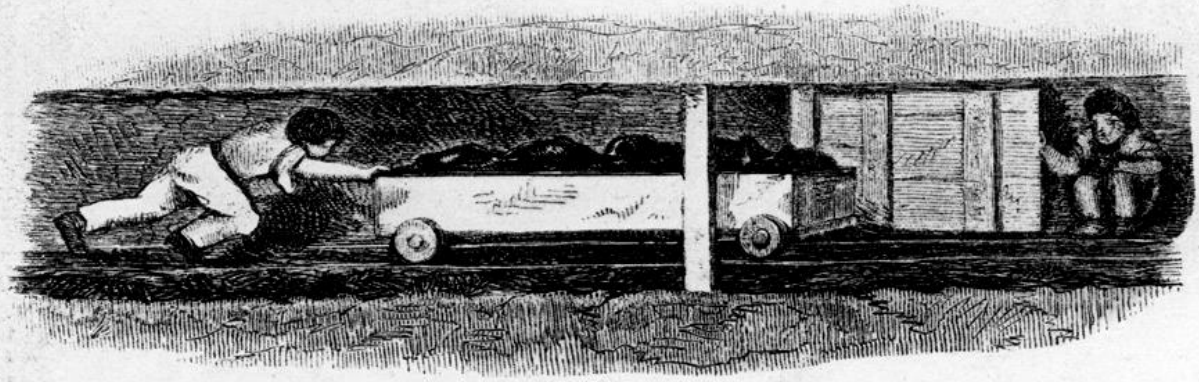
CHILD LABOUR IN THE 19TH CENTURY

(INCLUDING STATISTICS FOR GRIFFYDAM, PEGG'S GREEN OSGATHORPE AND COLEORTON)



CHILD-LABOUR IN COAL-MINES OF THE 'FORTIES: A LITTLE "TRAPPER" (ON RIGHT) OPENING AN AIR-DOOR FOR A TRUCK TO PASS THROUGH.

"The trappers sit with a string attached to the door, and pull it open the moment they hear the corves (coal-trucks) at hand, and the moment one has passed they let the door fall to. . . . They are in the pit the whole time it is worked, frequently above twelve hours a day. They sit, moreover, in the dark."

All the Illustrations on this page and the extracts accompanying them are reproduced from woodcuts and an article in "The Cyclopædia of Useful Arts" (1840-5).

No. 255. *William Pickard*, General Steward to Sir John Lister Lister Kaye's Collieries. Examined at Denby Grange, May 21, 1841:—

I have been a bottom-steward 44 years. We used trappers till lately, and they used to go and begin as early as 6 years old. Now the doors are allowed to fall to themselves. The men will let the children go as soon as ever they are big enough to addle any wages. They come at 8 or 9 to hurry; but we have had trappers that begun earlier to hurry. The thinnest bed we are working is only 10 inches. We cut the gates 26 inches; but they don't stand quite that at the banks. The youngest children go there. The corf and coal together will weigh 28 stone. They will have 250 yards to hurry, on an average; they hurry 16 a-day. They always fill or riddle. It is a rare thing for the children to go two together; they go singly. The biggest part of the gates are dry. There is some places where the water is over their shoes; but very few. It is mostly very dry considering. I don't like to see the poor little children dabble in water, if it can be avoided. They go down generally at 6, or a quarter

BY SAMUEL T STEWART - MAY 2021

FIRST EDITION

PREFACE

This publication provides an overview of child labour in Great Britain in the nineteenth century and is supported with statistics from the local area for the villages of Griffydam, Pegg's Green, Osgathorpe and Coleorton. The statistics which appear at the end of the publication are taken from the 1841 to 1901 census records for these villages.

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Sylvia Armiger for providing the statistics that appear at the end of this publication.

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INTRODUCTION - CHILD LABOUR

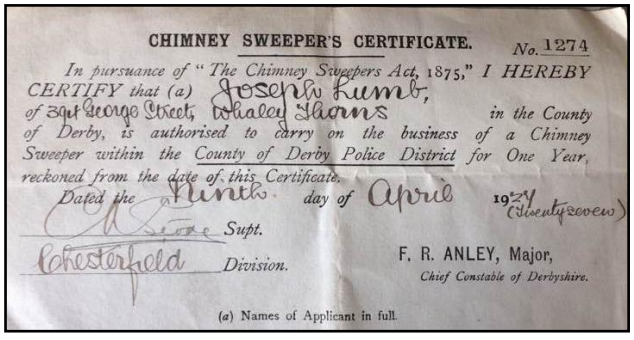
The successful exploitation of child labour in the 19th century was vital to Britain's economic success during that period. This is popularly associated with children being employed in coal mines, however, this applied across all sectors of industry whether it be in the domestic industries or in factories, including industries for example such as coal mining, limestone quarrying, the ceramics industry in general, textile production in its many forms, farming etc.

Children worked long hours and were obviously less costly to employ than adults and were easier to discipline of course. For this reason their education suffered immensely because they were not allowed to go to what schools were available and their only means of learning to read and write was often at Sunday school. For many families, it was more important for a child to bring home a wage than to get an education

In rural areas, children as young as five or six joined women in 'agricultural gangs' that worked in fields, often a long way from their homes. In a following report on the brick making industry there is a comment of a boy at the age of five being suitably broken in for labour. In 1821, it was estimated that approximately 49% of the Great Britain workforce was under 20.

Children commonly suffered cruel treatment at the hands of unscrupulous business owners and were exposed to situations which had serious implications for their health. As an example of the latter, thousands of children (and adults for that matter) were exposed to highly poisonous lead based glazes in the dipping processes for the glazing of pottery. An example of this practice appears later.

A law was passed in Parliament as early as 1788 forbidding the employment of children under the age of 8 for chimney climbing and sweeping, but little notice was taken of this, and young people - because of their size and agility - were still used in this role for much of the 19th century. In 1834, a new Act was brought into law stating that "*a child must express his own desire in front of a magistrate to be a chimney boy or chimney sweeper and is willing to work for his employer*". In 1840, an act of parliament was passed to stop the forcing or compelling of anyone under the age of 21 to sweep or climb chimneys and shafts. It led to the local police becoming empowered to licence local chimney sweeps so that it was illegal to trade in England without first gaining a licence. 1875 was the date parliament brought about the end of the chimney climbing boys and a brutal trade in children officially ended. It followed the death of a young climbing boy in London's Shaftesbury hospital. One such original licence can be seen below.



CHIMNEY SWEEPER'S CERTIFICATE. No. 1274

In pursuance of "The Chimney Sweepers Act, 1875," I HEREBY CERTIFY that (a) Joseph Lumb, of 32nd George Street, Whaley Thorns in the County of Derby, is authorised to carry on the business of a Chimney Sweeper within the County of Derby Police District for One Year, reckoned from the date of this Certificate.

Dated the Ninth day of April 1924 (Nineteen twenty-seven)

Supt.

Chesterfield Division.

F. R. ANLEY, Major,
Chief Constable of Derbyshire.

(a) Names of Applicant in full.

Leicester Mercury - January 8th 1842
Ashby De La Zouch Petty Sessions December 24th 1841
John Ensor, of Coleorton, charged Joseph Maud of Ashby, Chimney Sweeper, with retaining a boy under 14 years of age and not a bound apprentice. The defendant said the boy was 14, and called him as witness. When he came, he stated that he was going in 14, and his mother had told him sop. The magistrates were of the opinion that the boy had been drilled by the defendant to say that; and he having made this case by so doing, a most aggravated one.
They convicted him in the penalty of £5 plus costs.

It was typical for chimney climbing boys to die before adulthood having spent their short lives hungry and working inside hot black chimneys filled with acidic soot with no protective clothing and often no shoes while their master or owner would live a life of relative luxury.

The case of a Martha Appleton in 1859 highlights the terrible working conditions thousands of children across Britain endured every day in the 19th century textile industry. As a 13-year-old textile worker in Wigan, Martha was employed as a 'scavenger', picking up loose cotton from beneath machinery. On one particular day, Martha fainted and caught her left hand in an unguarded machine. In the accident, all her fingers were severed. Martha lost her job because she was employed as a 'scavenger', picking up loose cotton from beneath machinery because she was no longer able to work efficiently.

Some improvements came in 1833 when the Factory Act was passed. The Act not only created the post of factory inspector, but also made it illegal for textile factories to employ children less than 9 years of age. The Act came at a time when reformers like Richard Oastler were publicising the terrible working conditions of children, comparing the plight of child labourers to that of slaves. The timing was significant as slavery was abolished in the British empire in 1833-4. It was also during this period that people started to recognise the importance of education for children (only a minority, mostly from the wealthy ruling class, had any kind of formal schooling at the beginning of the century). Under the Factory Act, textile factories were ordered to provide at least two hours of education daily for children under the age of 13. Towards the end of the 19th century attitudes towards children shifted further. The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) was founded in 1889; and earlier, in 1870, the Education Act had brought huge changes. The Act put in place the building blocks for a free and compulsory education system. Gradually, every child in Britain was introduced to schooling. By the late 19th century, children's lives were beginning to be transformed. They were going to school instead of work, and being treated as children instead of 'little adults'. With the protection of the law, many could now avoid the exploitation of their childhood and gain an education. After 1867 no factory or workshop could employ any child **under the age of 8**, and employees aged between 8 and 13 were to receive at least 10 hours of education per week. But such legislation was not foolproof. Inspectors often found it difficult to discover the exact age of young people employed in factories, and reports showed that factory owners did not always provide the hours set aside by law for education.

THE 1841 COMMISION - CHILD LABOUR
(UNDER THE GREAT SEAL)

FOR INQUIRING INTO THE EMPLOYMENT AND CONDITIONS OF CHILDREN IN MINES AND MANUFACTORIES

VICTORIA, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith; To our trusty and well beloved Thomas Tooke, Esquire; Thomas Southwood Smith, Esquire, Doctor in Medicine; together with Leornard Horner and Robert john Saunders, Esquires, two of our Inspectors of Factories, Greeting :- WHEREAS, an humble Address was presented unto us by Knights, Citizens and Burgesses and Commissioners of Shires and Burghs in Parliament assembled, humbly beseeching Us that We should be graciously pleased to direct an enquiry to be made into the Employment of Children of the Poorer classes in Mines and Collieries and the various branches of trades and manufacturers in which numbers of children work together, not being included in the provisions of the Acts for Regulating Employment for Children and Young Persons in Mills and factories and to collect information as to the time allowed each day for meals and as to the actual state, condition and treatment of such Children and as to the effects of such Employment, both with regard to their morals and their bodily health ; NOW KNOW YE, THAT WE, reposing great trust and confidence in your ability and discretion, have nominated, constituted and appointed and do so by these presentiments nominate, constitute and appoint you the said, Thomas Tooke, Thomas Southwood Smith, together with Leonard Horner and Robert John Saunders, to be our commissioners for the purpose aforesaid and We do hereby enjoin you to obey all directions touching the premises, which shall from time to time be given you, and any two or more of you, by one of our principle secretaries of state and for the better discovery of truth in the premises, we do, by these presentiments, give and grant to you, or any two or more of you, full power and authority to call before you such persons as you will judge necessary, by whom you may be better informed of the truth in the premises, and to enquire of the premises, and every part threreof, by all other lawful way and means whatsoever and We do hereby also give and grant unto you, or any two of you, full power and authority when the same shall be requisite, to administer an oath or oaths to any person or persons whatsoever, to be examined before you, or two or more of you, touching or concerning the premises and our further will and pleasure is, that you, our said Commissioners, or any three of you, do, with as little delay as may be consistent with a due discharge of the duties hereby imposed upon you, Certify to us, under your hands and seals, or under the hands and seals of any three of you, your several proceedings in the premises ; And we further will and command , and by these presents ordained, that this our Commission shall continue in full force and virtue, and that you, Our said Commissioners, or any two or more of you, shall and may from time to time proceed in the execution thereof, and every matter and thing therein contained, although the same be not continued, from time to time by adjournment : AND WE HEREBY COMMAND all and singular, Our Justices of the Peace, Sheriffs, Mayors, Bailiffs, Constables, Officers, Ministers, and all other of Our loving Subjects, whatsoever, as will within Liberties as without, that they may be assistant to you and each of you in the execution of these presentiments, And for your assistance in the due Execution of this Commission, We have made choice of Our trusty and well beloved Joseph Fletcher, Esquire, to be the Secretary of this Our Commission, whose services we require you to use from time to time, as occasion may require. In witness thereof, We have caused these Letters to be made Patent. Witness Ourself at Westminster, the Twentieth day of October, in the Fourth Year of Our Reign.

By Writ of Privy Seal,
EDMUNDS

COAL MINING - CHILD LABOUR REPORTS

In order to give the reader an understanding of what was endured by children and young men in the coal mines, the following is an extract from the report published by James Mitchell, Esq., LL.D., for the 1842 Children's Employment Commission on the employment of children and young persons in the mines of the Warwickshire Coal Fields, and on the State, Condition, and treatment of such children and Young Persons. This report was prepared

The following report puts into perspective the state, condition and treatment of young children (girls and boys) down the coal mines.

One can assume this report would have applied to all local collieries at that time.

THE CHILD EMPLOYMENT COMMISION 1841 / 1842
WHITWICK AND SNIBSTON COLLIERIES

One might assume that by this time, the working conditions in coal mines had improved considerably, however, much to the contrary, and the following has been included to give the reader an appreciation of just how cruel and diabolical the conditions were.

A “Children’s Employment Commission” was established in 1842, and the following extracts are taken from a report by James Mitchell, Esq., on the employment of children and young persons in the mines of the Warwickshire and Leicestershire coal-fields, and on the state, condition and treatment of such children and young persons. The following text and illustration are taken from the report:-

The following questions were put to **Michael Parker (No.77)** of Snibston Colliery:-

What occupation do you follow? *- Ground bailiff to the Snibston Collieries.*
At what age do children commence going down the pits? *- Some at seven and all ages afterwards.*
How are boys under 10 employed? *- Opening doors, sweeping railroads, driving ponies and asses, according to a boys activities.*
When do they begin to fill skips? *- About 18.*
Why do they not go to this work sooner? *- Our coal is all in large pieces, and they are not equal to the work.*
Are other boys employed at other employment? *- Some work at what is called putting the coal, that is pushing and drawing the coal from the face of the work to the crane at the horse-way. Two boys are able to draw a train, or the one draws and the other pushes. A large basket is put on the train and the basket is filled. It will hold about seven cwt.*
When do they take the pick in hand to dig the coal? *- About 20, but some much sooner if very active. Our coal is very hard and some young people are not capable of doing it.*
Do the baskets when once loaded go all the way to the shaft, and afterwards are they lifted up without being emptied? *- When the trains arrive at the horse way, the baskets are lifted up by a crane and put on the great horse-wagon and then are conveyed to the foot of the shaft.*
Do the boys enjoy good health? *- Exceedingly good.*
To what age can a man hold out to work? *- Some work well at 60 years, but some*

are knocked up at 50 and 45. 50 may be the average.
What is the cause of a man being knocked up as early as 50? *- The severe labour, and on some constitutions the bad air takes considerable effect.*
Are the mines much exposed to bad air? *- Only at chance times. The wind is carried through the mines.*
What are the hours of work? *- The holers (shot firers?) go down at two in the morning, and return about two or three in the afternoon. The others begin to go down about half-an-hour before six and are ready by six to go to work. They finish at six and take half-an-hour to come up.*
How many go down together and come up together? *- About four men, and if all boys, five or six. They go in the basket. We have had no accidents in our pits going up and down.*
To what do you attribute freedom from accidents? *- To have good tackling and taking care. There is a man whose duty is to see the boys safe in the skips coming up and that there are no more in numbers than four men, or more than five or six boys. They are particular to have a steady man at the engine.*
What precautions do you take against fire-damp or choke damp? *- Strong ventilation.*
What time do the men take their meals? *- The engine stops about half-an-hour at one o' clock, then the people all rest.*
What are the wages of the fillers? *- 3s. a day, no beer and the company allows 10 cwt. or 12 cwt. of coals in the month and the men have free cottages and gardens or a very small rent of 1s. a month.*
Are they often out of employment? *- Some time in the summer when there is a small demand for coals.*
Are the people tractable, and is there a good feeling between masters and men? *All quite friendly.*
Do the people attend public worship? *- Most of them do.*
Do the children go to school? *- They in general go to day-schools, and all go to Sunday-Schools. Mostly all learn to read and many to write.*
Have they a Field-Club? *- Yes. They pay 8d. a-month and receive medical attendance and 7s. a-week when sick. The boys pay 4d. a month, and receive 3s. 6d. a-week when sick. If the fund falls short the company makes it good. There are few accidents from the falls of stone or coal from the roof. We have not had any such for years past.*

The following questions were put to **William Stenson** (No.80):-

You are an engineer and have the management of the Whitwick colliery? *- Yes.*
Having read the evidence of Michael Parker respecting the Snibston colliery, will you be so good as to state if the same will apply to your colliery? *- To a considerable degree the same. We have 110 boys under 10. We support a day-school, to which the children under 10 go, and we have a Sunday-School also. Men who act together as butties (similar to agents who employ several men to whom the men are responsible) get great wages, as much as 28s. a week. We do not put the boys to push or draw the trains. We employ horses and asses. We do not use iron chains but flat ropes, which we consider much safer. Ropes will tell a tale before breaking. Our people begin work about seven, and leave about seven at night. In other respects, the description of Mr. Parker will apply to us.*

OTHER EXAMPLES TAKEN FROM THE REPORT

No. 65. - John Lawrence
Works in the grove colliery, about three quarters of a mile from Nuneaton. Went to

work at 12 years of age. There is a boy in the pit about eight. his work is to shut down the cloth after the men have passed through. The cloth is used instead of a door to regulate the course of air. A boy of twelve, if strong, can guide the carriages. pits here are much up and down. No horses now. he used to guide the horses when young. rails now instead. When the car goes down it is let down by a chain, when one skip goes up the other is let down the hill.

A pit at Colliecraft is upwards of 600 yards downhill, and a whimsey drags the carriages all the way up. Three waggons are brought up the hill at once.

Three different hills in the pit at Grove Colliery, and a flat place at top of each, horse never dragged at Colliecraft. I would rather stand the trade than any trade agoing, but some men cannot stand a dump at all hardly. We meet with very few accidents. We have never had a bone broke in our field these four years. There are twenty of us in our pit..

ur coal is five feet high, we have to undergo it then use gunpowder. When we use gunpowder we must undergo a yard and a half. Some lads will take the pick at 14, but you will not find one often who will take it at 14, some will take it at 16. The wages to a man are 3s. and a quart of ale worth 5d. also a candle every night, (the candles are 16 to the Ib. and 12 cwt. of coals a month. The master draws home the coals to the men.. The wives do not carry home the coal as in Staffordshire.. The men during the last fortnight worked 11 days, only one day play. The men are subject to a fine if they take a days play without leave. If a man come and entice others away the fine them all. The fine is put into the club money. Several times when they hear of a fight, they all go to see it. Only two fights last year. These were prize fights, one was at the White Hat at Hurley. All the far and went to see it. here is no other fighting but man-fighting.

If the butties go to the fight and there are no coals for the sale, they are fined a sovereign, but if there be coals nothing is said. The land sale is the chief demand, but there is sometimes a boat now and then. It is seven or eight months since we sold a boat's load. There is no regular hour for dinner but the men take about half an hour and the engine stands.. The men drink the ale in the hovel after they come up. Many of the men would not stand the ale in the pit. It is not like the poor stuff in Staffordshire. They drink it in Tuts of Horns all round. The Staffordshire ale is two penny, our is as goes as that sold in Inns.. After the drink in the cabin, the men go home as lively as larks. The men draw on one Saturday and reckon on the next.. after reckoning the men go and refresh themselves and carry home the remainder to their wives. Some hide a little money in their shoes and when their wives go to settle with the baker or butcher, the men step back and have a little more. There is often quarrelling between the men and the wives about money.

There are no Tommy Shops, but some of the butties keep beer-shops and the men come there to draw and to reckon. If a man do not take his beer, the other workmen think him a poor devil and do not like him. We once had our draw on the Friday night but it was the worse thing that ever was, for the men would not come to work on the Saturday and the women had not the money either for the Saturday night or Sunday morning. The boy is always pain himself his wages, whatever be his age.

The boys all live with their parents and do not go to lodge elsewhere. I have seen it done in Staffordshire. A boy is not allowed to go to a public-house, except to take a pint of ale or so. Accidents from blowing up or damp seldom occur. Not one damped within these three miles, nor burnt for these five years. Lime and slack will take fire and make foul air. When it happens and a man is damped, they dig a hole in the soil and put the head and shoulders in and it brings him to again. The doctor is paid out of the lordship of the colliery every year.

The men marry usually about 19, and the girls are generally younger when they marry. The first child usually comes very soon after, sometimes it comes before.

There are Sunday-schools now everywhere at chapels or churches. Most of the boys learn to read. Chief take to writing at first, and many write better than they

read.

No. 69. - William Butler

I am 19 years of age. I went down the pit when I was 11. Before that I had been 2 years on the bank to be ready to carry picks to the blacksmith. It was easy work and i had 9d a day. I have been 8 years running the rails, that is, pushing the carriages on the rails. I get 1s. 9d. a day. I like the work very well, it is fatiguing but I have nothing to complain of. I get up at 5, take breakfast, get on the bank at half after 5 and am down by 6. the shift begins then and ends at 6.. We have half an hour for dinner, from 2, till half after 2. We have a quart of beer, good strong beer. We begin to come up at 6, and its half past before we are all up. I come home and get a hot supper, wash my face and neck, and go out for a short while ; come home, go to bed at 9 ; but sometimes later. on the one Saturday we work usual, but on the other, which is the reckoning Saturday, we come up, and have our dinner at home and go and receive our money.

On Sundays I get up at 8 and wash all over with water and put on Sunday clothes. I go to church, and come home to tea at half after 4. I go to church in the evening. I read the testament and sometimes in the bible but no other book. I never read the newspapers. i can say the Lord's prayer and do so every night before going to bed. I can say the Catechism. we sometimes work a few hours at a time when there is no sale and we get no money, but only ale, when we leave at 11. I generally get drunk on such occasions. we generally have 12 quarts. i seldom get drunk at any other time. When once we get a sup too much, we think we can drink more, and go on

(**This witness was the usual size of boys of 12)**

No. 83. - Samuel Dennys accompanied by John Summers

I was 20 on the 23rd of April, 1841, and went into the coal pit at about 14. Many work at 8. I drove an ass at Moira. I got up at half past 4, took breakfast and went off to the pit. I began to go down at 6 o'clock. It took us half an hour. The holers had been down about 3 and had coal ready. I took the ass out of the stable, yoked him and went up to the workings. Men loaded the corve (woven basket). When loaded I drove the ass up to the mainway, when the corve was taken off the slide and put on a skip and a man drew it along the horseway to the foot of the shaft, by ,means of a belt round him and a chain which passed between the thighs. It is not done now. It has been given over 6 years since. I never knew boys draw by the girdle and chain. Horses are now used instead of men and in one pit, the New Field, an engine draw the coals to the foot of the shaft. There are now horses and trams.

I had an hour for dinner, about one and the engine stopped. Now , there is no regular time, and we take a quarter of an hour as we can, in our turns, so as to keep the engine at work amongst us, we left off at seven ; the man at the top, the bank master,, called to give over, and we go up in the same time as it took to go down. There were 50 or 60 in the pit. We could get home by 8 o'clock. We then got a warm supper and at about 10 I took off my clothes, washed my face and hands and a little about the neck and went to bed.

After half a year I was employed to bang the skips to the chain at the bottom of the shaft, in order to their being pulled up. The time of working was the same but it was harder work than driving the jackass. I continued a quarter of a year at this.

I then went to Die Bath Pit and was employed in placing coal after it was hewed down in the skips. It was much harder work but better pay. I worked at this 12 months. I then took to getting coals, that is, hewing them out, and so continue. I liked the whole of these works very well. I never found the work too much for me.

I cannot read. I was at school before I went down the pit, but I was always a bad boy and played the truant and went to birds-nesting and one thing or another. I

played at marbles, chased birds, threw stones and all such things.

I did not go to Sunday-school. I always say the Lord's Prayer after I go to bed and before going to sleep. I may sometime omit it, but it is very seldom. I go every Sunday to the meeting twice a-day.. After the meetings are over, I walk about and sometimes go and have a sup of ale and sometimes get drunk. I think it a sin. I do not often make a beast of myself, but sometimes. I get up on Sundays at 7 or 8. A collier wakes at his regular time and cannot keep in bed longer, as he is uncomfortable. There are some colliers who usually get up at 3, on Sundays, some of them do the same in summer-time and go out and lie down in the sun, with their face upwards and their hands under their head and come to breakfast between and 9. After breakfast they walk about till meeting-time and then go to the meeting. Almost all the colliers dress themselves about 10, and go to meeting decently. They always have a good dinner on Sundays. It would be very wrong not to have a good dinner on that day.

The colliers in this part are all bound for one year. In our pits, from 29th June to June again. We are bound to the masters to work under the butties. If we get a sup of drink and are not able to come to work on any day, the butties make us work the next day for nothing. If we were to desert our sevice, we should be sent to prison. I have been in prison myself for doing this. I was kept in two cardinal months. It was according to the agreement.

The boys of between 7 and 8, and higher ages, are employed to open doors with their hands. The boy pulls the fist half of the door with a handle and then forces upon the other half by his hands and he has to shut them half by half in a similar way.

there is a place for the boy to run into out of the way of the horse if he moves off his path. The boys catch mice in the pits, chiefly in the corn tubs. The usual way is to stick the hind feet and tail in clay and stick them up against the side of the horse road and let them remain there. They tie them sometimes to the cats tail. They will carry them sometimes 3 miles to give to the cat. There are gnats in the pit. There are black creeping things called sowls there also. there are also forty legs in the pits. Cats breed in the pits. There are wood lice in the pit.

Altogether, I do not think, taking every week in the year, that we have more than 10 days work in the fortnight.

I like being in the pit very well and will be a collier as long as I live.

It is noticeable that there is little complaining in these interviews or in any of the others not recorded here, presumably because they were in fear of losing their jobs if they did !

Cont'd over page

Halifax Union House.

No. 64. *William Hollingsworth*, aged 13. June 9:

I have no father or mother; my father was a shoemaker and has been dead five years, and my mother eleven; I lived with my sister at Crossfield six months after and rather better, and then went to the old workhouse; I was then apprenticed by the overseers of the parish of Halifax to Joseph Morton, the brickmaker, in the township of Southowram, where I remained two years, when he died, and I came here for a little while. Jonathan Oldfield, a collier, living at Bradshaw-lane, made application to the Board of Guardians for an apprentice; I was willing to work for him or anybody else, and went with him by consent of the Board on trial for a month; if I had remained with him I should have been bound until I was 21; I stayed with him five days; he gave me porridge for breakfast at half-past five, and then I went with his other *two* apprentices, with whom I slept, to the pit; each of us took a cake and a half for our dinners; we had no time to stop to eat it, but took it as we hurried; the first night I worked in the pit, which was last Thursday [the 3rd inst.], we remained until ten o'clock at night, and then all three came away together; the second night [Friday] we stopped until nine, third night until half-past eight, and on the Monday until a quarter to eight; we had nothing during the whole of those days but the cake and half each, and nothing to drink; there was no water that we could get in the pit's bottom, and they would not allow us to go up to drink; I was very thirsty at times; my master never beat me, but he cursed enough at me because I was not sharp enough with the corves. I hurried without shoes one day, but was obliged to put them on again because the ground hurt my feet; the other apprentices told me that they worked until 10 and 11 o'clock at night regular. It was Mr. Joseph Stocks's Royd Pit that I worked in; I ran away from him Tuesday [yesterday] morning because he worked me so late; I was so tired when I got home to his house that I did not think I could stand it; after I left him I made application to come into the workhouse again; I would rather work if I had a good master; I have been to day-school and Sunday-school, and can read and write very well; I heard my master say last Sunday to another man who looks after his cow, that the four getters and three hurriers that he employs earns every day 14*s.*; one of his apprentices is a getter, the other is a hurrier; besides them he has three other getters.

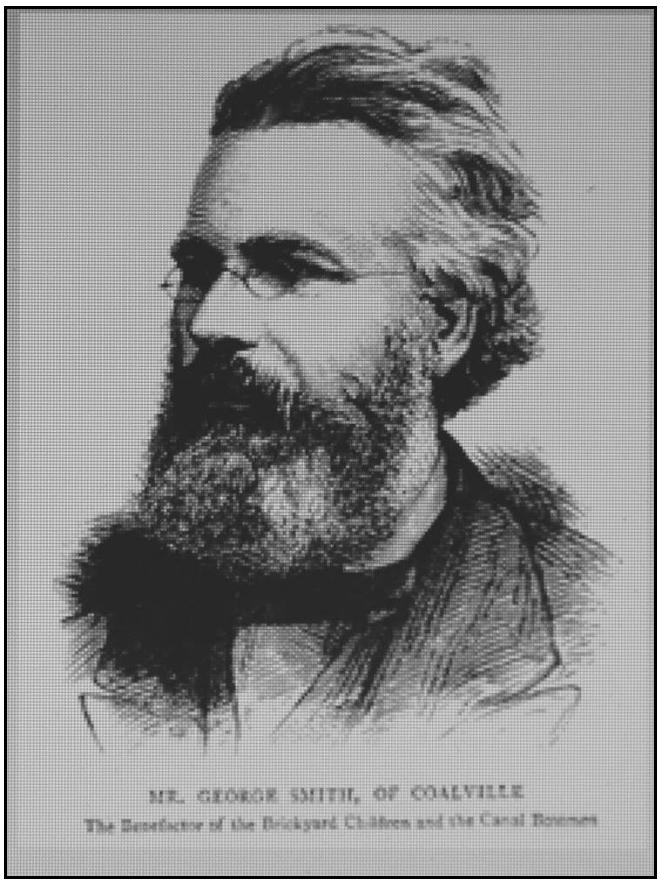
(Signed) William Hollingsworth.

I have heard the foregoing evidence of William Hollingsworth read over, and from my knowledge of the lad believe it to be strictly true.

(Signed) W. Dyer,
Master of Union House.

BRICK YARD CHILDREN

GEORGE SMITH WAS A MANAGER OF THE WHITWICK COLLIERIES COMPANIES AND "THE CHILDREN'S FRIEND"



MARRIAGE

On the 19th ult at the Parish Church, Ockbrook, Derbyshire, Mr George SMITH, of Coalville, manager of the Whitwick Colliery Companies, Tileries, to Mary Anne, 3rd daughter of the late George LEHMAN, of the above place

Leicester Chronicle, Oct 19th 1867

Mrs George SMITH, of Coalville, who laid the foundation stone of the new Primitive Methodist Chapel, Ibstock, Oct 14th 1867, was presented with a handsome silver trowel

Leicester Chronicle, May 30th, 1868

Mr George SMITH, of Coalville, Monday last elected member of the Leicestershire Architectural and Archaeological Society

THE LEICESTER CHRONICLE DECEMBER 4TH 1869

We have received the following letter from **Mr George Smith, of Coalville,** which tells his own sad story. May we hope that during the forthcoming session of Parliament, the condition of the poor children in brickyards will have consideration.

Where is the Clarkdon or Wilberforce of the present day who will plead the cause of the poor “little ones” who are suffering?

The following facts illustrate the deplorable conditions of the brickyard workers in Leicestershire and Derbyshire in 1869. Some of the boys employed are about 8 years old, each one is engaged in carrying 40-45lbs weight of clay on his head to the maker for 13 hrs a day, transversing a total of 14 miles. The girls employed are between 9 and 10 years of age. They are not engaged in carrying clay on their heads the whole of the day but are partly occupied in taking bricks to the kiln. Some of the childrehn are in an almost nude state. Many of hem in Derbyshire work what is called ”eight hour shifts” which reckoning from 12pm on Sunday to 12pm on Saturday night following, make a weekly labour of 75 hours. To ascertain really what work these children have to do, we must suppose a brick maker (not over quick in his operations) making 3,500 bricks a day. The distant a child has to travel with mould, weighing four and a half pounds (with bricks in it ten and a half pounds), one way, and back to the brickmaker with mould only, is upon average 12 yards. This multiplied by 3,500 makes the total distance nearly 24 miles??, that each child has to walk every day carrying this weight with it. I assert (says Mr. Smith) without fear of contradiction, from 30 years general observation and practical experience, that masters are not gainers by employing children of such tender age. I feel strongly that girls should not be employed in brick and tileyards on any account, as the work is totally unfit for them. To see the girls engaged in such work, and at such unseasonable hours, mixed up with boys of the roughest class, must convey to the mind some idea of the sort of wives, with such training, they will make, and the kind of influence they will eventually bring to bear on society.

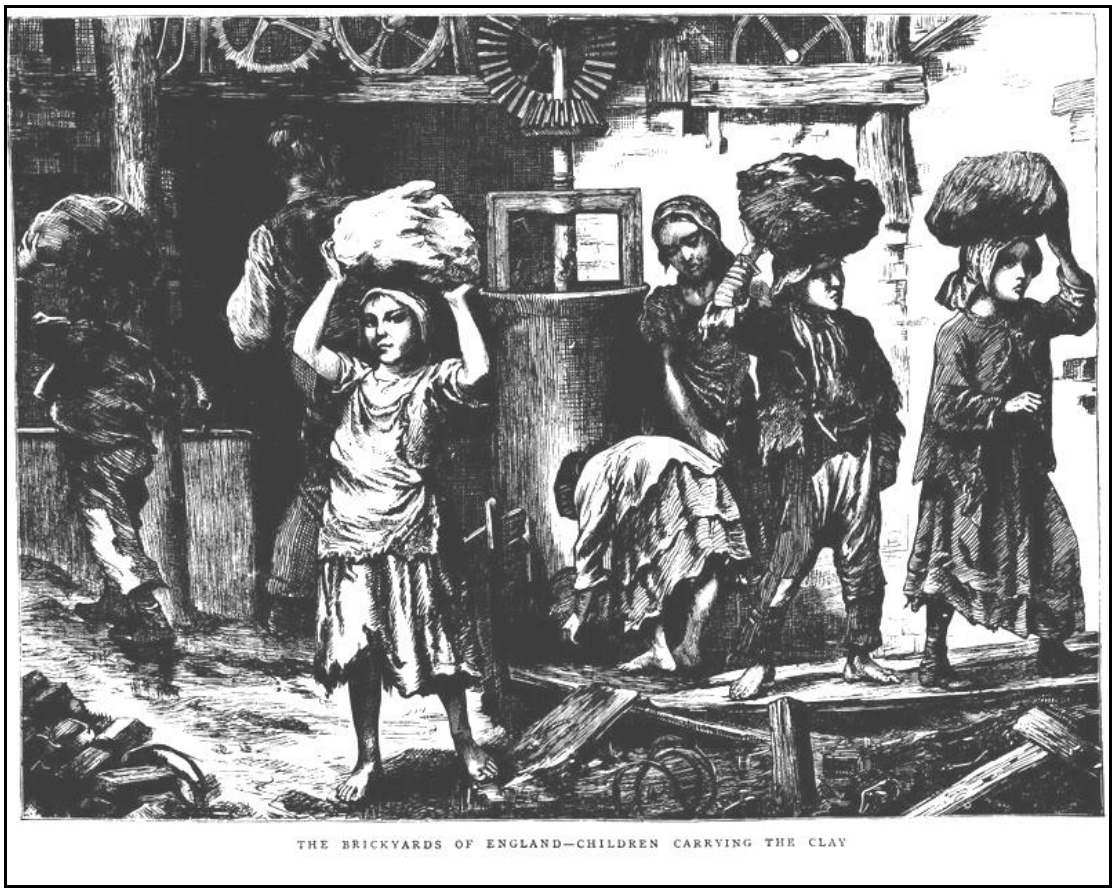
In agricultural gangs, printers, bookbinders, factory hands, iron and tin workers, potters, brick and tile makers, who employ 50 hands or upwards, and numerous other trades where the work is not nearly so laborious, have the hours of labour restricted why should not all yards, irrespective of the number employed ? What I contend for is, that if the Factory Act is good for 50, it must be good for 20 or less.

If it was more generally known what amount of ignorance, vice, and immorality, prevails in brickyards, we should not wonder at so very few of the girls employed making good house-wives, or at the boys finding their way into the jails, or becoming inmates of the workhouse, instead of growing up respectable members of society. Mr MUNDELLA said the truth when he stated in the House of Commons that " ignorance, vice, and immorality prevail to a greater extent amongst the employees in brickyards than in any other trades" In all probability this will remain so, unless something be done by the Government to counteract it. Certainly, I think that the time is come when the children employed in our brickyards should have extended towards them a helping hand, so that they may be elevated religiously, morally, socially, and intellectually.

George SMITH, Coalville

THE GRAPHIC, MAY 27TH 1871

BRICKYARD CHILDREN



THE BRICKYARDS OF ENGLAND—CHILDREN CARRYING THE CLAY

The question of child labour, and the extent to which it may be legitimately employed, has, especially of late years, frequently engaged the attention of Parliament. The publication of "Michael Armstrong" and now forgotten novels of the late Mrs TROLLOPE, produced besides their ill-concealed political bias, no little stir at the time, and materially assisted in awakening the active sympathies of the public on behalf of the myriads of little ones doomed, from very infancy, to a life of cheerless toil, when they should have been at school or in the playground. So painfully impressed was Mrs Browning with the sickening disclosures made concerning the oppressive manner in which the factory children were often employed, that she threw all her energies into her well-known "Cry of the Children" a lyric which speedily acquired a popularity second to that employed by Hood's "Song of the Shirt" Ultimately, the demand for legislative interference became so loud and unanimous that Parliament was compelled to pass the measures popularly known as the Factory Acts, notwithstanding the powerful opposition of the principal employers, who denounced these acts as a serious violation of the fundamental principles of political economy, an opinion certainly not shared by the leading political economists. At first the Factories Act did not produce the results anticipated, and it was feared they would prove a failure, but the introduction of what is called the half-time system, whereby the children of a certain age are allowed to work three days per week in the factory, on condition that the other three days are spent at school, has unquestionably assisted in bringing about a satisfactory solution of the difficulty, and the great industrial establishments of the north are now almost freed from the reproach under which they had long laboured.

But child-labour continued to be employed in numerous industries not reached by the Factory Acts. Thousands of children were found working in coal and other mines in various parts of the kingdom. Here again the law after some delay, stepped in to the rescue of the helpless little ones. But the need for legislative interference was not yet at an end. The startling revelations made in connection with the agricultural-gang system showed that child slavery existed in the country as it did in the town. It was but the other day that the legislature came to help the little rustics, and already we hear of fresh appeals on behalf of the children of further painful disclosures which almost prompt us to ask whether our boasted civilisation be not a cruel myth. It has been shown on indisputable evidence, that at the present moment there are in our various brick-works, between 20,000 and 30,000 children, from the ages 3 and 4 up to 16, undergoing what has been expressively described as "a very bondage of toil and horror of evil-training that carries peril in it" Mr George SMITH of Coalville, near Leicester, who has for several years past devoted himself to the work of making public the condition of these children and young persons, and who has just published a descriptive pamphlet, full of terribly interesting details, tells us that as a child and lad, he has himself gone through what thousands of children are going through at the present moment, that he has himself borne and been borne down by the oppressive "burdens" that young backs are still bearing, has himself breathed the polluting moral atmosphere still breathed by the miserable child-workers, and that he is marked by indelible scars, the silent but eloquent witnesses of the life of pain and suffering from which, unlike the mass of his fellow workers, he has happily contrived to escape. Such a man is a fit champion of the poor little ones whose cause he has courageously exposed, and to his earnest pleadings it is impossible to turn a deaf ear. Some idea in which the brickyard children are employed, more particularly in the midland counties, children of both sexes are engaged in carrying lumps of tempered or "pugged" clay, used in making bricks to the brickmakers. The children are usually very thinly clad, sometimes almost naked, their hair being matted with wet clay, and at the end of their day's labour they appear completely exhausted

At the Social Science Congress last year, Mr Smith exhibited a lump of solid clay, weighing 43ibs, this, in a wet state had been taken three days previously from off the head of a child aged 9 years, who daily had to walk a distance of twelve and a half miles, half that distance being traversed while carrying this heavy burden. The calculation was thus made, the brickmaker manufacturing on average 3, 000 bricks per day, these weighing some twelve tons, the whole of which has to be carried by two children from the clay heap to the brickmaker's table. The distance between the heap and the table is 35 yards, and the number of journeys to be made by each child to and from the clay heap, amounts, as above stated, to twelve and a half miles. The employment lasts thirteen hours per day, sometimes longer, except during the slack season. If the children are not sufficiently quick in their movements, they are punished with curses and blows from their task-masters. **Mr Robert Baker in one of his official reports says he has seen a boy 5 years old being "broken in" as it is termed to the labour.** "In one case a boy of 11 years of age was carrying 14lbs weight of clay upon his head, and as much more within his arms, from the temperer to the brickmaker, walking 8 miles per day upon the average of 6 days". This is painful, but still more so is the following statement, also by Mr. Baker: - "I have seen females of all ages, 19 or 20 together (some of them mothers of families), undistinguishhable from men, save by the occasional peeping out of an ear-ring, sparsely clad, up to the bare knees in clay splashes, and evidently without the vestige of human delicacy, thus employed, that is, in carrying bricks". These women, so lost to all sense of shame, so unwomanly in appearance and habits, were, be it remembered, simply grown-up child-workers…….

THE STAR, JULY 18th 1871

THE HORRORS OF THE BRICKFIELD

Lord Shaftesbury had so clear and terrible a case for the children employed in the brickfields that it is only possible to wonder why Parliament has not interfere on their behalf before. Mr MUNDELLA has brought a Bill into the Commons, the main provision of which Lord Morley has promised to incorporate in his Bill which is now before the House of Lords. Mr MUNDELLA, however must have the credit for the legislative initiative. The honour of calling attention to these children belongs to Mr George SMITH of Coalville, near, Leicester, who for many years has been pointing out the horrible oppression which is going on unremedied in our midst. He was once a sufferer by it, and has nobly devoted his time and energy to rescue the present generation of children from it. Here are we, English people, every ready for any work of philanthropy, stretching out a strong arm to rescue the African and Polynesian from the man stealer, and all the while there are little boys and girls living in worse than African slavery in the brickfields round all our growing cities. One fact tells the terrible story of thousands. "I had a child weighed recently" says Mr SMITH, he weighed fifty two and a half pounds he was employed in carrying 43lbs weight of clay on his head an average distance of 15miles daily and worked 73 hrs per week. Lord Shaftesbury has still worse to tell the House of Lords in his speech on Tuesday. Nor are these little-clay carrying slaves few and far between, there are 30,000 young persons employed in the brickfields, whose ages range from 3 to 17 years. The condition of raggedness, dirt, ignorance, and immorality in which a large part of these boys and girls exist may be imagined. Lord Shaftesbury and Mr MUNDELLA have done service in calling attention to their condition and in asking that they should no longer be kept out of the pale of law. What claim the brickyards ever had for exemption from the Act, which protects women and children, it is hard to understand, the claim now is for even more rigid application of the law to the exceptional needs and sufferings of these little English slaves. - Daily News.

MORNING POST, SEPTEMBER 8th 1871

A CRY FROM THE BRICKYARDS

Mr George SMITH of Coalville, Leicester, has issued an urgent appeal on behalf of the poor children, employed in the brickyards

"Ones eyes inevitably gather in a mist of tears over that old, old story of the brick toilers in Egypt in the dear old Book, pathetic bits of which you have prefixed. I have no fault to find with preachers at this late day, be they in church or chapel, fetching thence text for "doctrine, reproof, correction, instruction and righteousness" The "hard bondage" of these far back brick makers and their deliverance by Him who "hears" and "remembers" are imperishably worked into the mightier story of a mightier Redemption, and thence through all succeeding ages men shall turn and return to the divinely-simple record. But after all it is an old story, and all the sufferers in it long at rest. So that sooth to say o' times, I yearn for less preaching about the dead past, and more sympathetic practise in the living present, aye, within the very range of the old-world tragedy of these brick makers. For there are in this our own England brick-toilers and "hard bondage" in brick making, that are sending God-ward "sighs" and "groanings" and "cries" of the most tragically sorrowful sort - "sighs" and "groanings" and "cries" from the midst of ourselves in this so vaunted 19th century, that might well bring down our preachers - and others to - from their pulpit dignities and

properties, and impel them forth - like unto Moses - to "look" on the "burdens" and catch up the cry of the presently wronged and helpless. May my poor words take a grip of some few hearts and consciences!

"It is told of a sailor returned from a far voyage, after many chequered years, that landing in one of our great seaports, and chancing to find himself in a back lane, he there saw a cage of birds suspended at a shop door, he took out one, and another, and another of the captive birds, and softly tossed them up into the free air, following their flight with beaming face, and that then he stood, with purse in hand, ready to pay the price of all. The money having been paid, and the sailor being wonderingly questioned on his singular conduct, he with wet eyes recounted his own experiences, ending with these words, "I have myself been a prisoner and know what it is to pine for liberty, and I wouldn't have the poor birds kept there."

"Similarly in this thing of the brick toilers and their hard bondage, and the cry of the children that I want to make articulate and penetrative, to the many loving hearts of my fellow countrymen and countrywomen I write not at all from the outside or as a mere spectator. As a child and lad I have myself gone through what thousands and thousands of boys and girls are today going through, have myself been borne and been borne down by the "burdens" that young backs are bearing, have myself breathed the polluting moral [that is immoral] atmosphere they are breathing, carry myself scars that must go with me to the grave, through hurt and wrong they are still enduring. Accordingly, the basis of my statements, as the impulse to my appeal, rests on an actual, personal experience of the ongoings in England's brick-fields and brickyards, while since I became a man I have been and still am in constant relationship with the trade. My heart is sore for the "little ones" and stirred with indignation against the unwomanly and unwomanising .work assigned to these mothers and sisters, and I must speak out. All honour unto reverence to Mrs Barrett BROWNING for her passionate as compassionate lay of the "Cry of the Children" scalding tears have baptised it with holier chrysm than apostolical hands, but my humble utterances must be in hard prose, with scarce a gleam of poetry illumining. I make no pretence to author craft or fine sentence writing. I aim at telling simply a dark chapter in the "annals of the poor" Throughout I speak that I do know. "The matter of fact that I should wish to bulk out in all its largeness and shame before the philanthropy and Christianity of England is, that in our brick-fields and brick-works there are from 20,000 to 30,000 children from as low as 3 and 4 up to 16 and 17 under going a very "bondage" of toil and horror of evil training that carries peril in it. Then "I claim the protection of the law for these children specially, and all children universally, by placing them within the inspection and regulation of an act kindred with the Workshops or the Factory Acts.

"These are the two main things that I seek to make good to every candid reader and inquirer, and as against those employers and enforcers of child labour, who mistakenly regard it as their interest to maintain the present system [or no system] So far as I know my own heart I am anxious to exclude personalities, to avoid giving pain to individuals, but it isn't easy, perhaps impossible, to expose wrongs without hitting the wrong-doers, to place before the community actual facts, and not lay oneself open to accusations of personal animus, and all the rest of it. Throughout my endeavour shall be so to put the case of my little clients [if I may be allowed the honour to call them so] as to prove a wrong and secure a remedy, shrinking from no obloquy or misconstruction, because of telling "the truth the whole truth and nothing but the truth".

Locally, I have from time to time, through a goodly number of years, met the objections of given employers and their mouthpieces, even when the delirious violence of their language placed them beyond the pale of recognition within civilised society. But as it is ill contending with a chimney-sweep without being blackened, or a baker without being whitened [each alike unpleasant], or unmetaphorically, as it is only to involve one in unvailing argument with ignorance and imagined self-interest combined, to try to convince certain underbred, if wealthy, masters of brickyards and their lackeys, I shall prefer putting my data with all integrity and carefulness before the public, and leave them to make their own way, i.e., disentangled from merely personal charge and countercharge. I the more readily carry out this design from the abounding proofs received, that many employers are really unaware [culpably unaware] of the ongoings in their own brickyards. "I have then to show first, that in our brick-fields and brick-yards there are from 20,000 to 30,000 children from as low as 3 and 4 up to 16 and 17, undergoing a "bondage" of toil and a horror of evil training that carries peril in it."

The remedy Mr SMITH proposes is as follows :-

"1, I seek absolutely to prohibit infant and child labour in brickyards [as everywhere] such as has been superabundantly proved to exist extensively, whereby, the merest dots of "little ones" from three to four to seven and eight upwards are "broken in" and kept to labour.

"2, I seek absolutely to prohibit the employment of girls and women in the work of brickyards

"3, I seek to have it enacted that no one shall be permitted to work in brickyards sooner than the twelfth birthday, and then only when certified to be able to read, write and cipher.

"4, I seek to lessen the hours of labour to a maximum of from 8 to 10 hours, and from 12 to 14 years or thereby to permit only alternative days working the latter preferable to half-time, which has practical though not insurmountable difficulties.

"5, I seek to have official supervision of the health and treatment of all juveniles in brickyards, and punishment to be felt by breakers of the law.

"6, I seek to place all brickyards, tileries, and the like under an amalgamation of the Factories Act and the Workshop Act, including all employing under as well as over 50 hands.

"7, I seek to have inspectors and sub-inspectors who know the usage of the brickyards etc, and the inspection to be universal. At present not more than 100 brickyards out of 2,825 are thus inspected."

THE MORNING POST, MARCH 18th, 1873

THE BRICKYARD CHILDREN

The Earl of Shaftsbury will present a valuable testimonial, in recognition of his services, to Mr George SMITH, of Coalville at a meeting to be convened for that purpose in the Social Science Rooms in a few days. Lord John MANNERS, Mr MUNDELLA. M.P, and other well-known public men will take part in the proceedings.

THE GRAPHIC, MAY 21st 1879

George SMITH of Coalville

This well known philanthropist to whom the brickfield and canal boat children owe a deep debt of gratitude was born in Clayhills, Tunstall, Staffordshire in 1831. His father was a brick and tile maker and George himself, after attending school for some time, was set to work at the age of seven to earn his own livelihood by carrying the clay and bricks to and from the makers to the drying floors and kilns. When only nine years old he had to carry forty pounds of clay for thirteen hours daily, and besides this to sit up all night twice a week to watch the ovens. Yet in spite of these long hours of heavy labour for a child of such tender years he managed to work overtime, and devoted the whole of his extra earnings [one shilling per week] to the purchase of books and paying for the admission to a night school. The education thus obtained, but by no means brilliant, was sufficient to enable him after years to set forth in fervent emphatic language the wrongs and sufferings of the poor brickyard children, among whom he himself had laboured. For two long years he advocated their cause, keeping the subject constantly before the public mind by persistent letter writing to various periodicals, by speeches at public meetings, and by repeated applications to Parliament and the Home Office. His determined and patient efforts at last met their reward, when in January 1872, 10,000 brickyard children were taken from their slavery and sent to the schools.

The achievement of this victory gave him new courage, and it was not long before he was again in the field, fighting for the miserable and helpless children of the Canal Boatmen, "Floating Gipsies" as he called them. Again he pleaded with rough untutored eloquence, describing with faithful portraiture the insanitary and often immoral conditions in which these people lived, and again his earnest patient zeal was rewarded with success by the passing of the Canal Boat Act in July 1877. With the modesty which ever accompanies true worth George SMITH has never claimed any credit for these great works and has scarcely ever alluded to the expense which he incurred although he has been a poor man all his life. He has spent more than £2000 out of his own pocket, and sacrificed an appointment worth £450 a year in order that he might devote his life entirely to the work. The only substantial public acknowledgement of his labours has been the presentation of a testimonial consisting of 100 guineas and a piece of plate, and now we hear that he and his family are in positive distress. This being the case an influential Committee of which Lord Aberdare id chairman, has been publicly appointed to collect subscriptions for a testimonial fund, and it is confidently hoped that the sum collected will be such as to place Mr SMITH beyond the reach of want for the remainder of his life.

Donations may be sent to Messers BARCLAY, BEVAN, and Co's, Lombard St, or to the Hon secretary of the "George Smith Fund", Mr P. W. CLAYDEN, 13 Tavistock Square, W.C.

CERAMICS INDUSTRY - CHILD LABOUR REPORTS

The following is taken from Charles Scriven's report on child labour in the 1840's. Evidence was taken in the Staffordshire Potteries at Minton and Boyle's Pottery and refers to the handlers house / room. Dec 1840.

No. 4: Herbert Bell, aged 12, looks very pale and phthisical (a phrase used to describe someone consumptive and wasting).

I have worked in the room 4 years as a handler, I come at 6, and leave at 6 in the evening. I live about a mile off; I do not go home to breakfast; I go home to dinner; am allowed half an hour for breakfast and 1 hour for dinner; I work in the same room with my father; father gets so much a week piece-making; does not know what father earns; all I get goes to him and mother; have a mother and sister, one works at the china - works.

I get no holidays; remember now, that I get about 5 weeks in the year; a week at Martilmas (St.Martin's day?), 2 weeks in August and 1 at Whitsuntide; all the other boys get the same and a day at Christmas. I get meat at home, and have clothes enough; I get a strapping sometimes: think I deserve it, father is good to me; have got a cough, have had it 3 or 4 years; feel it more in winter; I do not think jumping on the moulds hurt me; feel no pain from it; I do not like it; I want to go into another room; I like potting; would rather be a potter than a tailor or shoemaker; I never do night work. Master and overseer are very good to me; they never beat me.

No. 5: Joseph Bevington, aged 10, looks very pale and phthisical

I have been at work 12 months in the handle room; father works there; I get 2 s a week, father takes it to me; I got 3 brothers and sisters; I come at 7 in the morning, and leave at 6 in the evening, I never work over-time. I get holidays at Michaelmas, Easter and Martilmas - about 4 or 5 weeks altogether; Can read; can't write have been to Jentvale Sunday School and a day school at Oakhill; handle making is very hard work; it never hurts my stomach or chest. I've got a cough and hoarseness. Father straps me sometimes, when I'm a bad boy, but he's good to me generally. I get beef and bacon, and tato's (potatoes) for dinner everyday. I live at Oakhill and sometimes go home to dinner, sometimes get it at the works. Get some play at dinner-hour in the yard with the rest of the boys, and at breakfast-time; leave work at 4 o'clock on Saturdays, and go to Sunday-School, now, at Jentvale

In 1896, lead poisoning became a notifiable illness, and 432 cases were reported. In 1898, as a consequence of the number of cases of lead poisoning reported, the government appointed an eminent professor named Professor Thorpe, to investigate the feasibility of substituting leadless glaze for those containing white or red lead. Instead of leadless glazes, he came up with an idea of melting the lead compounds with other materials such as silica, to form a glass "frit" or "flux". These were much safer to use than the previous raw lead compounds, since they were less soluble in stomach acids. By 1913, lead frits and fluxes were commonly used to make glazes and colours. In 1947, the government introduced sufficient penalties on the remaining users of raw lead oxides in glazes and colours to effectively ban their future use.

Although the following upsetting report is about a 24 year old man, it could equally have applied to a child as they ere commonly employed in the dipping room.

No. 13: John Talbot aged 24

I have been in this department 2 years; have 9 persons working with me male and female. My business is to dip the ware as it comes from the biscuit ware house, the process does not take a moment, but my hands and arms are always wet with the solution or mixture; I do not know what the mixture is composed of exactly; it is chiefly lead; they tell us there is no arsenic, but we have our own thoughts about that; it destroys our health. We are obliged to be very careful by keeping ourselves clean and out of the dust. We have no washing-rooms, but bring the water in a small vessel from a pump in the yard. There are boys employed with me; their ages are from 13 up to 17. We come at 7 o'clock in the morning and leave at four, on account of its being bad stuff to work in; ***we work the effects off with opening medicine frequently,*** *or it would soon all be over with us; We get better pay here than in any other department of the bank; it is considered of greater risk. I get 27s per week; the boys 3s 6d, and 4s. Everything that is made in the factory goes through our hands. I have often observed the effects of persons working with me during my 2 years; it affects women more than men: they have not died but have been very ill, and have never returned to it again; their places have been filled up by others. Some constitutions that are strong can stand it some time; it has never made me ill. I live at Lane End about 3 or 4 miles off and can't afford time to go home for dinner, I always take it here, as you see me, upon the work-bench; we have no rooms we can all meet together to dine in; I should much better like it if we had, and places wash in. I am married and have 2 children.*

THE CHIMNEY SWEEPERS TRADE

CHILD-LABOUR AND LEGISLATION IN NINETEENTH CENTURY ENGLAND.....

It would scarcely be a complete or balanced presentation of this survey of a century of child labour if we did not include a chapter on the employment of children as chimney-sweeps in both the urban and rural areas. The use of "sweeps" as they came to be popularly known, came into vogue in the eighteenth century as the use of coal for fuel became common. As early as 1788 a committee of gentlemen petitioned Parliament for remedial action after an investigation which they felt was suppressed rather than encouraged and publicized. The final result of the petition was an act, with no parliamentary machinery for its enforcement, requiring that a sweep be washed of his soot and dirt at least once a week and sent to church and that he be treated in other respects with as much humanity and care as the nature of the employment of a chimney-sweep would admit of. It was also true, parliamentary objections to the contrary, that mechanical devices were available even at this early date, and could be used in houses of all kinds except those with complicated flues (78). The Act was consistently evaded, and agitation began in 1816 for further measures to curtail the employment of children engaged as apprentices to master-sweeps. In 1816 a report was made to Parliament upon the employment of children in manufacturing with a view to finding out whether legislation would be advisable. The chimney-sweeper's trade was also subject to investigation partly because the little climbing boy was an appealing picture which figured in the popular imagination and which seemed to embody the cruelty and degradation to which child workers were generally subjected for the purpose of earning a living. There is no doubt that the boys were treated with intentional cruelty and had to suffer many hardships under the perversity of their masters, but it was equally true that thousands of other children, less publicised, were enduring equally as much ill-treatment as the climbing boys.

(78 William T. Laprade, British History for American Students, New York, 1926, 594-595.)

William Tooke's report to the House ot Commons in 1817 related: The 28th. of Geo. III enacts, That no person shall employ any Boy, in the nature of an apprentice or servant, under the age of eight years; yet your committee have been informed, that infants of the early ages of four, five, and six years, have been employed, it being the practice for parents to sell their children to this trade, under-stating their age; besides, this clause is not considered by the Master Chimney Sweepers as prohibiting their employment of their own children, and instances have been adduced before your Committee, that have satisfied them that such cases are no means infrequent. The Committee Report also complained about the deformed spines, legs and arms of the climbing boys and the twenty and thirty pound burdens they were compelled to carry with them plus the soot from cleaned chimneys. Evidence of deformed knee and ankle joints were attributed to the position the children had to maintain in the chimney in order to support themselves. The arms were employed in scraping and sweeping down soot. A peculiar kind of disease, commonly known as Chimney-Sweeper's Cancer, was prevalent among the people engaged in the trade.

Further complaints lodged by the Committee ran thus: But it is not only the early and hard labour, the spare diet, the wretched lodging, and harsh treatment, which is the lot of these children, but in general they are kept almost entirely destitute of education, and moral or religious instruction; they form a sort of class by themselves, and from their work being done so early in the day, they are turned into the streets to pass their time in idleness and depravity: thus they become an easy prey to those whose occupation it is to delude the ignorant and entrap the unwary; and if their constitution is strong enough to resist the diseases and deformities which are the consequences of their trade, and that they should grow so much in stature as no longer to be useful in it, they are cast upon the world without any means of obtaining a livelihood, with no habits of industry, or rather, What too frequently happens with confirmed habits of idleness and vice.

79 William Tooke, ed., "A Copy of the Report Presented to the House of Commons," pamphleteer, London, V. 10, 1817, 485.
80 ibid., 481.

Statements in this same report give an estimate of about 200 Master Chimney-Sweepers who had, roughly, among them some 500 apprentices. Not more than twenty of the Master-Sweeps were reputable tradesmen in easy circumstances who appeared to conform to the provisions of the Act. Ninety were spoken of as inferior sweeps keeping three apprentices each and who neglected the health, morals and education of the children they employed. The remainder were a class of sweeps who had been journeymen and taken up the trade because they had no other means of support. Their practice was to pick up boys' as they could, and lodge them with themselves in huts, sheds or cellars in the outskirts of towns. The real miseries of the trade were principally to be found in this group_ It is conclusively found that at Hadleigh, Barnet, Uxbridge and Windsor, girls had actually been employed in chimney-sweeping. The Minutes of Evidence presented by the Committee referred to several cases in point which, even if slightly exaggerated by the Committee, are still shocking. William Moles and his wife Sarah were accused of murdering a six-year old boy, John Hewley, engaged as an apprentice. The child was forced up a chimney on the shoulders of a larger boy, and when his work was completed, violently pulled down by the leg and dashed against a marble hearth. As a consequence of this inhumane action, his leg was broken and he died a few hours 66 later. Evidently the judge at Old Bailey thought better of the matter, for Moles and his wife were not convicted, but he was guilty of another misdemeanour which netted him two years in prison. Six hours work in a six inch flue for a six-year old was a customary and evidently acceptable practice.

In 1817, 1818, and 1819, Henry Grey Bennet with the assistance of Wilberforce did not hesitate to make the condition public, and was able to persuade the House of Commons to pass remedial bills. The House of Lords, however, in which sat many owners of the more troublesome flues, refused to accept the measure and countered with arguments that the conditions complained of were exaggerated, that chimney-sweeps were necessary, and that if they were abolished, greater evils would result.

An Act had been passed, as we mentioned before, under George III which provided that no persons should employ any boy in the trade under eight years of age, but this was violated, and children of four, five and six were freely employed as apprentices. Parents sold their children because of economic pressure, frequently lying about their ages. The children were often beaten before they went up the chimney, and the boy who followed the small child up the chimney often stuck pins into the feet of the small boy or lighted straw and applied it to the feet of the four or five-year old who was squeezing his way up the narrow chimney blocked with soot.

If the children stayed at the trade too long, Chimney-Sweeper's Cancer resulted. In general, the lot of the chimney-sweep was one of early and hard labour, spare diet, wretched lodging, and harsh treatment. They were kept almost entirely destitute of education and received no moral or religious instruction. The Religious Tract Society, in its publication entitled "The Young Folk of the Factory" evidently made some attempts to instruct apprentices in virtue. An anecdote is told of.....

A little chimney-sweeper, who was sent to sweep the chimney of a lady's dressing room, being a lady of large fortune and title. The servant who showed him into the room afterwards left it. The boy, supposing himself unobserved, ventured to take a look at the fine things around him. This was a dangerous liberty:- the sin of covetousness often enters at the eye..... The poor boy was dazzled and confounded at the brilliant treasures he beheld, but nothing took his attention so much as a beautiful gold watch set with diamonds. He looked, and looked again, and thought what a delightful thing it would be to possess this watch; and that, as nobody was in the room he might take it without being missed. He went towards it, and, with a trembling hand, seized upon it; but, before he put it in his pocket, his conscience smote him. He repeated those two verses of a hymn which he had learned at a Sunday school; and having done so, replaced the watch and proceeded with his business. The verses were "Almighty God, thy piercing eye" etc. He had thought himself unobserved by human eyes, but he was mistaken. The lady was in the next room, were she could see and hear all that passed, and she kindly resolved to take the poor boy under her protection, and give him a good education. She accordingly applied to his master, and got him released from his employ. She then placed him at school, and afterwards took him into her own service; but finding that he not only discovered great moral worth and fervent piety, but also superior talents and capacity for learning and that he had a strong desire for the ministry, she placed him at college, to pursue his studies with a view to the sacred work; and I believe he is at the present time a much-respected and eminently useful clergyman (8l).

The disturbing factor here is that the Religious Tract Society believed in child labour as a near-adjunct of religious belief. "Early to work" might be a paraphrase particularly applicable to their mode of thinking and instruction. The approval of any system of child labour by a religious body seems to suggest that religion had become the tool of the economic interests of the country.

No protest was raised by any organised religious body, no defence of child labourers was made by the Church of England. In an effort to alleviate the wretched conditions of the chimney-sweep apprentices, the Society for the Superseding of Climbing-Boys was formed. The endeavours of this philanthropic group to expose the evils of child labour in this occupation resulted in the publication of reports such as the one here quoted: One, out of many proofs in the support of this opinion, may be drawn from the history of John Castles, convicted at Old Bailey:- He had been taken from Bethnal Green workhouse, and placed with a chimney-sweeper of the name of Mants, in Whitechapel; then with Smith, alias Godman, on Saint-Peter's-Hill then with Fletcher, at Bethnal-Green; then with Fossett, in Brick-lane; then with Smith again; then 'With Petrie, in the Old Bailey; and then with Smith again. The poor child'S mother died about twelve years ago; he had no friends capable of supporting him, and when he became larger than the chimneys he had to climb, he was thrown, like every other boy in that trade, upon.....

(81 "The Young Folks of the Factory" London 1840 132-133)

.....the world, without any means of support. The boy really appears to have made every possible effort to obtain an honest living, but he failed in each attempt, and after enduring severe hardships, and then remaining three days and nights without food, he joined himself to a company of housebreakers, and gave them the benefit of his previous training. As might be expected, the least guilty was first secured, and Castles was sentenced to transportation (82).

Another case which was used to convince Parliament that the office of chimney-sweep ought to be done away with was that of the murdered apprentice, Michael Hurley. The York assizes charged George Gridley with the wilful murder of Michael Hurley, an orphan who was apprenticed to Ann Haigh, a chimney-sweeper at Leeds. Mistress Haigh said that Michael was a good boy and worked willingly enough, but ran away from the employment often. She usually dispatched George Gridley to look for him. On the occasion of his last and final disappearance, Gridley recovered the boy eight miles from home, and beat and abused him on the return journey. Michael died shortly after as a result of mistreatment, and enough evidence was suppressed at the coroner's inquest to justify his verdict of death by starvation. The strange circumstances of the death came to Lord Harewood's attention and the body was disinterred. Mr. Hay, a surgeon procured for the disinterment, declared that the death was caused by ill treatment acting on a frame enfeebled by disease, excessive fatigue, and want of nourishment.

(82 Twentieth Report of the Society for Superceding the Necessity of Climbing Boys", London, 1803, 4-5.)

A verdict of manslaughter was brought in and since the penal code did not proportion the punishment to the crime, Gridley merely received a twelve-month imprisonment in the House of Correction which he appealed (83). Public opinion, always a valuable factor in the promotion of reform, was created and shaped by public meetings and demonstrations up and down the country in all the large cities and towns after the exposition of the report of the Committee of 1811. On Thursday, June 5th, 1811, Lord Milton presented a petition from the "respectable inhabitants of Sheffield" which asked for means of abolishing the practice of sweeping chimneys by means of climbing boys. Increased agitation brought pressure for parliamentary action. On Wednesday, June 25th, 1817, parliamentarians discussed the violations of the eight-year employment age, and related that this provision had been violated with impunity; master-sweeps were using children of four and six in the trade (84) It was the unanimous opinion (June 25th) that no regulation could 'be depended on, and suggestions were made for the gradual abolition of the trade. Machines had been constructed and were in.....

(83) ibid., 5-6
(84) Hansard, The Parliamentary Debates, vol. XXXVI, April 28 to July 12, 1817, 1155-1157.

.....operation which would sweep three-fourths of England's chimneys in a perfectly satisfactory fashion. A bill proposed in 1817 in the Commons raised the apprentice-ship age to fourteen and proposed that no young person be allowed to work at chimney-sweeping beyond the age of twenty-one, because of the baneful consequences of engaging in the trade. Mr. Wilberforce, who seconded the motion, read a letter from a clergyman of a considerable country town, which stated that two children had stuck fast in chimneys and suffocated within the course of the past three months in his locality (85). The bill failed, probably because of the provision which called for the abolition of climbing-boys. The following year (Monday, February 9th,

18l5), Mr. Bennet proposed a transcript of the Bill of 1817. Hansard records this pertinent passage: He Mr. Benney *
was happy to say that since last year the desire to abolish this odious practice had been expressed at public meetings at all the great towns throughout the country; those meetings unanimously adopting resolutions that the employment of climbing boys ought not to be any longer tolerated, especially as a mechanical instrument was found efficient for the purpose (86).
(85 Ibid.)
(* Brackets ours)
(86 Hansard, The Parliamentary Debates, vol. XXXVII, January 27 to April 13, 1818, 216-217.

Lord Milton's objection to the proposed bill was that it vas too hasty and consequently, he advocated placing a heavy tax on those who employed climbing boys. He added words of commendation for those who used machinery. Hr. Bennet countered Lord Milton's objection by stating that five children had lost their lives during the past year and that Englishmen who complained of small chimneys were those who could well afford to have them altered. Milton called for a more mature consideration of the bill and it was promptly tabled.

The reform party in its desire to carry the legislation it had nurtured and Cherished presented the blackest side of the case, and, through the publication and popularisation of true-life stories such as we have related concerning John Hewley and Michael Hurley, acquainted an influential section of the public with the deplorable conditions of the chimney-sweepers' apprentices. As a consequence of their agitation for reform, parliamentary action was taken. The abuses of this trade were smaller in scope, affecting some five hundred children, Whereas, by 1839, according to Willoughby's statistics, 192,887 children under eighteen were employed in English factories(87). By mid-century the climbing boy was a wistful, appealing figure of the early decades of the century; a reminder of wretched abuse and abject poverty personified by a six-year old dragging twenty pounds of equipment and soot about on a deformed, welted body. (Willoughby, Child Labour, 20.)

Cont'd over page

The Chimney Sweeper

When my mother died I was very young,
And my father sold me[1] while yet my tongue
Could scarcely cry " 'weep![2] 'weep! 'weep! 'weep!"
So your chimneys I sweep & in soot I sleep.

There's little Tom Dacre, who cried when his head
That curled like a lamb's back, was shaved, so I said,
"Hush, Tom! never mind it, for when your head's bare,
You know that the soot cannot spoil your white hair."

And so he was quiet, & that very night,
As Tom was a-sleeping he had such a sight!
That thousands of sweepers, Dick, Joe, Ned, & Jack,
Were all of them locked up in coffins of black;

And by came an Angel who had a bright key,
And he opened the coffins & set them all free;
Then down a green plain, leaping, laughing they run,
And wash in a river and shine in the Sun;

Then naked[3] & white, all their bags left behind,
They rise upon clouds, and sport in the wind.
And the Angel told Tom, if he'd be a good boy,
He'd have God for his father & never want joy.

And so Tom awoke; and we rose in the dark
And got with our bags & our brushes to work.
Tho' the morning was cold, Tom was happy & warm;
So if all do their duty, they need not fear harm.

UK CHILD LABOUR & EDUCATION LAWS

1802 **Health and Morals of Apprentices Act** (*not enforced*):
No apprentice in textile factories to work more than 12 hours a day. Night work was banned.

1819 **Factory Act** limits working day for children in cotton mills to 12 hours. Children under the age of 9 should not be employed, *but magistrates did not enforce this.*

1833 **Factory Act** limits work for children in textile factories (children aged 9-13 should work no more than 48 hours a week) and includes provision for the education of children working in the textile factories (children under the age of 13 to attend school for 12 hours a week). ***Inspectorsemployed to enforce law.***

1842 **Mines Act**: Women and girls, and boys under the age of 10, were not allowed to work *underground*. Boys under the age of 15 were not allowed to work machinery.

1844 **Factory Act**: Children under 13 to work no more than 6.5 hours per day. Women and children aged 13-18 to work no more than 12 hours a day.

1844 **"Ragged Schools"** set up for the poorest children.

1847 **Factory Act** limits women and children under 18 to 58-hourworking week.

1850 **Factory Act** establishes standard working day.

1860 **Mines Act**: Boys under 12 not allowed underground unlessthey could read and write.

1870 **Education Act** (Forster's Act) sets up School Boards toprovide schooling for 5-11 year olds.

1875 **Act** passed which required all chimney sweeps to be licensed. Licences were issued only to sweeps not using climbing boys.

1878 **Factory and Workshops Act**: Employment of children under 10 banned. Regulations of control safety, ventilation and meals.

1880 **Education Act:** school compulsory for children aged 5-10.

1891 **Assisted Education Act:** funds each child, allowing schools to stop having to charge fees.

1918 School-leaving age raised to **14**.

1944 School-leaving age raised to **15**.

1973 School-leaving age raised to **16**.

2008 Minimum age at which a person can leave **education** or training raised to **18**

COLEORTON CHILD WORKERS - 15 Years and Younger
(1841-1901 Census Records)

Data taken from Coleorton Heritage website transcribed by John MacDonald. In 1884 Rotten Row was transferred to Coleorton from Thringstone (pop 194 in 1891).

Year		Name		Age	Occupation
1841	COAL MINING	William	Hall	15	Coal Miner
		John	Ward	12	Coal Miner
		William	Ward	10	Coal Miner
	AGRICULTURE/LABOURING	William	Griffin	14	M.L.
		Sarah	Two	14	F.L
		James	Middleton	15	Agr Lab
		William	Middleton	15	Agr Lab
		Thomas	Brookes	11	M.L.
		John	Brookes	9	M.L.
		Edmund	Doman	14	M.L
		Henry	Johnson	15	M.L.
		Frances	Horn	14	F.L
		Thomas	Kinsey	14	M.L.
		James	Lunt	15	M.L.
		Joseph	Smith	15	M.L.
		Martha	Woodward	10	F.L.
		Hanah	Doman	14	F.L.
		John	Statham	15	Agr Lab
		Elizabeth	Brooks	13	F.L.
		Benjamine	Purbin	15	M.L.
		Mary	Martin	15	F.L.
		Mary	Cawser	15	F.L.
		Drusiller	Barsby	12	F.L.
		Samuel	Matchett	15	M.L.
		Robert	Platt	15	M.L.
		Daniel	Webster	15	M.L.
		George	Bishop	14	M.L.
		Frances	Edwards	14	F.L.
	OTHER	George	Tivey	15	Gardener
		William	Toon	15	Hawker
		John	Stockley	15	Apprentice carpenter
		Thomas	Stockley	13	Shoemaker
1851	COAL MINING	Joseph	Stockley	15	Coal miner
		William	Wayne	13	Coal miner
		George	Wayne	10	Coal miner
		John	Wright	15	Coal miner
		John	Barkby	15	Coal miner
		William	Farebrother	10	Coal Miner

	CLOTH & CLOTHES MAKING	Ellen	Doman	14	Lace figuring
		Ann	Wood	11	Lace worker
		Elizabeth	Toon	13	Lace worker
		Dorothy	Price	13	Lace worker
		Frances	Price	11	Lace worker
		Emma	Wright	14	Lace worker
		Charles	Doman	11	Lace runner
		Millicent	Sharpe	14	Lace worker
		Selina	Cotton	14	Lace worker
		Ann	Cotton	11	Lace worker
		Jane	Williamson	12	Lace worker
		Sarah	Williamson	11	Lace worker
		Faith E	Price	13	Lace worker
		Abigail	Stacey	15	Stocking Whealing
		Margaret	Stacey	13	Stocking Whealing
	DOMESTIC SERVICES	John	Tivey	14	House servant
		Emma	Pickering	12	House servant
		William	Kinsey	13	Errand boy
		Mary Ann	Whirledge	13	Laundry Assistant to her mother
	AGRICULTURE	Ralph	Bennett	14	Farm servant
		Mary	Toon	15	Farmer's Servant
		John	Williams	13	Farm servant cowman
		George	Cooper	9	Plough driver
		Robert	Key	15	Farm Servant
	OTHER	Charles	Price	14	Shoemaker (Apprentice)
		Samuel	Else	11	Labourer, out of employment
		Hannah	Eaton	13	Working at Pot Works
		Thomas	Woodford	15	Under Gardener
1861	**COAL MINING**	George	Stanley	13	Horse driver in a coal pit
		James	Springthorpe	12	Horse driver in a coal pit
		George	Wright	14	Coal Miner
		Sarah	Barkley	14	Colliery work
		George E	Peters	14	Worker in a coal field
		Samuel	Martin	15	Lab at Colliery
		Frederick	Martin	13	Lab at Colliery
		John	Eaton	12	Coal Miner
	CLOTH & CLOTHES MAKING	Arthur J	Wilkinson	14	Tailor
		Mary	Burrows	13	Lace worker
		Eliza	Dodd	12	Lace worker
		Caroline	Cashmore	15	Seamer of stockings
		Eliza	Cashmore	12	Seamer of stockings
		Ann	Watson	14	Lace runner
		Mary A	Pargetor	11	Lace runner
	DOMESTIC SERVICE	Maria	Middleton	15	Servant
		Martha A	Preston	15	Nursemaid
		John T	Steele	15	Hall Boy

		Isacc	Thompson	15	Helps in stables
		Sarah	Harrison	14	Domestic
		Mary	Harrison	10	Domestic
	AGRICULTURE	William	Shaw	14	Cow boy
		Richard	Williamson	15	Cow boy
		James	Brooks	9	Plough driver
		Henry	Buck	15	Waggoner's lad
		David	Atkins	11	Plough driver
		Sampson	Blackshaw	15	Waggoner's boy
	OTHER	Thomas	Peters	15	Spa Manufacturer
		Joseph	Whirledge	13	Mechanic
		Thomas	Eaton	10	Pot Maker
1871	**COAL MINING**	Edward	Toon	15	Horse driver in coal mine
		James	Toon	14	Horse driver in coal mine
		Thomas	Williams	11	Labourer in Coal mine
		John	Ward	13	Labourer in Coal mine
		Henry	Moult	15	Horse driver in coal mine
		James	Platts	14	Labourer in coal mine
		Harry	Griffin	15	Pit boy
		Joseph	Barkley	15	Colliery labourer
		Samuel	Shakespear	12	Horse driver in coal mine
		Joseph	Laban	12	Horse driver in coal mine
	CLOTH & CLOTHES MAKING	Hanah	Platts	13	Knitter
		Joe	Peacock	15	Taylor Apprentice
		Mary	Walker	14	Silk throwster
		Harriett	Shakespear	14	Glove knitter
	DOMESTIC SERVICE	Mary	Sketchley	14	General Servant (domestic)
		Mary Ann	Brook	12	General Servant (domestic)
		Hannah	Toon	14	Domestic servant
		Eliza	Brown	15	General Servant (domestic)
		Robert	Platts	10	House servant
		May	Bott	15	Domestic servant
		Elizabeth	Knight	15	General Servant (domestic)
		James	Barkley	13	House servant
		Daniel	Statham	10	House servant
		Sarah Ann	Wright	15	General Servant (domestic)
		Lydia	Moore	14	Laundress
		Sarah A	Aries	15	Kitchenmaid domestic
		Emma	Wood	13	General servant domestic
		Sarah Ann	Stewart	15	General Servant (domestic)
	AGRICULTURE	John	Norton	15	Farm servant indoors
		William	Statham	14	Farm servant indoors
		Annie	Wright	15	Pupil teacher
	BRICKWORKS	Thomas T	Ball	15	Labourer in Brickyard
		Austin ?	Whyman	14	Labourer in Brickyard
	OTHER	Annie	Wright	15	Pupil teacher

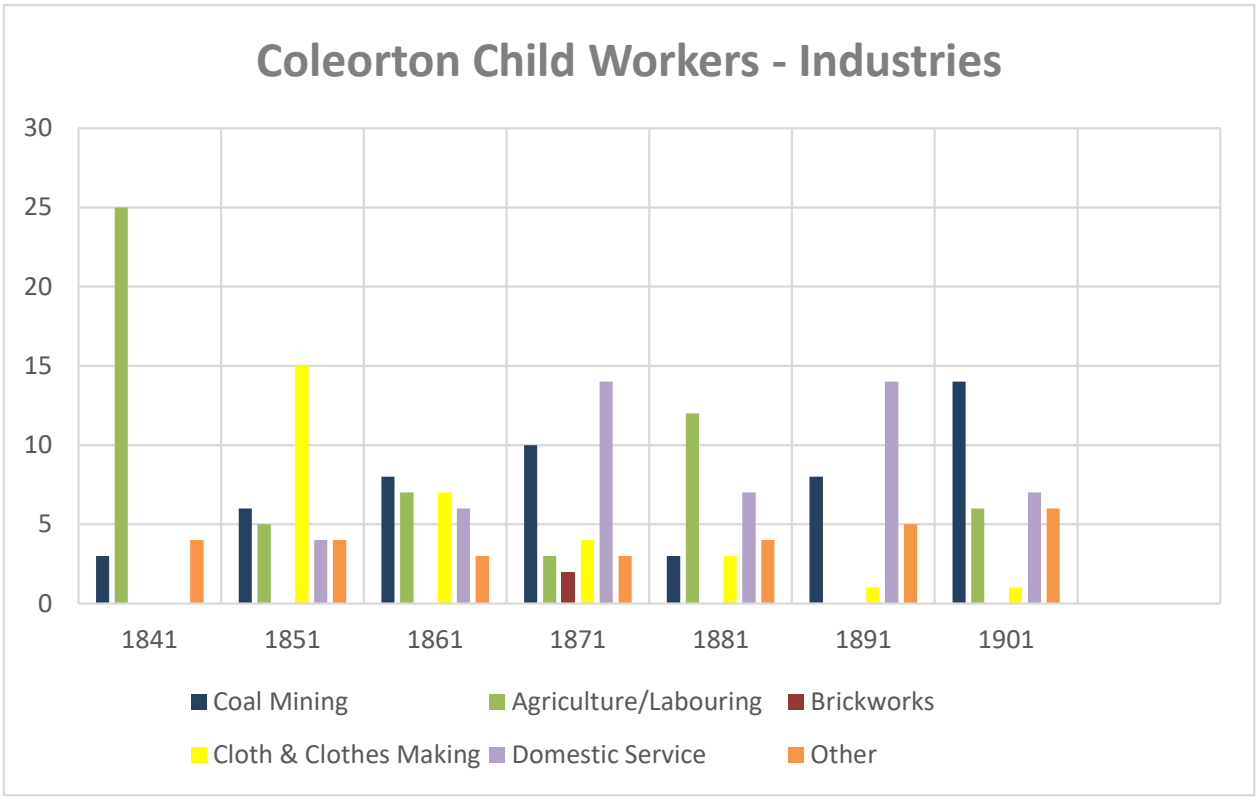
		George	Horne	13	Shoemakers apprentice
		Joseph	Lord	12	Railway Labourer
1881	**COAL MINING**	John G	Platts	15	Colliery labourer
		John L	Haywood	14	Colliery labourer
		Frederick	Fern	15	Colliery labourer
	CLOTH & CLOTHES MAKING	Sarah A	Whyman	14	Seamer of stockings
		Mary	Wright	13	Seamer of stockings
		Alice	Springthorpe	14	Elastic Webb Weavers assistant
	DOMESTIC SERVICE	Sarah	Ayre	14	General servant
		Eliza	Davis	13	General servant
		Sarah H	Williams	15	Nurse domestic servant
		Fanny	Nottage	15	Kitchenmaid domestic servant
		Sarah	Statham	15	General servant domestic
		Mary J	Winfield	13	Servant unoccupied
		Ann	Winfield	12	Servant unoccupied
	AGRICULTURE	Herbert	Fern	13	Plough driver agricultura
		Sarah E	Plowright	13	Farmers daughter
		George	Kinsey	13	Farm servant indoor
		William	Plant	14	Farm servant indoor
		Drayton A	Walker	14	Farmers son
		Albert	Green	15	Farm servant
		Walter	Smith	14	Farm servant indoor
		George	Jaques	15	Agr Lab
		Henry	Wilson	11	Plough driver agricultura
		Albert	Ayre	11	Plough driver agricultura
		William	Smalley	14	Farm servant indoor
		John	Roach	13	Farm servant
	OTHER	Sarah	Hinsey	15	Employed at Terra Cotta Works
		Mary	Walton	15	Employed at Pottery
		Charles E	Preston	14	Blacksmith's striker
1891	**COAL MINING**	John	Lord	15	Colliery Labourer
		Thomas	Wright	14	Colliery labourer
		George	Barkley	14	Colliery labourer
		Walter	Bailey	14	Errand boy at colliery
		Abraham	Cooper	14	Colliery labourer
		Frederick	Richards	15	Colliery labourer
		Albert	Walker	14	Horse driver at colliery
		James	Harrison	13	Colliery labourer
	CLOTH & CLOTHES MAKING	Gertrude	Bailey	15	Seamstress
	DOMESTIC SERVICE	Matilda	Wardle	14	General Servant
		Emily	Berkin	14	General Servant domestic
		Elizabeth	Hemsley	14	Domestic servant
		Mary	Williamson	15	Housekeeper
		Louisa	Williams	15	General Servant domestic
		John	Williams	13	Errand boy
		Kate	Siddons	14	General Servant

		Ada	Springthorpe	15	General servant
		Mary E	Fose	14	Domstic servant
		Mary	Wilton	15	Kitchen maid
		Mary	Bridges	15	Housemaid domestic
		Harriet	Thompson	15	Domestic servant
		Mary	Stacey	14	General Servant
		Jane	Wright	15	General Servant
	OTHER	Albert	Kinsey	14	Painter
		James	Horne	15	Drilling in foundry
		George H	Shaw	15	Driller at Iron Foundry
		James A	Wilson	15	Gardeners labourer
		Thomas	Wilson	12	Garden Boy
1901	**COAL MINING**	William	Brooks	14	Colliery horse driver below ground
		Robert	Croson	15	Colliery banksman
		William	Croson	13	Colliery banksman
		Thomas	Platts	13	Colliery gater below ground
		Solomon	Robinson	15	Coal bank labourer
		Thomas	Reed	14	Colliery horse driver above ground
		Newton	Fowkes	14	Colliery horse driver below ground
		Frederick	Springthorpe	14	Colliery horse driver below ground
		Samuel	Hartshorne	15	Horse driver in coal mine
		John W	Harrison	14	Colliery horse driver below ground
		Frederick	Elverson	15	Colliery labourer above ground
		Joseph	Stinson	15	Colliery horse driver below ground
		John L	Neal	15	Colliery horse driver below ground
		Marsden	Bradford	15	Colliery horse driver below ground
	CLOTH & CLOTHES MAKING	Edith L	Homsby	15	Apprentice dressmaker
	DOMESTIC SERVICE	Clarrie	Williams	15	General servant domestic
		Ann E	Waterfield	13	General servant domestic
		Ethel	Whirledge	15	Kitchen maid domestic unemployed
		Lilian	Fearn	15	Kitchen maid domestic
		Ellen	Hibbert	14	General servant domestic
		Mary	Gardiner	15	General servant domestic
		Mary	Smallwood	13	General servant domestic
	AGRICULTURE	John B	Shaw	14	Farmer's son
		Edward	Thompson	15	Farm servant
		James	Meadow	15	Team man on Farm?
		Albert	Brooks	12	Boy on farm
		Bertie	Brooks	13	Boy on farm
		Robert	Dunmore	15	Milkboy on farm
	OTHER	James	Brooks	15	Butcher's apprentice
		George	Brooks	13	Gardeners errand boy
		William	Wright	14	Cleaner at Ironworks
		William	Holt	13	Page Boy, Dorchester
		Aaron	Smith	15	Sanitary pipe fetler
		William	Winfield	13	Sanitary pipe hand

COLEORTON Summary Statistics

	1841	1851	1861	1871	1881	1891	1901
Coal Mining	3	6	8	10	3	8	14
Agriculture/Labouring*	25	5	7	3	12	0	6
Brickworks	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Cloth & Clothes Making	0	15	7	4	3	1	1
Domestic Service	0	4	6	14	7	14	7
Other	4	4	3	3	4	5	6
Total Child Workers	**32**	**34**	**31**	**36**	**29**	**28**	**34**

*(Most appear to be agricultural labourers)



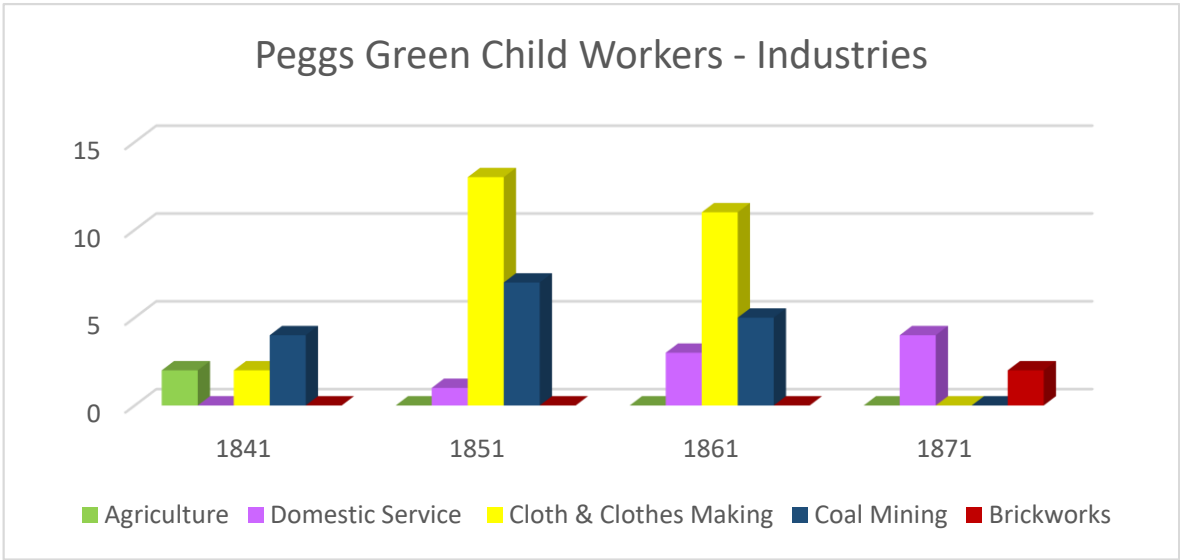
PEGG'S GREEN CHILD WORKERS - 15 Years and Younger
(1841-1871 Census Records)

Year	Industry	Name		Age	Occupation
1841	**COAL MINING**	Joseph	Bacon	15	Coal Miner
		George	Witton	15	Coal Miner
		Henry	Pointon	11	Collier
		William	Gostelow	15	Coal Miner
	AGRICULTURE	John	Middleton	12	Farm Worker
		Bernard	Egginton	14	AG Labourer
	CLOTH & CLOTHES MAKING	Mary	Varnham	15	Framework Knitter
		Henry	Meathan	15	Hatter
1851	**COAL MINING**	Edward	Boot	15	Coal Miner
		David	Boot	13	Coal Miner
		John	Green	13	Coal Miner
		Frederick	Barkby	14	Coal Miner
		George	Horne	15	Coal Miner
		George	Locker	14	Coal Miner
		Joseph	Horne	11	Coal Miner
	DOMESTIC SERVICE	Ellen	Bamford	11	House Servant
	CLOTH & CLOTHES MAKING	Matha	Elliot	14	Seamster
		Zilpha	Elliot	10	Seamster
		Hannah	Green	11	Lace Worker
		Sarah	Horne	11	Lace Worker Cotton
		Elizabeth	Horne	11	Lace Worker Cotton
		Francis	Bird	14	Lace Worker Cotton
		Mary	Bird	12	Lace Worker Cotton
		Harriet	Watson	13	Lace Worker
		Hannah	Watson	11	Lace Worker
		Sarah	Watson	8	Lace Worker
		Hannah	Phillips	14	Seamster
		Jane	Phillips	12	Seamster
		Jane	Horne	15	Lace Worker
1861	**COAL MINING**	John	Shorthouse	13	At The Coal Mine
		William	Newbold	15	At The Coal Mine
		Henry	Clemens	14	At The Coal Mine
		John	Clemens	12	At The Coal Mine
		Samuel	Edwards	12	At The Coal Mine
	DOMESTIC SERVICE	Mary	Ward	8	Servant (Nurse Girl)
		Harriet	Greasley	14	Servant
		Frederick	Bradley	14	Servant

	CLOTH & CLOTHES MAKING	Mary	Fairbrother	11	Seamster Of Stockings
		Eliza	Bird	15	Seamster Of Stockings
		Matilda	Watson	13	Seamster Of Stockings
		Emma	Cutler	14	Seamster Of Stockings
		Ann	Cutler	12	Seamster Of Stockings
		Mary	Haywood	14	Seamster Of Stockings
		Elizabeth	Haywood	12	Seamster Of Stockings
		Sarah Ann	Horne	13	Seamster Of Stockings
		Sarah	Leason	14	Seamster Of Stockings
		Elizaeth	Leason	10	Seamster Of Stockings
		Sarah Ann	Leason	6	Seamster Of Stockings
1871	**BRICKWORKS**	Charles	Elliot	15	Brick Yard Boy
		Arthur	Elliot	13	Brick Yard Boy
	DOMESTIC SERVICE	Harriet	Chapery	15	Servant
		Mary	Rowell	13	Servant
		William	Kinsey	15	Servant
		Sarah	Swmith	13	Servant

PEGG'S GREEN Summary Statistics

	1841	**1851**	**1861**	**1871**
Agriculture	2	0	0	0
Domestic Service	0	1	3	4
Cloth & Clothes Making	2	13	11	0
Coal Mining	4	7	5	0
Brickworks	0	0	0	2
Total Child Workers	**8**	**21**	**19**	**6**



GRIFFYDAM CHILD WORKERS - 15 Years and Younger
(1841-1901 Census Records)

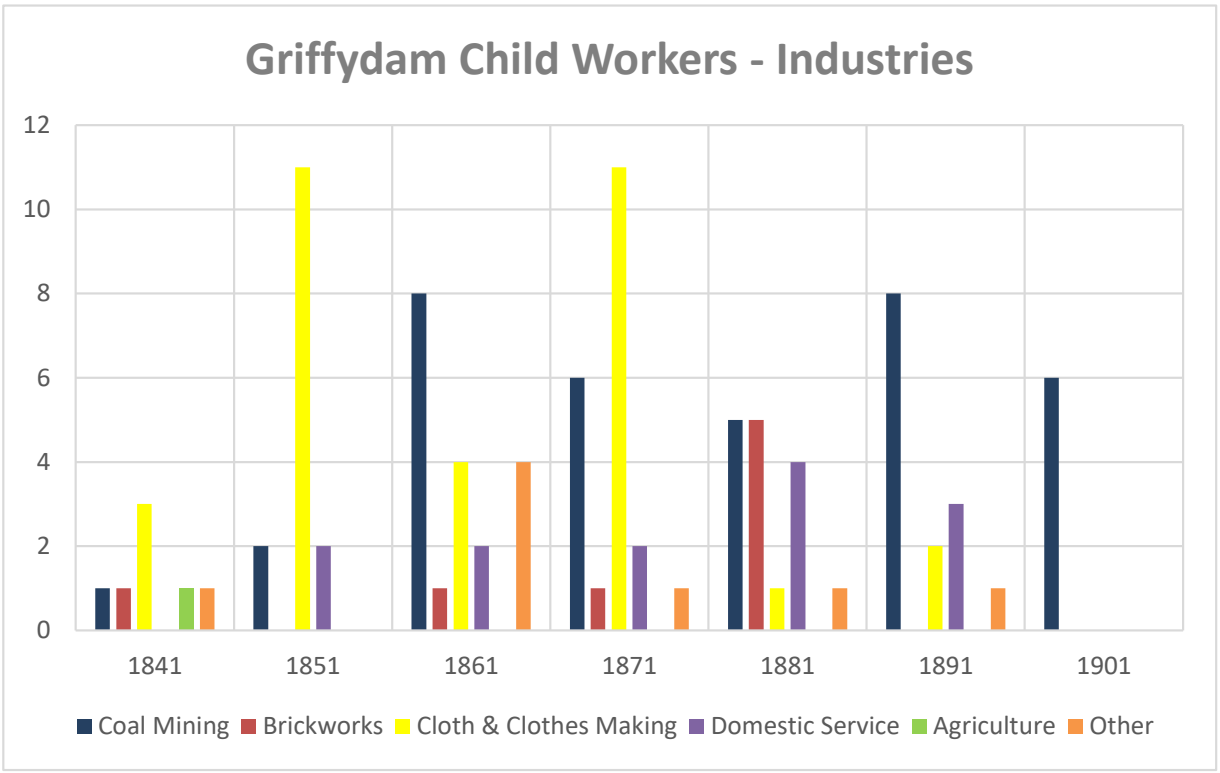
Year	Industry	Name	Age	Occupation
1841	COAL MINING	Charles Shaw	15	Coal Miner
	BRICKWORKS	John Platts	15	Bricklayer
	CLOTH & CLOTHES MAKING	Jane Holliley	15	Dressmaker
		John Barnet	15	Framework Knitter
		Emma Wilkinson	15	Lace Worker
	AGRICULTURE	Charles Walker	15	Agricultural Labourer
	OTHER	Thomas Gibson	15	Gardener
1851	COAL MINING	Jesse Hodges	10	Coal Miner
		John Marshall	15	Coal Miner
	CLOTH & CLOTHES MAKING	Anne Wale	6	Seamer Of Stockings
		Mary Wale	8	Seamer Of Stockings
		Mary Clifford	9	Seamstress
		Eliza Platts	9	Lace Worker
		Henry Platts	10	Seamer Of Stockings
		Phoebe Goldshaw	13	Seamer Of Stockings
		Elizabeth Richards	14	Fancy Knitter
		Emma Allt	14	Seamstress
		Joseph Thraves	14	Apprentice Stocking Maker
		Jane Stevenson	15	Knitter
		Mahala Platts	15	Knitter
	DOMESTIC SERVICE	Issac Goldshaw	11	Servant
		Selina Ayre	11	Household Servant
1861	COAL MINING	James Hurst	12	Coal Miner
		Willam Ward	14	Coal Miner
		John Brewin	10	Coal Miner
		Joseph Lager	15	Coal Miner
		Thomas Lager	11	Coal Miner
		Jeremiah Hodges	14	Coal Miner
		Thomas Gibson	11	Coal Miner
		John Clifford	13	Colliery Labourer
	BRICKWORKS	James Ward	12	Brickyard Boy
	CLOTH & CLOTHES MAKING	Harriet Platts	9	Seamstress
		Mary Platts	11	Seamstress
		Caroline Wardle	12	Seamstress
		Clementine Platts	13	Seamstress
	DOMESTIC SERVICE	Selina Lakin	13	General Servant
		William Knight	11	Errand Boy
	OTHER	William Hunt	14	Carter
		Fanny Powdril	15	Miller
		Ann Smith	12	Work At Home
		Elizabeth Smith	14	Work At Home

1871	**COAL MINING**	James Reed	15	Colliery Labourer
		Thomas Platts	14	Weighing Clerk
		Joseph Springthorpe	14	Colliery Labourer
		Lewis Bacon	12	Banksman At Colliery
		Ruel Waldrum	13	Horse Driver At Pit
		Arthur Draper	12	Greaser At Pit
	BRICKWORKS	Joseph Frearson	10	Works At Brickyard
	CLOTH & CLOTHES MAKING	Harriet Saddington	8	Seamstress
		Harriet Elliotte	10	Seamstress
		Elizabeth Earp	11	Seamstress
		Salina Platts	11	Seamstress
		Mary Aterbery	12	Seamstress
		Pricilla Elliotte	12	Seamstress
		Lewezer Platts	13	Seamstress
		Elizabeth Elliotte	14	Seamstress
		Jane Waldram	15	Seamer
		Elizabeth Hodges	15	Seamstress
		Selina Elliote	15	Seamstress
	DOMESTIC SERVICE	Harriet Frearson	15	Domestic Servant
		Mary Knight	15	Household Duties
	OTHER	Samuel Fletcher	15	Carpenter
1881	**COAL MINING**	James Lesson	12	Employed At Coal Mine
		John Platts	14	Coal Miner
		Amos Platts	15	Coal Miner
		Stretton Platts	14	Coal Miner
		Thomas Platts	15	Coal Miner
	BRICKWORKS	James Holland	12	Employed At Brickyard
		Cooper Platts	12	Employed At Brickyard
		Sidney Johnson	12	Employed At Brickyard
		Thomas Richards	13	Employed At Brickworks
		Harry Whileman	15	Employed At Brickyard
	CLOTH & CLOTHES MAKING	Clara Earp	13	Seamstress
	DOMESTIC SERVICE	Annie Frearson	12	Servant
		Mary Wardle	13	Servant
		Dessima Hurst	14	Servant
		Mary Holland	15	Servant
	OTHER	Eli Richards	15	Potter
1891	**COAL MINING**	Benjamin Platts	15	Coal Miner
		Arthur Hinds	14	Coal Miner
		Caleb Bird	15	Coal Miner
		Robert Holland	14	Coal Miner
		Walter Holland	11	Coal Miner
		William Phillips	15	Coal Miner
		William Earp	15	Coal Miner
		Tom Haywood	15	Colliery Labourer

	CLOTH & CLOTHES MAKING	Alice Mellor	13	Tailoress
		Mary Springthorpe	13	Seamworker Shirts
	DOMESTIC SERVICE	Rhoda Holland	13	General Servant
		Mary Hill	15	Domestic Cook
		Hannah Bradley	15	Domestic Servant
	OTHER	William Cork	15	Gardener's Apprentice
1901	**COAL MINING**	Carnesh Whyman	14	Lorry Driver At Mine
		Harold Curtis	13	Horse Driver At Mine
		Charles Batson	13	Door Tender At Mine
		Joseph Platts	15	Colliery Labourer Above Ground
		Walter Platts	13	Colliery Labourer Above Ground
		Ernest King	14	Colliery Labourer Above Ground

GRIFFYDAM Summary Statistics

	1841	1851	1861	1871	1881	1891	1901
Coal Mining	1	2	8	6	5	8	6
Brickworks	1	0	1	1	5	0	0
Cloth & Clothes Making	3	11	4	11	1	2	0
Domestic Service	0	2	2	2	4	3	0
Agriculture	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	1	0	4	1	1	1	0
Total Child Workers	**7**	**15**	**19**	**21**	**16**	**14**	**6**



OSGATHORPE CHILD WORKERS - 15 Years and Younger
(1841-1911 Census Records)

Year	Industry	Name		Age	Occupation
1841	AGRICULTURE	Thomas	Burrows	13	Agricultural Servant
	DOMESTIC SERVICE	John	Allsop	15	Servant
		Jane	Farmer	15	Servant
		Caroline	King	15	Servant
		Frances	Worledge	14	Servant
		George	Hawksworth	15	Servant
1851	AGRICULTURE	William	Young	15	Ag Lab
		Thomas	Jarvis	13	Ag Lab
		Joseph	Bennett	11	Ag Lab
		Hezekial	Baker	11	Ag Lab
		Thomas	Wright	9	Plough Boy
	DOMESTIC SERVICE	Henry	Matchett	12	Servant Boy
		Mary	Matchett	15	Lady In Waiting - Maid
		Edward	Matchett	10	Errand Boy
		Thomas	Green	12	Carriers Boy
		Benjamin	Morgan	13	Errand Boy
		Elizabeth	Roe	15	House Servant
		Mary Ann	Bancroft	15	House Servant
	CLOTH & CLOTHES MAKING	Hannah	Green	12	Seamstress
		Emma	Morgan	15	Seamstress
		Catherine	Siddons	13	Lace Runner
		Elizabeth	Siddons	10	Lace Runner
	CHIMNEY SWEEP TRADE	Andrew	Sharpe	11	Chimney Sweep
		Arthur	Sharpe	7	Chimney Sweep
1861	AGRICULTURE	Charles	Roe	10	Ag Farm Boy
		William	Gadsby	11	Farmers Errand Boy
		Edmond	Wright	12	Ag Waggoners Boy
		Issacc	Bradley	11	Ag Labourer
	DOMESTIC SERVICE	Louisa	????	12	House Servant
		Sarah Ann	Bennett	11	Nurse Maid
		John	Peal	14	Servant Boy
	CLOTH & CLOTHES MAKING	Sarah	King	15	Seamstress
		Mary D	Wright	14	Seamstress
	COAL MINING	William	Burton	14	Colliery Labourer
	OTHER	Thomas	Platts	14	Harness Maker
1871	COAL MINING	Frederick	Perry	13	Horse Driver
		Charles	Walker	11	Horse Driver
		Joseph	Walker	10	Horse Driver
		Elija ?	Darby	12	Coal Mine Labourer

	DOMESTIC SERVICE	Mary J.	Smith	11	General Servant
		Mary A.	Leason	11	General Servant
		Martha	Osbourne	15	General Servant
		Lizabeth	Hurst	15	General Servant
	CLOTH & CLOTHES MAKING	Letina ?	Millwood	11	Seamstress
1881	**AGRICULTURE**	Joseph	Bennett	12	Ag Lab
		John	Richards	13	Agricultural Servant
		Fredrick	Weedon	14	Ag Servant Indoors
	DOMESTIC SERVICE	Martha	Rowbotham	15	General Servant
		Clara	Jarvis	14	General Servant
		Hannah A	Goodwill	15	General Servant - Domestic
		Elizabeth A	Braithwait	14	General Domestic Servant
1891	**AGRICULTURE**	Wilson	King	13	Ag Lab
		Arthur	Billing	15	Farm Servant
	DOMESTIC SERVICE	George	King	14	Domestic Servant
		Martha A	Hardwick	13	Domestic Servant
		Laura G	Siddons	14	Domestic Servant
		Edith A	Allard	12	Domestic Servant
1901	**AGRICULTURE**	William	Jakeman	13	Ag Lab
		Arthur	Cooper	14	Ag Lab
		Thomas H	Storer	15	Ag Lab - Waggoner
		William	Marshall	12	Ag Lab - Works On Farm
	DOMESTIC SERVICE	Mary	Sharpe	14	Domestic Servant
		Kate	Wardle	15	Domestic Servant
		Eliza	Statham	13	Domestic Servant
	CLOTH & CLOTHES MAKING	Lily	Bennett	14	Seamstress Hosiery
		Gertrude	Siddons	15	Seaming Hosiery
	COAL MINING	Joseph	Allard	15	Coal Miner Banksman
		Herbert	King	14	Coal Miner
	LIMEWORKS	Arthur	Baker	14	Limeworks Labourer
1911	**AGRICULTURE**	John Henry	Green	13	Ag Lab On Farm
		George	Smith	15	Ag Lab On Farm
		Charles	Annable	15	Ag Lab On Farm
		Frank James	Wright	15	Ag Lab On Farm
	DOMESTIC SERVICE	Florence	Jakeman	14	Assists In Housework
		Gertey	Baker	15	Domestic Work
		Emily	Allard	15	Domestic Work
		Florence	Green	14	Domestic Servant
		Florance	Springthorpe	13	Housework
	COAL MINING	Fred	Darby	13	Pony Driver - Coleorton Bug & Wink
		Horace	Pepper	14	Coal Miner - Coleorton- Bug & Wink
	LIMEWORKS	William	Jackman	14	Limestone Quarry - Horse Driver
		George	Pepper	15	Limestone Quarry - Labourer

OSGATHORPE Summary Statistics

	1841	1851	1861	1871	1881	1891	1901	1911
Agriculture	1	5	4	0	3	2	4	4
Domestic Service	5	7	3	4	4	4	3	5
Cloth & Clothes Making	0	4	2	1	0	0	2	0
Coal Mining	0	0	1	4	0	0	2	2
Limestone Quarry Worker	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Chimney Sweep Trade	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Total Child Workers	6	18	11	9	7	6	12	13