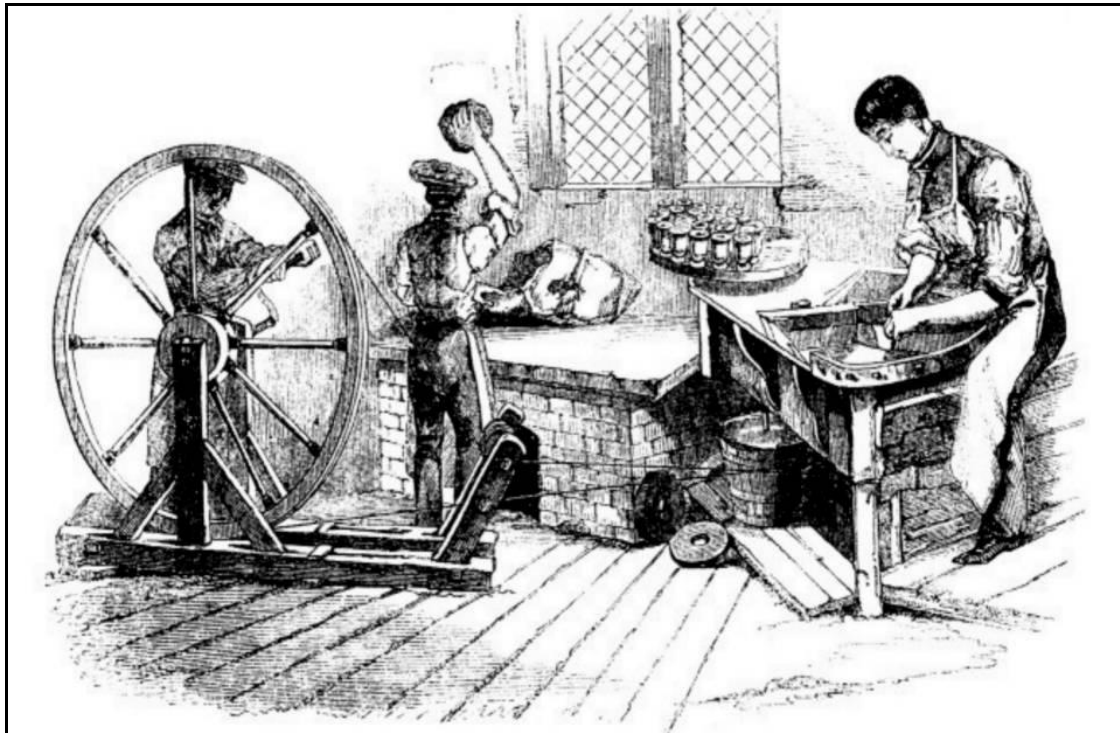


**LEY'S FARM EARTHENWARE POTTERY AT
HEATH END**



BY SAMUEL T STEWART - APRIL 2024

Heath End was at one time a small hamlet divided east and west by Callan's Lane between the parishes of Staunton and Ashby de la Zouch in NW Leicestershire.

In the Heath End conservation and appraisal study carried out by NWLDC in 2002, "Ley Farmhouse" on the west side of Callan's Lane, is listed as being a sixteenth century timber framed house with stone plinth, within the parish of Ashby de la Zouch.

According to an "Illustrated History of Pubs and Ale Houses in Ashby De La Zouch" by Robert Jones, the "Ley Farmhouse" building was described as being timbered and thatched and included a stable and wood house. All were apparently in a bad state of repair when it was surveyed in 1802. The half timbered building was later incorporated into the property now known as "Ley Farm" which is still in existence today, and is within the Parish of Ashby De La Zouch. The building was awarded grade II listing on 29th September 1977. The report states - Some red brick and some plastered infill. Tiled roof. One and a half storeys with two gabled dormers. Inside some close studding exposed in rear, on north-eastern wall. Massive chamfered ceiling beams. Curved wooden lintel to off centre fireplace. Moulded architraves to plank doors. Modern casement windows. Red brick north eastern cross wing.

Members of the Tetley family are thought to have occupied "Ley Farm" for at least 125 years, and they were the licensees of an ale house called the "Bird in Hand" for at least 50 years. This was incorporated into part of "Ley Farm". It was quite common for Ale Houses to be in one room in a farm house. The "Leicestershire Alehouse Recognizance Book" 1753 to 1819 which is held at the L&RRO gives the earliest record of the Tetleys' running an Alehouse as 1759 when Ann Tetley is listed as being the licensee. Her husband Joseph Tetley stood surety for her. From 1760 to 1804, Joseph Tetley is listed as the licensee, followed by Elizabeth Tetley from 1805 to 1809.

The following inventory for the property now known as Ley's Farm, was carried out in 1684 for probate purposes (LRO PR/1/86/133) on the death of Henry Tetley (1637-1684), whose occupation was given as a potter, and with 4 pot wheels recorded in the workshop, it is likely he was employing staff to operate these. Three piggs of lead were listed as being in the entry to the workshop which would have been used at that time for making the slip glazes. It is quite likely that this was mined and smelted from the veins of lead discovered within the limestone measures at close by Dimminsdale. The address was given as Inner Southwood and the appraisers were Richard Mellor, Thomas Sherbrooke, Robert Ault, John Kendall and William Langley

In addition to his pottery business, the probate inventory demonstrates that Henry Tetley had extensive farming interests and was renting land in various parts of the locality for that purpose

This is an extremely important record relating to pottery making at what is now Ley's Farm. The Tetleys' continued to live at Ley's Farm, and Joseph Tetley (b.1712), another descendant, has his kiln marked on a 1735 map. In John Johnson's (Ferrer's Steward) rent book of 1753 for the Staunton Estate, Joseph Tetley is recorded as paying £1. 6s. 0d for getting clay, which suggests he was still making pottery at this time. An 1802 lease does not record any pottery being made on the site at this time.

THE 1684 INVENTORY

His purse and apparel	£9. 0s. 0d.
In the house	
1 seeled cupboard, 1 table, 1 dishboard	
3 little brass pots, 2 seeled forms, 1 brass skimmer	
1 brass ladle, 1 warming pan, landiron	
Pot hooks, frying pan and other things	£6. 9s. 2d.
In the chamber over the house	
The (bed hat) with linen?, 1 blanket	£3. 0s 0d.
1 coffer with curtains in it	£1. 0s. 0d.
1 other bed with the appn, within it	£2. 6s 8d.
1 chest with linen in it	£1. 8s. 0d.
1 other chest with woolen and linen in it	£5. 0s. 0d.
1 (lasket) with linen in it	£1. 3s. 4d.
1 coffer with some woolen cloth	£0. 6s. 8d.
Malt, a small quantity	£2. 0s. 0d.
In the far chamber	
1 cheese bason and other things	£3. 0s. 0d.
In the buttery	
Barrells,-----, and other things	£0. 10s. 0d.
1 fowling piece	£0. 6s. 8d.
In the new chamber	
Wool, leather and other lumber	£6. 10s. 0d.
In the little parlour	
1 bed and cover lid, 1 old coffer and other material	
Belonging to the bed	£2. 0s. 0d.
In the far parlour and the chamber over it	
3 beds and other things	£2. 10s. 0d.
In the kitchen	
-----brewing vessels	£2. 0s. 0d.
In the entry	
<u>3 piggs of lead and an iron plate</u>	£1. 16s. 0d.
In the workhouse	
One hundred and seven----boards	£4. 10s. 0d.
-----pottery	£1. 0s. 0d.
4 pott wheels, 2 pot----, and other pot tools	£1. 6s. 0d
In the yard	
1 plough and utensils for husbandry	£9. 10s. 0d.
7 mares and geldings and a (stoned) horse	£31. 0s. 0d.
3 score and 13 sheep	£17. 0s. 0d.
-----swine, great and small	£2. 3s. 4d.
A small (parcel) of wood	£1. 3s. 4d.
2 ricks of hay	£12. 0s. 0d.
1 stack of beanes, rye and wheat	£29. 0s. 0d.
1 shovell in the yard	£0. 16s. 0d.
2 cows and 2 heiffers	£4. 16s 0d.
Clay on the common	£1. 0s. 0d.
1 cheeses press and form	£0. 2s. 6d.
In the grounds of Calke	
1 mare and foal	£3. 0s. 0d.
Three and forty-----and all (enc)	£6. 0s. 0d.
1 hayrick	£3. 0s. 0d.
1 bull calf	£0. 10s. 0d.

Muck	£0. 2s 6d.
In the old park	
Some young beefs and 1 hayrick	£10 0s. 0d.
2 young filleys and colt	£8. 0s. 0d.
1 old mare	£1. 10s. 0d.
8 sheep	£2. 0s. 0d.
In Smisby Park	
2 cowes	£12. 10s. 0d.
In the Ashby grounds	
1 rick of hay	£4. 0s. 0d.
Separate debts	£20. 0s. 0d.
For the (clotts ?) in Ashby fields.	£2. 10s. 0d.
Total	£270. 0s. 6d.

An excavation at Leys Farm, Heath End, was carried out for Ticknall Archaeological Research Group by Mercian Archaeological Services in 2013. The author acknowledge TARG for giving permission to mention brief extracts from this:-

The excavation revealed part of the remains of an 18th century Type 3 (Musty, 1974) pottery kiln with associated features. The kiln was of brick construction and coal fired. The internal diameter of the firing chamber was 1.83m and the four flues encountered in the trench suggested that the kiln had been built originally with eight. The kiln was firing delicate mottled tableware in saggars and probably coarser bowls and jars in lead glazed earthenware, the latter having been found in quantity in the overlying plough soil.

Based on documentary evidence, and the wares produced within, the kiln was of eighteenth century date. It had been used to fire a limited range of wares, viz. large jars and bowls with an oxidised fabric and an internal rich (red) slip and lead glaze (brown or black glazed earthenware, BERT or BL), and fine tableware in Manganese Mottled Ware.



Ley Farm House - 2002

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