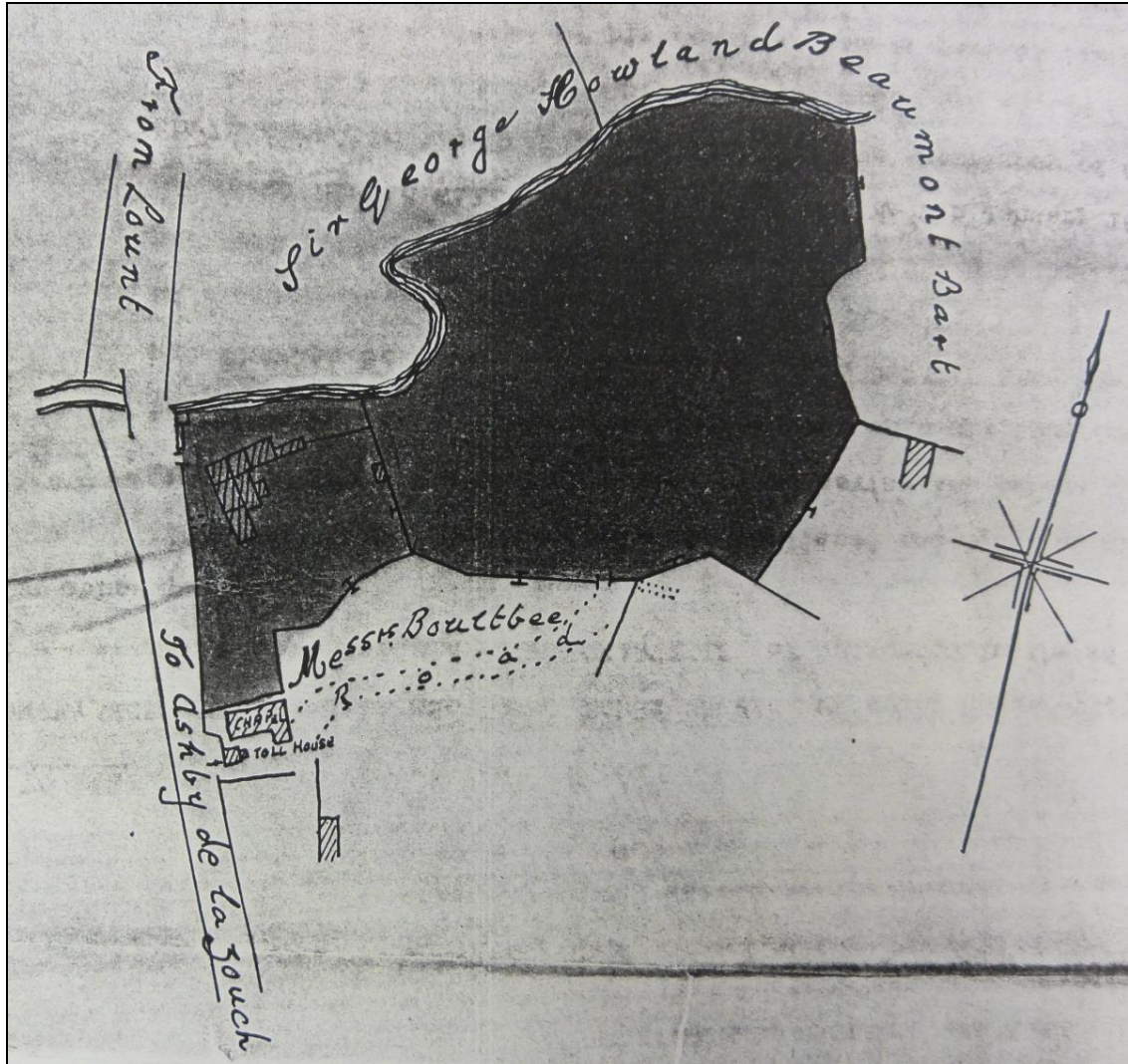


**AN UNDATED HAND DRAWN MAP, POST  
1845, OF AN AREA WITHIN  
"ROTTEN ROW"**



**DRAFT - ONGOING PROJECT**

**BY SAMUEL T STEWART - JANUARY 2023**

## **PREFACE**

This short publication has been written on the basis that the front cover map reveals some interesting historical facts. The publication contains a number of ifs, buts, and maybes but its main purpose is to generate interest in this area, with the hope that more information will be forthcoming from the readers.

## **COMPLEMENTARY READING**

Numerous complimentary publications are available to download for free on the author's website under Publications / Coleorton:-

<https://samuelstewart940.wixsite.com/mysite>

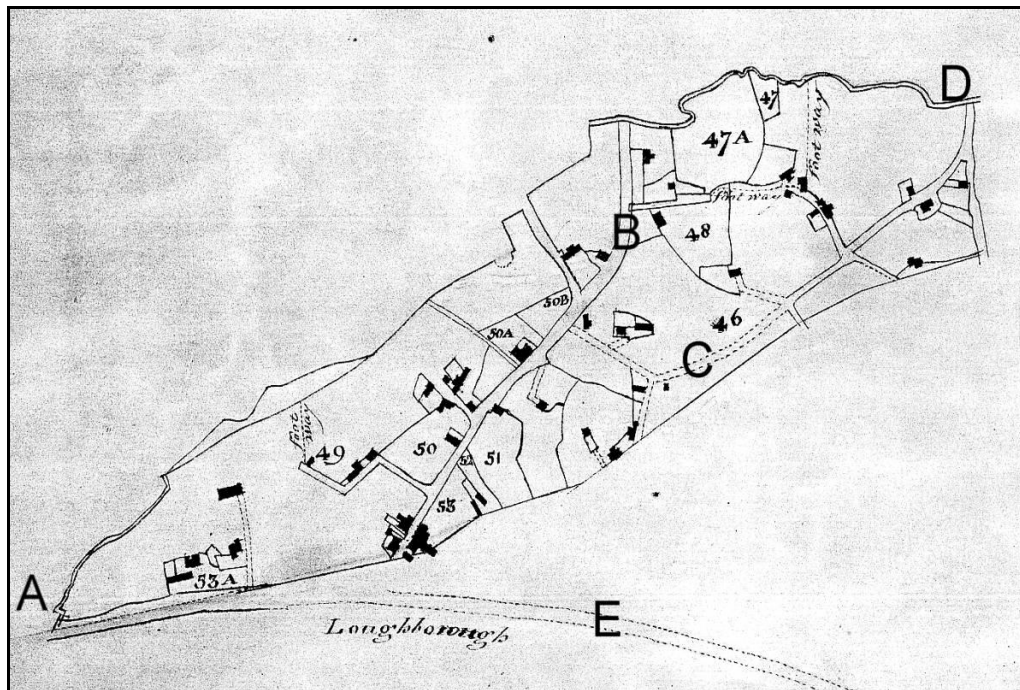
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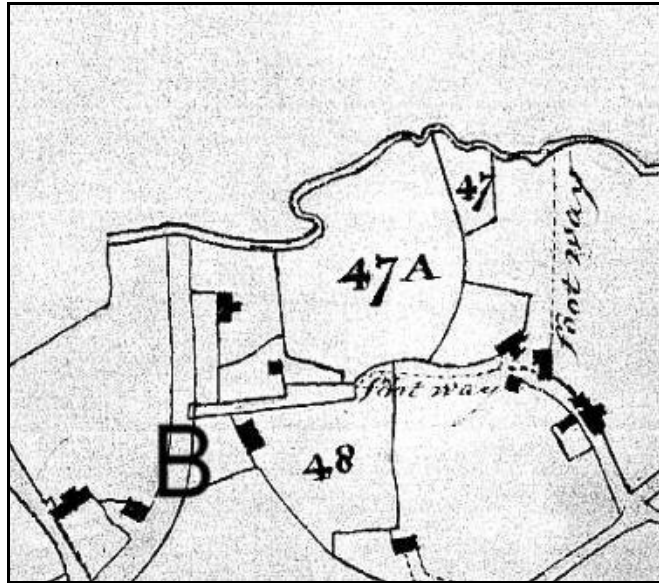
At first, it was thought that the map on the front cover was hand drawn post 1839 as it depicts the old "Primitive Methodist Chapel and Sunday School" which was opened on that date. However, as it has Sir George Howland Beaumont, 9th baronet of Stoughton's name on it, who didn't inherit the Coleorton estate till 1845, it must have been drawn post that date. **Note** - The old Coleorton Primitive Methodist Chapel was built here because it was part of the Township of Thringstone, as the Beaumont's would never have allowed non-conformists to build a chapel in Coleorton.

The author suggests that the map was perhaps produced as part of a legal document to define the area of Boulton's coal mining activity and to confirm it was part of what was known as "Rotten Row" at the time, which was owned by the Boultons, and to define it from the land to the north owned by Sir George Howland Beaumont, even though that was part of the parish of Worthington. Because of a bitter legal dispute that took place in chancery in 1798 between the senior and junior Boultons and Sir George Howland Beaumont, 7th baronet, who they had been systematically swindling during the management of his Coleorton coal mines, leased from Sir George, there would have been little trust between them.

The following map shows the area of Rotten Row at the time of the 1807 enclosure of Pegg's Green and the Township of Thringstone, which in turn was part of the ecclesiastical parish of Whitwick and owned by Joseph Boulton senior and subsequently by Joseph Boulton junior. It was not until 1884 that this area of land came into the ecclesiastical parish of Coleorton. Joseph Boulton senior, purchased the manor of Thringstone from a Mr. Busby for £1600, after giving Sir George the first opportunity to purchase it, but he declined.

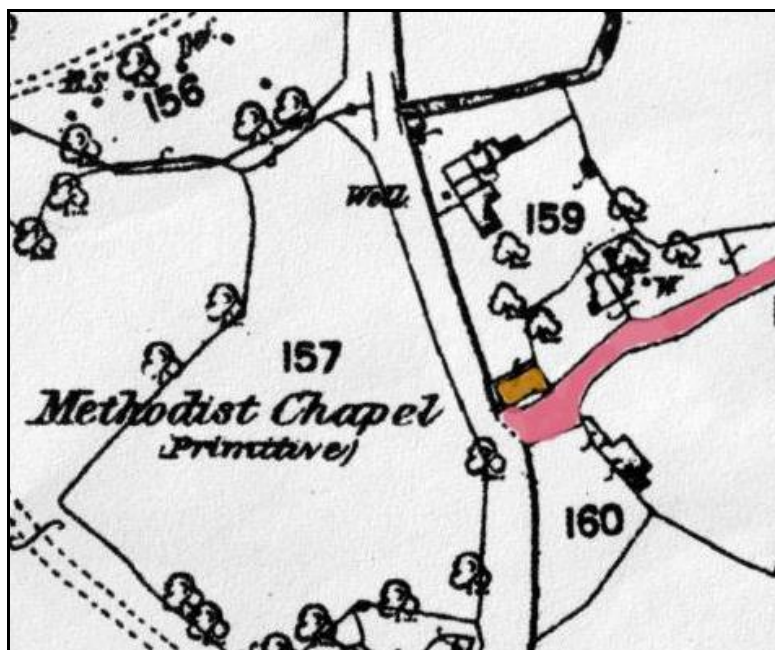


**A** = Coleorton Fish Pond, **B** = Lower Moor Road, **C** = Stoney Lane, **D** = The Woolrooms, **E** = Loughborough Road. The brook flowing out of Coleorton fish pond is represented by the double line at the top which also defines the boundary of Worthington parish in this area.



This enlarged section of the preceding 1807 map includes the area shown on the front cover map. It is not easy to understand, but it seems to include plot 47A and the land in between that and Lower Moor Road as it is named now, although at that time, it was an extension of the Hinckley to Melbourne Common turnpike.

I now refer to the left hand side of the front cover map where a series of rectangles joining each other are shown. These are assumed to be a group of cottages, probably extended from the single cottage shown on the 1807 map above. This group of buildings, with a communal well, survived to at least when the 1881 surveyed / 1885 issued O/S map which is shown below was issued. When these were demolished and the current row of modern bungalows were built is not known.



Brown defines the old Primitive Methodist Chapel and pink the Chapel Lane



As the direction of the 1901 census enumerator's walk is well defined, it should be possible to name the families who lived in these properties, as the New Primitive Methodist Chapel's location is indicated. The authors attempt at this follows, but it should not be taken as being totally accurate. **Note** - One of the families listed would have lived in the cottage opposite the new Primitive Methodist Chapel which was later condemned when later the Ferns lived there. Some of the Fern's children are shown outside the cottage. This was possibly the next to last thatched cottage to exist in Coleorton next to Marson's / Ivy Cottage in Stoney Lane which was occupied by the Coleorton nailmaker Charlie Marson and his wife Hannah followed by Samuel Stewart and his wife Ada who was the daughter of the Marsons'. They were the paternal and maternal grandparents of the author. This cottage is now named "The Thatches".

Anyway, the families living in the L shaped block of cottages will be contained in the following list.



Rotten Row	Abram	Willett	Head	32		Married	Coal Miner	Worker	Thringstone
	Jane	Willett	Wife		29	Married			Thringstone
	Mary	Willett	Daughter		9		Scholar		Thringstone
	James	Willett	Son	8			Scholar		Thringstone
	Wilfred	Willett	Son	6			Scholar		Thringstone
	Clare	Willett	Daughter		3				Thringstone
	Reginald	Willett	Son		1				Thringstone
	Mary	Rowell	Mother in law		64	Widow			Thringstone
Rotten Row	Charlotte	Platts	Head		56	Widow	Charwoman		Packington
	Mary A	Platts	Daughter		35	Single	Knitter of hose		Thringstone
Rotten Row	Francis	Ward	Head	37		Married	Coal Miner	Worker	Coleorton

	Mary	Ward	Wife		28	Married			Leicester
	Francis W	Ward	Son	7			Scholar		Coleorton
	John E	Ward	Son	5			Scholar		Coleorton
	Mary E	Ward	Daughter		2				Coleorton
	Joseph W	Ward	Son	2months					Coleorton
Rotten Row	Thomas	Fairbrother	Head	23		Married	Coal miner	Worker	Worthington
	Ada	Fairbrother	Wife		24	Married			Worthington
	Harold	Springthorpe	Son in law	3					Chesterfield, Derby
	Sarah A	Fairbrother	Daughter		1.5				Worthington
	Alice	Fairbrother	Daughter		4months				Worthington
Rotten Row	Edmund G	Leigh	Head	23		Married	Coal miner	Worker	Burslem, Staffs
	Frances	Leigh	Wife		22	Married			Thringstone
Rotten Row	George	Hall	Head	51		Married	Coal miner	Worker	Thringstone
	Ann	Hall	Wife		51	Married			Thringstone
	Clare	Stewart	Daughter		21	Married			Thringstone
	James	Stewart	Son in law	23		Married	Coal Miner	Worker	Coleorton
	Gertrude	Stewart	Granddaughter		1				Thringstone
Rotten Row	Louise	Mee	Head		46	Widow	Plain sewing at home	Own account	Coleorton
	Thearon	Mee	Son	11					Swadlingcote, Derby
	Sarah	Mee	Daughter		7		Scholar		Swadlingcote, Derby
	Frances	Mee	Daughter		6		Scholar		Swadlingcote, Derby
Rotten Row	William	Bird	Head	39		Married	Coal miner	Worker	Ashby de la Zouch
	Sarah	Bird	Wife		31	Married			Thringstone
	John	Bird	Son	12					Thringstone
	William	Bird	Son	8			Scholar		Coleorton
	Gertrude	Bird	Daughter		6		Scholar		Coleorton
	Beatrice	Bird	Daughter		4				Coleorton
	Alfred	Bird	Son	3					Coleorton
	Sarah	Bird	Son	1					Coleorton
Rotten Row	Frederick	Hutson	Head	51		Married	Banksman at Colliery	Worker	Portside on Sea, Sussex
	Agnes E	Hutson	Wife		52	Married			Middlesex
	Ernest	Hutson	Son	19		Single	Railway engine cleaner	Worker	Swannington
	Agnes	Hutson	Daughter		18	Single			Worthington
	Frederick	Hutson	Son	16		Single	Colliery labourer below ground	Worker	Worthington
Rotten Row	Francis	Smith	Head	59		Married	Retired coal miner		Coleorton

Returning to the front cover map, a toll house is shown adjacent to the Chapel for collecting tolls on the turnpike, with a pull in for the horse drawn waggons, shown. This would also have controlled the coal coming out of Boulton's coal mine and it can be seen that a dotted line indicates a track coming out of the shaded area presumed to be from the coal mine.

In an interview with one of the members carried out by the columnist "Lavengro" at the Coleorton "Darby & Joan" club in the old Primitive Methodist Chapel, which featured in the Coalville times newspaper dated October 9th 1953, he recorded the following:-

*History, it appears, was all around us as we sat : the site of the old Toll-gate was just outside, and there were old pit shafts here, there and everywhere ; each with its own story. There was one colliery quite near the chapel. The shaft was simply boarded up when the workings were finished, and in due course, a garden was formed above it. Then the boards rotted, and one day the whole contraption collapsed, and an apple tree and part of the garden disappeared into the bowels of the earth.*

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The following, is transcribed from a newspaper cutting filed at Coalville Library, but neither the newspaper, the date, or the writer, are identified:-

*The local Primitive Methodists paid £5 for the plot of land on which was built the first Chapel. The building itself was financed by a loan guaranteed by - Thos Lowe of Worthington (a sawyer); William Cooper of Newbold (a cordwainer); George Crabtree of Newbold (carpenter) and Joseph Walker of Worthington (Yeoman). At some point, an extension was built on the side of the main building which was referred to as the "copper-house" (kitchen?) of this Chapel. It was necessary to build it cheek-by-jowl to a dilapidated barn which the owner refused to have demolished until it finally collapsed.*

*It was erected upon the site of the old Lankerdown Chain Toll House, where for many years Mr. Platts was the last keeper for 62 years, the small wayside Bethel (House of God) served the local community until the new Chapel was built in 1901.*

*This last paragraph has caused a great deal of head scratching, and no reference to Lankerdown Chain has been found elsewhere. Was it the name of Boulbee's coal mine? Who knows!! It would also be nice to find out who Mr. Platts, the toll-house keeper was. If the 62 years, by chance referred to his age when he died, then he could have been the husband of widow Charlotte Platts in the above list, but that is probably a rather fanciful idea, although stranger things have happened in these hand me down hearsays recordings.*