.*

Witness: *There was a gold bracelet set with six sapphires and three small diamonds. It was found in a drawer in a desk in his study. He saw it afterwards in my possession, but did not make any comment.*

Mr Moore: *Last night, I believe, the defendant volunteered a remark? – Yes, he said it was very trying. I said, "Yes", "But," he said, "before God, I am innocent."*

A conversation took place as to bail, and the High Bailiff said, *"As it stands at present, the matter is a very serious one. I should say £200, and two sureties of £100 each."*

Mr Lay asked that the defendant might be kept in the police station, instead of being sent to the Isle of Man gaol, as telegrams were constantly passing. The High Bailiff said that was a matter he had nothing to do with, and Mr Lay had better apply to Colonel Madoc. The prisoner was then remanded.

### *How the Alleged Forgery was Detected*

The case was continued on Friday before the High Bailiff of Douglas. The first witness cross-examined was C. T. Hughes-Games, who said that in connection with the estate of the late Miss Murray, he acted for her sisters, who are beneficiaries under the will. Mr LaMothe was acting for the defendant with regard to the claim against the estate. He saw Mr LaMothe.

Mr Lay objected to any conversation whatever between Mr Hughes-Games and Mr LaMothe. Mr Moore said that Mr LaMothe was defendant's agent. The question was allowed.

Witness (continuing): *Mr LaMothe, on instructions of the defendant, suggested a compromise of the claim. He replied that he could admit no claim whatever, and Mr LaMothe produced the promissory note. That was the first time he had heard of the note. He examined the document with some care. What struck him at first was that there was a peculiar gloss, or gleam on the letters of the signature. He thought that the paper, which was somewhat rough in character, had been smoothed by pressure, which caused the glossy appearance where the signature is. He suspected the signature, and turned the note over. The signature was clearly impressed on the back of the note. It was perfectly clear. He pointed that out to Mr LaMothe, who said nothing about it. After that he looked again, and saw a distinct grooving of the letters, and a distinct printing by dots of the 'L'*

*and 'E'. He could still see them. He had since seen the note under a glass, and examined it by turning it to a strong light at different angles. Under a glass he could see the grooving he spoke of, the fitting of the dots that he had mentioned, and the gleam, or glossiness of the letters, looking as if the ink was over lead pencil, and if this paper had been unnaturally smoothed. He also observed that the chisel-shaped end of the 'Y' indicated that the ink was put on downwards, and not upwards. That could be seen with the naked eye. He had not at the time seen Miss Murray's signature. He had, however, examined the whole of the note, and there was no impression on the letters, except on the reverse side of the signature. He gave evidence in the matter of the civil claim, and produced letters written by the defendant to the sister and brother-in-law of Miss Murray. He first heard that the £300 had been lent Miss Murray to assist her sisters that was when he gave evidence before the Clerk of the Rolls.*

#### *Attempted Photographing in Court*

At this stage the High Bailiff said that he had heard efforts were being made to take photographs in this case. He would not permit it, and asked the police to let him know if any attempt was made.

Cross-examined, witness said that he first suggested the forgery, and suggested that the documents should be impounded. He did not suggest the prosecutions. He told the chief of police, or his advocate, that if a search was being made, they should look for a bracelet that had been left to his client. He did not see Constable Fayle before he went away. The chief of police sent for him, and he had conversation with him. He disclaimed any expert knowledge of handwriting.

#### *Strange Story of a Bracelet*

Charles Disney Roe said that he was one of the executors, along with Mr Lyon, of Kingston, of Miss Murray's estate. He had known her since 1905, and she was a regular visitor at his house. In July, 1910, he met the defendant, who was judge of the poultry at Ramsey show. Witness was invited by a clergyman friend to meet him at dinner. Defendant wished to see the stock of two of the exhibitors, Miss Murray and Mr Johnson, and witness volunteered to drive him out. Next day he drove defendant out, that was the commencement of his acquaintance with Miss Murray. Subsequently, Mr Mackenzie told him of his contemplated partnership. In 1911, defendant came to the Island about July 13<sup>th</sup>, and Miss Murray met with an accident on the 21<sup>st</sup> July, and died at witness's house on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. On the day after the funeral, July 26<sup>th</sup>, he went to the hospital with Mr Mackenzie, who told him where Miss Murray said the will was. Defendant showed him the will in an envelope, not opened, and they took it to Mr C. B. Nelson's house, where the envelope was opened. He then first knew that he was executor, and went to secure the assets. He did not see in Miss Murray's room on that occasion, or at any other time, any Bank of England notes. He had never heard the suggestion made that there were any notes until several months afterwards. There was some difficulty in locking the door in Mr Mackenzie's presence. Mr Mackenzie was staying with witness for a few days afterwards, and never made any mention of Miss Murray owing him £300. Not being aware that there was any large claim like that, witness had an inventory made by Mr Chrystal, and allowed prisoner to take away articles to the value of £64 10s 3d. Amongst these articles was a gold bracelet, set with sapphires and diamonds. Mr Lay objected to this evidence as not being relevant to the charge.

Mr Moore pointed out that if there had been a genuine liability of £300, the estate would have been insolvent, and these articles should have been left to the creditors. It was a link in the chain of evidence.

Witness said that a gold bracelet with sapphires and a gold ring were specially bequeathed by Miss Murray to her sisters. They were given to the defendant on the distinct understanding that he was to give them to the sisters. When defendant's claim of £300 was made, and it was apparent the estate was insolvent, witness wrote for these articles, as they were required for the administration of the estate.

Mr Moore read Mr Mackenzie's reply Dr. Roe's letter, denying that he had received the sapphire bracelet and the pearl ring. Mr Moore then produced to the witness the bracelet found by police constable Fayle, in the prisoner's desk, and he identified it as the bracelet in question, which had belonged to Miss Murray.

Witness said Miss Murray paid £3 10s for it, but it was only put down at £1 10s in the valuation. He first heard of the promissory note late in the autumn, and first heard of the £300 cheque in the Chancery Court when Mr Mackenzie's claim was made. He could find no trace in the bank books of Miss Murray having received £300, or paid away that, or any other large sum approaching that amount. In July, 1910, Miss Murray had some £400 or £500 invested, and those investments remained till her death. Apart from this alleged loan, she had no big obligations, and had an assured position and income. He frequently saw Miss Murray's handwriting. She wrote a very light hand, and the signatures on the cheques were very characteristic of her hand writing. The signature on the promissory note was not characteristic.

Cross-examined, Miss Murray's estate included £200 in Guinness, £50 in Pears, something in the Bradford Dye Works, and Dunlop rubbers. The securities realised £430. He could not tell whether she had these in 1910. Re-examined, Miss Murray possessed some property in Dublin jointly with her sisters, and she received the rents, £5, and transferred it to her sisters.

### *Miss Murray's Signatures*

Thomas Ed. Acherson, manager of Lloyd's Branch at Ramsey, gave evidence to the cheque book issued to Miss Murray. For two years before her death Miss Murray deposited some of her securities at the Bank. They were valued at £300. No. 2 account was opened in July, 1910, in Miss Murray's name. He was well acquainted with Miss Murray's signature. All the cheques in the book commencing 024541 to 024565, with the exception of three missing ones, were filled in in handwriting not the deceased's. The signatures were hers.

Mr Moore: *We allege that all the cheques are filled in by Mr Mackenzie, and that all are from across the water. The cheques for £300 and £162 are from that book?*

Witness: *Yes. The handwriting on the promissory note was very different to all others of Miss Murray's that he had seen.*

Cross-examined: *In the Chancery Court he said that he did not know whether the signature would pass or not, but under ordinary circumstances he would not question it.*

Mr C. B. Nelson, who acted for the executors of Miss Murray's estate, deposed that the will was opened by him in the presence of Dr. Roe, and Mr Mackenzie. They brought the will to the house, Mr Mackenzie did not at that time say that he was a creditor under a

promissory note for £300. It was some time after before he heard of any claim. On November 24<sup>th</sup>, 1911, he wrote to the defendant that he understood that he held a note for £300. Mr Mackenzie replied that the £300 was money lent to Miss Murray for purposes for which he had made no enquiries. In the Chancery Court defendant said that the money was lent to the deceased to keep her family. He first saw the note a week before the Chancery Court, and it was not at the court that he first heard that the £300 was advanced a year before the date of the note. In the Chancery Court, Dr. Roe produced the counterfoils of Miss Murray's cheque books, except the book 024541 to 024570, out of which the cheques for £300 and £162 were taken. It was suggested to him that he had a book of cheques signed in blank, and that he had filled them in after her death, but he denied it.

### *Committal of the Prisoner*

This was the case for the police. Mr Lay said that he proposed to call no evidence at this stage. The charge was read over to the defendant and he said, "*I am advised by my solicitor to say nothing, I am not guilty.*" Prisoner was committed for trial.

### *The Question of Bail*

On the question of bail, the High Bailiff said that he had considered the matter very carefully, and he did not feel disposed to release the defendant on a money deposit. It was not a proper thing to accept a money deposit.

Mr Lay: *That means that the defendant must be kept in gaol till at least Tuesday.*

The High Bailiff: *The responsibility is mine Mr Lay, and I cannot accept a money deposit.*

Mr Lay: *Will you accept one bail, £200?*

The High Bailiff: *Yes. If I am satisfied of the man's means, I will take one bail of £200.*

Prisoner was removed in custody, but was subsequently released on bail. When it was intimated by the authorities that personal bail would be required, some difficulty arose which was removed by a gentleman in court stepping forward and offering himself as bail until the other necessary securities had been obtained. Mr Mackenzie, we understand, afterwards left the court with this gentleman, who offered him hospitality pending his trial, and Mr Mackenzie is now staying with him in the Island. The gentleman was only slightly acquainted with the Vicar, as a result of a little business transaction connected with the poultry farm.

### *Vicar's Telegram to his Congregation*

The services at the Whitwick Church, Sunday, were conducted by the Rev. F. C. Stocks, curate of Misterton, Lutterworth, who is also the diocesan inspector. During the morning service, the reverend gentleman read a telegram from the Vicar, declaring his innocence, and asking for the prayers of the congregation.

### *A Defence Fund Formed*

After the evening service on Sunday, Dr. Burkitt presided over a full meeting of the Church council, the churchwardens, Messrs. S. W. West and J. P. Roulston, and Mr H. T. Bastard, lay representative, being amongst those present.

The chairman made a statement on the Vicar's case, and several sympathetic speeches were made by members of the council. It was proposed by Mr S. W. West, seconded by Mr J. R. Roulston, and unanimously carried, that an official letter of sympathy and belief in his innocence and expressing confidence that he would clear himself, be sent to the Vicar, Mrs Mackenzie, the Rural Deane, the Archdeacon, and the Bishop of Peterborough. To help the Vicar to establish his innocence it was felt that a considerable sum of money would be required; the council, therefore decided to endeavour to raise funds for that object. It was decided to open a fund of the Whitwick branch of the Nottingham and Notts. Bank to be called, 'The Mackenzie Legal Defence Fund' and that printed circulars be issued to friends appealing for help.

Dr. Burkitt, of the Old Vicarage, Whitwick, and Mr H. T. Bastard, of the School House, Whitwick, (the two lay representatives) were appointed as treasurers to the fund, and will be glad to receive donations from any persons who feel disposed to assist. An excellent start was given the fund on Monday.

### **Ashby Board of Guardians**

#### **Whitwick Girl's Sad Plight**

A letter was received from Mr W. A. Musson, on behalf of the Ashby National School managers, regretting that they could not admit to the school a certain child from the workhouse because of her moral unfitness to be associated with the other girls of the school, whom the managers had to protect. He felt sure that the Guardians would appreciate the responsibility of the managers. It may be explained that the girl's mother and a man are undergoing terms of imprisonment for offences connected with the child at Whitwick.

Father O'Reilly said they could not do better than send the girl to a home in London as was originally proposed, at a charge of 7s per week.

The clerk said they had once decided to do that, and they got the sanction of the Local Government Board which came a fortnight ago but the Board thought there was an improvement in the child, and that she might be given a trial there. The child was sent to the school at Ashby, with this result.

The Chairman: *Can you tell us whether the managers have the right to refuse the admission of any child to the school?*

The Clerk: *They must have grounds for their refusal and these would be the grounds.*

Mr McCarthy: *That the child is not fit to be with the other children there.*

The chairman said they had a report a fortnight ago that there was a great improvement in the child. He did not wish to unnecessarily raise the point, but it was a serious thing. Here was a child, who through no fault of her own, but through being the tool of someone else, had become absolutely demoralised. But she was only 12 years of age. She had been treated worse than if she was feeble-minded or demented, being shut up on those premises, and not allowed to associate with other children, and the Board felt that if they sent the child away, they would only be paying someone else to do what they ought to do there. They would simply be transferring their responsibility to someone else, and it seemed to him to be rather cruel on this girl, because she had been put in this unfortunate position by someone having made money out of her, that she should be treated as a criminal. It did not seem to him to be a Christian act. He admitted the difficulties of the

situation. The question was, had the managers of a school the right to refuse admission to any child?

The Clerk: *It is a question of fact, and on enquiry they would have to justify their refusal.*

Father O'Reilly said thieving and immoral conduct were considered grounds for refusing admittance. Mr McCarthy observed that Mr Musson was a lawyer, and doubtless knew what he was doing. Mr Andrews asked whether the girl had been allowed to mix with the other children.

Mr Parker replied in the affirmative, and said the report to the House Committee that morning was anything but a favourable one. He thought they had no alternative but to go back to their previous resolution, and send the child away. Mr Matterson said they should do so as speedily as possible, because it was an injustice to keep her isolated from the other children. It was worse than being in gaol. Mr McCarthy asked whether they could get the girl to an industrial school. The clerk replied, not without she had committed some offence.

Mr Bullen said the Bridge of Hope Mission dealt with abnormal cases, and he thought it was a suitable place. The Board decided to send her there, and to pay £2 for the necessary outfit.

### **Coalville Urban District Council**

The monthly meeting of the Urban Council was held at Coalville on Tuesday evening, Mr M. McCarthy, J.P., presiding. There were also present, Messrs. W. Sheffield, S. Perry, T. Y. Hay, A. Lockwood, J. Kirby, F. Griffin, S. P. Matterson, J. R. Bennett, T. Kelly, and W. Fellows, with the clerk (Mr T. E. Jesson) surveyor (Mr G. F. Hurst) and gasworks manager (Mr J. W. Eagles).

#### *Highway Committee's Report*

The Highways Committee reported that the sub-committee appointed, reported on their visit to the site of the accident on Hermitage Road, when a pony belonging to Dr. Burkitt, of Whitwick, was injured through the crust of the road giving way. The clerk read a letter from Messrs. Sharp and Lancaster, acting on behalf of Dr. Burkitt, asking the Council to reconsider their decision of not admitting any liability in the matter, and the committee recommend the reply thereto be as suggested by the clerk.

#### *Whitwick Lodgers*

The surveyor reported that 1,055 people were accommodated at the Whitwick lodging houses during the month, against 979 in December, and 1049 in January last year. Replying to Mr Perry, he said permanent lodgers were not counted. It was decided to summon four nightsoil defaulters in School Lane, Whitwick, and one in the City of Dan. Mr Baldwin remarking that he wanted 1s 6d each from four of them and 9d from one.

### **Coalville Police Court**

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

### *Bad Language*

James Peter Hurst (40), frame fitter, Swannington, was summoned for using bad language at Whitwick, on January 18<sup>th</sup>. He did not appear. P.C. Betts stated the case and defendant was fined 2s 6d and 12s 6d costs, or seven days.

Francis Wheeldon, (45), storekeeper, Whitwick, was summoned for using bad language at Whitwick, on January 26<sup>th</sup>. P.C. Jelley proved the case. Fined 2s 6d and 12s 6d costs or seven days.

### *Whitwick Fight*

Charles Cooper (29), and Patrick Costelow (17), colliers, Whitwick, were summoned for violent conduct at Whitwick on January 18<sup>th</sup>. They did not appear. P.C. Grewcock proved the case and Cooper, who had been previously convicted, was fined £1 1s and costs 10s 6d or 21 days. Costelow was fined 5s 6d and 10s 6d costs or 7 days.

## **Sport**

### **Football**

#### *Whitwick Win by the Odd Goal*

In view of the good record of the Leicester Belvoir Street Sunday School club, it was recognised that Whitwick Imperial had not to hold them too cheaply in their Senior Cup tie at Whitwick on Saturday, though Whitwick's ability to pull through was never doubted. As things went only a goal separated the teams in the end. Whitwick winning by two goals to one. All the scoring was done in the first half. Brady, who was in great form, opened for Whitwick and Rowse, having responded, it was left for Joe Lees to kick the winning goal.

Whitwick had much the best of the play in the second half, but the players were handicapped by the heavy state of the ground. It was a common thing for the ball to drop and stick in the mud and the difficulties under such conditions can be easily imagined.

## **Births, Marriages and Deaths**

### **Octogenarian's Death**

The death occurred on Tuesday of Mr Joe Spencer, of North Street, aged 85 years. He was working up to Xmas.

### **Fatality at Whitwick Brickyard**

#### *Large Fall of Clay*

#### *Workman's Terrible Injuries*

The North Leicestershire Coroner, Mr H. J. Deane, held an inquest at the Whitwick Colliery Offices on Tuesday afternoon, concerning the death of Fred Adams, who was killed on the previous day by a fall of clay in the company's brickyard.

Mr W. H. Hepplewhite, H.M. Inspector of Mines, was present, Mr C. F. Elliot-Smith, of Mansfield, appeared for the Whitwick Colliery Company, and Mr G. J. Binns, of Derby was for the Midland Colliery Owners' Mutual Indemnity Co. Ltd. Mr Walter Lindley, secretary to the Whitwick Colliery Company was also present. Mr W. Sheffield was the foreman of the jury.

The Coroner, opening the inquest, said the deceased lived at Whitwick, was 42 years of age, and was employed as a labourer at the Whitwick Colliery Brickyard. He usually worked on the surface, but on Monday morning was working in the clay hole in the place of a man who was absent. He understood that the deceased was an experienced workman, but at the time of the accident he was not actually getting clay from the face, but was filling loose clay into a tub. About 11.50, a fall of clay occurred, without preliminary warning, and knocked the deceased face forward on to the truck by which he doubtless received injuries from which he died. It would be for the jury to say when they had heard the evidence, whether they were satisfied as to the cause of the man's death and the circumstances by which it occurred.

Dr. J. C. Burkitt, Whitwick, said he had seen the body and knew it to be that of Fred Adams, who was employed at the Whitwick Colliery Co's. brickyard as a labourer. It was between 12.30 and 12.45 when witness saw the body. He found a fracture of the lower jaw and all the bones of the face were fractured on the left side. There was also a fracture of the vertebrae. On the right side of the chest the collar bone and the first rib were broken and there was a hole in the chest, three inches by two, with a collapsed lung underneath. Witness afterwards saw the place where the man had been working and came to the conclusion that the wounds and fractures on the face were due to the man's head coming into contact with the tub he was filling and the punctured wound on the chest looked as if it might have been caused by the shovel or some such blunt instrument. There was blood on the corner of the tub. Death would be instantaneous. The force must have been considerable.

Mr Smith: *Death was due to the accident?*

Witness: *Oh, yes.*

Benjamin Adams, labourer, employed on the Prestwold estate by Mr Hussey Packe, and living at Prestwold, said the deceased was his son and was 42 years of age. He had good sight and hearing, and had worked at the brick works for 17 years. He left a wife and child. He lived at Golden Row, Talbot Street, Whitwick.

John Wm. Pope, foreman of the brickworks, said the deceased was employed under him and was a good man – one that witness could put to almost any job with reliance. He was a sort of handyman and could take anyone's place if they were a man short. He usually worked at clay getting on the top. On Monday he went to work in the clay hole as they were a man short. Witness had not been in the clay hole that morning till he was told of the accident. He found the deceased was covered with clay all but his head. His cheek was resting on the tub. When they moved some of the stuff, witness saw that the man's neck was broken. Owing to the wet weather there had been an unusual slip of clay, which came from the top of the present working face.



The Coroner asked what examination was made in the morning before the men started work. Witness said a man had to make an inspection and sign a book that everything was safe.

The Coroner: *Had he so signed that morning?*

Witness: Yes. (The book was produced)

Replying further to the Coroner, witness said he had not examined the place himself that morning before the accident, but did afterwards and saw that it was due to the wet. The quantity of stuff which fell was about two tons. It seemed to slip off the face. If the tub had not been there, witness thought the clay would have pushed the man away, but he was pinned between the tub and the clay.

By the Inspector: *As far as he knew there had been no 'barring' on the clay on the top that morning. There were no marks in the crack to indicate that though there was a hole in the piece that was left. As far as witness knew there had been no under-cutting under the clay that morning. He did not think the clay that caused the accident was over-hanging clay, though the clay that was left was vertical. He could not say what was the thickness and depth of clay that fell.*

The Inspector: *You say two tons fell.*

Witness: *Yes, but it does not take much clay to make two tons.*

The question was repeated, and witness said he could only estimate it at 2 yards along the face and from 18 inches to 6 or 7 inches wide. Witness said that if the working ledge had been wider it might have arrested the fall of the clay, but the ledge was of ordinary width. They had not had a similar accident before.

By the Coroner: *The man in charge had to keep the ledges of sufficient width to ensure safety of working according to his discretion. He had to inspect and sign the book. The Coroner observed that the signature was the same all through the year, except one referring to snow. Witness said the chargeman would remove his men if he found anything unsafe until he made it safe.*

The Inspector: *He should record in the book what he did, not simply put 'ditto' every day.*

Mr Smith said the man was no scholar, though a very good practical workman. Replying to Mr Smith, witness said the clay hole was worked that day quite in accordance with the special rules. Thomas Stacey, foreman of the clay-getters, said deceased started to work under him about nine o'clock. Witness got to the clay hole at 7.15, and then and after breakfast, made the usual inspections, finding everything safe. He walked round both ledges and inspected them the first time, but only on the top the second time, not thinking it necessary to go on the second ledge again. It was a wet night on Sunday night. The face from which the clay fell had stood without being touched for about three weeks. Witness worked with Adams up to within about twenty minutes of the accident. Witness had charge of the clay hole, and had to decide how wide the ledges should be, but 4ft was required by the Act of Parliament. It would, however, be better with 8ft, because then if there was a fall it would catch it.

By the Coroner: *The depth of the face might be 11ft, and a 4ft ledge would be sufficient to work on, though it would be safer if it were wider.*

Replying to the Inspector, witness said he understood the Act called for 4ft, and had worked with that idea. The Inspector said 4ft was not mentioned in the Act. It said the place must be made safe. Mr Smith said the man's idea was that it must never be less than 4ft. It might be more, but never less.

By Mr Smith: *Witness had worked at the place five years and had been foreman for 12 months. There had been falls of clay, but never one like this before, and he was sorry it had happened.*

Replying to Mr S. Clamp (a juror), witness said it was possible for a slip to take place in the middle, and let the top down, leaving the face vertical, but in this case witness thought the stuff came from the top.

The Coroner said the foreman seemed to have exercised reasonable care, and the fall was quite unexpected, probably due to the rain. A good deal of attention had been paid to the width of the ledges, and it was apparent that Stacey thought four feet was enough and if there was no other result of the inquest than to remove that impression from the man's mind, it would have done good. He (the Coroner) thought a ledge of four feet, with a face of 11ft of clay above was not sufficient. It was for the jury to consider the facts, and return a verdict according to the evidence.

The witness, Stacey, recalled, said all the men, including himself, were paid piece-work. Replying to a juror, Mr Lindley said Stacey took the job, and paid the rest of the men.

The jury found that deceased was accidentally killed as the result of a slip in the face of the clay, and they strongly recommended that in future, the benches or ledges should be equivalent, or nearly so, to the face of the clay being worked.

Mr Lindley, on behalf of the company said they were sorry that the accident had happened, deceased being an excellent workman. They would carry out the recommendation of the jury as far as possible. (Hear, hear).

## **Shunting Fatality at Whitwick**

### *Shepshed Workman Killed*

Another fatal accident, making two at Whitwick this week, though on different works occurred on Wednesday.

John Scaysbrook, a workman in the employ of the Whitwick Granite Co., was employed in shunting operations at the works about a quarter to eleven, when he was caught by a waggon which he had just left with the brake down, but not pinned, and which had started off unexpectedly.

Deceased received severe injuries and was removed to the Loughborough Hospital where he died about 8 o'clock the same evening. Scaysbrook was 42 years of age. He lived at Shepshed and leaves a wife and large family.

## **Friday February 14<sup>th</sup> 1913 (Issue 1095)**

## **Local News**

Messrs. Orchard and Joyce on Wednesday held a sale at the Whitwick Poultry Farm. Some 120 prize birds and other stock recently taken over from the Rev. J. W. A. Mackenzie, by Messrs. Bryde and Moore, who are leaving the district, were sold.

During the absence of the Rev. J. W. A. Mackenzie, the Rural Dean, Canon Broughton, of Hugglescote, is making the arrangements for clergymen to carry on the work of Whitwick Church. Last Sunday, the Rev. F. C. Stocks, of Misterton, was again the preacher, and next Sunday the services will be conducted by the Rev. C. H. Fox, of Leicester. All the services on Sunday last were well attended.

The feeling of church-people and many others in Whitwick towards the Vicar is very sympathetic and the hope is freely expressed that he will come successfully out of the severe ordeal through which he is passing. There has been a splendid response to the appeal for the defence fund, and it is understood that the amount now stands at about £250 though the fund has only been open a little more than a week. The sum named includes £100 by Mrs Perry Herrick, of Beaumanor, and all classes have contributed.

At the time of writing, it appears that the date of the Rev. J. W. A. Mackenzie's trial has not definitely been fixed. The Isle of Man may be said to enjoy distinct Home Rule, and in some respects their laws differ from those of England. The Whitwick vicar's friends are naturally anxious that he should have eminent English counsel to defend him, and the question has been raised as to whether this would be permissible, and has been much discussed in Whitwick during the past few days. It is suggested that the difficulty may be overcome by paying a certain fee to the Manx Bar. At any rate those in England interested in the matter are sparing no effort to ensure everything being done in the Vicar's defence that is possible.

Owing to the absence of the vicar, who is the editor, the "Whitwick Parish Magazine" for February has not been published.

## **Sewing Tea**

The usual weekly sewing tea was held on Tuesday afternoon last and was well attended. The tea was kindly provided by Mrs E. Wallam and Mrs Latham, and a most enjoyable time was spent by those present. The proceeds were for the reduction of the debt in connection with the chapel.

## **Christian Endeavour**

The usual weekly meeting in connection with this society was held on Wednesday evening, when a fairly good number were present. Various members spoke on the topic and a very interesting discussion followed. A most profitable time was spent.

## **Band of Hope**

This society met in the P.M. schoolroom on Thursday evening last, and was well attended. Songs, solos, and recitations, were given by various scholars and an enjoyable time was spent.

## Ashby Brewster Sessions

The annual brewster sessions were held on Saturday. The presiding magistrate was Mr George Moore, and other justices present were Sir William Abney, the Rev. C. T. Moore, Major Hatchett, Mr H. J. Ford, Mr J. Hassall, Mr George Brown, Mr J. P. Adcock, Mr T. Daniels, Mr G. D. Orchard and Mr J. W. West.

### *Superintendent's Annual Report*

In his annual report, Superintendent Lockton stated:

*"There are 114 publicans' licenses in this division (of which 3 are 6 days' licenses), 38 beer-houses off, 1 wine on, and 14 wine and spirits off, total 195, being one less than appeared in my report of last year. There are also 7 registered clubs wherein intoxicating liquors are sold, 4 at Coalville, two at Whitwick, and one at Ashby.*

*The population of the division, according to the 1911 census, is 43,328 or an average of one licensed house to every 222 persons, including women and children. Five publicans and one beer-house keeper have been proceeded against during the year. Three were convicted and three were dismissed, viz., one for keeping open during prohibited hours (dismissed), one for selling beer during prohibited hours (dismissed), one for permitting drunkenness (dismissed), two for permitting drunkenness (convicted), and one beer-house keeper for being drunk on his licensed premises (convicted). All the six licensed person's proceeded against are still occupying their licensed premises. The three convicted have received notice to apply personally for the renewal of their licences. The total number of persons proceeded against for drunkenness, and drunkenness and disorderly conduct during the year is 98, an increase of 17 on last year, and a decrease of 32 on the previous year; they were all convicted. I have received notices of application for one new full license for the Hermitage Inn, Whitwick, which is now only a beer-house, one new beer off-licence at Coalville, one billiard licence for the Cricketer's Inn, a beer-house, Albert Village, and one music, dancing and singing license for the new picture palace in Lower Church Street, Ashby. There has been no material change in the requirements of the Coalville district since the general annual licensing meeting of last year. The number of licences transferred during the year is 25, viz., 17 publicans' licenses, 4 beer-on, 2 beer-off, 1 wine on and 1 wine and spirits off. The conduct of the licensed hours has been good, with the exception of those against whom I have had to take proceedings. Notices have been served upon Henry Ward, licensee of the "Royal George" (beer-house) and Thomas Allen, licensee of the "Beaumont Arms" (full license), both of Whitwick, requesting them to make personal application for the renewal of their licenses with a view to such licenses being referred to the Compensation Authority. At the adjourned general annual licensing meeting of last year, the renewals of two beer-on licenses were referred to the Compensation Authority with the result that only one was refused, viz., the "Turk's Head" at Ashby, and compensation in this case has not yet been paid."*

The chairman said the report could not but be regarded as very satisfactory and it called for little comment. The total number of persons proceeded against was an increase of 17, but a decrease of 32 on the previous year. All were convicted and it spoke very well for the police.

### *Whitwick Licenses Objected To*

Hy. Ward, landlord of the Royal George Inn, Whitwick, applied personally for the renewal of his license. Supt. Lockton objected with a view to it being referred to the Compensation Authority, observing that it was not required for the needs of the district. Mr Jesson said he appeared for the applicant, but he understood it was intended to defer the matter to the adjourned sessions. The matter was accordingly adjourned.

Thomas Allen, also applied personally for the renewal of the license of the Beaumont Arms, Whitwick, to which the police objected, and this also was adjourned.

All the other licenses in the division were, on the application of Supt. Lockton, formerly renewed.

#### *Whitwick Application Refused*

Charles Beasley, landlord of the Hermitage Inn, Whitwick, a beer-house owned by Messrs. Salt and Co., applied for a full license to the house.

Mr T. E. Jesson, (Ashby) appeared for the tenant and the owners, and Mr T. H. Moore (Coalville) opposed the application on behalf of Messrs. Truman, Hanbury and Buxton, the owners of the Three Crowns Inn, Whitwick.

Mr Jesson submitted that a full license was required. The house was rebuilt in 1905 at a cost of £2,000, and was on the main road about half-way between Coalville and Whitwick, in the centre of a large population which was growing. The opposition was not serious, the Three Crowns being right in Whitwick, about a mile away.

Beasley, the applicant, said he had been at the house nearly 12 months. He had kept two fully-licensed houses previously. He gave evidence as to serving the necessary notices, and particulars as to the accommodation at the house, a photograph of which was produced. There were three large rooms in which the business was carried on downstairs, besides a large clubroom upstairs. An ambulance class was held there, connected with the Whitwick Colliery, having between 200 and 300 members, and a sick club was also held there with about 50 or 60 members. The owners had recently taken an adjoining field of six acres and cricket and football clubs were being formed. There were about 150 houses in the immediate vicinity. The nearest fully-licensed house was the Victoria Hotel, half a mile away, and the King's Arms was the nearest in Whitwick, also about half a mile away. The Three Crowns was right in Whitwick. Witness frequently had callers asking for spirits which he could not supply. The rent was £30 a year.

*By Mr Moore: There had not been many new houses built in the locality during the last few years. The trade was already there, and it was not his intention to create it by forming football and cricket clubs.*

Mr Moore raised a technical objection on the ground that the premises were not of sufficient annual value. Mr Jesson said he was informed that the rent was £40. In stating £30, the witness deducted what he paid for the rates.

Lannoy John Cousmaker, architect, in the employ of Messrs. Salt and Co., produced plans of the house. There were three rooms used by the public apart from the accommodation for the tenant. Within a 300 yds radius of the house there were 150 houses.

Fred Blow, collier, said he had lived in the neighbourhood for 19 years, and considered a full license necessary. He used the house occasionally, and drank mineral waters, but he had a weak wife, and if he wanted a little brandy, he had to go to the Victoria Hotel, about a quarter of a mile away.

Mr Moore: *Then you say that a full license is necessary because you have a wife with a weak heart?*

Mr Blow said there were other people who wanted it. Replying further to Mr Moore, witness said not many houses had been built in the locality of recent years.

By Mr Jesson: *There was a trades extension society in the district, and one gentleman had magnanimously offered a three-acre site for a factory at the back of the Hermitage Inn, which would call for more houses.*

James Massey, collier, residing in the locality, said he considered a full license necessary and had heard many more people say so.

Mr Jesson: *Do you drink mineral waters? – No, beer.*

*And a little whiskey occasionally? – You can't get it there. (Laughter)*

*And to save my friend asking you, you have not got a wife with a weak heart? – No. (Renewed laughter)*

This closed the case for the applicant, and Mr Moore pressed his objection as to the insufficiency of the annual value, contending that they must take it that the house would supply Coalville as well as Whitwick. Mr Jesson said the house was in Whitwick parish which had a population of 4,133 and that was what they had to go upon. His friend was opposing a house in Whitwick.

The applicant was recalled as to the rent he did pay, and he replied that it was £40. The chairman remarked that the witness did not seem to be very clear on the point. Applicant said he had been confusing the rates and taxes. He paid £40 a year without any deductions. Mr Jesson held that an annual value of £15 would be sufficient for his purpose if they took it as applying to the parish of Whitwick only.

The Bench were against Mr Moore on his technical point, and Mr Moore then addressed the Bench as to the necessity for the license, contending that it was not needed. The Bench decided that a full license was not necessary, and refused the application.

## **Quarry Fatality at Whitwick**

### *Inquest and Verdict*

The circumstances attending the death of John Scaysbrook, a Shepshed man, who was employed at the Whitwick Granite Company's quarry, formed the subject of an inquest held by the Coroner for North Leicestershire, (Mr H. J. Deane) at the Police Offices, Loughborough, on Friday afternoon.

Mr W. H. Hepplewhite, H.M. Inspector of Mines, was present, and Mr T. E. Jesson, (Ashby), represented the Whitwick Granite Company. The Coroner said the deceased was employed at the Whitwick Granite Company's quarries as a loader. He was following his employment on Wednesday morning last week, when he met with an injury, which proved

fatal later in the day. It was his duty to place empty railway wagons under the hoppers to receive loads of stone, and to remove them when full. At the time deceased was injured, several full and empty wagons were under the hoppers, and deceased wished to bring another empty wagon, which was at the top of a steep incline, to the hoppers. His object, apparently, was to let this empty wagon bump into the two empties under the hoppers, which in turn would collide with the two full ones, which would thus be moved. Deceased started the empty wagon down the slope, but did not, apparently, notice that a full one, containing about 11 tons of granite, came down at the back. Before the empty one reached the hose under the hoppers, deceased must have noticed the full one, because he shouted to his son to get round to the brakes. Before the brakes could be put on, the empty wagon had bumped into those under the hoppers and bounced off. In doing so the wagon trapped deceased between its coupling hook and the hook of the full wagon at the back. It could be seen that deceased was seriously hurt, but he was able to stand and give an account of what happened. He complained of pains in the abdomen, and was taken to Loughborough Hospital, where he died about nine o'clock the same night. The doctors were not certain as to the cause of death, and so he (the Coroner) ordered a post-mortem examination, which was made by Dr. Paul. The duty of the jury would be greater than merely to decide the cause of death. It would be for them to say, after hearing the evidence, whether the work of loading the wagons was carried out in such a way as was commendable to them.

John Wm. Scaysbrook, son of the deceased said that when his father called to him to put the brake on the full wagon, deceased was trying to hold the full wagon back. For that purpose he had his back to the front of the full wagon. The brake of the full wagon was on, but not pegged. It was his father's duty to attend to the brakes.

In answer to Mr Hepplewhite, witness said he had never seen his father ride on the brake stick. It was the daily practice to allow the empties to knock the full ones from under the hopper. His idea was that his father was pushing the empty wagon, and the full one was on the top of him before he could get away. The full wagon was intended for a different set of metals from the empty one.

Dr. Paul said he had made a post-mortem examination and found considerable evidence of bruising of a number of the abdominal organs, and a rather extensive rupture of the liver, and practically the whole of the organs from the bowels upwards. The injuries were consistent with an accident such as was described by the last witness. The cause of death was shock, consequent on the injuries.

George Parks said he had run empties down the incline many a time. Their instructions were to peg the brakes of two wagons down when they ran a wagon down.

John Clarke, yard foreman at the quarry, said the men allowed the wagons to be bumped from under the hoppers in order to save themselves the trouble of levering the wheels.

*By Mr Jesson: If the full wagon had had the brakes pinned it could not have started down the incline. It was necessary to take out the pin from the full truck in order to loosen the coupling sufficiently to allow the coupling to be taken off. Deceased must have forgotten to replace the peg in the brake of the full wagon.*

In answer to the Coroner, witness said it was not practicable to have a horse to move the wagons. The structure of the place would not allow of it, and the work was safer without

the locomotive. The Coroner said the method and procedure seemed somewhat fraught with danger. Deceased himself appeared to have been the cause of the accident, and he thought it ought to be the invariable, instead of the general rule that two men should go to the top of the incline to look to the brakes.

The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death" and recommended that two men should go up the incline when wagons were to be sent down. Mr Jesson said the company had decided to do that. He expressed the sympathy of the company for the relatives of the deceased, who had worked for them for 12 years, and whom they had always found to be a good workman.

An impressive scene was witnessed on Sunday afternoon, at the funeral of John Scaysbrook, who met with a fatal accident at the Peldar Tor Stone Quarry, owned by the Whitwick Granite Company, on the previous Wednesday. A large number of sympathetic friends assembled near to the deceased's home in Brook Street, and the cortege started, headed by about 100 fellow workmen, six of whom acted as bearers. The route to the cemetery was marked by quiet but general signs of regret. At the cemetery the crowd was greatly augmented. The service in the chapel and at the graveside was conducted by the Rev. Edwin Foley. Wreaths were placed upon the coffin by relatives and the quarrymen contributed one of a magnificent character. The deceased leaves a widow and eight children.

### **The Infirmary Fancy Dress Ball**

A meeting of the committee which arranged the fancy dress ball recently held in the Whitwick Holy Cross School in aid of the Leicester Royal Infirmary, was held on Monday night to wind up the accounts. The financial statement showed that the event had yielded a profit of £9 9s for the infirmary which was considered very satisfactory. The secretary was Mr J. H. McCarthy, and the following constituted the committee: Messrs. W. J. Cracknell, L. P. McCarthy, W. D. McCarthy, W. Matterson, T. W. Gray, J. O'Mara, T. W. Harris, sen., T. W. Harris, jun., T. Hull, J. Rewhorn, and G. Greasley. They are to be heartily congratulated on the success of the effort. It is intended to make it an annual event.

### **Presentation to a Former Whitwick Priest**

#### *Father Quilter Honoured in Nottingham*

A meeting took place in St. Patrick's schools, Nottingham, on Wednesday night last to present the late rector, Father Quilter, with an address and purse of gold.

A large and representative assembly of the congregation and friends of Father Quilter were there to greet him and many complimentary speeches were heard by those present. Amongst those to meet the rev. gentleman were Mr Starkey (in the chair), Councillors A. J. Lloyd, and G. V. Hatton, Messrs. Brown, Burn, Donoghue, Goddard, Young, Whiteman, Madden, Murphy and many others. Letters of apology were read from Councillors Douglas McCraith, Mrs Edwards, Miss Durr, and Mr Clough.

The following is a copy of the testimonial presented:

*"Rev. Sir, - On the termination of your Rectorship of the Church of Our Lady and St. Patrick, London Road, Nottingham, the congregation together with numerous other friends, desire to place on record their high appreciation of the efficient manner in which you have*



*discharged the arduous duties of your office. Your unflinching devotion to duty; your unswerving energy and desire for the welfare of the church and schools have been manifest to all.*

*In the performance of public duties entailed by your office and your ministrations among the poor, you have been brought into contact with all classes and all creeds and it must be very gratifying for you to learn that you have gained the respect and esteem of many outside the church, who are anxious to join with the congregation in this tribute to your worth. Nor is this all. They have identified themselves most generously with the congregation in their efforts to present you with something more tangible than this address, and the result is the accompanying purse of gold, which we the undersigned beg you to accept on behalf of the congregation and your numerous friends, and we fervently hope that you may be spared for many years to labour in the service of God, and success attend your labours.”*

Signed by W. Starkey, J. W. H. Donoghue, John Clough, A. J. Lloyd, J. Higgins, A. Goddard.

In reply, the Rev. Father Quilter said, “No words of mine could adequately express my very deepest feelings of a lasting gratitude for your goodness to me in the past. But, ladies and gentlemen, you have not only honoured me with your presence here tonight, you have also given me another proof, if proof were needed, of your loyalty, affection and good will. I have done nothing to merit this very warm tribute of your marked appreciation. I only know and feel that I have done my duty and in doing it I had always your kind co-operation. I feel very grateful indeed for the testimonial and purse of gold that you have so kindly presented me with, and the very kind thoughts and good wishes contained in the address shall be bound up with the most cherished feelings of my life. Thank you all, and may I wish you every success in time and eternity.”

### **Coalville Police Court**

This day (Friday) – Before the Rev. C. T. Moore (in the chair), Major Hatchett, Mr W. Lindley, and Mr B. G. Hale.

#### *Transfers*

The tenant of the Royal George, Whitwick, Mr H. Ward, was granted the transfer of the license of the Wagon and Horses Inn, Whitwick from Albert Moul. Supt. Lockton said the Royal George was one of the houses objected to in Whitwick. (Court proceeding).

### **Sport**

#### **Football**

##### *Whitwick Player for Gresley*

It is understood that J. Lees, of Whitwick Imperial and formerly of Coalville P.S.A. has gone to Gresley Rovers and will be given a trial with the Rovers tomorrow.

### **Births, Marriages and Deaths**

## **Burials**

Spencer – At Whitwick, on Saturday, Joseph Spencer, aged 84 years, of School Lane.

## **Friday February 21<sup>st</sup> 1913 (Issue 1096)**

### **Local News**

It is stated that Mr C. Mee, of Shepshed, will oppose Mr M. McCarthy, of New Swannington in the county council election in the Whitwick division. Nominations have to be handed in at Mr J. J. Sharp's office by Tuesday.

In the 25<sup>th</sup> annual report presented to the shareholders of the Whitwick Liberal Club at a meeting last night the directors stated: The cash in bank amounts to £36 4s 2d. The directors recommend that a dividend of 7 ½ per cent per annum be paid. That £1 1s be sent to the Loughborough Liberal Association, and that the secretary receive £1 10s for his services. The company have kept the Company's premises in a good state of repair, the committee having spent £17 5s 9d in repairs and fittings. The retiring directors are Messrs. G. H. Hallam, J. Bottrill, Samuel Jarvis and Thomas Kelly but are eligible for re-election. The auditors, Messrs. Joseph West, and T. W. Bourne, also retire, but are eligible for re-election.

### **Wesleyan Chapel**

Anniversary services were held in the Whitwick Wesleyan chapel on Sunday, the preacher being the Rev. W. E. Garment, of Measham. There were good congregations. On Monday, a faith tea was held and there was a good company at a meeting in the evening presided over by Mr James Toon and addressed by the Rev W. E. Garment. The proceeds in aid of the trust funds amounted to over £6.

### **Baptist Chapel**

The anniversary of the Whitwick Baptist chapel was observed on Sunday and Monday. The Rev E. J. Garnham, of Loughborough, conducted special services on Sunday, which were well attended. In the afternoon, Mr A. Aris sang a solo, and there was also a solo in the evening by Miss Maude Wheeldon, and a quartet by Messrs. O. Geary and A. Aris, and Misses M. Wheeldon and E. Aris. A tea was held on Monday afternoon, followed by a public meeting in the evening, at which Mr A. Aris presided, and addresses were given by the Rev. A. E. Pope (Shepshed) and Rev. B. Williams (Ibstock).

### **Situations Vacant**

Wanted – Young lady apprentice or improver for counter. Apply T. W. Bourne, Market Place, Whitwick.

### **For Sale**

Stack of hay, about 12 tons, near Oaks Church. Apply P. G. McCarthy, Whitwick.

### **Another Burglary at Whitwick**

*Collier's House Broken into in Green Lane*

Burglaries at Whitwick continue and so careful are the perpetrators in their movements that so far they have baffled the police in the strenuous efforts they are making to bring the offenders to justice.

The latest robbery to be committed was on Sunday evening, in the same vicinity where two or three other similar crimes have lately been committed, the house of a collier, named Wm. Benistone, in Green Lane, being broken into. Entry was effected while the family were out, and in precisely the same manner as at Musson's, in Silver Street, not far away, a week or two ago, this being by smashing the back window near the catch and so raising the sash.

Mr and Mrs Benistone went out for tea about 3.30 on Sunday, and later attended the Baptist Chapel and then went to a friend's for supper, returning home about ten o'clock. They then found that the house had been broken into as stated, and the place ransacked. Drawers and cupboards had been turned inside out, but the thieves got very little for their trouble. No money was found, but the articles missing are a lady's silver watch, half a dozen ladies' hose, and half a dozen metal tea spoons.

It looks as though all this trouble at Whitwick is being caused by one person or gang, and it is to be hoped that before long the police will be able to lay their hands on the guilty party.

### **V.C.'s Hero's Death At Whitwick**

*Mr Thomas Ashford*

The death occurred about five o'clock this (Friday) morning at his home in Whitwick, of Mr Thomas Ashford, V.C., who had for 20 years been a rural postman and was believed to be the only Victoria Cross hero in the postal service throughout the country. Ashford had suffered from an attack of bronchitis, through which he took his bed on Boxing Day and had been there ever since. He remained conscious to the last and, in the words of his wife to our representative this morning, "*died like a soldier*". He was 54 years of age, and leaves a widow and two grown-up daughters.

The deceased soldier joined the Royal Fusiliers in 1878 at the age of 18, and went to India in 1879, and Afghanistan in 1880, and it was while there that he performed a brave deed which won for him the award "for valour." He was presented with the Victoria Cross on returning to India in 1881. The notification of the awarding of the Cross to Ashford appeared in the 'London Gazette' of October 14<sup>th</sup>, 1881, and stated that on the occasion of a sortie from Kandahar on August 10<sup>th</sup>, 1880, against the village of Deh-Khoja, Ashford, with Lieut. W. Lucien Chase, of the Bombay Staff Corps (also awarded the Cross), rescued and carried for a distance of over 200 yards, under the fire of the enemy, a wounded soldier named Private Massey, of the Royal Fusiliers, who had taken shelter in a blockhouse. Several times they were compelled to rest, but persevered in bringing the wounded man to a place of safety. Private Ashford rendered Lieut. Chase every assistance, and remained with him throughout. The Cross was presented by Lieut.-General Sir Frederick Roberts, V.C., at Madras, in December, 1881, before a full parade of the troops, numbering about 6,000 men, and in the presence of the Governor of Madras and 20,000 spectators.

General Roberts, in making the presentation said: "*It affords me much pleasure in presenting you the Victoria Cross, which Her Majesty has been graciously pleased to*

*confer upon you. I know what hard work the Royal Fusiliers had in Afghanistan, and how admirably their duties were performed there. I only regret that the whole of the battalion could not be present here today, but those at Bellary will be as well pleased as we all are here, that your gallantry at Deh-Khoja should be thus recognised."*

Private Ashford, after the presentation, accompanied the Commander-in-Chief, and the Governor to the flagstaff, and witnessed a march past. He returned home in 1884, served six years in the Army Reserve, and joined the postal service in 1893, being in receipt of four stripes for good conduct and long service. He possessed the Afghan medal in addition to the Victoria Cross. During his 20 years as rural postman at Whitwick, he had been on the Gracedieu round, and during his illness, the Right. Hon. and Mrs. C. Booth, of Gracedieu Manor, and the Hon. and Mrs Macnaughton, have made many kind enquiries. Private Ashford is a native of Newmarket, Cambridgeshire.

### **Sequel to a Whitwick Action**

#### *Verdict for Grocer Stands*

Probably several readers will recollect seeing a report in our columns some weeks ago of an application made at the Ashby County Court before His Honour Judge Wightman Wood by Mr Edward Walton, of Whitwick, for a new trial in a case in which Geo. Frederick Burton, grocer, Whitwick, had obtained judgement against him for £13 4s 8d for goods supplied. The judgement was given at the February Court, 1911, and Walton at the Court last January asserted that he did not owe the money and his application for a new trial was granted.

We are informed by Mr C. E. Crane, solicitor for Mr Burton, that Walton has now withdrawn his defence, and that the former verdict stands.

### **Charge Against the Vicar of Whitwick**

#### *Date of the Inquiry*

A Criminal Court of Inquiry will be held at Douglas on Friday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, when the Rev. J. W. A. Mackenzie, vicar of Whitwick, will be brought up for trial on a charge of uttering a forged promissory note for £300.

The inquiry will be before a judge and jury, and the latter will have to decide whether or not there is sufficient evidence to send the defendant to take his trial before a Court of general gaol delivery on March 11<sup>th</sup>.

### **Whitwick Colliery No. 1 and 2 Lodge Delegates**

The workmen of No. 1 and 2 Lodges, Whitwick Colliery, have balloted for four delegates to the Leicestershire Miners' Council. Among ten nominations, Mr Abraham Smith, the popular president of the Leicestershire Miners' Association, and chairman of the Miners' Council, was returned at the head of the poll, with a substantial majority.

The following were elected: Abraham Smith 156 votes; John Hall 138; George Brooks 128; and Thomas Moore 125. Non-elected: Thos. Young 108; Bernard O'Mara 104; Joseph Rowell 86; John Ottey 80; John Wardle 66; and Arthur Isaacs 56.

## **Parish Church**

The Rev. C. H. Fox, of Leicester, was the preacher at the Whitwick Parish Church on Sunday, when reference was made to the Polar disaster, the prayers and hymns being suitable to the occasion. A short service of intercession was held after evensong.

## **Sewing Tea**

The weekly sewing tea was held as usual on Tuesday afternoon, when a good number sat down to a good tea provided by ladies members connected with the chapel. The proceeds were in aid of the debt reduction fund.

## **P.M. Church**

The preacher appointed to take the services at this place of worship on Sunday, was unable to attend and the services were taken in the morning by Mr John Ward, and in the evening by Mr L. Shilliam, both of Whitwick. Good congregations were present and the services were of hearty order.

## **Coalville Police Court**

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

### *School Cases*

Edward Collier, 51, drayman, Whitwick, was summoned for not sending his child regularly to school. His wife appeared – George Gray, school attendance officer, gave the facts – The woman said the boy had a swollen foot, but the officer said the summons applied to dates prior to that. Fined 1s and 1s 6d costs, or seven days.

David Boot, 42, collier, Whitwick, was summoned for not sending his boy regularly to school. Fined 2s and 2s costs or seven days.

### *No Control*

John Crowson, 43, collier, Thringstone, was summoned for not having control of a horse and cart at Whitwick, on January 28<sup>th</sup>. He did not appear. P.C. Grewcock said the horse stood across the road in a dangerous position. It was unattended to his knowledge for half an hour. He found the defendant in the Three Crowns Inn. Fined 10s 6d and costs 6d, or seven days.

### *Dogs at Large*

Wm. Batson, 32, collier, Whitwick, was summoned for not keeping his dog under control after sunset at Whitwick, on February 1<sup>st</sup>. P.C. Jelley gave the facts in defendant's absence and a fine of 1s and 11s 6d costs was imposed, seven days in default.

Charles Batson, 28, collier, Whitwick, was summoned for not keeping his dog under control after sunset at Whitwick, on February 1<sup>st</sup>. P.C. Jelley stated the case and defendant was fined 1s and costs 12s 6d or 7 days.

John Wilks, 44, collier, Whitwick, was summoned for not keeping his dog under control after sunset on February 2<sup>nd</sup> at Whitwick. He pleaded guilty, P.C. Jelley gave the facts. Fined 1s and costs 11s 6d or 7 days.

#### *Thringstone Collier Fined*

John Squires, collier, Thringstone, was summoned for indecency at Whitwick, on February 10<sup>th</sup>. P.C. Jones proved the case in the absence of the defendant, who was fined 7s 6d, and costs 12s 6d or seven days.

#### *Drunk and Disorderly*

Thomas Hurst, 25, collier, Whitwick, was summoned for being drunk and disorderly at Whitwick, on January 31<sup>st</sup>. He did not appear. P.C. Grewcock said the man was very abusive, and when asked to desist and go home, he said he did not care for all the police force. Fined 7s 6d and costs 12s 6d or seven days.

### **Sport**

#### **Football**

##### *Whitwick Beaten by the Prospective Champions*

Whitwick Imperial have no cause to be ashamed of themselves in losing by the odd goal of five to the Corinthians at Loughborough on Saturday, though at least a point would have been welcome seeing that the Corinthians in the matter of points have now bagged both braces at the Imperial's expense. On the Duke of Newcastle ground it was by two to one that the Loughborough club won. But they are the prospective champions of the League and on form a win on Saturday was only what one might have expected.

There was little to choose between the teams in the first half. Whitwick were first to score their centre forward finding himself within a yard or two of the Loughborough goal as the result of a couple of mis-kicks by Corinthian defenders. It would have been a very poor effort if he had not scored from that position. Whitwick enjoyed their lead for about a quarter of an hour, when Neale got a clever goal for the home side from a capital centre by Harriman. Neale made several gallant attempts to put the home side ahead but the interval score was one all. Loughborough opened the second half with considerable spirit, and quickly had the Whitwick defence in sore trouble. Before two minutes had expired, Day lifted the ball over the heads of a group of players, and beat Commons with a well-judged shot. Loughborough's third goal was obtained by Jack Belton, but all the credit except that of actually scoring must be given to Neal who led up to the point with a fine solo burst. Whitwick got their second point from a break-away. A long shot hit the Loughborough bar and Roach, following up, headed past Roadley. The Corinthian's were the superior side and Commons had no chance with the shots that beat him.

### **Friday February 28<sup>th</sup> 1913 (Issue 1097)**

#### **Local News**

##### **Burglary at Coalville**

*House entered in Oxford Street*

The Coalville police were notified on Sunday night of a burglary in Oxford Street at the house of a railwayman named Taberner. The house is situated at the far end of the street, and being easy of access from Green Lane, Whitwick, where a similar offence was committed on the previous Sunday night, it would seem as though there is some connection between the Whitwick occurrences and the latest "enterprise" at Coalville. A precisely similar method was adopted to get into the house, viz., by breaking the back window near the catch and so raising the catch and the same time was chosen for the exploit, this being while the family had gone to chapel.

Mr Taberner was only absent for about an hour and a half, but the offence had been committed meanwhile. Apparently, the intruder was disturbed for it is remarkable that enough money and valuables were in the house and might easily have been found, nothing so far as can be ascertained, was missing.

It seems to be almost conclusive that the series of petty burglaries which have been going on for weeks in the Whitwick district and have now been extended to Coalville arise from the same source and the police are hoping soon to be able to trace the offenders.

Since to be forewarned is to be forewarned, it may be of use to emphasise for the public benefit what have been the methods adopted in most of these cases. The offenders apparently get to know when the occupiers of certain property are likely to be out, usually when they are at the church or chapel on Sunday night, and then break a back window sufficiently to admit the hand to unfasten the catch, and the rest is easy. Since the occurrences are becoming so frequent, people who leave their houses unguarded will do well to leave no money for this is apparently the main object of the visitors. As they are very careful not to leave the slightest clue and make a careful selection of the house to be operated upon, it is an exceedingly difficult matter for the police to trace the perpetrators but it is to be hoped that they will be successful in this before very long and that no mercy will be shown to the offenders.

## **Leicestershire County Council**

*(Local Government Act, 1888)*

To the Electors of Whitwick Division, comprising the Parish of Whitwick, Thringstone, Osgathorpe, part of Coalville (formerly Whitwick), part of Bardon.

Ladies and Gentlemen

I have been invited by several Electors to become a Candidate for the Whitwick Division of the Leicestershire County Council, a vacancy having occurred through the retirement of Mr Walter Lindley, who so very ably filled the office during the last nine years. I gladly accept the invitation.

I have lived amongst you over forty years. I have a long and varied experience on the local public bodies, viz., 25 years on the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Board of Guardians, seven years as a member, and five years as Surveyor, Whitwick Local Board of Health. I was elected in December, 1894, a member of the Coalville Urban Council, making eighteen consecutive years on that important body, three of which I was chairman. If I am not now qualified to represent you on the Leicestershire County Council, I ought to be.

The duties of County Councils have greatly increased, and are likely to be still further increased by future Acts of Parliament. The money spent by our County Council has increased also, - for instance, in the year ended March, 1900, the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Board of Guardians paid to the Leicestershire County Council £2,177 11s 2d, or a rate of fourpence three-farthings; in the year ended March, 1912, the same Board paid £12, 026 11s 4d, plus a special contribution the same year. March, 1912 of £2,358 5s 6d or a rate of one shilling and fivepence farthing in the pound. When you add to this sum the money paid by all the other Boards of Guardians in Leicestershire, you have a vast sum of money to be dealt with.

If you do me the honour of electing me as your representative I shall spare neither time nor trouble to do my duty in the best interests of the constituency, and of the County generally.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen, your obedient servant.

Michael McCarthy  
New Swannington, Whitwick.  
17<sup>th</sup> February, 1913.

### **P.M. Church**

The preachers at this place of worship on Sunday last were the Rev. W. H. Whiting, in the morning, and Mr S. Stanley, of Swannington, the evening. Good congregations were present at both services, and collections were made on behalf of the Aged Local Preachers' Fund.

### **Sewing Tea**

The usual weekly sewing tea was held on Tuesday afternoon and was well attended in the Primitive Methodist Schoolroom. The tea was kindly provided by Mrs Fred Boam and Miss Ethel Kirk. The proceeds of the tea will be devoted to the debt reduction fund. A most enjoyable afternoon was spent.

### **Situations Vacant**

Wanted Immediately – Half a dozen good men for clay-getting. Two months' work guaranteed. – Apply, Secretary, Whitwick Colliery Co. Ltd, Coalville.

### **Leicestershire County Council Election, 1913.**

To the Electors of Whitwick Division, comprising the Parish of Whitwick, Thringstone, Osgathorpe, part of Coalville (formerly Whitwick), part of Bardon.

Ladies and Gentlemen

In response to the unanimous invitation of the Liberal Associations representing the Division. I have consented to stand as a candidate at the forthcoming Election. My sole reason for doing so is to afford the electors an opportunity of recording a protest by their votes against any claim being admitted that any person or party has a right to the seat for his Division without a contest. If any resident in the electoral area was willing to accept the responsibility for this protest I would gladly resign in his favour, but as no one has been



found ready I offer myself as a candidate in the Liberal interest. So far as residence is concerned my opponent and I are on equal terms.

I remember that for some years the Rev. Father O'Reilly represented you as a Liberal, and it is my desire to serve you faithfully, even as he so worthily filled the position he then occupied. I have reason to believe that the Division contains a majority of Liberal voters, and that being so, there is no reason why they should not be represented by a Liberal.

When the question is considered from a County Council point of view, the reasons for my election are very much strengthened. While the county of Leicester sends three (and recently four) members to Parliament, you will find that in the County Council only about one-fourth of its members are Liberals. I maintain that it is necessary that legislation passed by a Liberal Government should be administered by Liberals, and yet that small minority of Liberal County Councillors are being attacked in a number of places in order to still further decrease their number, as for instance, at Sileby, Swannington, Markfield, and other places, while no such attempts are being made on seats held by Conservatives who offer themselves for re-election. Where a vacancy is created, as in your division, it is our duty as Liberals to give the electors an opportunity of exercising their freedom of choice. This is my justification for the appeal I make for the support of the majority of the electors, and I think you will deem it to be sufficient.

I can claim to have rendered good service in Local Government as a member of the Shepshed Urban District Council ever since its formation. As a Guardian of the poor, and in other public offices, I have had ample opportunities of becoming conversant with the needs of the workers, and it will always be my endeavour to secure the greatest good of the greatest number.

I shall be able to bring to the business of the County Council and to the furtherances of your local interests a sound and clear judgement upon the matters requiring attention. It is necessary that the administration of recent laws passed by the Liberal Government, such as the Old Age Pensions Act, the Insurance Act, and Acts relating to child life, be carried through on generous Liberal lines.

As the time before the election is so short, I can only ask you to favour me with your presence at the meetings to be held in my support, when I shall be able to go more fully into County Council work and local matters affecting your interests.

I have no personal ends to serve, but would devote my energies to the furtherance of all those questions which would be of benefit to the constituency.

The decision is in your hands. If you wish to secure a fairer representation of Liberals upon the County Council, I ask you to give me your support on the day of election by your votes.

I have the honour to be, ladies and gentlemen, your obedient servant,  
Charles Mee,  
Lawson Cottage,  
Shepshed,  
February 26<sup>th</sup>, 1913.

**The Whitwick Division**

**Mr C. Mee at Thringstone and Osgathorpe**

Mr Charles Mee, of Shepshed, who is standing as a Liberal in opposition to Mr McCarthy for the Whitwick Division of the County Council, held meetings at Thringstone and Osgathorpe on Wednesday evening. At the meeting held in the Church of England Schools, Thringstone, Mr G. H. James presided. He said that in Mr Mee, they had a representative man. It was not a question with him, "If the people want me they can send me, but if the people want me I will go," and he would go. He was a man of business ability and was capable of looking after their interests. He would like to refer to an education master. Mr McCarthy was a keen business man, but the first claim with him would be the school, and he (the speaker) thought that Nonconformist and Church people, being in a large majority, had the first claim to be represented. He moved a resolution endorsing the candidature of Mr Mee, and pledging themselves to use every legitimate means to secure his return. Mr John Winters seconded. Mr C. H. Nelson (Shepshed) and Mr G. Lloyd James supported.

Mr Mee said that was his first meeting in Thringstone, but he hoped to visit them again and again. If they did him the honour to return him he should consider it his duty to visit them from time to time, as his other interests allowed, in order to ascertain their wishes and needs. Something had to be said of the need of a business man. Well, he was one who formed the Co-Operative Society in Shepshed, which began business in the year 1866. He was first secretary, and then manager, a post he held for many years, and was still the secretary. When the Coalville Society was formed, a deputation visited Shepshed to glean information, and he was pleased to know that the Coalville society had outgrown theirs. Then, 33 years ago, he was proud of being instrumental in starting a building society, of which he was the secretary. He was proud of being a working man and believed that they should have the fruits of their labours, and be well-paid. He agreed that politics should not enter into local matters, and when he first put up for the Local Board he failed to get elected. He realised that to enter public work it was necessary to be associated with some organisation, and he was elected. He went on to refer to the work of the County Council. A resolution of confidence was then put and carried. A vote of thanks was accorded the chairman on the motion of Mr Mee, seconded by Mr Gough.

At Osgathorpe, the meeting was held in the Church Schools, Mr Joseph Lager presiding, and addresses were given by the candidate Mr Mee, and Mr C. H. Nelson, of Shepshed. Several questions were asked and answered by Mr Mee, after which a resolution in support of his candidature was carried. A vote of thanks was accorded the chairman. A successful meeting for Mr Mee was held last night at Pegg's Green.

### **Mr M. McCarthy at Osgathorpe and Thringstone**

Meetings in support of the candidature of Mr M. McCarthy in the Whitwick Division were held last night at Osgathorpe and Thringstone. Dr. Atkinson presided at the Osgathorpe meeting, and expressed pleasure at seeing so many present. He said the fact that Mr Mee was not conversing with the district and was fighting on political grounds was enough to condemn him. Mr McCarthy had been actively associated with the public work of the district for the past 30 years (cheers). Mr McCarthy spoke of the public offices he held and the important work done by them, including the gas, water and sewerage schemes of the Coalville Urban Council, and he thought his long experience and knowledge of the district made him well-qualified to represent them on the County Council. He expressed himself in favour of high prices for the land for these improvements. He proceeded to deal with small holdings, and said he favoured a scheme whereby the tenants would ultimately become the owners of their holdings (cheers). The county rates were an important item and

required careful management. When they considered that in 1900 the county contribution from the Ashby Union was £2,000, while in 1912, it was £14,000 they would see that it was no small concern.

A vote of confidence moved by Mr Knight, and seconded by Mr Allard was heartily carried – Mr W. J. Gough presided at the Thringstone meeting, and there were speeches in support of the candidate by Mr J. Biddle, Mr F. Brown, and Mr C. E. Crane, the latter urging the importance of having a man on the spot. – A vote of confidence was unanimously carried.

### **Concert**

A concert in aid of the Colliers' and Quarryman's memorial to be placed in the parish church was held in the school on Wednesday evening. There was an excellent programme but a poor attendance. The various items were as follows:

Piano duet, Miss L. Adams and Mr R. G. West; song, "Jack Breton" Mr H. Toon; duet, "Come o'er the Moonlit Sea", Misses E. and N. Chambers; song, "The mighty deep", Miss L. Nourish; duet, "Flow gently Deva", Messrs. W. Shaw and H. Toon; song, "My Ain Folk", Miss N. Chambers; song, "Farewell in the desert", Mr F. Clay; song, "The influenza", Mr F. T. Bellward; piano duet, Miss Adams and Mr West; song, "In a child's small hand" Miss E. Chambers; duet, "Albion", Messrs. Shaw and Toon; song, "Tit for Tat", Miss N. Chambers; song, "My ships", Miss L. Nourish; duet, "Spring will bring", Miss N. Chambers and Mr F. Clay; song, "Dolly's revenge", Miss E. Chambers; song, "The huntsman pay", Mr F. T. Bellward.

### **Liberal Club Members' Meeting**

The annual meeting of the members of the Whitwick Liberal Club was held on Saturday evening, Mr A. Needham presiding. The balance sheet was considered satisfactory and was passed. The following were elected on the committee: Messrs. J. Kelly, A. Cooper, B. Johnson, A. Beers, H. Lovell, and F. Harper. The secretary, Mr T. Kelly, was re-elected. It was decided that the committee be paid for their services the same amount as the directors. Messrs. J. Rose and D. Otter were appointed auditors. A vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the meeting.

### **Whitwick V.C. Hero**

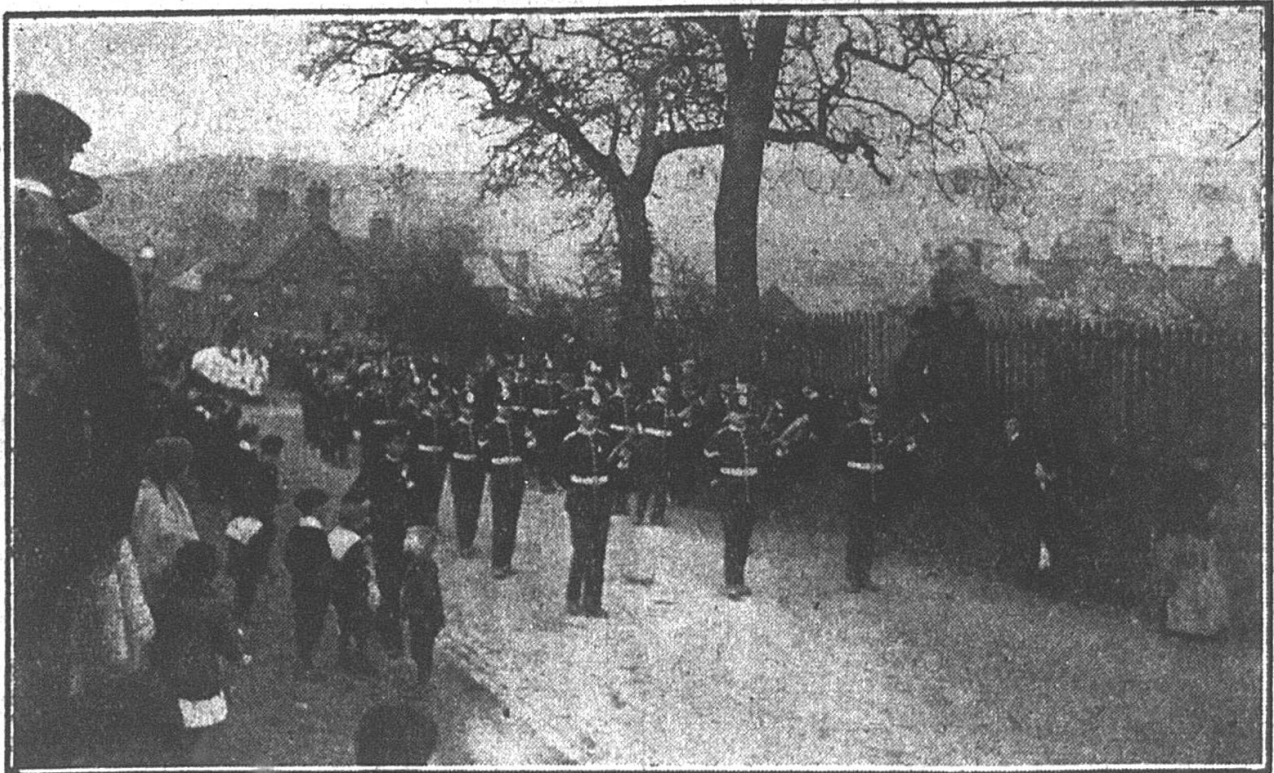
*Huge crowd at the funeral*

*Interred with military honours*

A vast concourse of people, estimated at about eight thousand, assembled at Whitwick on Tuesday afternoon, to witness the funeral of Mr Thomas Ashford, the V.C. postman, whose remains were laid in their last resting place amid remarkable scenes, testifying to the great respect in which the deceased was held and public admiration for the dead hero in connection with the brave deed which won for him the distinction so coveted of all military men.

Never has such a scene been witnessed in Whitwick as that on Tuesday afternoon. At practically all the shops and residences the blinds were drawn, and various sections of the military forces were represented in the funeral cortege, which must have numbered some

hundreds of persons. The streets from Ashford's humble cottage in Skinner's Lane to the Parish Church, and onward to the cemetery were crowded with people so thickly as only to leave just sufficient room for the funeral cortege to pass.



As the body was brought out of the house and placed on an ambulance carriage, covered with the Union Jack, a party of about 20 men of the 17<sup>th</sup> Leicester Regiment from Glen Parva Barracks, under Sergeant Gamble, who had lined up in front of the house, presented arms, and then with reversed rifles, walked at the head of the procession.

The chief mourners were the widow and two daughters, Lily and Gertrude, Mr and Mrs Neale of Hallaton, brother-in-law and sister, Mr W Handford, brother-in-law of Highfields Coalville and Mrs Handford, Mr C Holmes, brother-in-law of Whitwick and the Messes Holmes (2), Mr and Mrs Hill of Hallaton and Mrs Harris and Miss Allgood of the Whitwick Post Office. Walking immediately after the widow and daughters were Sergeant-Major I Williams and Colour Sergeant W Perkins, from the Hounslow London depot of the Royal Fusiliers, the deceased's regiment and others in the procession were representatives of the Leicestershire Imperial Yeomanry, including Captain Surgeon Burkitt (Whitwick), Sergeant-Major Parker, Sergeant-Major Peach and Major Diggle of Loughborough, with about 20 of the rank and file, fifteen members of the Hastings Company of the Leicestershire Territorial Regiment in command of Col-Sergeant Farmer, about 20 members of the National Reserve with Ex-Sergeant-Major Harris of the Yeomanry in charge. Ashby, Coleorton and Whitwick Troops of Boy Scouts, in charge of Scoutmaster S Perry (Whitwick), Scoutmaster Ellison and Assistant Scoutmaster Thornley (Ashby), Sergeant-Instructor Stone of the Whitwick School of Arms, about fifty postmen, with the Coalville postmaster, Mr G Wallis, and Mr R H James, postal inspector of Leicester, representing the department. Drs J S Hamilton (Coalville) and J Archibald (Ellistown), Father O'Reilly, Mrs J J Sharp, who, it is not generally known, is the officially appointed "soldier's friend" for the Whitwick district and others.

Twelve of the deceased's postman comrades in uniform, acted as bearers, these being Messrs J H Timms, P H Haggard, H Laywood, C W Woods, H Ponntain, G H Kenney, and W Bailey (Coalville), T Harris (Whitwick), W Covell, A A Watson, R T Ridderford and G Keyworth (Leicester).



The cortege was met at the Church gates by the Rev. C Shrewsbury, M.A. vicar of Thringstone, and the choir and service in the church, was impressively conducted before a crowded congregation.

The 39<sup>th</sup> Psalm was sung, and after the reading of a portion of Scripture from the first epistle to the Corinthians, 15c, the Rev. C Shrewsbury said they were gathered there that day in such large numbers to do reverence: to pay their last act of homage to a brave and gallant soldier. There was no need for him to tell them, as they all knew of the heroism by which the deceased won that coveted distinction – the Victoria Cross. It was a far cry from that village in the centre of England, to the scorching glare of Afghanistan, but they tried to picture the brave deed of their departed brother, who, like a true British soldier, did not hesitate to risk his own life when the life of another was in peril. The Cross was won by that noble act of gallantry which would not allow a wounded soldier to perish, but they bore him away for 200 yards under the fire of the enemy, bore him slowly and carefully until they reached a place of safety. He asked them to think of that noble act of heroism and yet perhaps some of them faltered in carrying out the commonplace duties of life. But that was not so with him whom they now mourned. He who had won that cross “for valour” on the field of battle was content for 20 years or more to perform hard work, still in the service of his country, walking 17 miles day by day, without a murmur or complaint. He was one of whom they might say that he could be absolutely trusted. Think of the many secrets he must have carried locked up in that postman's bag of his, but when one's letters were placed in his charge he knew that they were quite safe. This two-fold idea of duty was not always easy to carry out. It was easy sometimes to rise to a supreme act of sacrifice, but it was not so easy to carry out one's duty loyally year in and year out, and it was because the devotion to duty shown far away in Afghanistan was continued for so many years here

in Whitwick, that they were there in such large numbers that day to pay their last act of reverence.

The deceased's favourite hymn, 234 "O Paradise, O Paradise" was sung, and during the service, Mr R. G. West (organist) played the "Dead March" in "Saul".

The procession was met outside the Church by the Whitwick Holy Cross Band, who had been got together at short notice, the men having been fetched out of the pit the same morning, and under Bandmaster W. Egan, they played the Dead March on the way to the cemetery.



A tremendous crowd was at the cemetery to witness the last rites performed by the Rev C Shrewsbury, and at the close of the service, the hymn, "On the Resurrection Morning" was sung. The body was enclosed in an oak coffin bearing the inscription:-

Thomas Elsdon Ashford V.C.  
Died February 21<sup>st</sup> 1913  
Aged 54 years

Immediately on the conclusion of the burial service the 17<sup>th</sup> Leicesters presented arms, and then fired three volleys over the grave, after which the buglers sounded 'The Last Post'.

Some beautiful floral tributes bore cards as follows:

*From his affectionate wife, Lily and Gertie. Gone but not forgotten.  
With the deepest sympathy of the postmen at Leicester*

*To dear Tom, from his sorrowing sister, Sophia. Although a hero, modest as a violet. Like the laurel, green his memory will ever be. With deepest sympathy from Mr and Mrs Bourne and family.*

*The noble hero's task is done: his fight has been fought, his battle won. May he rest in peace. From Mr and Mrs G F Burton, Apsley House, Whitwick.*

*With the sincere regret and sympathy of the employees of Gracedieu Manor.*

*With sincere sympathy from the C Squadron of the Leicestershire Yeomanry.*

*With deepest sympathy from George and Flo, and Eva Hill, Hallaton, to a dear friend.*

*With deepest sympathy from his comrades at Whitwick and Coalville Post Offices.*

*With loving sympathy from Omar and Sophie, Evan and Mary, and Jack and Fred.*

*In loving memory of our brave comrade. Gone to his last rally. From the members of ex-naval and military C.S.A. G.P.O. Leicester*

*With deepest sympathy from the members of the Sergeant's Mess, the Royal Fusiliers, Hounslow Barracks.*

*With deepest sympathy from Mr and Mrs W Handford, Highfields, Coalville.*

*From the Right Hon. and Mrs C Booth, Gracedieu Manor.*

On the return journey the Holy Cross Band played "The Minstrel Boy" and the military parties returned to their starting point, the Whitwick School of Arms, where, before they were dismissed, Dr. Burkitt thanked them for their attendance which, he said, showed that they appreciated the gallant act of their dead comrade. They could not all win the V.C. but every man could do something for the honour of his country.

The arrangements for the funeral, which was of a much larger scale than anticipated and passed off without a hitch, were carried out by a small committee consisting of Dr. Burkitt, Sergeant Green, Sergeant Stone, Mr George West and Mr H. T. Bastard (secretary).

### **Letter from Lord Roberts**

Notice of Ashford's death was brought to the notice of Lord Roberts by Mr A Jones of 37 Harrow Road, Leicester and Mr Jones received the following letter from his lordship which was handed to the widow on the day of the funeral.

### ***Englemere, Ascot, Berks***

*24<sup>th</sup> February 1913*

*Dear Sir*

*I am very sorry to learn from your letter of the 21<sup>st</sup> inst, of the death of Mr Ashford. I well remember his great gallantry at Kandahar, and the pleasure it gave me to present him with the Victoria Cross, awarded to him by her late Majesty Queen Victoria.*

*Please tell Mrs Ashford how much I sympathise with her and her daughters in their sorrow.*

*Yours very truly  
Roberts F.M.*

### **Muffled Peal**

A quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, 1,260 changes, was rung at Whitwick on Sunday last in 50 minutes, with the bells muffled, as a mark of respect to the late Mr Thomas Ashford V.C. The bells were rung by Messrs H Pegg (treble), S W West, J Moore, F Middleton, H Partridge, B West, W Fern (conductor) and J Bonser (tenor).

## **The Charge against the Vicar of Whitwick**

### *Alleged Forged Promissory Note*

#### *Committed for Trial*

The Rev. James Wilson Alexander Mackenzie, vicar of Whitwick, on Tuesday, surrendered to his bail, and was charged at the Manx Criminal Court of Enquiry, before Deemster Callow and a jury, with having uttered with intent to defraud a promissory note for £300 knowing the name to be forged.

Attorney-General Ring prosecuted for the Crown, and Messrs. Lay, Farrant, and Allen appeared for prisoner. Mr Lancaster, of Messrs. Sharp and Lancaster, was also present. The Attorney-General, in his opening address, told the jury that it was their duty to decide whether or not the evidence was sufficient to send defendant to take his trial before the Court of General Goal Delivery. The case arose subsequent to the death of Miss Murray, matron of the Ramsey Hospital, when Mackenzie brought a claim against the estate based on a promissory note, alleged to be a forgery. Defendant and Murray were partners in a poultry farm, and defendant's claim was in respect of money stated to have been advanced by him to deceased. The Attorney-General outlined the case in an address lasting two hours.

The first witness called was Mr Hughes Games, advocate, who acted for deceased's sisters in the Chancery proceedings. He deposed to seeing the promissory note in June, and an examination noticed that the signature was in a different coloured ink to the body of the note. He also noticed a peculiar gloss on it. On the front side there was a grooving of each letter of the signature, and distinct pitting having the letter 'L' and 'E'. Under a strong glass the grooving and pitting was very apparent.

Harold Francis Gurrin, handwriting expert, dealt in detail with the signature of the note, which, he said, had the appearance of being written in pencil with carbon. The back of the note showed certain indentations, which corresponded with letters of the signature. Seeing all these things, it was beyond question that this was not a natural signature, but had been produced by artificial means. It was hardly a matter for expert opinion, but a statement of fact. Defendant called no evidence, and reserved his defence.

Defendant was permitted for trial before the general gaol delivery. Bail was allowed.

### **Coalville Police Court**

Today (Friday) – Before Major Hatchett, (in the chair), Dr. Burkitt, Mr H. J. Ford, Mr J. W. West, and Mr M. McCarthy.

#### *Theatre for Whitwick*

Thomas Christopher McQuire applied for a theatrical license for a portable theatre now at Shepshed, proposed to be erected at Whitwick. – The application was granted.

#### *Threw the Ashpan and Candlestick*



Thomas Benson, tinsmith, Whitwick, was summoned by Johanna Benson, widow, for assault, at Whitwick, on February 8<sup>th</sup>. He pleaded guilty. Complainant said the defendant threw the range ashpan at her, striking her in the face. He also threw a candlestick at her, and she had to go to a neighbours for protection. Defendant said he was sorry, and the reason he did it was that he had been out of work such a long time.

Fined 5s 6d and costs 10s 6d or seven days.

## **Sport**

### **Football**

#### *Ibstock Albions V Whitwick Imperial*

There was a good 'gate' at the above match on Saturday last on the Hastings Arms ground, and the spectators were rewarded by being able to see a particularly good game. The Whitwick Imperial won the toss, and the opening exchanges gave a hint of how keenly the game was to be fought. Within a few minutes the visitors were awarded a penalty kick, but they failed to secure a goal, the ball being shot clean over the bar. Storer endeavoured to make a goal after this, but the visitor's custodian saved very neatly. Another attempt in a pass from Storer to C. Price proved successful, the ball being netted with a rattling shot. Things got lively after this, and Bee on the left wing had rather a rough time of it. There were many dashes made towards the home goal by the visitors, but they were unable to break through a steady defence, still the Imperials kept a stiff upper lip, and in a scrimmage in front of goal, close on half-time, the ball was finally rolled into the Albion's goal right off the feet of one of the Albion players. Just before the whistle blew splendid use of a pass from Towers was made by Storer, and, by the merest fluke it failed, the ball seeming to roll down the goalpost, which the Whitwick goalie hugged in his successful efforts to save. The half-time score was Ibstock Albions, one goal: Whitwick Imperial, one goal.

Resuming, the game became as fierce as ever. Bee missed a penalty for the Albions, and made up for this by helping Price to score later on. There was some minutes' play amid field after this in which both sides amused themselves by occasionally kicking the ball out of boundary. On one of these occasions Bee showed remarkable speed powers, when the ball was thrown in by racing with it right down the field, and easily beating competitors. The result was another goal for Ibstock from a quick centre. The visitors seemed to get dispirited somewhat after this and the final result was Ibstock 3 goals: Whitwick 1 goal.

In this match both teams fought very creditably, and although the visitors failed to secure a victory, yet they made very great efforts. Their system of playing with one full back helped them to be considerably more aggressive than many of the Albion team, and had it not been for Ibstock's able defence, which was sometimes tested most severely, the result would have been very much different. As it was, however, the Imperials did not seem able to break through the defence of the home team and consequently their shots at goal were very few.

## **Births, Marriages and Deaths**

### **Burials**

Ashford – At Whitwick, on Tuesday. Thomas Elsdon Ashford, V.C., aged 54, of Skinner's Lane.