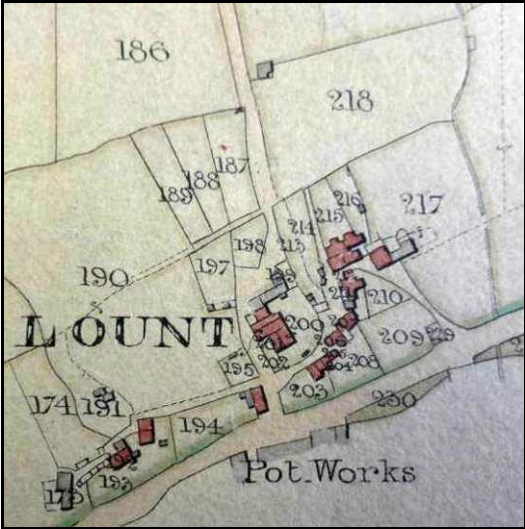


A HISTORY OF THE HAMLET OF LOUNT, AND THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY



BY SAMUEL T STEWART 2019

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STAUNTON HAROLD SCHOOL – LOUNT CROSS ROADS

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PART 1

A CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THE HAMLET OF LOUNT

"The Anglian & Scandinavian Settlement of Leicestershire" by W. G. Hoskins records the following:-

In the north west of the county we have a compact group of Scandinavian place names that were bestowed by invaders from the Trentside, possibly by the Danes or Norwegians between 550 and 1066. For example - Appleby, Ashby, Lount, Bilstone, Shackerstone, Congerstone, Ravenstone and others. This part of the county, like the Wreake Valley, was not settled until the coming of the Danes who would have come up the Trent and the Soar and then turning into the Wreake. The Danes settled in numerous small groups on the dry terraces of the river gravel, just raised above the flood plains.

Evidence of coal mining adjacent to Lount goes back to the mid thirteenth century. One of the most important landowners in the Worthington district was Ralph Bozun. Around 1270, he and his wife granted some lands with appurtenances and coal mines which they contained to Garendon Abbey. These were probably in the area of "the Smoile" (close to Lount) and the adjacent "Worthington Rough" where all the coal seams outcropped. (Nichols, Leics Vol 3. 791).

During his research, the author found references to Lount in various forms including "Le Lound" (c.1300), "Le Lounte" (1347 and 1485), "The Lount" (1446) and also "Two Lounts" (1600's). A lease granted to John Wexham in 1624, includes the wording - 'in the lands called **Two Lounts**'. The name Lount possibly originated from the old Nordic word 'Lundr' meaning a small wood, grove or clump of trees.

It is almost certain that the Hamlet of Lount, as we now know it was **not** in existence in the form of an established settlement in 1379, as the 'Poll Tax Rolls' of that date demonstrate that a **maximum** of six properties only plus John de Staunton's house existed in the area of Staunton Harold **and there is no reference to Lount given.**

The following is part of a transcript held at the LRO (ref 26D53/504) and dated 15th February 1458 - 37 Henry VI :-

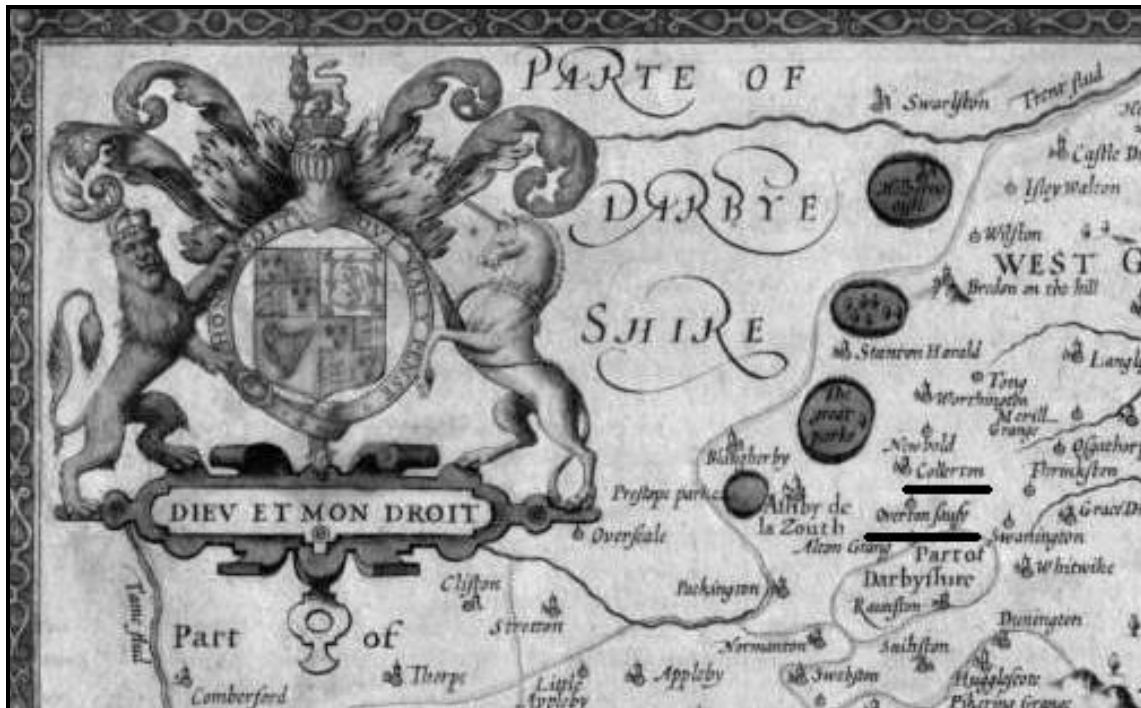
Indenture of sale by John Shyrley of Staunton Harold, Esq., to Thomas Stokes and John Foster of Ashby de la Zouch of wood growing in "**Le Lounte**", excepting specified oaks, and further granting wood in "Dunestalegreve"

The following extract from a lease held at the L&RRO (26D53/512), suggests that this was the time when the hamlet of Lount in the form of a settlement as we know it today, was established:-

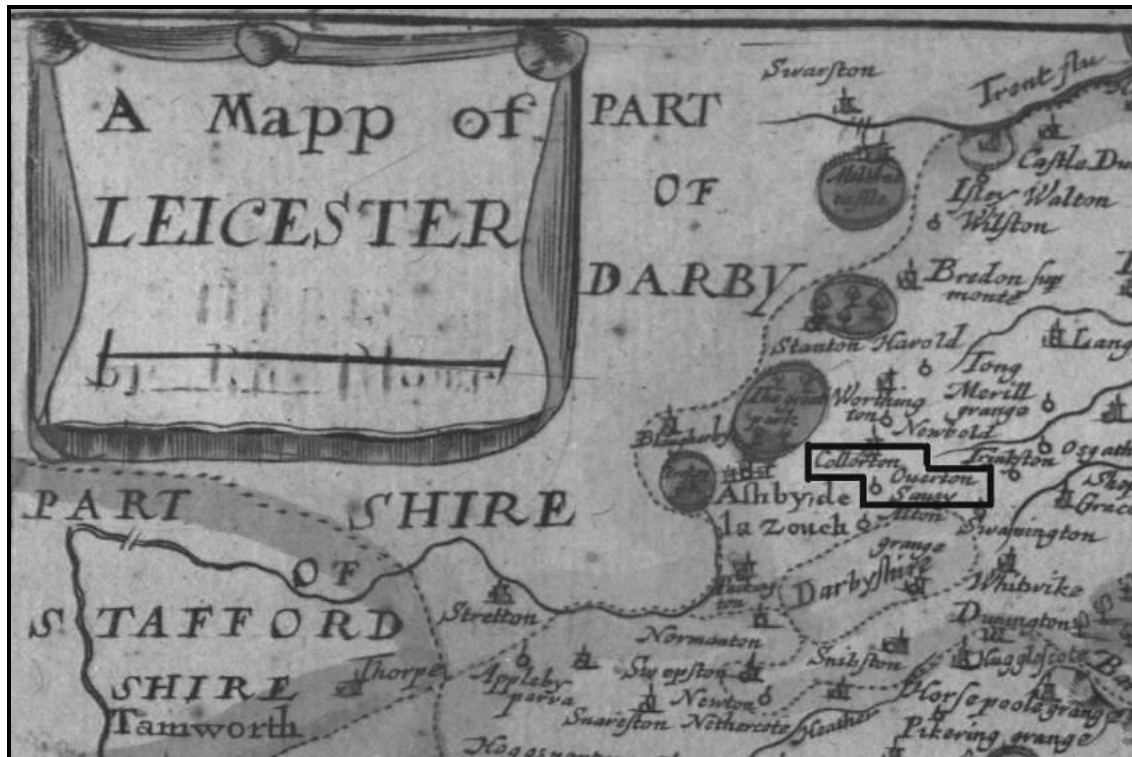
This indenture made on 23rd April 1606 between George Shirley of Staunton Harold in the County of Leicester and William Wallis of Staunton, aforesaid Yeoman, John Yeomans of Melbourne from Derby, Yeoman, and William Holmes of Staunton, aforesaid collier. George Shirley gives leave to William, John and William their executors or administrators to erect and build in Staunton, six houses for six colliers.....we can safely assume that these houses would have been funded and owned by Sir George Shirley, and then rented out to colliers. It is thought, although open to conjecture, that these cottages were built in the current area of what became the hamlet of Lount.

When the Coleorton Lounge opencast site was excavated between 1985 and 1983 in the area of Smoile Wood, Lount, the excavators uncovered, over an area of half a square kilometer of main coal seams, a continuous series of pillar and stall workings as far as 30m below the surface, and originally reached by timber lined shafts. It has been possible to date this industry by tree ring dating of timbers, and a stylistic study of other artifacts found, to the period 1450-1600. It is not unreasonable to assume that some of the miners would have lived in the area although this was an era when miners travelled around looking for work.

The following two maps of the area dated 1611 and 1681 do not depict Lount, although Staunton Harold, Newbold, Worthington, Breedon, Tong etc., are shown, suggesting that the hamlet of Lount had not still been recognized as a settlement of any size or importance that was worth recording at that time.



Extract from John Speed's 1611 map

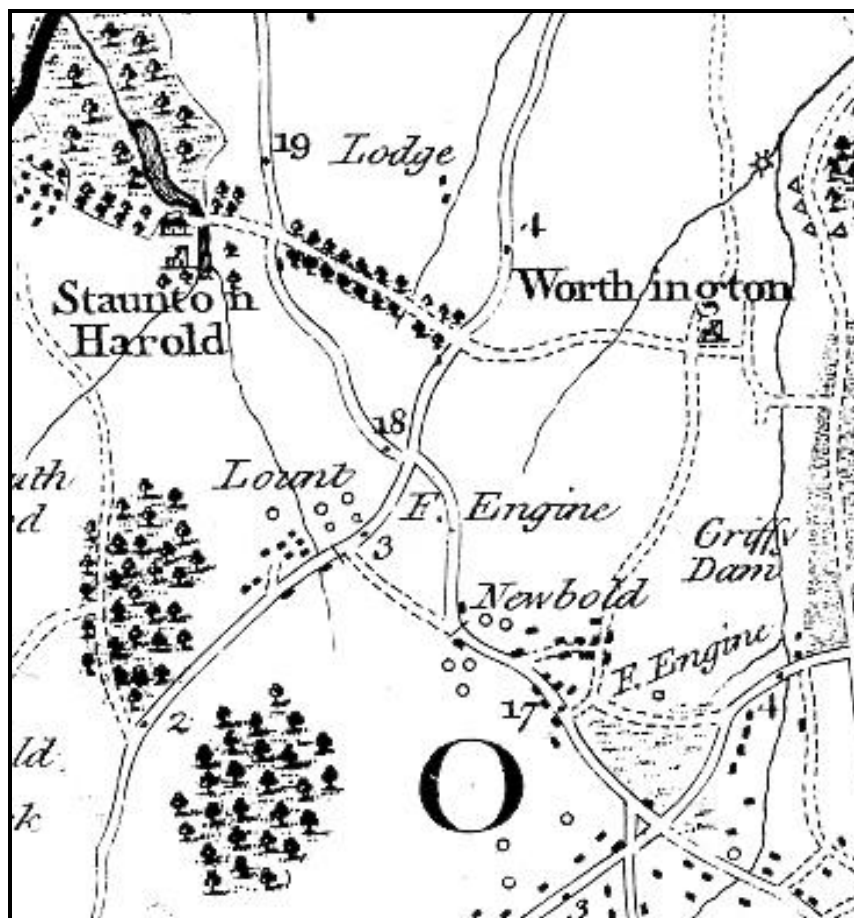


Extract from Bloome's 1681 map

The geographical location of Lount, next to the main Ashby-De-La-Zouch to Nottingham Road (the former Swarcliffe Lane (Coleorton Turn) to Sawley section of the Tamworth to Ashby turnpike road), would of course have offered many advantages in the 18th and 19th centuries. It would have given easier access for travel and transport of goods such as coal, lime, pottery, farm products etc by horse drawn wagons on. It enabled residents to travel by horse and cart to Ashby to sell their wares in the markets there.

Referring to the township of Staunton Harold, Nichols, the Leicestershire historian recorded in 1804 - "There are 52 houses of different sorts **including a range of collier's houses, crafting a village called Lount.** There are 287 inhabitants, 144 males, 143 females of which 53 are employed in agriculture, 6 of them being farmers keeping teams, and 18 in trade of manufacture.

Appnded is an extract from Prior's 1777 map of Leicestershire, which depicts the hamlet of Lount, with 8 buildings within the hamlet, and 5 adjacent mine shafts plus a "Fire Engine" (Newcomen Atmospheric Engine) used for pumping water out of the mines. A further two buildings are shown across the road within what would have been the Parish of Coleorton. One of these buildings opposite to the dotted line entrance into the hamlet is still shown on the 1841 tithe map. This became part of the Coleorton Pottery site buildings.



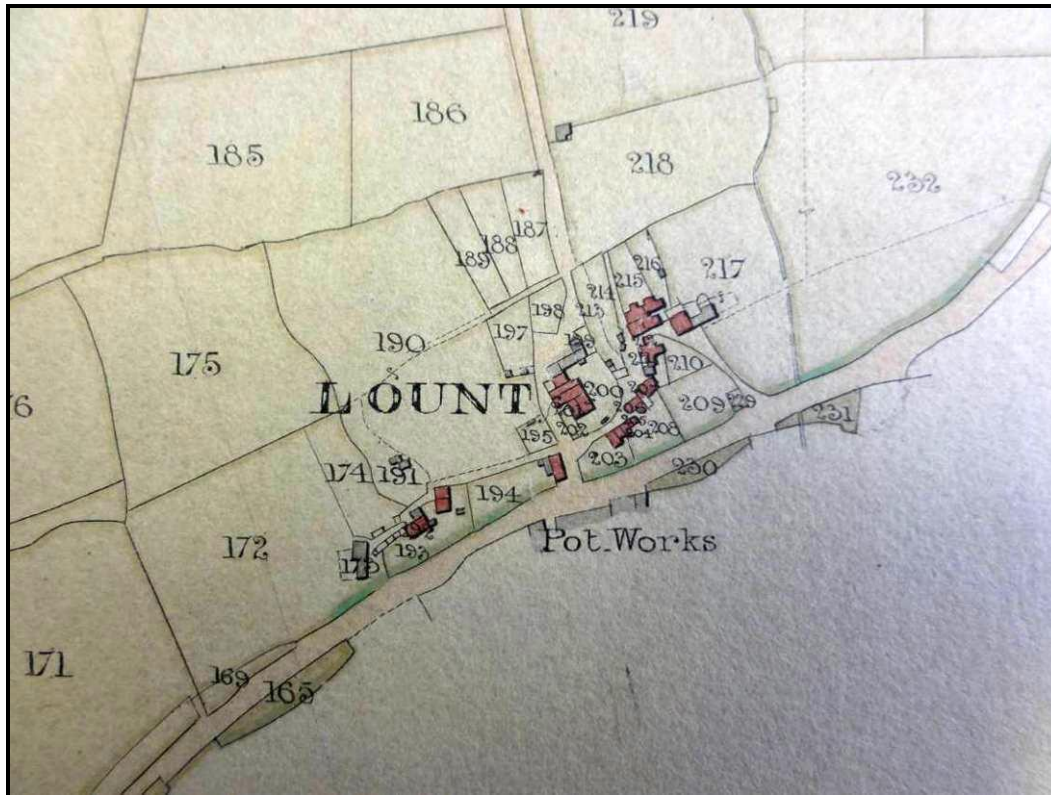
The Rev. John Prior, cartographer, musician, classical scholar and man of letters was appointed headmaster of Ashby Boys Grammar School in 1763, and reputedly was subsequently appointed vicar of Ashby by the Earl of Huntingdon.

All the residents in Staunton Harold and the hamlet of Lount would have rented their cottages, gardens and farmland from the Staunton Estate.

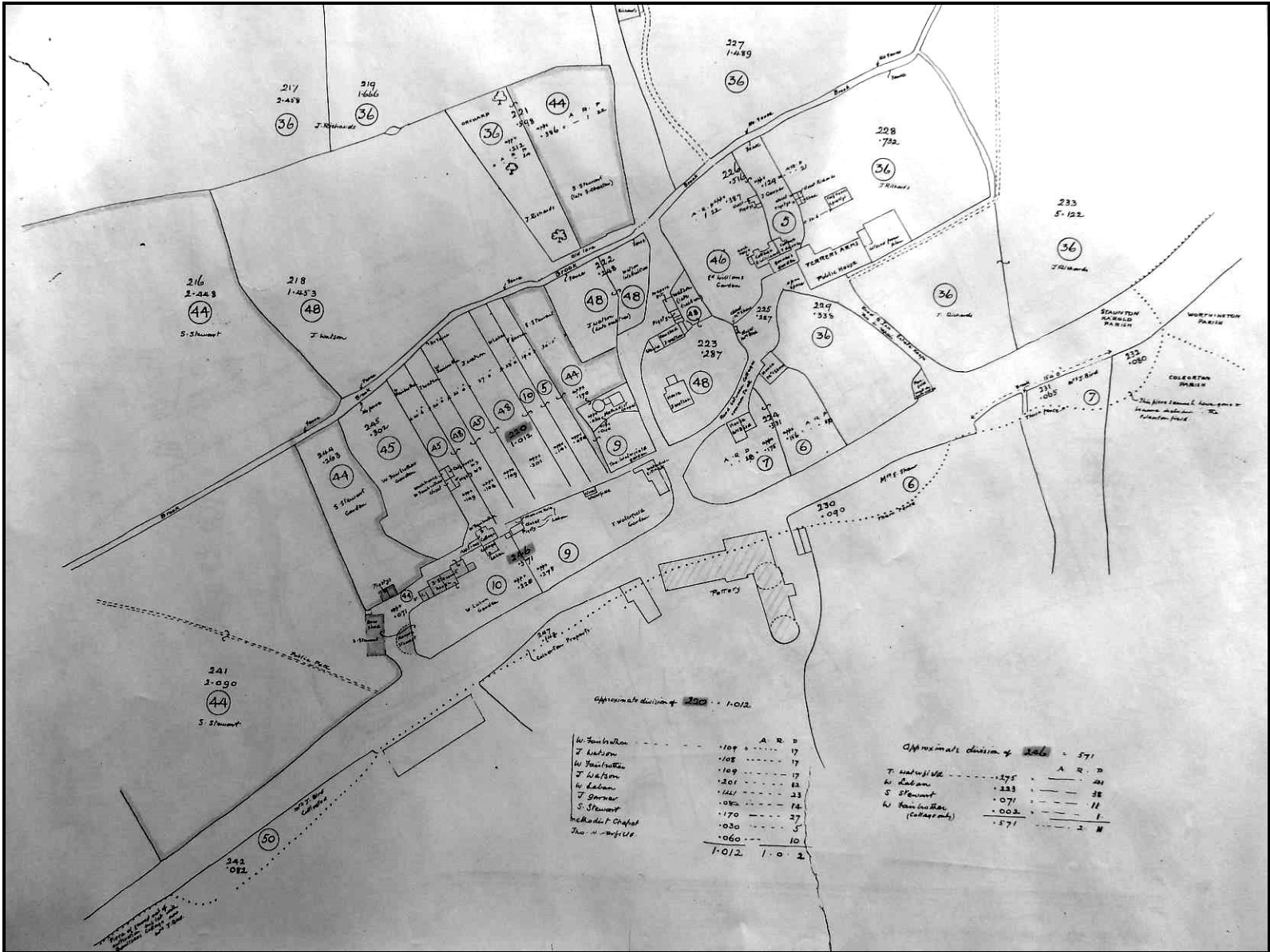
Lount is now a small North West Leicestershire village, situated within the parish of Staunton Harold. In the 1800's, the hamlet of Lount was listed as being part of the parish of Breedon on the Hill, but was also included as part of "The Township" of Staunton Harold. In 1862, it was still being referred to as a "Township".

Prior, and subsequent to the Coleorton Pottery being established in 1835, directly across the road from the hamlet and often referred to as "Lount Pot Works", although it was in the parish of Coleorton, the main employment would have been in the extensive coal mining and lime burning operations in the locality. In 1861, the pottery was employing 14 men, 4 boys, 5 women and 3 girls and in 1871, 20 men, 4 boys, 5 women and 3 girls were employed. Coleorton Pottery is defined as the Pot Works on the following extract from the 1859 Staunton Harold estate map. Plot numbers 165, 230 & 231 fell just within the Staunton Estate boundary, and were part of the hamlet of Lount.

EXTRACT FROM THE 1859 ESTATE MAP OF STAUNTON HAROLD
 SHOWING THE HAMLET OF LOUNT AT THAT TIME



- | | | | |
|-------|---------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| 188 - | R. Maltby | 207 & 208 - | William Curtis - cottage and garden |
| 189 - | Joseph/ Johnson | 212 - | Joseph? Stewart |
| 193 - | William Fairbrother | 213 - | ? Bird (late Thomas Richards) |
| 199 - | Joseph Bird | 214 - | Joseph Cutler |
| 200 - | William Barker | 218 - | William Richards - garden |
| 202 - | James Fairbrother | 230 - | William Bird - garden |
| 203 - | R. Maltby | | |
| 204 - | Samuel? Holmes | | |
| 206 - | F. Cutler | | |



ESTATE MAP c.1900, SHOWING THE HAMLET OF LOUNT

This map clearly shows the major changes to the hamlet of Lount over a period of approximately 40 years from the 1859 estate map. See the following page for the names of people recorded as living there at this time.

Plots 50, 6 and 7 still fall within the Staunton Harold Estate boundary.

Mrs. J. Bird	House and garden
Mrs. Shaw	House plus 2 garden plots (one with penfold, walled on 2 sides)
(Both above have separate adjoining closets on Common Road)	
Mrs. J. Bird	Garden across main road
Mrs. J. Bird	Garden across main road
Mrs. E. Shaw	Garden across main road
Samuel Stewart	Lount Farm house, farm buildings and garden + 3 Fields
W. Fairbrother	Cottage & garden plus adjoining land with calf house, pig sty, wash house & closet
W. Fairbrother	Separate strip of garden
W. Laban	Cottage and garden with manure hole and pigsty
W. Laban	Separate garden
T. Waterfield	Cottage, garden and separate closet
Thomas Waterfield	Separate garden
Methodist Chapel	On plot of land
J. Garner	Cottage and garden with separate closet and pigsty's
J. Garner	Garden
J. Watson	Farm house and garden plus manure pit, pigsty, cowshed and stables
(late Crabtree)	
J. Watson	4 separate gardens
(late Crabtree)	
J. Watson	1 separate field
Edward Williams	Cottage with wash house and garden plus separate closet and pigsty's
Ferrer's Arms Inn	With attached field, calf house, pigsty, closet and shed.
(J. Richards, landlord)	
J. Richards	4 fields plus run down building in addition to Ferrer's Arms.
J. Richards	Orchards separate to above.

PART 2

POTTERY ROW

Although part of Coleorton parish, it was felt that Pottery Row should be included due to the fact the majority of the residents, during its life, were born in the hamlet of Lount, or in the vicinity.

If the reader refers to the 1900 Staunton Harold Estate map on page 8. Pottery Row can be observed as the rectangular building opposite the entrance (nearest Ashby) to the hamlet of Lount. This was built in 1860 for the workers families at the pottery. Part of it, which is still recognisable from the original building, is still in existence today with a commemorative plaque on the wall which states TWCP 1860. The TWCP, presumably stands for Thomas Wilson Coleorton Pottery. Pottery Row originally consisted of seven terraced houses, two up and two down. **The author has written a book on the history of the pottery and this can be downloaded on the website.**

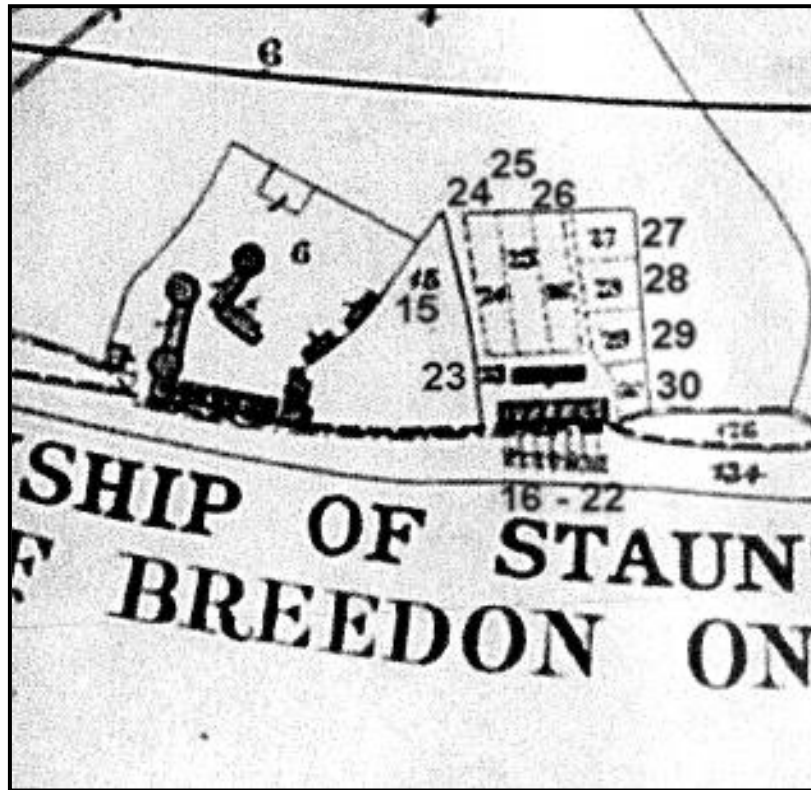


Pottery Row 2012



Pottery Row c.1970 and as originally built

POTTERY ROW RESIDENTS IN 1862



POTTERY ROW OCCUPIERS - Nos 16 to 22

- No.16. Thomas Wilson (Pottery manager) and John Wilson
- No.17. James Wright
- No.18. Isaac Havery
- No.19. Thomas Bromly
- No.20. Joseph Lord
- No.21. Joseph Harrison
- No.22. John Eaton

Each of the above had their own Backhouse (Lavatory) - Block numbered 23

GARDEN PLOT OWNERS

- No.24. James Wilson
- No.25. James Wright
- No.26. Isaac Havery
- No.27. Thomas Bromly
- No.28. Thomas Lord
- No. 29. Joseph Harrison
- No.30. John Eaton

PART 3

THE LOCAL TOLL ROADS

HIGHWAYS ACT 1555 - This was the first legislation of any importance which affected roads. It transferred responsibility for the upkeep of the King's highways to the parishes. Each parishioner owning a plowland in tillage, or keeping a draught or plough, was liable to supply a cart for four days a year for use in road repair. Each able bodied house holder or tenant was required to give four days 'Statute labour a year' (increased in 1691 to six). It was possible to pay a fine to commute this, or else provide a substitute (LRFHS Journal 145 2011).

It is important to establish the relationship of the hamlet of Lount with the turnpike roads that intersected in the area of Lount cross roads as we know it today. The Tamworth to Sawley and Hinckley to Melbourne turnpike roads basically crossed in the area of Lount cross roads.

In the introduction to the book entitled "Leicestershire in 1777" and edited by J. D. Welding which features Prior's map of Leicestershire, the following was written by the "Leicestershire Industrial Historic Society":-*The map is particularly detailed in its indication of roads, both the turnpikes and the network of minor lanes which criss-crossed even remote areas of the county. The takeover of major roads by the turnpike trusts had begun in the country in 1726, with the main London road through Harborough via Leicester to Loughborough. In 1753-4, the roads from Hinckley, Coventry, Uppingham, Narborough and Ashby were turnpiked, and a number of other roads were added in the 1760's The map indicates not only the milestones along the roads, but also the position of the toll bars at which the finance for the maintenance of the roads was collected from travelers. The map is described as being accurately surveyed at the time it was created*

We are confident, that there is no reason to believe as has been suggested elsewhere, that the original Swarcliffe Lane (Coleorton Turn) to Sawley section of the Tamworth to Ashby turnpike road did not basically follow the route bypassing the hamlet of Lount as originally shown in the Prior map, and eventually became the Breedon to Ashby road as we know it today. The book entitled "The Turnpike Roads of Leicestershire and Rutland" by Arthur Cossons states that the Swarcliffe Lane (Coleorton Turn) to Sawley section of the turnpike road which by-passed the hamlet of Lount, and intersected with the Hinckley to Melbourne turnpike road in the vicinity of Lount cross-roads, was awarded the Act of 1st Authority in 1759-60, as was the Hinckley to Melbourne toll road.

The following extract from the prior map shows a tollgate bar just to the east of the hamlet of Lount in the direction of Breedon. It is marked **A** in the following enlarged extract. This was moved some time between 1806 and 1836 to Lount cross-roads when the tollgate house was built between those dates. See the following feature on the hexagonal tollgate house.



On the stretch of the turnpike road which ran from Lount Cross Roads to Melbourne, the first toll bar / gate was in the area of the Ashby Lodge entrance to Staunton Harold Hall, near to the milestone number 18 on the Prior 1777 map below. Another toll bar / gate, close to the milestone number 19, was situated further along towards Melbourne Common, beyond the Melbourne Lodge entrance to Staunton Harold.



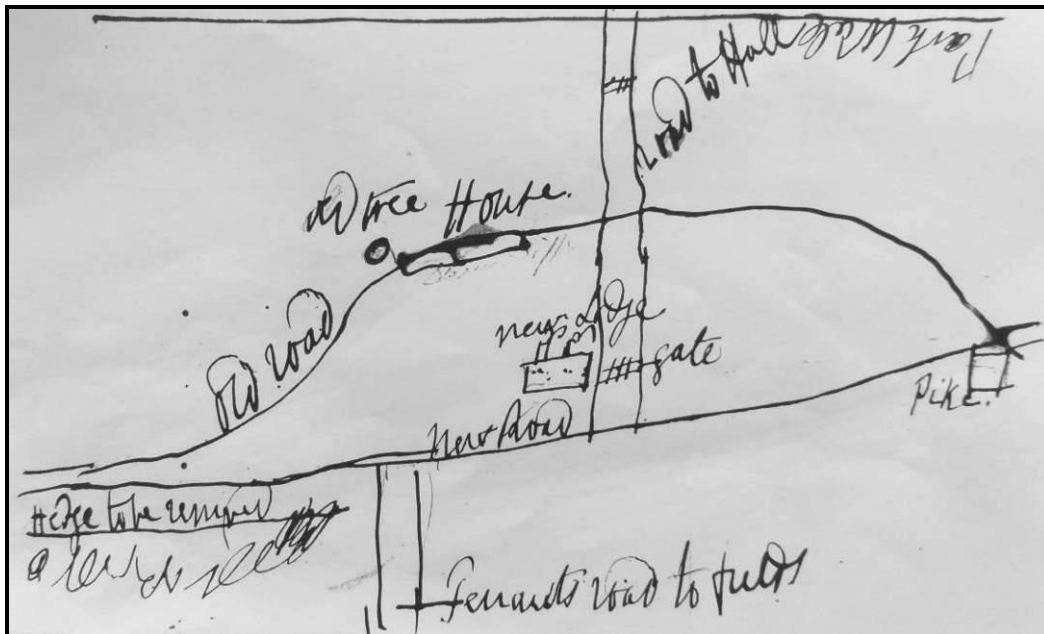
Although it is not made clear on the Prior map, a section of the turnpike road approximately 200 yards long, ran roughly between numbers 18 and 19 in a path reasonably close to the lake at the front of the Staunton Harold Hall. This was discovered when an 1857 record came to light at the Derby Records Office with an appended sketch plan, which follows.

This record gave details of a request that the 9th Earl Ferrers made to the turnpike trustees to have this road diverted to a new stretch of road which would run for a length of 160 yards in what appears to be along the line of the current Melbourne road to the east of the Melbourne Lodge entrance to Staunton Harold.

This was approved on the agreement that the Earl would keep the road in good repair for the space of two years from completion thereof, to the satisfaction of the said surveyor. The following people attended the meeting:-

The Rev. G. P. Belcher (Chair), Edward Fisher (Clerk to the trustees), Mr. Clarke, Sir George Howland Beaumont, Rev. Francis Merewether.

The sketch map below suggests that the old toll road followed the route of the old coach road from the milestone number 18 near to Ashby Lodge, bypassing the hall to the east of the lake, and then onto a point where it passed between the old ash tree and the malthouse on the Melbourne Lodge entrance to the Hall. It then joined the turnpike gate close to milestone number 19 on Prior's map, and is referred to as "pike" on the sketch map. The new section of road and the rest of the turnpike road shown on the Prior map was presumably replaced at some future time with the current section of the Melbourne road from Lount cross roads.



As already stated, we have no reason to suspect that the original turnpike road did not basically follow the current route of the Breedon to Ashby main road. However, we have to ask the question, why are the original front doors on Lount Farm house at the rear of the property, on the opposite side to the main road as we look at them now? Similarly at Roper's Hill Farm House, where the front entrance is on the north-west side of the property, the opposite side to the main road. We believe, from various pieces of evidence we have seen, including the Ashby Hastings 1837 estate map, that this was because prior to, or even after the turnpike road was built, a track existed which was an extension of Featherbed Lane from Ashby which continued into the area of Lount Wood where it intersected with Callin's Lane and carried on through the hamlet of Lount to Stewart's Close and the rear of Lount Farm House, and then continued on across the fields to the rear of Roper's Hill Farm. More research needs to be carried out in relation to this theory.

LOUNT TOLLGATE HOUSE

The tollgate house, which replaced the original toll bar designated **A** on the Prior map shown earlier, was situated on the south west corner of what is now the staggered Lount cross-roads. It became known locally as the "Round House", even though it was built in a hexagonal shape, the purpose of which was to prevent unobstructive views along the road. This is highlighted in the photograph on the next page. We know it was built sometime after 1806, as it was not shown on the enclosure map of that date, however, the tariff board is dated 1836 which probably coincides with the date it was built.



See later text re the people in this photograph

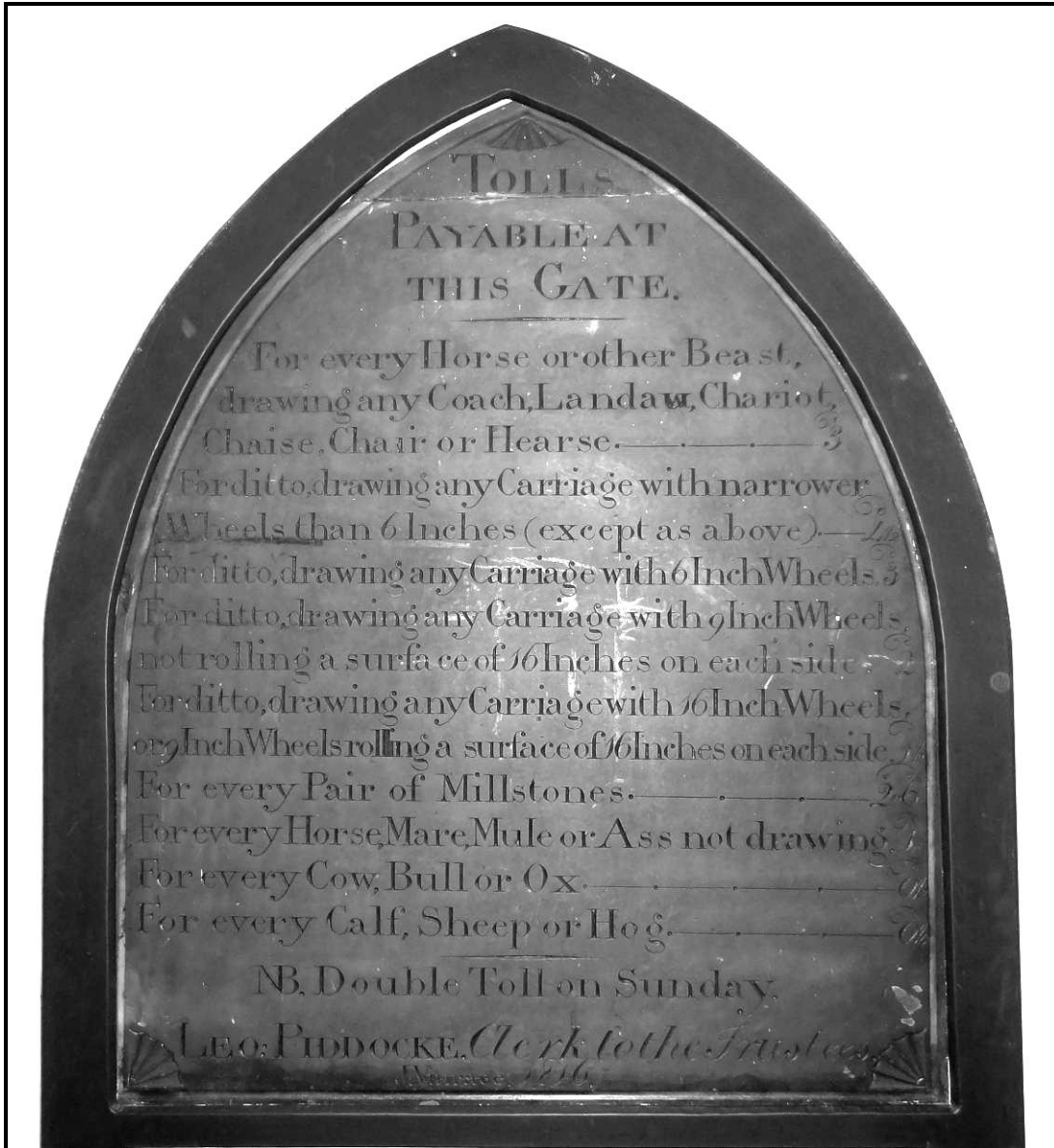


Lount Tollgate cottage c.1930. Taken from the Breedon side of the Breedon to Ashby Road. See the following Hansard report.

EXTRACT FROM HANSARD - DECEMBER 11TH 1929

Mr. WINTERTON asked the Minister of Transport why no progress has been made with the removal of the toll-house at Lount cross-roads, Ashby-De-La-Zouch, where a motorist was burnt to death after a collision in July last; whether he is aware that there have been several narrow escapes of accidents at this spot since his attention was last called to the matter; and what steps he proposes to take to bring about the removal of the building, which is an obstruction and a danger to the community.

Mr. HERBERT MORRISON. I am informed that the Leicestershire County Council have been in negotiation with the owner of the Lount Toll-gate, Ashby-De-La-Zouch, for the acquisition of the toll-gate cottage at Lount cross-roads, and it is hoped that a settlement will be reached at an early date. As soon as that property has been acquired, the county council will arrange for its demolition.



Tollgate Tariff Board (dated 1836) which is shown mounted above the door in the Lount tollgate house photographs.
By kind permission of Ashby de la Zouch Museum.

TOLLS ON TARRIF BOARD

For every horse or other beast drawing any Coach, Landau, Chariot, Chaise, Chair or Hearse	- 3d
For ditto drawing any carriage with narrower wheels than 6 inches (except as above)	- 4½d
For ditto, drawing any carriage with 6 inches wheels	- 3d
For ditto, drawing any carriage with 9 inch wheels, not rolling a surface of 16 inches on either side	- 2d
For ditto, drawing any carriage with 16 inches wheels or 9 inches wheels, rolling a surface of 16 inches on either side	- 3½d
For every pair of millstones	- 2s. 6d
For every Horse, Mare, Mule or Ass not drawing	- 1d
For every Cow, Bull, or Ox	- ½d
For every Calf, Sheep or Hog	- ¼d

NB. DOUBLE TOLL ON SUNDAYS

Turnpike roads developed in the 18th and 19th centuries as a method of raising funds for the maintenance of the road network. Acts of Parliament were passed allowing parishes to charge travelers for using their roads. These funds enabled parishes to maintain and improve roads in their care, making travel quicker and easier.

Tollgates, where the tolls were collected, were located at strategic points, and where possible, at the junction with other roads. Clearly, the Tollgate House was built on Lount cross-roads in order to replace the three toolbars previously described. These were at Newbold, one to the east of the hamlet of Lount, and one on the Melbourne road.

We can see from the tolls on the Tariff Board, that in order to minimize the damage caused to the roads by heavily laden wagons, the tariffs were fixed according to the width and track of the wheels. **Anyone wishing to view the tariffs in more detail can visit the Ashby Museum.**

INFORMATION ON THE TOLLGATE HOUSE

1841 CENSUS

Joseph Smith and his wife Jane, both aged abt 35 are living at the Toll Gate. Joseph was born in Leicestershire and his occupation is given as Agricultural Labourer.

LEICESTER CHRONICLE - FEBRUARY 8TH 1845.....John Gostilow was keeper of Lount tollgate from 1843 - 1845.

1851 CENSUS

Joseph Fairbrother, a widower, aged 50 is given as living at the Toll Gate. He was born in Staunton Harold, and his occupation was listed as Agricultural Labourer. He has two

daughters living with him, Elizabeth aged 17 and Mary aged 8. His daughters were born in Staunton.

1861 CENSUS

David Wardle, who was born in Thringstone and is aged abt 78, is living at the Staunton Toll House with his granddaughter Ann Wardle, aged 15, who was born in Whitwick. David Wardle's occupation is given as Agricultural Labourer.

1871 CENSUS

There is no mention of the Toll Gate / House in the Staunton Harold returns. However, there is a "Toll Collector" listed. His name was George / Joseph Griffon or Griffin. He was aged abt. 78 and was born in Sheepshed (now named Shepshed). His wife's name is Rebecca L Griffon, aged 77.

The people in the second of the preceding three photographs, have been recorded in Ashby Museum as being William Baker (who lived at Rose Cottage, Lount & was a coal higgler), his daughter Mary Johnson and her son Walter Johnson, together with Joseph Chester, who ran the tollgate possibly after the Griffon's.

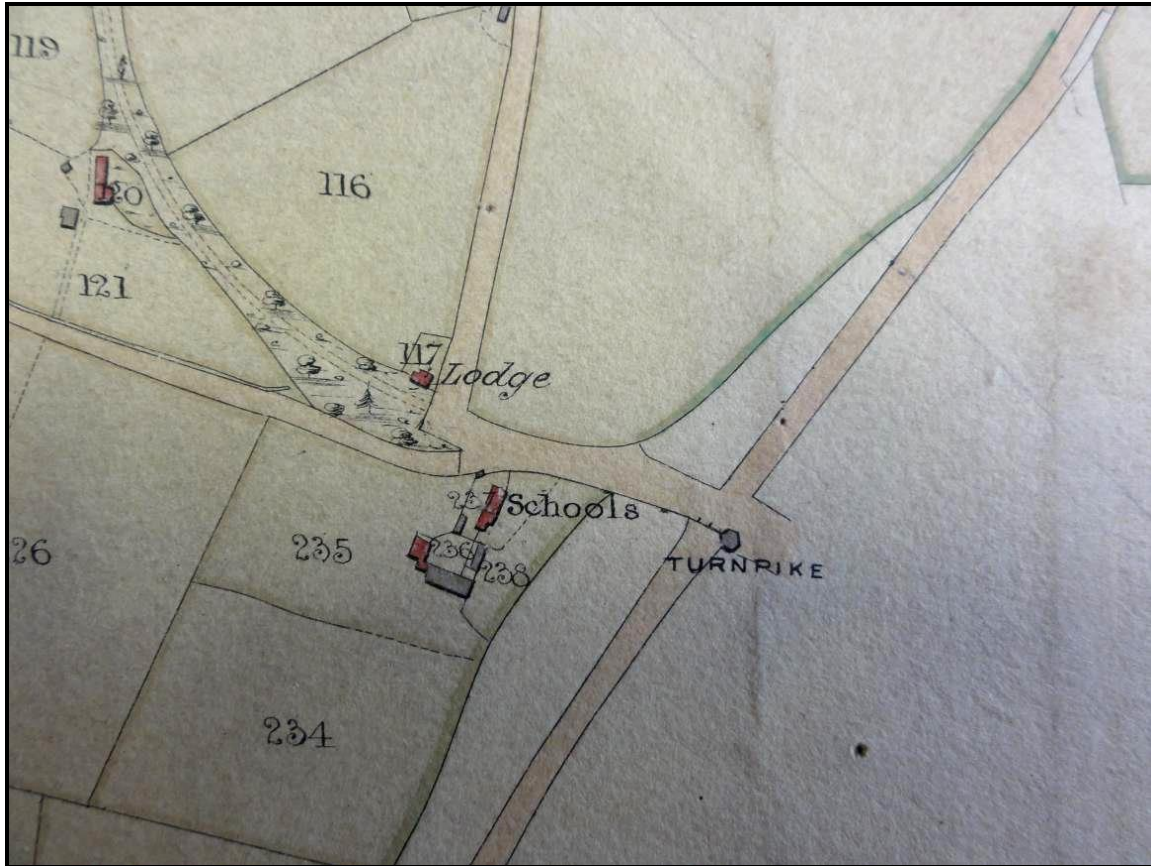
It is listed in "The History Gazetteer & Directory of Leics & Rutland 1877 and the Post Office Directory for Leics and Rutland 1876 that William Watson was the toll collector. He is given in the toll records as being born in Staunton Harold in 1795. The toll road closed in 1878 so he was probably the last collector of tolls at Lount. He was shown as a retired toll contractor in the 1891 census

LEICESTER MERCURY - MAY 18TH 1850

A CONSTABLE IN A MESS - A correspondent says that the constable of a village near Lount partook too freely of the "Barley Bree" while on a visit to a friendly tollgate keeper, that he quite lost the command of his own person - performed feats that cannot be described - and had to be taken home on a dog cart. The ungrateful dog Berry then refused to pay the dog cart driver for his trouble.

LEICESTER MERCURY - MAY 4TH 1850

ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS - Thomas Walker of Lount, was charged by William Hough of Ashby with going off a turnpike road to evade the payment of the Toll at Lount Gate on March 16th last. Convicted and fines 1s. and costs.



The above is an extract from the Staunton Harold estate map dated 1859 and clearly shows the hexagonal toll house at Lount cross-roads and indicates a toll bar across the Ashby to Sawley turnpike road (now B587).



The above are are examples of unused Toll Gate and Toll Bar tickets in use from c.1860 to the closure of turnpikes c. 1880.

THE FOLLOWING IS THE EARLIEST RECORD THE WRITER HAS FOUND FOR THE AUCTIONING / LETTING OF TURNPIKE TOLLS:-

Toll gates and toll bars were put up for auction every 12 months, **and were normally let to Methodists or Baptists as they were seen as the most trustworthy.** There follows some examples of the advertisements

In 1809, the following was recorded in the "Leicester Journal and Midland counties Advertiser" Volume LV111 iss:2961 dated 20.10.1809 and 17.11.1809. with reference to the letting of Turnpike Tolls. It reads as follows:-

TURN PIKE TOLLS TO LET - Notice is herewith given that the tolls arising at the several toll gates and Bars under-mentioned, erected upon the Turnpike Road leading from Hinckley to Melbourne, coming in the County of Leics, and the several branches thereof, will be let by auction to the best bidder or bidders, at the Bull's Head in Market Bosworth on Wednesday the 22nd of November next, between the hours of 2 and 6, in the manner directed by the Act passed in the thirteenth year of the Reign of his present Majesty, for "regulating

turnpike roads", which tolls let the last year for the following sums, and will be put at the same sums - "Hinckley and Stapleton Gates" £121; Osbaston Gate and 4 Bars £120; Heather and Sweptstone £116; Hoo Ash, Old Lane, Froggat's Lane, Etigene (Engine?) Cartbrook, Newbold and Swannington >£386) **Stauton £53** Redwood £50. Whoever happens to be the takers of the said tolls, must at the same time pay a deposit of ten per cent of the rent agreed for, and be prepared to take yearly.

HINCKLEY AND MELBOURNE TURNPIKE ROAD.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN,

THAT the Tolls arising at the several Toll Gates and Bars hereafter-mentioned, erected upon the Turnpike-road between Hinckley and Melbourne Common, the several Branches thereof, in the Counties of Leicester and Derby,

WILL BE LET BY AUCTION,

To the Best Bidder, at the House of Mr. Trivett, the Dir's Arms Inn, in Market Bosworth, in the County of Leicester, on Friday, the 21st day of November, 1856, between the Hours of Eleven and Two, for the Term of One Year, commencing the First Day of January next, in the manner directed by the Acts passed in the third and fourth years of his Majesty King George the Fourth, for regulating Turnpike Roads, which Tolls produced the last year the several sums hereafter mentioned, clear of the expenses of collecting them, and will be put up at such sums and in such lots as the Trustees present shall think fit.

	£.	s.	d.
Hinckley Gate and Stapleton Gate and Bar...	98	0	0
Cadeby Machine, Gate, and Bar	82	0	0
Osbaston Gate and Bars	98	0	0
Sweptstone Gate and Bar	51	0	0
Pisce Lane Gate and Bar, and Heather Mill Bar	76	0	0
Hoo Ash Lane and Old Lane Gates, and Swannington Bar	42	0	0
Froggatt's Lane Gate, Pegg's Green Bar, Engine Gate and Cartbrook Bar, and Newbold Gate and Bar	204	0	0
Redwood Gate and Bar	55	0	0
Stauton Gate and Bar	44	0	0

Whoever happens to be the best Bidder, must at the same time pay One Month's Rent in advance of the rent at which such Tolls may be Let, and give security with sufficient sureties to the satisfaction of the Trustees of the said Turnpike Roads, for the payment of the rest of the Money Monthly.

The Renters of Gates that stand in arrears will not be allowed to bid.

EDWARD FISHER,
Clerk to the Trustees.

Ashby-de-la-Zouch,
16th October, 1856.

1856 Newspaper advertisement for auction of Toll Gates and Toll Bars

TURNPIKE TRUST.

Expiration of the Local Act of Parliament and Sale
of the Toll Houses and Gates.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

That in consequence of the Abolition of the Tolls on this Road on the
1st day of November, 1880, the

MATERIALS OF THE TOLL HOUSES

AND THE TURNPIKE GATES,

WILL BE SOLD BY PUBLIC AUCTION,

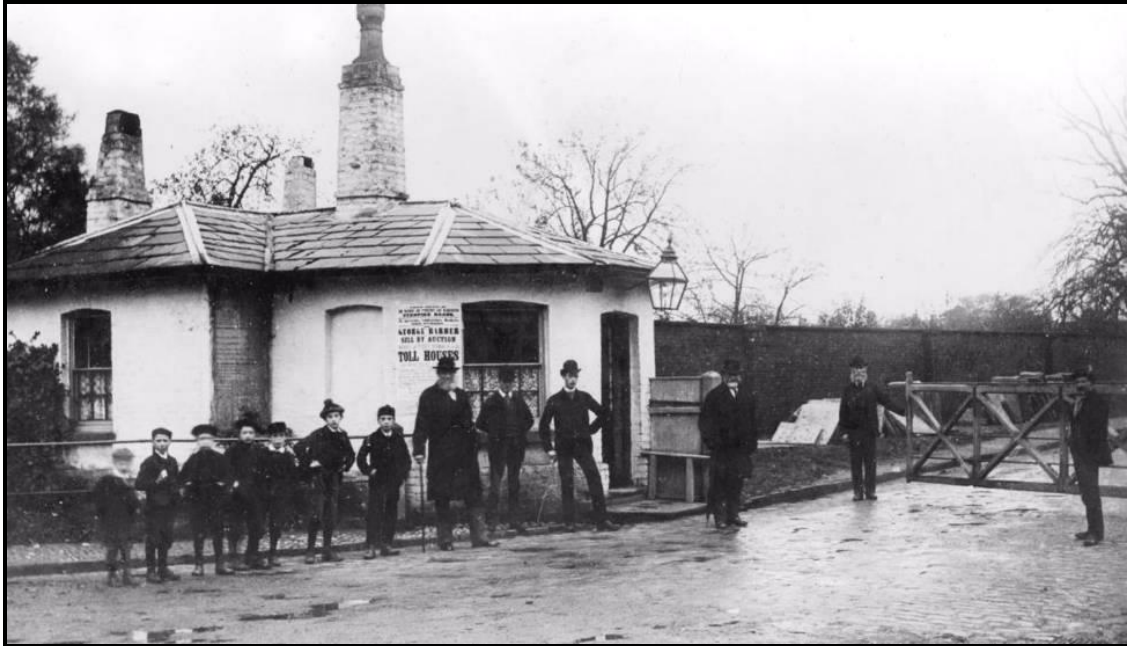
For removal immediately after that day, by

MESSRS. GERMAN, GERMAN, AND LOWE,

Subject to such Conditions as will be read at the Time of Sale, and at the following times and places:

- LOT 1.—THE HINCKLEY GATE TOLL HOUSE and Gate, on *Thursday, the 28th day of October, 1880, at 11 o'clock* in the Forenoon precisely, at the Hinckley Gate.
- LOT 2.—THE STAPLETON GATE TOLL HOUSE and Gate, on *the same day, at 11.30 o'clock* in the Forenoon precisely, at the Stapleton Gate.
- LOT 3.—THE CADEBY MACHINE GATE TOLL HOUSE and Gate, on *the same day, at 12 o'clock* in the Afternoon precisely, at the Cadeby Machine Gate.
- LOT 4.—THE OSBASTON BAR TOLL HOUSE and Gate, on *the same day, at 12.30 o'clock* in the Afternoon precisely, at the Osbaston Bar.
- LOT 5.—THE OSBASTON GATE TOLL HOUSE and Gate, on *the same day at 12.45 o'clock* in the Afternoon precisely at the Osbaston Gate Toll House.
- LOT 6.—THE BELCHER'S BAR TOLL HOUSE and Gate, on *the same day, at 3 o'clock* in the Afternoon precisely, at the Belcher's Bar.
- LOT 7.—THE PISCA LANE BAR TOLL HOUSE and Gate, on *the same day, at 3.30 o'clock* in the Afternoon, at Pisca Lane Bar.
- LOT 8.—THE HEATHER MILL BAR TOLL HOUSE and Bar, on *the same day at 4 o'clock* in the Afternoon precisely, at the Heather Mill Bar.
- LOT 9.—THE SWEPSTONE BAR TOLL HOUSE and Bar, on *the same day, at 4.30 o'clock* in the Afternoon precisely, at the Swebstone Bar.
- LOT 10.—THE OLD LANE GATE TOLL HOUSE and Gate, on *Friday, the 29th day of October, 1880, at 10.30 o'clock* in the Forenoon precisely, at the Old Lane Gate.
- LOT 11.—THE SWANNINGTON BAR TOLL HOUSE and Gate, on *the same day, at 11 o'clock* in the Forenoon at Swannington Bar.
- LOT 12.—THE FROGGATT'S LANE TOLL HOUSE and Gate, on *the same day at 11.30 o'clock* in the Forenoon precisely, at the Froggatt's Lane Gate.
- LOT 13.—THE FROGGATT'S LANE BAR TOLL HOUSE and Bar on *the same day at 11.45 o'clock* in the Forenoon precisely, at the Froggatt's Lane Bar.
- LOT 14.—THE CLOUDWOOD BAR TOLL HUT and Bar, on *the same day, at 12.30 o'clock* in the Afternoon precisely, at the Redwood Gate.
- LOT 15.—THE REDWOOD GATE TOLL HOUSE and Gate, on *the same day at 12.39 o'clock* in the Afternoon precisely, at the Redwood Gate.
- LOT 16.—THE ENGINE GATE TOLL HOUSE and Gate, on *the same day, at 2 o'clock* in the Afternoon precisely, at the Engine Gate.
- LOT 17.—THE CARTBROOK BAR TOLL HOUSE and Bar, on *the same day at 2.30 o'clock* in the Afternoon precisely, at the Cartbrook Bar.

The above is an example of an auction for local Toll Houses and Gates / Bars in 1880



Those Toll Gate Houses built in the early 19th century often had a distinctive bay front to give the pikeman a clear view of the road, and to provide a display area for the Toll Board. In 1840, according to the Turnpike Returns in Parliamentary Papers, there were over 5,000 tollhouses operating in England. These were sold off in the 1880s when the turnpikes were closed. Many were demolished but several hundred have survived as domestic houses, with distinctive features of the old tollhouse still visible. The notice on the wall of this Toll House is "for sale by auction" and the photograph was taken c.1880.

PART 4

**AN ALE HOUSE IN LOUNT HAMLET WHICH BECAME
“THE HORSE & GROOM”
AND LATTERLY THE “FERRERS ARMS”**



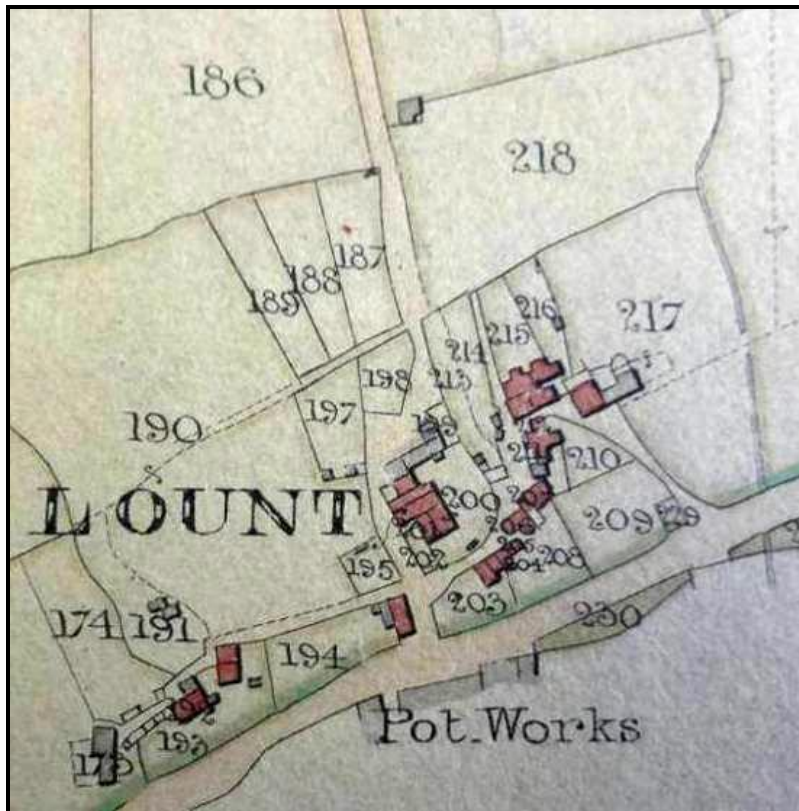
Photograph of the Quorn Hunt at the Ferrers Arms c.1950



**Interior of Ferrer's Arms 1969
Photograph by kind permission of Ashby Museum**



Interior of Ferrer's Arms 1969
Photograph by kind permission of Ashby Museum



Extract from the 1859 Staunton Harold Estate map,
which shows the location of the Ferrers Arms on plot 217
and which can also be related to the 1900 map on pages 8

The "Horse and Groom" was originally a farm house. It was quite normal in the 1700's and early 1800's for Alehouses as they were known then to be incorporated into farm houses, and the licensing laws did not require the Alehouse to be registered with a name, only a location was necessary. It was not until a new licensing act came into force around 1825 that the licensee had to register a name for the Inn or Public House as they became known as. It was also necessary for at least one person (not the licensee) to put up a surety of £10.

Information on the history of the Horse and Groom / Ferrers Arms at Lount has proved hard to come by. However, since the publication of *The Leicester Alehouse Recognizance Books*, which are held at the L&RRO, it seems that what is now known as the Ferrers Arms was originally registered as an Alehouse in 1789 up to 1814 with Thomas Mason as the Licensee. There is then a gap in the records, but in 1820 Thomas Mason is again recorded as being the Licensee until 1827. It was not necessary to provide a name for an Alehouse until c.1825, and from 1825 to 1827 the records start to give the name of the Inn as the "Horse and Groom".

The author is in no doubt, that pre the Inn becoming known as the "Ferrer's Arms", it was called the "Horse and Groom" and under the "Ashby de la Zouch Register of Full Licenses" 1842-1936, Thomas Mason was registered as Victualler of the "Horse and Groom" from 1842 to 1855. From 1856 to 1893, Thomas Mason was registered as Victualler of the "Ferrer's Arms" which suggests that the name of the Inn probably changed between 1855 and 1856. Proof exists in a coal mining machinery sale advert that it was called the "Ferrer's Arms" in 1870.

Thomas Mason is recorded as being the victualler (also occasionally recorded as a cottager, shopkeeper, farmer and carpenter at various times) of the "Horse and Groom" in trade directories dated 1846, 1854, 1855, 1860 and 1861.

In the "Gazetteer & Directory of Leics & Rutland" 1846, Thomas Mason was given as the victualler of the "Horse and Groom", Lount. In 1870, 1876, 1877 and 1881 trade directories, Thomas Mason is recorded as being the victualler at the "Ferrers Arms". Thomas Mason appears to have relinquished his position as victualler at the Ferrers Arms in 1893 which coincided with the death of his wife (see the following newspaper article re the death of his wife Hannah on August 1893).

In 1894, James Richards, aged 34, is the landlord, and described as a farmer also.

Interestingly, the Earls Ferrers are shown as being owner / leaseholder of the "Ferrers Arms" from 1872 to 1936, and their ownership presumably ended when the estate was sold in 1954.

LANDLORDS FROM 1894 TO 1987

James Richards	1894 to 1925
Frederick Henry Sargeant	1926 to 1927
James Richards	1927 to 1929
Frederick Henry Sargeant	1930 to 1946
Lewin Jobin	1946 to 1958
Transferred to Hugh Ernest Deneys	Oct 17 th 1959
Transferred to Raymond Frances Mathews	1960 to 1966
Maurice & Betty Baker	c. 1966
Transferred to Hylda Matthews	April 14 th 1965 till 1981?
Fred and Ethel Sibley	1983
Rodney Fern (ex Leicester City player)	1983 to 1987

THERE FOLLOWS SEVERAL NEWSPAPER ARTICLES WHICH RELATE TO THE "HORSE & GROOM" AND "FERRER'S ARMS"

LEICESTER MERCURY - 21ST APRIL 1855

Lount - Saturday last being the winding up of a club (what club ??) held at the "Horse and Groom" in Lount, the venerable host, Mr. Thomas Mason provided an excellent supper, at which about thirty members sat down, and did ample justice to the good things of life. After supper, the health of "The Marquis" was drunk with due honours. The members departed at an early hour, much pleased with the entertainment of the evening.

LEICESTER JOURNAL - 27TH FEBRUARY 1856

PEACE DEMONSTRATION AT LOUNT - (*This was clearly to celebrate the end of the "Crimea War Oct 1853-Feb 1856*). Lount is a small village; situate about three miles from Ashby de la Zouch, and three miles from Breedon, on the Nottingham and Ashby Road, on the Leicestershire Estate of the Right Hon. Ferrers. A few of his Lordship's principal tenantry, and others, consisting of the following gentlemen, formed themselves into a committee, (viz., Mr. T. Earp, Mr. Bowles, Mr. Hassall, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Leadbitter, Mr. Hewlett, and Mr. Peters), for the purpose of giving the villagers and the surrounding neighbourhood a treat of good old English fare, in commemoration of this recent peace with Russia, and with the handsome and liberal subscription of their noble landlord, were soon enabled to accomplish their purpose. Friday, the 6th inst, was fixed for the festivity, a spacious pavilion fifty yards long, was erected for the occasion, most beautifully decorated with evergreens, in front of the Horse and Groom Inn, and extended to the turnpike road, over which was suspended a beautiful flag, bearing the colours of our allies, worked by the countess Ferrers, and on the right of it was suspended the Flag of peace, white, with golden Dove in the centre, also worked by her ladyship, and on the left was the Union Jack, all kindly lent for the occasion by the noble Earl. We also noticed Mr. Wilson's house and manufactory (*Coleorton Pottery*), handsomely decorated with flags and devices, as also were most of the cottages. The females upwards of 163 in number, sat down to an excellent tea, and plum-cake, bread and butter, and "Jamaica Cream" of the right sort, - **in the school room (*Staunton Harold School*)**, the use of which was granted by his lordship for the occasion, and was tastefully decorated, the tea was presided over by Mrs. Haslop, his

Lordship's house-keeper, to whom great praise is due. After tea, resort was had, two racing for dresses, shawls and other wearing apparel. And now for the dinner, "so much enjoyed, and duly appreciated by the sons of old England", and we may safely affirm that this was not to be surpassed by any of our neighbouring friends. Mr. John Cheatle of Ashby, slaughtered a four year old Ox for the occasion, fed by Captain Devoux, of Drakelow, which was served up, doing the worthy host, **Mr. Mason (landlord of the Horse and Groom)**, great credit. Besides the roast-beef, veal, there was rabbit pies and plum pudding, with the usual accompaniments, and about 160 sat down. When the cloth was withdrawn, the chairman gave the health of "the Queen", which was drunk with a bumper, with three times three, afterwards followed, "Prince Albert", the "Royal Family", the "Army and Navy", and "our brave Allies". The next toasts were the "Earl Ferrers", the "Countess Ferrers and family", which were drunk with musical honours. Mr. Leadbitter (his Lordship's house steward), and Mr. Hewlett, responded, thanking the company for the kind manner in which they had drunk the health of the noble family, whom they had the honour to serve, &c. The Ashby band was engaged, and played in their best style. The company sent a deputation to his Lordship for permission to parade on the grounds in front of the mansion, which was kindly granted. The procession was then formed as follows:-

**Guards with Firelocks, two and two,
Banner bearers, four abreast, with scarfs, and rosettes, red, white and blue, each
carrying the colours of the allied Nations.**

The committee

The Band

The females, two and two, with the flag of Peace in the centre

The men in the same order, with the Union Jack in the centre

When within a quarter of a mile of the Hall, the cannons gave their salute from the distant hills, surrounding the park, and their bells sent forth their merry peals. When in front of the Hall, the procession halted, where the Earl and Countess Ferrers, the youthful Viscount Tamworth, Lady Augusta Shirley, and their guests had assembled, to welcome them, three cheers were given for his Lordship, and for each member of his family, all of which were gracefully acknowledged; his Lordship then addressed them in a neat and appropriate speech, which he concluded by proposing "Three cheers for our beloved Queen", and the vibrations of the sound made those venerable woods echo, the Band struck up, and the procession returned to the scene of festivity, the cannons again saluting, and the bells ringing. In passing through the golden gates we observed suspended from the top, family banners and garlands of evergreens, with suitable devices, worked in various coloured flowers, and tastefully arranged by Mr. Dean, his Lordship's head gardener. On arriving at **Mr. Mason's (Horse and Groom)**, an abundance of good nut brown ale, cigars, and tobacco were in readiness, dancing, and other pastimes were resorted to, and kept up with a determination to enjoy "time present" until the "shades of evening" closed around us. The National Anthem was played, and three cheers were given for the committee, thanking them for the admirable manner in which they had got up, and conducted the fete throughout, after which all dispersed to their homes, highly pleased with their "Peace Rejoicings", it was admitted by that venerable authority, the "oldest inhabitant", that never before was witnessed at Lount such rejoicings, as on the present occasion, and we will only add, should they ever occur again, "may we be there to see".

ANOTHER NEWSPAPER'S VERSION OF THE ABOVE CELEBRATIONS

LEICESTER CHRONICLE - JUNE 21ST 1856

Peace rejoicing at Staunton Harold - The principle tenantry of the Right. Hon. Earl Ferrers, on his Leicestershire Estate, and a few liberal people adjoining, formed a committee to regale the inhabitants of Staunton Harold and Lount and the neighbourhood, with the good old English fare. The subscriptions far exceeded their expectations; the inhabitants were therefore liberally supplied, about 200 women partaking of an excellent tea, flavoured with Jamaica Cream, in his lordship's school house (*Staunton Harold school*) which was tastefully decorated with the banners of the allied nations. After tea they commenced running ?? for gown pieces. The men (numbering upwards of two hundred) dined in a large pavilion erected in front of **Mr. Mason's Inn, the sign of the "Horse and Groom"**. After the cloth was drawn, the Queen and other toasts were drunk. Facing the Nottingham Road was an immense flag composed of the French, Turkish and Sardinian colours, on one side of which was a large white flag, with a golden dove in the centre - the flag of peace. On the other, the Union Jack all kindly lent by Earl Ferrers. **Mr. Wilson and his house and manufactory (Coleorton Pottery)** ornamented with appropriate devices; several flags were also waving in the breeze, and different parts of the village were also likewise decorated, altogether giving it a gay and lively appearance.. The Ashby Band supplied by the noble earl, was in attendance and played in its best style. Previously a deputation had awaited upon his lordship, requesting that a procession might be formed to the hall, which was granted. After all had partaken of the good things provided, about 7 o'clock, between 400 and 500 formed in the following order:- Guards, armed two and four; the band; the women two and two, carrying the flag of peace in the centre; the men following in the same order, with the Union Jack also borne in the centre. On entering the lawn in front of the hall, they were saluted with cannon, planted on top of the hill opposite, the bells ringing a merry peal till the procession drew near the house, when the band struck up; the procession having entered through the golden gates on the bridge (which were beautifully adorned with garlands of flowers, bearing an appropriate motto (prepared by Mr. Dean, his lordship's head gardener), above which were family banners wound round the pool side, round the chapel to the front of the hall, where the noble Earl and Countess, with the youthful Viscount Tamworth, and Lady Augusta Shirley, and visitors were assembled. Here the procession halted, where three cheers were given for each member of the family. His lordship thanked the people for their kindness in a short and appropriate speech, and hoped they would enjoy themselves when they returned to the scene of their festivities. His lordship then proposed three cheers for the Queen, and afterwards three cheers for our worthy selves. The National Anthem was then played, **and the procession then returned to the "Horse and Groom Inn"**. The cannon roaring gave notice of their departure, the bells ringing and the band playing till they reached the Inn, where they were refreshed with some good nut-brown ale and tobacco. Dancing commenced, and was kept up with great spirit till the shades of evening closed upon them. The National Anthem was then sung, and the party separated, highly pleased with their day's entertainments, which will long be remembered.

LEICESTER CHRONICLE - SAT 20TH APRIL 1861

ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS APRIL 13TH

Thomas Mason of Staunton Harold (Lount), publican, was charged by Inspector Ward with having in his possession, two quarts and seven pint jugs which were deficient. The defendant stated that he had kept an ale house for thirty nine years. **But they had caught "the old fox at last"**. Great praise is due to Insp. Ward for looking into the matter. - **Fined £1.**

LEICESTER CHRONICLE - 9TH OCTOBER 1880

ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS

Adulterated Whiskey - **Thomas Mason, Innkeeper, Lount** was charged with selling unadulterated whiskey on the 24th August.- Defendant said he had sold it as he had been told to do. - Inspector Holloway said that on the 24th August he went to the defendant's house; saw defendant and his daughter and asked for a pint of whiskey, which he was supplied in a bottle by the daughter in the presence of the defendant. He paid 2s 8d for the whiskey and then told the defendant that he was the inspector under the "Unadulterated Food and Drugs Act". He divided the whiskey into three parts; sealed them, and gave defendant one of the bottles. Each was labeled "No.4R sample of whiskey". Witness told defendant he should keep one and send the other to Dr. Emmerson to be analysed. He did so and produced his report, which showed the whiskey to be 36 degrees under proof.- **Defendant who pleaded ignorance of the law, was fined £1 13s 6d, including costs. - The money was paid.**

LEICESTER CHRONICLE - 26TH AUGUST 1893

DEATH OF LANDLADY

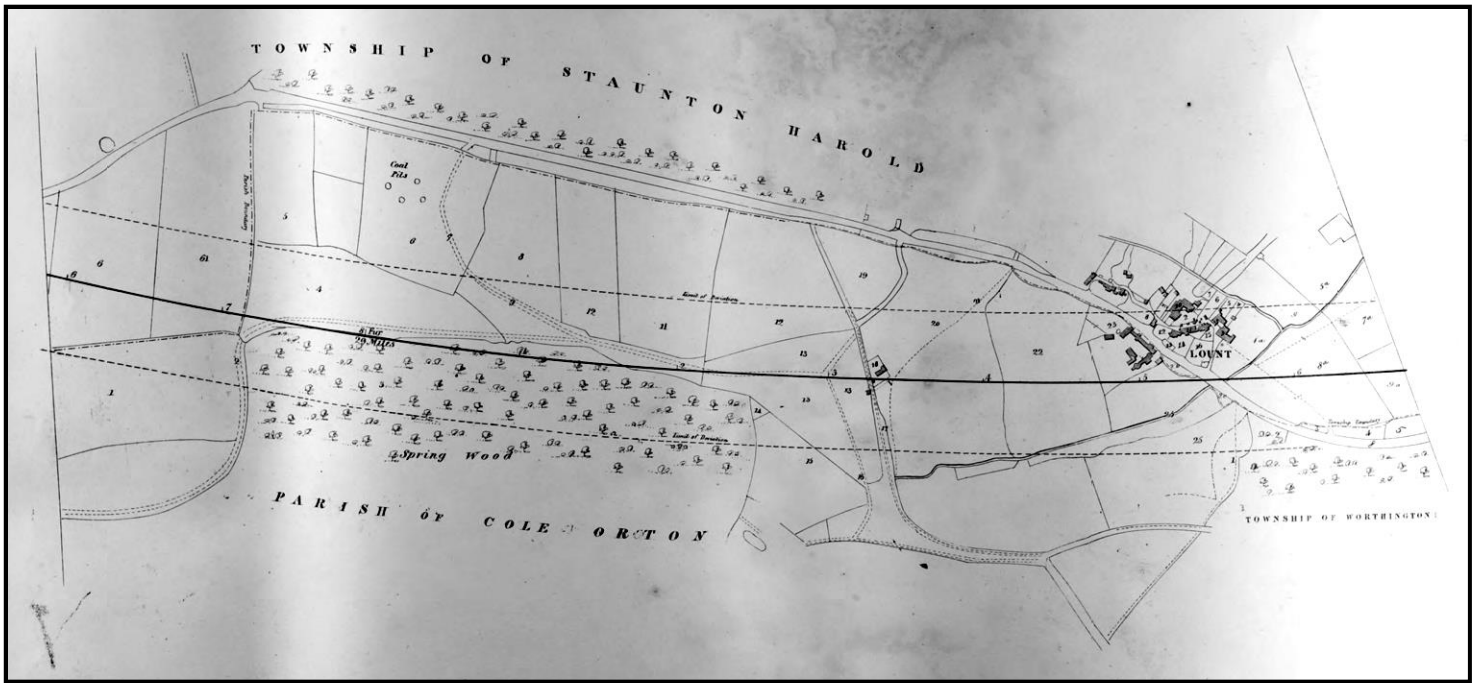
Mrs. Hannah Mason wife of **Mr. Thomas Mason** proprietor of the **Ferrers Arms, Lount**, died at Lount on Wednesday afternoon aged 64. Deceased had been ailing for some weeks, and recently was attended by Dr. C. R. Williams of Ashby.

PART 5

THREE PROPOSED ROUTES FOR THE MIDLAND RAILWAY IN THE VICINITY OF LOUNT. THIS SECTION WAS FINALLY OPENED ON JANUARY 1ST 1874

THE 1853 RAILWAY ACT - MIDLAND RAILWAY PROPOSED ROUTE

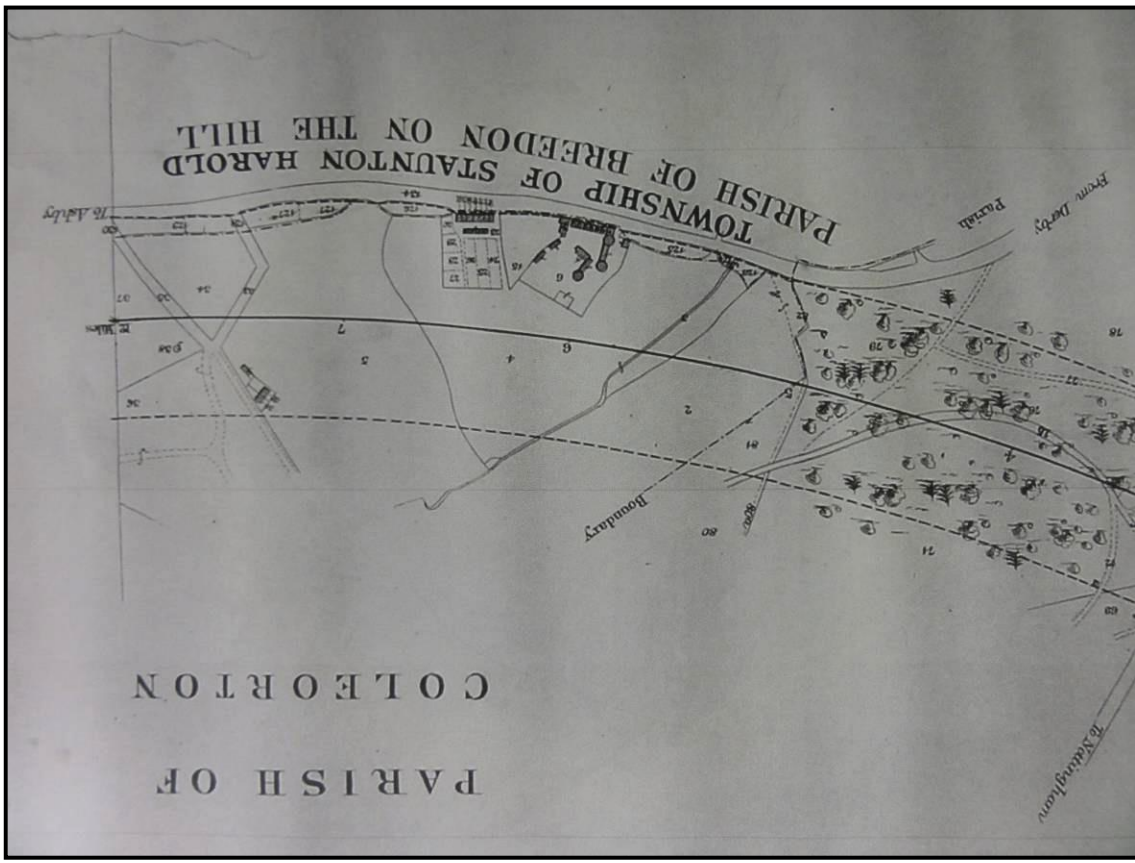
NORTH



This extract from the original 1853 Midland Railway proposed route map, shows that if this particular route had been chosen, then the majority of Lount Hamlet, and the whole of Coleorton Pottery fell within the corridor for the railway, shown by the dotted lines. Clearly, this and the following 1862 route was only being considered for passenger traffic and not for goods and minerals.

THE 1862 RAILWAY ACT - MIDLAND RAILWAY PROPOSED ROUTE

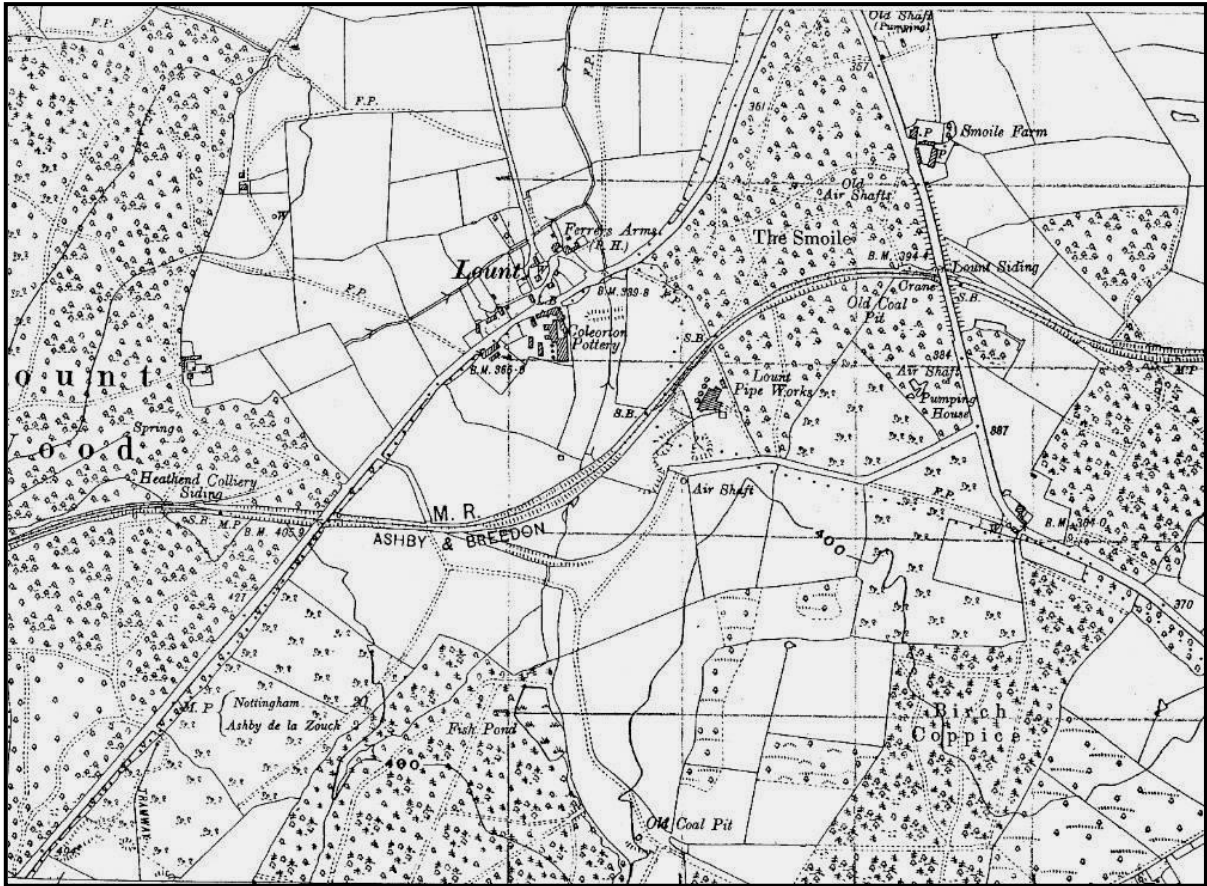
NORTH



The corridor for this second proposed route (dotted lines) would have **totally encompassed Coleorton Pottery and Pottery Row**, but would have missed the Hamlet of Lount which was just across the road from the pottery.

The map has been turned around so that north is facing in the correct direction.

THE 1864 RAILWAY ACT - FINAL ROUTE SELECTED



1925 O/S map showing final route chosen for the railway

Clearly the Railway Company had come to their senses with the final proposal which now considered both goods and passenger traffic opportunities



A Steam Navy working on the Worthington to Ashby section of the Derby to Ashby Midland Railway c.1872.



**Digging a cutting on the Worthington to Ashby section of the Derby to Ashby Midland Railway c.1872.
This section of the railway was opened on Jan 1st 1874.**

PART 6

WHEN LOUNT HAD ITS OWN RAILWAY STATION KNOWN AS 'LOUNT'S POTTERY STATION'

On the 12th of June 1879, Coleorton Pottery held their annual dinner, and during the proceedings, thanks were given to Mr. Wilson for obtaining a letter-box for the residents, which was situated in the pottery yard. In reply, Mr. Wilson said "that he was only sorry he had failed to obtain a Railway Station for Lount". **A book entitled "Coleorton Pottery 1835-1938" by Samuel T Stewart can be downloaded on the website.**

We know that in 1893, based on the "Coleorton Pottery Sale by Auction" document of 1893, that the pottery had its own private sidings on the Midland Railway and the use of the hoisting crane on the Ashby / Melbourne branch of the Midland Railway. However, this was close to the bridge on the Melbourne Road, and would have been used purely for the loading of goods onto wagons. Presumably the pottery wares would have been hand carted to this point for loading. **See the book entitled "Coleorton Pottery 1835-1938" by Samuel T Stewart.** There is a record of a meeting at which Earl Ferrers was present when an application for a station at Lount was made, but this was turned down.

However, at some point, the people of Lount got their wish for a station, although it would have been in a fairly basic form. We know this because of a handbook written by Henry Oliver and John Airey, and first published in 1894. This had a rather lengthy title - "Hand Book and Appendix of Stations, Junctions, Sidings, Collieries on Railways in the U.K. showing the accommodation at each Station, Maximum Crane Power, County and Railway of which situated and exact position". The station is listed in this handbook as "Lount's Pottery Station", which is rather a misnomer as the pottery was officially "Coleorton Pottery". The following maps show what we believe to be the location of "Lounts Pottery" station. Extensive studies of the site, maps and other reference material have led us to this conclusion.

The handbook does not record any facilities at this station, so we can safely assume that it would have been what was known as a "halt or request stop". A standing platform only would have been provided, usually constructed from sleepers, and would have only needed to be one carriage wide.

It can be assumed that it was given the name "Lount's Pottery" station as the main user would have been the "Coleorton Pottery" personnel and visitors, or the loading of small packages onto the carriage for delivery elsewhere. It was also very convenient for the pottery and the residents of Lount, as both were just down the road.

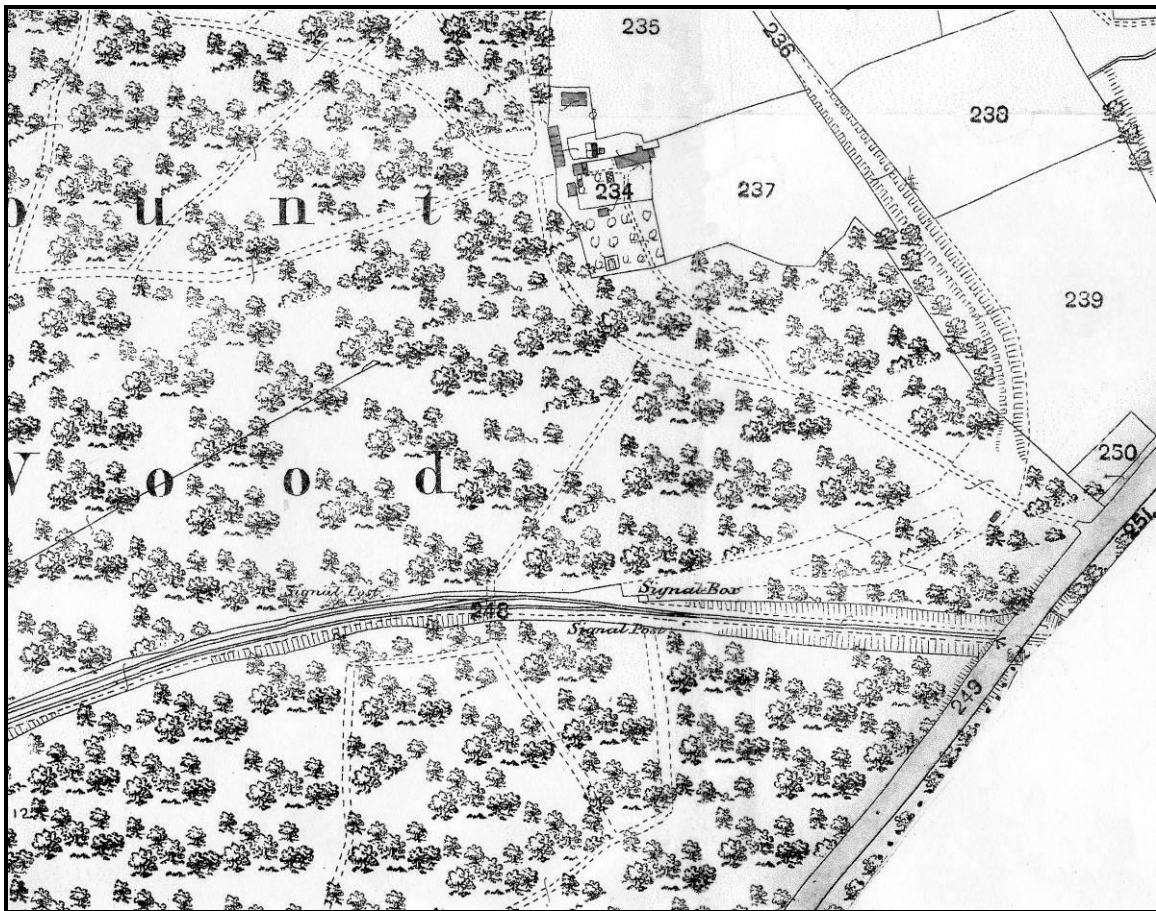
The above is further confirmed in a synopsis of Midland Railway minutes which stated the following:-

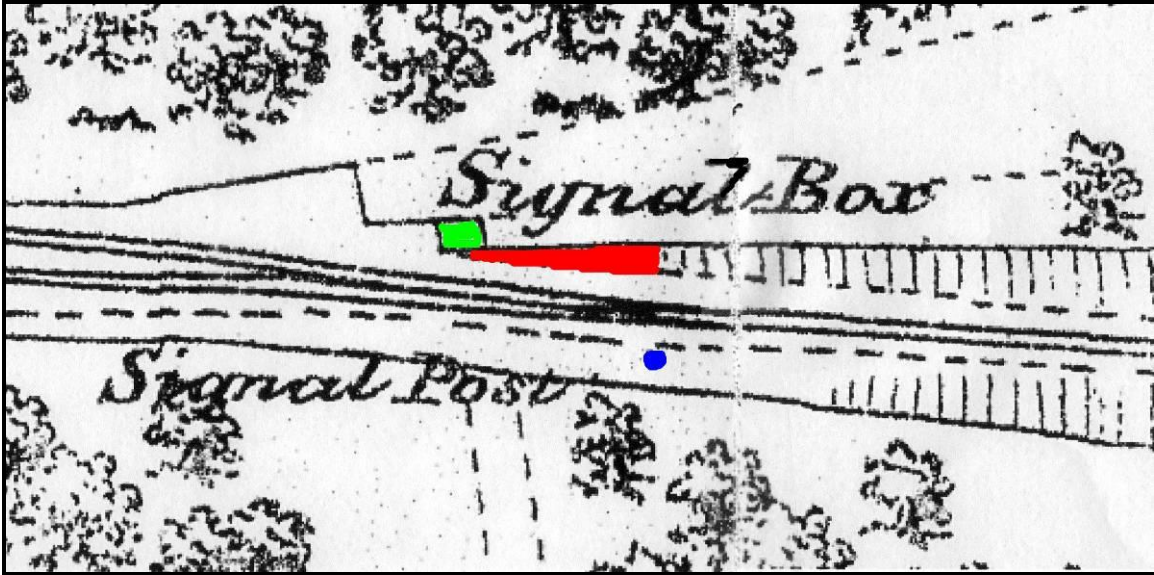
.....Actually, there may have been a fifth station at Lount, but of this there is some mystery. During construction of the line's last section in 1873, the planning committee was

unsure whether a station, midway between Worthington and Ashby, would be viable. The order was made, therefore, for a temporary wooden platform with wooden booking shed to be provided (like Worthington) and a permanent station then built should traffic demand. It was to be sited at a point where the Heath End Colliery siding joined the main line, about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile south of Lount village, and west of the Ashby Road.

Despite this arrangement, the station never appeared in the Midland Railway timetable after the branch opened, but there is further reference in company minutes of January 1875, stating that a station should be provided at Lount and that a plan should be submitted for approval. Whether this was to replace the temporary one, or the temporary one was cancelled, and this was to be the first, is unknown, but there is no further reference in minutes, and again there is no entry in any Midland timetable. The assumption must be that the proper station was never built.....

The 1881 surveyed O/S map below, shows a general view of the Midland Railway track (248) which passed under the main Ashby to Breedon road (249) through a tunnel. Note the branch railway (236) which ran up to John Lancasters Colliery at Heath end (236). The second map is an enlargement of the area centred on the Signal Box and Signal Post, which is where we believe the Halt / Request Stop was located.





Green designates the Signal Box, Blue the Signal Post and the red area is where we believe the 'Halt / Request Stop' was situated.

PART 7

STAUNTON HAROLD SCHOOL – LOUNT CROSS ROADS

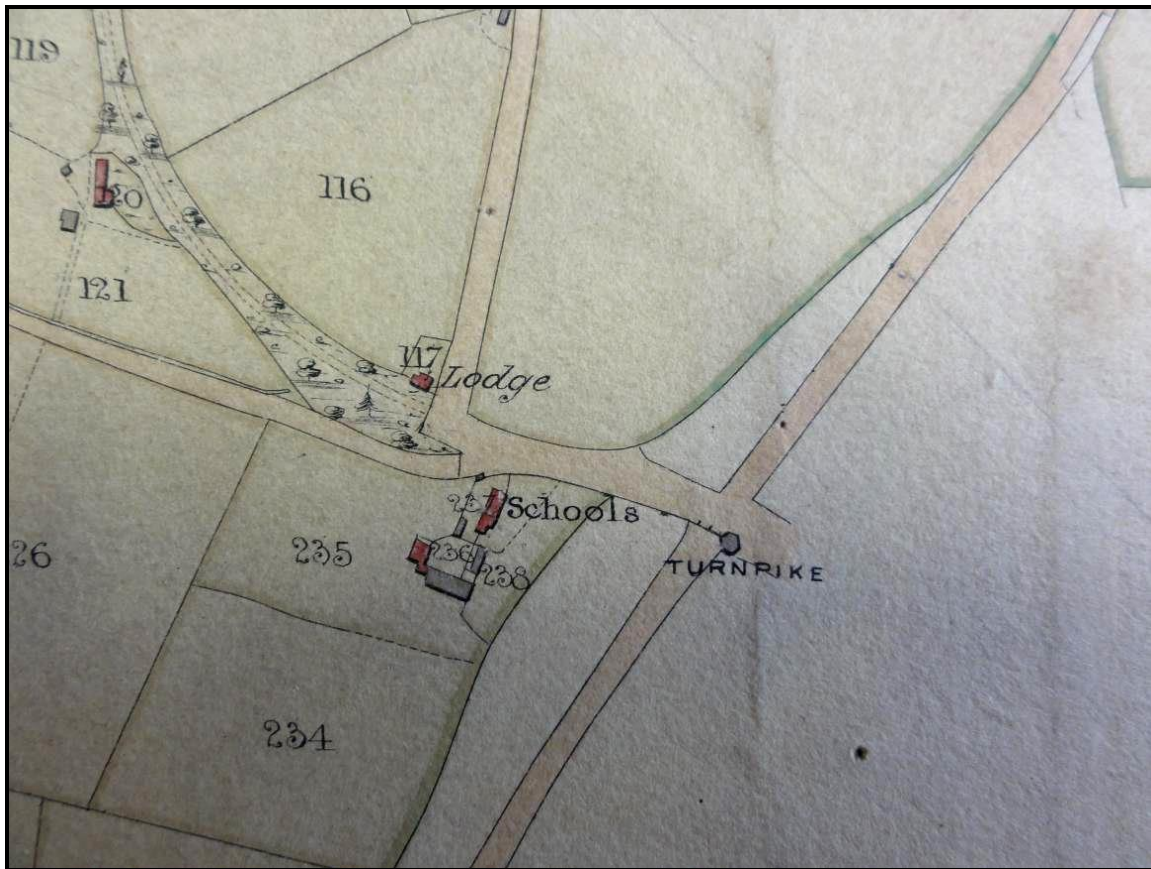


Staunton Harold School and School House in 1938

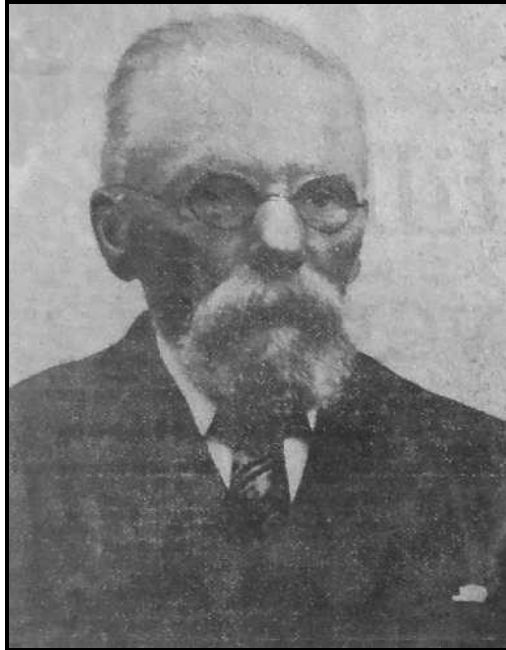
The School, which was attached to the old School House, were situated adjacent to Lount cross roads on the Melbourne Rd corner. This is next to Ashby Lodge which is the rear entrance to Staunton Harold Hall, formerly known as "Back or Coal Lane" which was used at one time as a tradesman's entrance. The school is at the front of the photograph, and the attached school house at the far end. The original school, a typical single storey red brick Victorian building, was just a basic rectangular construction with four arched windows and buttresses shown in the photograph on one side. A porch at the end, and the larger extension at right angles with the two arched windows, were added at a later date.

A gentleman by the name of Mick Sheath wrote a book entitled "The Old School House" in 2002. This contains information on the School and the School House, and for anyone interested in reading this, there is a copy held at Coalville Library.

The 1851 census suggests the school was in existence then, and presumably built, run and managed by the 9th Earl Ferrers. Based on 1851 census information, William Harris was the schoolmaster, living at "The Lodge" and Thomas Richards the school assistant, living in Lount.



The above 1859 Staunton Harold Estate map shows the location of the school adjacent to lount cross-roads



William Briggs

The 1861 census shows that William Briggs had moved to Staunton Harold and was living in the School House with his sister Sarah and was the schoolmaster. His aunty Hannah Newbold, who was aged 71, was also living at the School House and was listed as a stocking framework knitter. William, at the age of 28, married Emma Judd On the 2nd September 1861 at Melbourne Parish Church. Emma, who was also a teacher, was listed as a National School Mistress at the National Academy, Penn Lane, Melbourne in the 1861 census (this school is now a listed building). She was born in Cubbington c.1836, and was an apprenticed school teacher in the Kenilworth area according to the 1851 census.

William Briggs, the son of Samuel Briggs, an agricultural labourer and a stocking frame knitter, was born in Melbourne, Derbyshire in 1833. William will have spent his early years with his family in Melbourne, and in the 1841 census we find the family living at Church Close, Melbourne, his sister Mary was also living at home. By 1851 he was living at the Melbourne Rectory where he was a house servant to the Vicar of Melbourne, the Rev. Joseph Deans. This appears to have been a critical move for William, and we can speculate that it was the vicar who would have sponsored him when he decided to move into teaching. Unlike his future wife, William had no formal teaching qualification. It is likely that during his stay at Melbourne Rectory, his musical abilities were developed. We know that he was active in church bell-ringing, and it is possible that it was during this period that he may also have been an apprenticed organist. William Briggs would go on to become a very significant figure in Coleorton society, and became the head teacher at Coleorton's Viscount Beaumont School from 1868 to 1900 during which time he became the church organist for forty years. William is one of very few Coleorton individuals who have been honoured with a stained glass window in St John's Chapel, commemorating the contribution he made to this parish.

William and Emma Briggs moved to Viscount Beaumont School, Coleorton in the summer of 1868, by which time they had two children, Agatha and Francis John, both of whom had been born at Staunton Harold.

William Briggs started his working career in service, and as a servant to Rev. Joseph Deans, he had progressed both his education and developed his musical ability. It is almost certain that at the time William moved to Coleorton he was an accomplished church organist, as he almost certainly started playing at St Mary's Church around the time he arrived in the School House.

More interesting facts about William and his wife Emma are included in "**A History of Coleorton and the Locality**" by **Samuel T Stewart**.

For some reason, the trade directories which the author has studied up till 1870 do not make reference to the school and school house, and the likely reason for this is that they did not have to be listed until the 1870 Education Act came into being.

According to Harrod's Trade Directory of 1870, the school was built to house 48 pupils and supported by Earl Ferrers; Mr George Luff was given as the master and organist and his wife Mrs. Luff the mistress. Mr. Luff was aged 28 at this time (as per the 1871 census).

In the Post Office Directory of Leics & Rutland 1876, the school was described as being supported by Earl Ferrers, and is referred to as Earl Ferrer's School. Charles John Jacobs was the master, and his wife Mrs. Betsey Jacobs was the mistress. This directory refers to the population of Staunton Harold in 1871 as being 288 including the hamlet / Township of Lount. In 1877, John Jacobs was still the schoolmaster.

In Kelly's Directory of Leics & Rutland 1881, Samuel Calvert was the master, and Miss Minnie Calvert, the mistress of the school. Minnie was also given as the organist to the Ferrer's private chapel of the Holy Trinity. In Wright's Directory of Leics 1887-1888, Miss. Calvert is still confirmed as the organist at Holy Trinity Chapel and Samuel Calvert as the master of the "Parish School". In Kelly's Directory of Derby's 1891, Miss Minnie Calvert was given as the mistress of the school with an attendance of 48 pupils, and she was still the organist at the chapel (however, there is no mention of Samuel Calvert). In Wright's 1891 Directory of Leicestershire, there is still no mention of Samuel Calvert, so we can only presume that he had died. Minnie was recorded in the 1895 / 1899 / 1904 / 1908 and 1916 Kelly's Directories as still being the mistress at the school, and organist at the chapel, but the 1895 directory states the school was for 56(?) children and the average attendance was 48. It is possible that the school had been extended at this time. The 1908 directory gives the average number of pupils as 36.

The above contrasts with the situation c.1956/7 when there were only fourteen pupils in the school, all taught by one teacher Mrs Jean P Hartley and her assistant Mrs E. B. Brabam-Smith:-

David Ison, Roger Stevens, Joy ?, Barbara Granger, Richard Stanley, Lesley Elliot, Philip Bexon, Linda Williams, Carol Dowell, Janet Stevens, Robert Williams, Christine Dunicliffe, Susan Dowell, Henry Dowell.

Mrs. Hilda Wainwright was headmistress from 1920 to 1943 and she was followed by B. G. Marshall (headmistress) 1943-44, V. Rathbone (headmistress) 1944-52, Marjorie Wood (headmistress) and Rita Oliver (school teacher) 1953-55, and Jean Phyllis Hartley (headmistress) 1955-57.

On 7th Jan 1958, Ivy Thirlby took up duties as a supply teacher and was in charge of the school until June 9th when Jean Hartley resumed her duties as Head Mistress. On June 1st 1960, Eunice. B. Brabin-Smith took up the duty of acting Head Mistress whilst Jean Hartley was on 3 months leave, and on July 1st I. M. Rowley took over the post. Jean Hartley resumed her position on Oct 1st 1960.

In the Staunton Harold C. E. School log book, which ran from 1935 to 1964, the minimum number of pupils recorded on the roll were 8 and the maximum 18, but the average was probably about 12. At some point prior to 1935, the school became a managed Church of England School.

The auction for the Staunton Harold Estate took place in October 12th 1954 at which the School and School House were expected to be sold. The school and school house were described as being one brick building with partly tiled and partly slated roofs. The school comprised of a porch with tiled floor; school room about 20ft. square with fireplace and stove and sliding doors to a second room about 15ft by 11ft 6in., with stove. An outside playground with brick and tile children's lavatories. Apparently however, Earl Ferrers sadly died on the eve of the sale, and it was not until ten years later that the properties were actually sold by the executors of the 12th Earl to the then incumbent teacher, Jean P Hartley and her husband.

Several photographs of the teachers and pupils at Staunton Harold School are shown on the following pages. Those dated between 1920 and 1943 were taken when Hilda J Wainwright was the headmistress, and she features in the photographs. Certain photographs have been scanned from Mick Sheaths book referred to earlier. Unfortunately, the author has not been able to get in touch with Mr. Sheath to seek his permission to use these photographs which were loaned by local residents at the time.

From the 1840's, there is evidence that the School House was used as the residence for Earl Ferrer's Chaplain for a period of time and then from c.1850, various chaplains are recorded as residing at the "Parsonage".



**Believed to have been taken 1880-1890
when the school master was Lawrence Calvert**



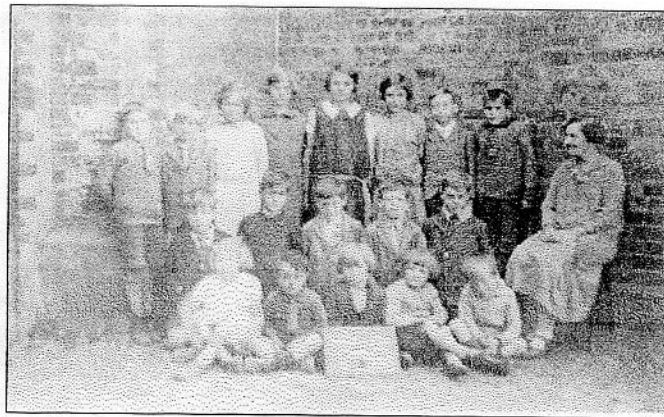
1923

	Hilda Wainwright	Clara Williams	Fred Jones	Ada Shaw	Cissie Garner	Gladys Martin	
Winnie Joynes	??	Sam Poynton	??	Eddie Simmonds	??	Jim Starkey	Mrs Wainwright (Teacher)
Joan Bailey	Alleyne Bailey	May --	Ada Jones	Joan Stewart	Maggie Garner	?? Roland Holmes	-- Poynton



1925

?	?	?	Eddie Simonds	?	Percy Martin	Roland Holmes	
?	Joan Stewart	?	Gladys Martin	Cissie Garner	Hilda Wainwright	----	Leda Shattock
			Ada ----	Gwenith Shaw	Edna Watson(?)	Clara Williams	



1928

??	Jim Starkey	Mary Starkey	Leda Shattock	Maggie Garner	Ada Jones	Sonny Joynes	Sam Poynton	
	Percy Martin	Peter Riley	Joe Harris	Harry Harris	-- Chaffey		Mrs Wainwright	
	??	??	Edna Watson	??	??			



1932

??	??	Jim Starkey	Sonny Joynes	Eric Pepper	William Ward	Peter Riley	-- Riley
??	Betty Watson	Jessie Martin	Edna Watson	??		Audrey Roberts	
	??	Harry Harris	Joe Harris	Gordon	--		



STAUNTON HAROLD SCHOOL 1936

Top Row L to R

Raymond Williams Dennis Dunicliffe Haydn Roberts Betty Warsson Audrey Roberts Mary Shattock
Walter Lovatt Peggy Martin

Bottom Row L to R

Donald Elvason Jackie Williams Cyril Elvason Herbert Hurst William Bailey



STAUNTON HAROLD SCHOOL 1938

Dennis Dunicliffe Walter Lovett Ray Williams Mary Shattock Eric Elvastone Peggy Martin Donald Elvastone

Herbert Hurst Ken Thornley Betty Dye Kathleen Harrison or Vivienne Kemp David Bignall

Tommy Holt Haydon Roberts "Bill" William Bailey Jo Cooper Reg Thornley Jackie Williams Cyril Elverson



STAUNTON HAROLD SCHOOL 1939

David Bignall	Herbert Hurst	William Bailey	Dennis Dunnicliffe	Peggy Martin	Betty Dye	Jo Cooper	Tommy Holt
John Topliss	Ray Hurst	Eileen Dunnicliffe	Kathleen Harrison	June Holt			

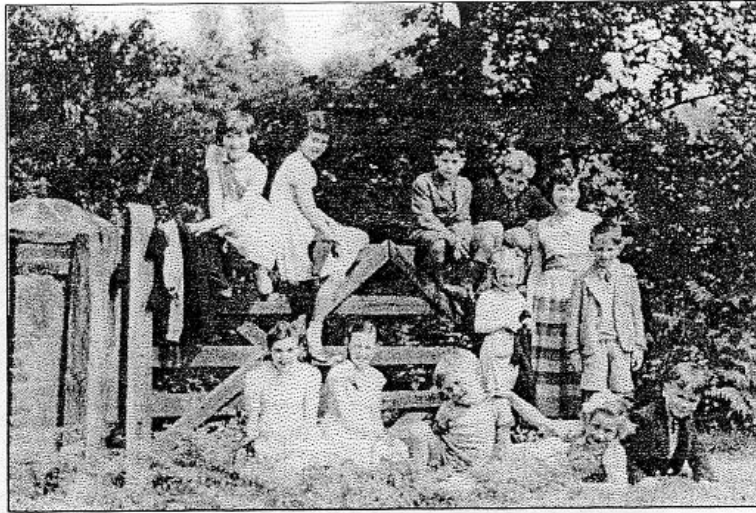


1948

?	John	Beryl	Brian				
Davies	Davies	Berrington	Stevens				
?	Pamela	Dorothy					
Davies	Smith	Saddington					
Michelle	Edna	Silvia	Christine	Patricia	Grace	Kathleen	Patricia
Rathbone	Topliss	Davies	Saddington	Elliott	Boulton	Topliss	Saddington



STAUNTON HAROLD SCHOOL 1949 ??
V. Rathbone teacher??



1955

Joyce Dunncliffe	Diane White	David Ison	Anthony Holt	Marjorie Wood (Teacher)
			Joy Haynes	Robert Haynes
Betty Harris	Jill Watson	Roger Stevens	Elizabeth Baker	Mark Shaw



STAUNTON HAROLD SCHOOL 1959
Teacher Mrs. Jean Hartley

Top row L to R

Richard Stanley Lesley Elliot Roger Stevens Joy Haynes Philip Bexan

Bottom Row L to R

Robert Williams Janet Stevens Colin ? Linda Williams Henry Dowell

Certain of the preceding photographs are by kind permission of Ashby Museum