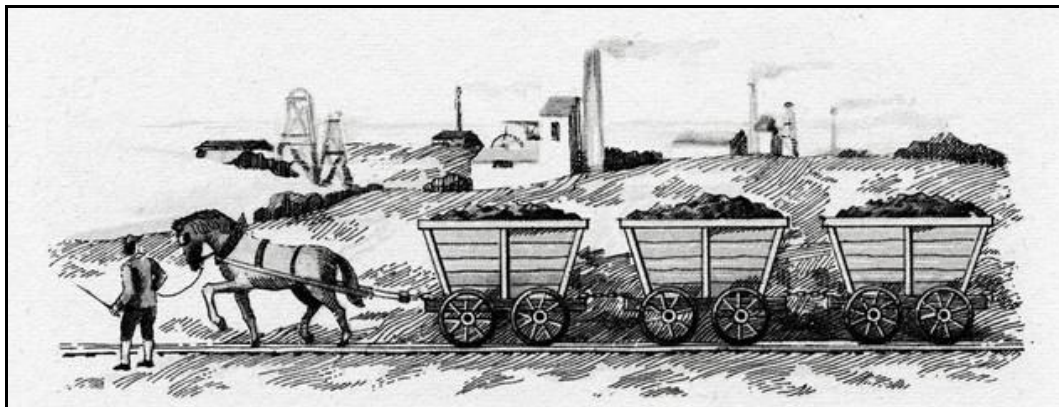
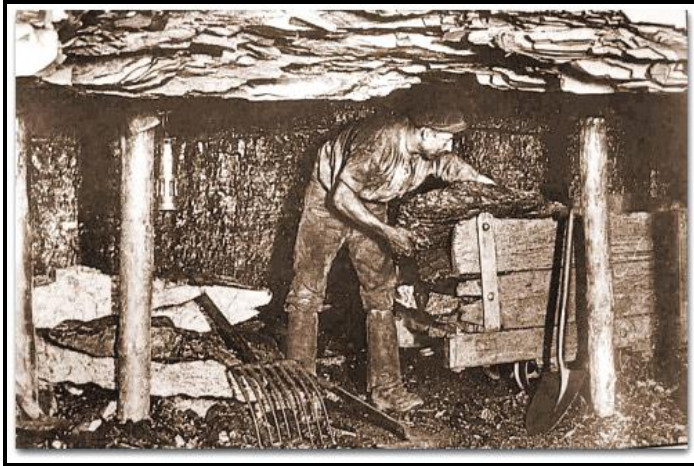


**A HISTORY OF COAL MINING IN
PEGG'S GREEN -
EARLY 19TH CENTURY TO 1859**



**BY SAMUEL T STEWART - APRIL 2021
Updated June 2023**

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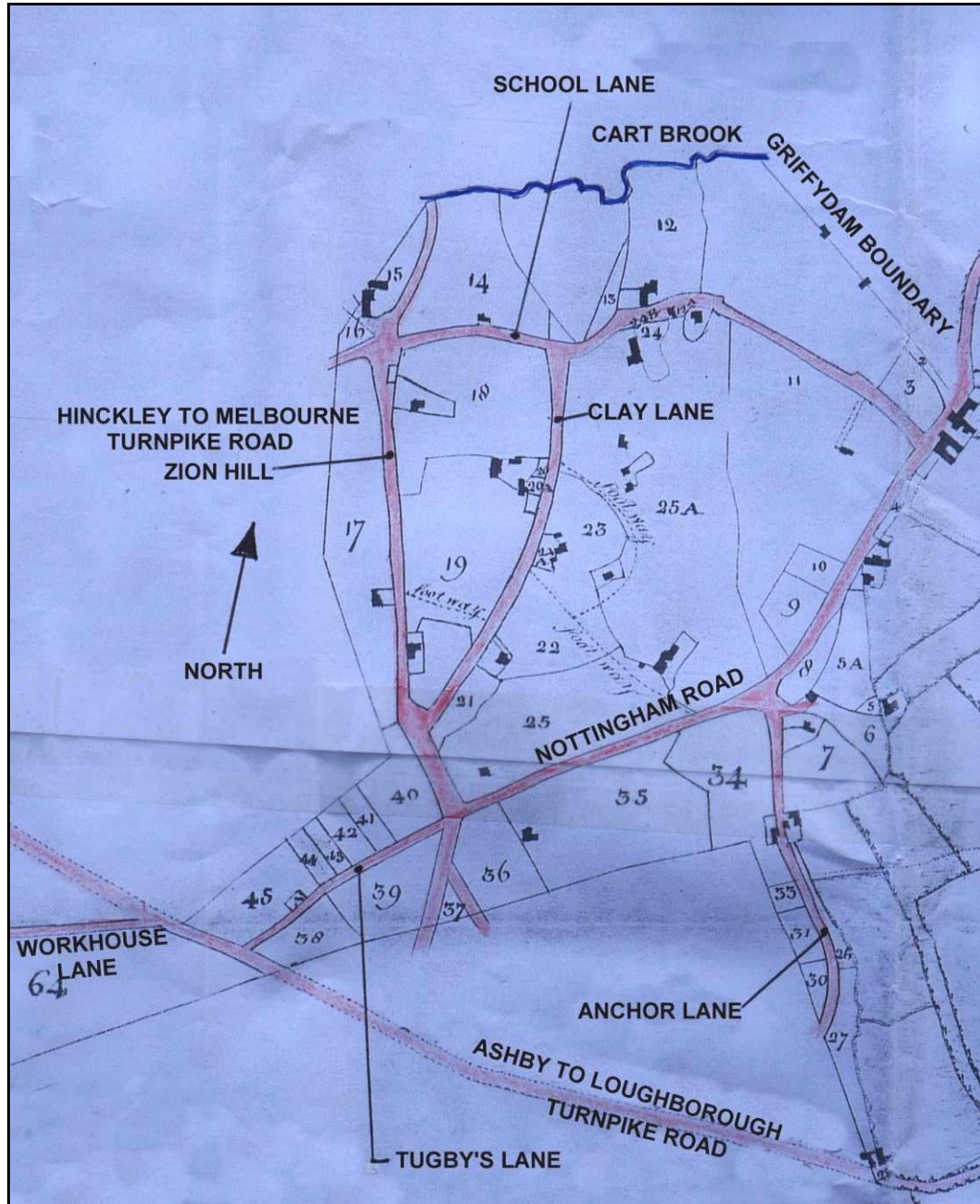
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- The records of the Rev. Francis Merewether

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EARLY 19TH CENTURY COAL MINING IN THE MANOR OF PEGGS GREEN

FOR REFERENCE
AN EXTRACT FROM THE 1807 THRINGSTONE & PEGGS GREEN ENCLOSURE
MAP SHOWING THE AREA OF PEGG'S GREEN AT THAT TIME WHICH HAS
BEEN ANNOTATED WITH CURRENT ROAD NAMES TO PROVIDE CLARITY

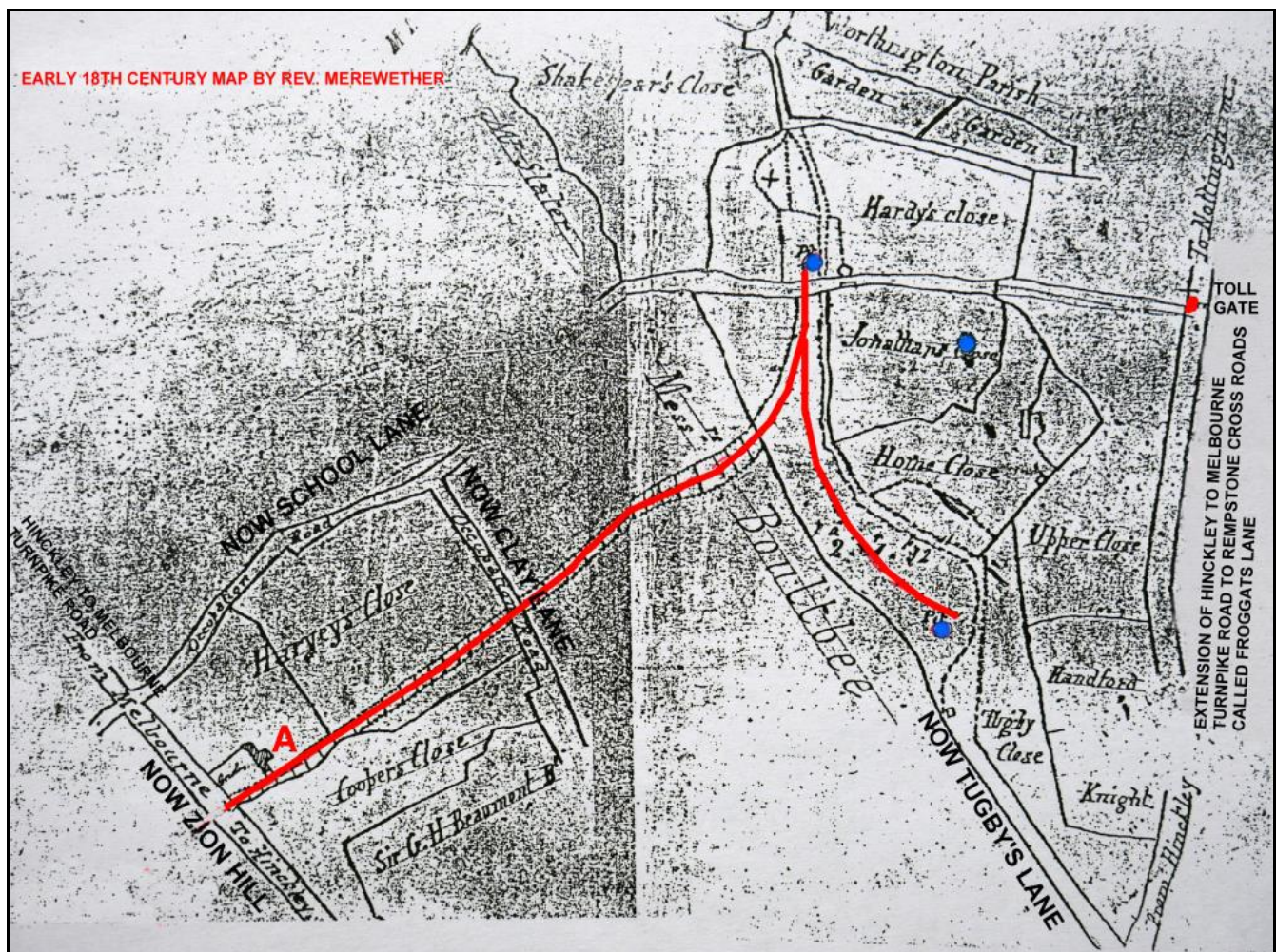


The coal under the Manor of Peggs Green was worked by a small private company of several local residents in the early part of the 19th century, and they constructed a network of tram roads including those shown in the map below. It is quite likely that the Kidgers' and Prices' were involved who are referred to later in connection with Pegg's Green Colliery.

The Rev. Francis Merwether who drew the map below, which has been annotated by the author for clarity, was the incumbent at St. George's Church Swannington at the time the map was drawn. His map can be found in "Records of Whitwick Parish" by the Rev. F Merwether.

A horse drawn tramway is marked by the heavy red line coming from the two mine shafts marked by blue dots. Having bypassed the cottage at **A**, the horse drawn waggons then joined the Hinckley to Melbourne turnpike.

The original of this map was apparently drawn by the Rev. Francis Merwether (as per Denis Baker) who became the incumbent at St. Mary's Church, Coleorton in 1815 and commenced the building of the rectory there in 1816. He was subsequently appointed by the crown to become the vicar of the parish of Whitwick in 1818 a post he held for 40 years. The author suggests this map would have been drawn sometime between 1820 and the opening of the Coleorton Railway in 1833.



EARLY 19TH CENTURY MAP DRAWN BY REV. FRANCIS MERWETHER WHICH HAS BEEN ANNOTATED TO PROVIDE CLARITY

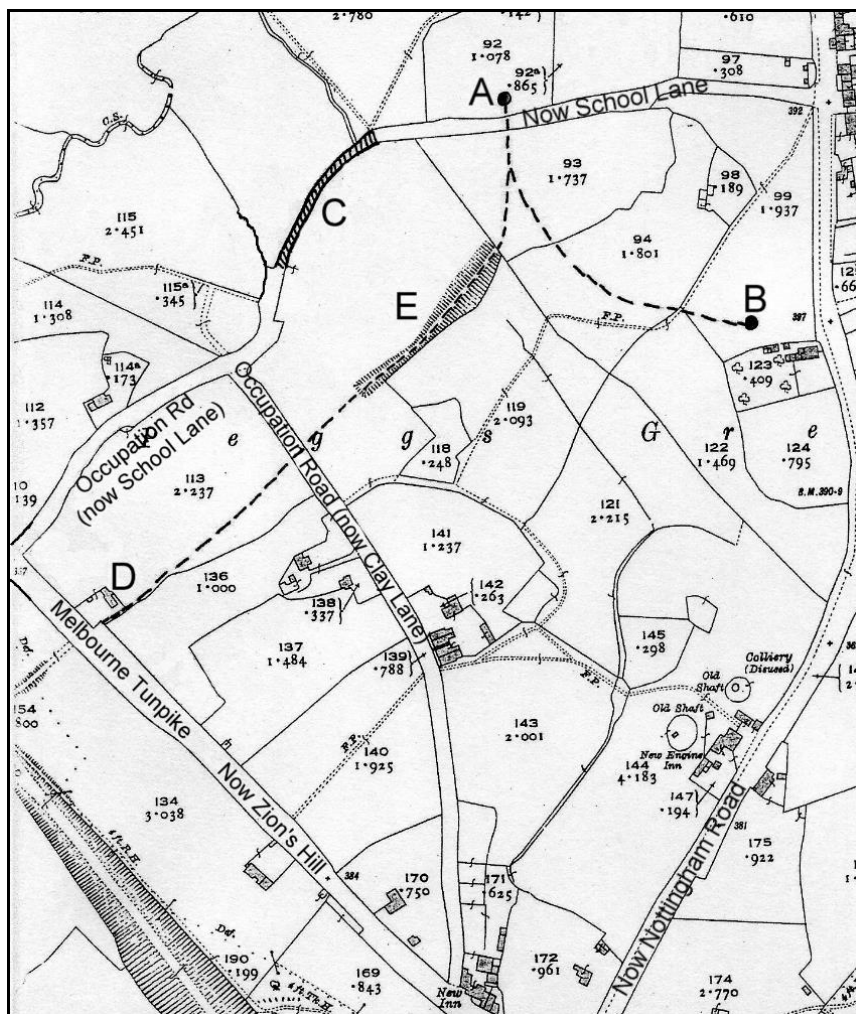
The 1923 O/S map below has also been annotated to add clarity to the following explanation:-

The mine shafts from which the tramways ran were located at **A** & **B**. An embankment marked **E** and shown in the following photographs, was constructed to improve the field contours for the tramway to link up with the Hinckley to Melbourne Turnpike.

The mine shaft marked **A** is located just below where the Griffydam Senior School which was built in 1915. The shaft to this mine is still in existence but has now been capped.

Horse drawn wagons would have been used to transport the coal to the turnpike at that time, for transhipping into horse drawn carts, although some braking on the wagons would have been required as the first part of the journey would have been downhill.

The cross - hatching in the area marked **C**, shows where the lane, now known as School Lane, was not joined up at that time, and this is shown on the Rev. Merewether's map on page 4.



ANNOTATED 1923 O/S MAP



Photograph of the tramway embankment as it was in 2013. The tram rails have now gone of course, but the line of the embankment is highlighted by the white dots. A section in the middle had been taken out for access by the farmer where marked **A**. The Griffydam Senior School building is in the distance marked **B**. Photograph taken from Clay Lane end.



The end of the tramway embankment when viewed from Clay Lane in 2017



Weighbridge Cottage as it is today can be seen just at the end of the line of trees on the RH side in the distance, adjacent to Zion Hill. The photograph was taken in 2021 from the front of Griffydam Senior School (now a private residence) on School Lane hill where one of the tramways ran from the shaft there as shown on the preceding annotated 1923 O/S map marked **A**

This whole area would have been a dirty and foreboding place when coal mining was taking place in the early 1800s. Imagine the mine shafts and tramways with horse drawn wagons, criss-crossing the area. What is now School lane would have been just a rutted track where it existed.





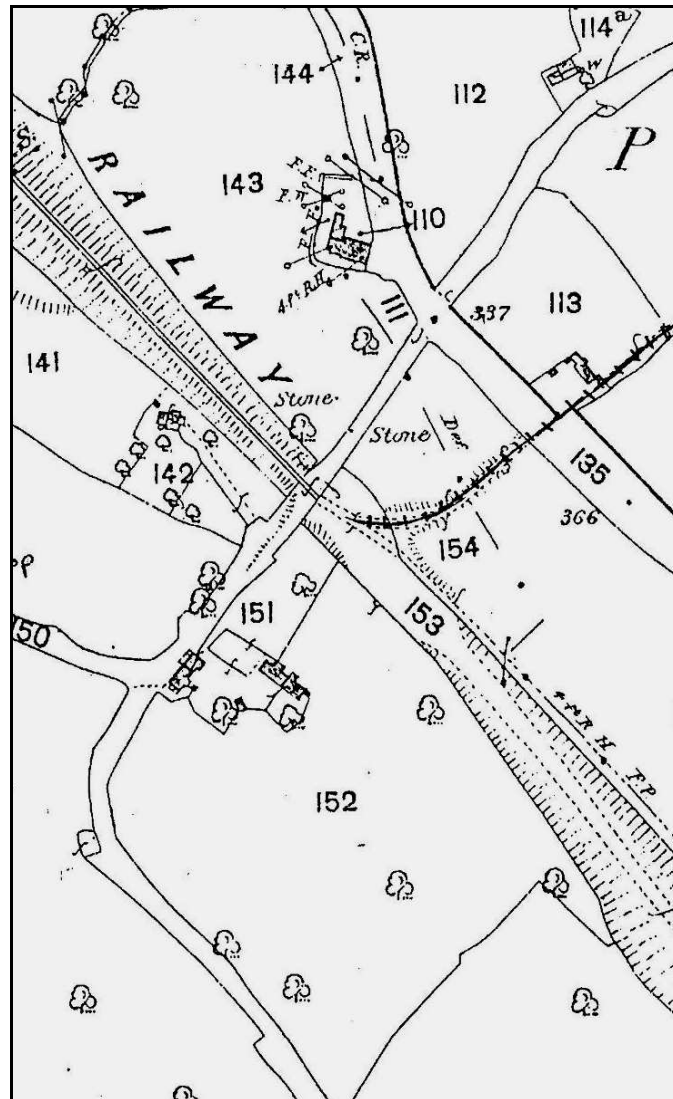
**EXTRACT FROM 1835 FIRST EDITION O/S MAP
(TWO YEARS AFTER PEGGS GREEN COLLIERY OPENED)**

This map has been included to show that the escarpment in the area at top of School Lane hill prevented vehicles joining with the Melbourne to Hinckley extension known as Froggat's Lane which ran from the Melbourne to Hinckley turnpike near Tugby's Lane along what is now Nottingham Road as far as Rempstone cross roads to meet with the Ashby to Rempstone turnpike road. Froggat's Lane also turned down what is now Storden Lane and continued on till it met the Ashby to Loughborough turnpike. It also continued on along the Top Brand to Redgate Toll Gate. There is some evidence to suggest that a trackway would have been in use through the escarpment but the author believes it would not have become a useable road until the end of the 19th century.

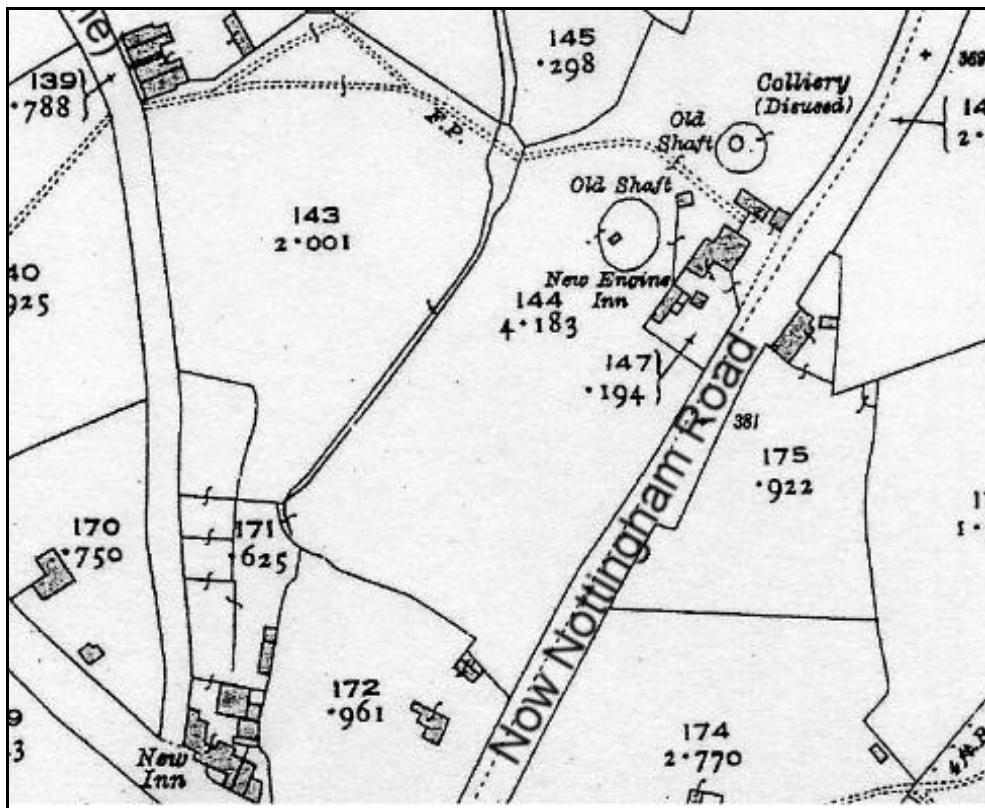
EXTENSION OF THE TRAMWAY TO PEGG'S GREEN COLLIERY AND THE COLEORTON RAILWAY

Following further research it has become apparent that when Pegg's Green Colliery opened (see the following feature) that modifications to the tramway previously described was made. The Coleorton horse drawn Railway was officially opened in 1833 although part of it came into use earlier on land that was owned by Sir George Beaumont, 8th Baronet of Stoughton. In order to transport coal from the colliery to the Coleorton Railway it was decided to extend and use the tramway previously employed to take the coal from the earlier family run mines to the turnpike.

It was also necessary to provide a weighbridge to weigh the coal prior to being transhipped onto the Coleorton Railway. This was installed adjacent to an existing cottage on Zion Hill, which became known as "Weighbridge Cottage". Below is an extract from the 1885 O/S map which has been annotated by the author, and used to indicate what is thought to be how the tramway linked into the Coleorton Railway adjacent to where the railway crossed over the Stoney Lane, Coleorton embankment. Weighbridge Cottage is shown on plot 113.



PEGGS GREEN COLLIERY 1830-1859



An extract from the 1903 O/S map showing the location of Pegg's Green Colliery and shafts. The "New Engine Inn" which was subsequently built near the site is shown, as is the "New Inn" public house at bottom left

In anticipation of the opening of the Leicester to Swannington Railway in 1832, and the subsequent opening of the Coleorton section shortly afterwards. Edward Price, who was the senior partner in the "Heather Colliery Company", developed plans for a new colliery at Peggs Green by leasing the underlying coal from the Boulton family in 1830. Some years earlier, Edward Price had assisted the Boulton family in the running of their colliery at Thringstone (formerly Raper & Fenton Colliery), and was allotted a small area of land at Peggs Green in 1805 under the Whitwick and Thringstone enclosure award. In 1830, he formed a partnership with his son John, plus Joseph Bostock (a lime manufacturer of Breedon), and William Cowlshaw from Breedon. They sank a shaft to the main coal at 385 feet, and although it passed through several workable seams with a total thickness of over 30 ft, it is likely that most of them had been worked previously. By 1832, the company was working the bottom 5ft 9ins of the Main Seam, which was sold at the pit-head at 8s 4d per ton.

Edward Price is listed in the 1841 census as a 'Coal Master', aged 70 along with his wife Sarah and his son John who was given as a "Mineral Surveyor" living on Griffy Hill. Griffy Hill ran the short distance from just passed the Red Lion public house (not open at that time), to the sharp RH bend. There follows a photograph of Edward and his wife Sarah's grave which is in Griffydam Wesleyan Methodist Chapel Graveyard.

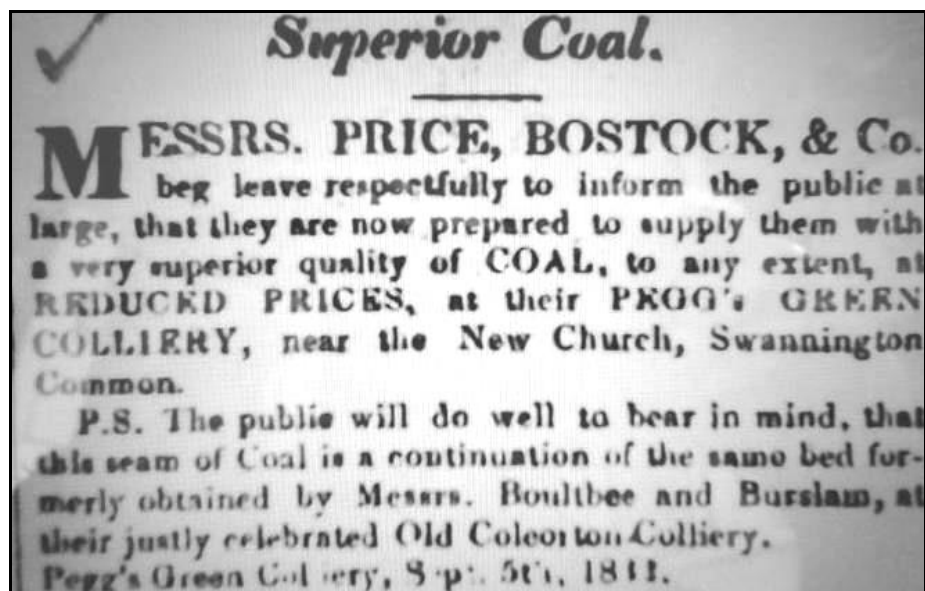


**SACRED
TO THE MEMORY OF EDWARD PRICE
WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE
SEPTEMBER 25TH 1844
AGED 75 YEARS
ALSO
SARAH
WIFE OF
EDWARD PRICE
WHO DIED DECEMBER 19TH 1858
AGED 86 YEARS**

ANNOUNCEMENT IN THE PRESS BY THE CONSORTIUM THAT PEGG'S GREEN COLLIERY WAS OPEN

Leicester Chronicle – September 8th 1832

Messrs. Price, Bostock and Co. of Pegg's Green Colliery, Swannington Common, are now getting coal from a seam which is a continuance of the bed formerly obtained by Messrs. Boulton and Co. at the old Coleorton Colliery. They announce that any quantity may now be purchased at their pits at reduced prices.



Leicester Journal – November 9th 1832

PEGG'S GREEN COLLIERY

Messrs. Price & Co, and Bostock, & Co.

In again calling the attention of the public to their superior coal, beg leave to inform them that they are now getting this excellent article at the low price of 5d. per hundred, long weight, and from the satisfaction this coal has given to those who have used it, the Lessees of the Pegg's Green Colliery feel assured they can with confidence recommend it to a discerning public, being certain that a single trial would ensure their future favours, as the heat and durability of this Coal proves it to be the cheapest offered to the public in this or the adjacent counties.

N.B. – Pegg's Green Colliery is situate near the new church on Swannington Common, eight miles from Loughborough, on the Ashby de la Zouch Road where the county may be supplied to any extent.

The "Butty system" would have been in operation at Pegg's Green Colliery. A Butty was a contractor who agreed with the owner of a mine to raise coal at a given price per ton, delivered into carts and wagons at the bank (surface). The Butty was thus a middleman intervening between the working miners and the owner. He would have come up from the ranks of workmen and saved some money, as his business required capital to provide tools, timber, horses etc. A Butty was not recognised by law and carried no weight with a government inspector. He took no responsibility either for firing shots, or in the supervision of safety. His duties were to get the greatest amount of work out of the smallest number of men, and to keep down the cost of coal and repairs. He paid the colliers etc, who were usually engaged by the week or day. Many Butties were notorious for paying wages in goods and not in cash, a practice known as 'Truck' or 'Tommy'. Apparently, there were no Tommy shops in operation at Pegg's Green.

In 1834, the colliery had been in dispute with the Leicester to Swannington Railway Company over its temporary withdrawal of a drawback of one-fourteenth on the tonnage rate for coal. By this time, Peggs Green Colliery was raising around 30,000 tons of coal per annum, and because it was considered to be the best coal mined in the county, it could be sold in Leicester at the high price of 13s per ton. By 1840, the price had reduced by some three shillings per ton.

The owners, c.1854, were anxious to avoid payment of extra Hinckley-Melbourne Turnpike tolls and agreed to maintain a stretch of road between the colliery and Swannington Common for seven years in return for the removal of the Turnpike toll gate bar. However, the Trustees were careful to ensure that any coal sent northwards passed through the Toll Gate at Newbold (Newbold Gate).

The controlling partners in 1856 were Kidger and Co. The company included William Kidger and Joseph Kidger, the later also being involved with Hall and Boardman's Colliery in Swadlincote. He was also a coal merchant with his own private owner wagons.

[A publication entitled "The Kidger's family of Pegg's Green" is free to download and read on the author's website.](#)

[William Kidger and his wife Hannah were buried in Griffydam Wesleyan Methodist Chapel graveyard and a photograph of their grave follows. Hannah was the daughter of the previously mentioned Edward Price and the Price & Kidger's families were intertwined in their relationships. Hannah introduced the name of Price into the Christian names of future Kidger male descendants which makes research into the families quite confusing at times.](#)



LOVING MEMORY OF
WILLIAM KIDGER OF PEGG'S GREEN
WHO DIED DECEMBER 2ND 1890
AGED 87 YEARS
ALSO OF HANNAH (NEE PRICE) HIS WIFE
WHO DIED OCTOBER 7TH 1880
AGED 81 YEARS
AND OF WILLIAM THEIR SECOND SON
WHO DIED FEBRUARY 6TH 1884
AGED 53 YEARS

By 1857, control of the colliery had passed to Benjamin Walker and William Worswick who now had shares in the colliery. It had a short branch rail connection to the Coleorton Railway. For a time, Peggs Green Colliery remained outside the Worswick-Walker Empire, but it must have felt constantly threatened by the developments to the south. Expansion northwards was difficult owing to its proximity to the Thringstone Fault, but this was accomplished in a limited way in 1852 when Edward Price and Company leased 23½ acres of main coal at £75 per acre under part of Griffydam from the Curzon family.

Working of the coal was made particularly difficult at Peggs Green by the easterly dip of the strata which caused the accumulation of large quantities of water draining from the old workings between there and Lount. Testing by means of a long boring rod was essential when driving headings towards the west. It was probably such difficulties that persuaded one of the main partners, the Cowlshaw family, to withdraw from the company in 1857, thereby allowing Messrs Walker and Worswick to secure control, but by the end of 1859 the colliery had closed. A shaft was maintained for pumping until c.1950.

THE CLOSURE OF PEGG'S GREEN COLLIERY ANNOUNCED

The following notice appeared in "The London Gazette"- Jan 10th 1860

*Notice is hereby given, that the partnership heretofore subsisting between us the undersigned, Thomas Bostock, John Price, William Kidger, John Knight, Benjamin Walker, and William Worswick, under the style or firm of Bostock, Price and Co., and sometimes called the **Peggs Green Colliery Company**, or under any other style or firm whatever, has been this day dissolved by mutual consent - dated the third day of December 1859.*

John Price, a mineral surveyor, was the son of Edward Price referred to earlier and had become a partner after the death of his father.

The following article on Worswick and Walker will probably add some clarity to the situation for the reader, although the whole affair regarding the ownership of Peggs Green Colliery was a complex issue.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION ON WILLIAM WORSWICK AND BENJAMIN WALKERS RELATIONSHIP WITH PEGG'S GREEN COLLIERY

In 1849, Benjamin Walker & William Worswick as partners and proprietors had sunk shafts and opened the Coleorton No.1. (California) mine on land leased from Sir George Beaumont. This was only a stone's throw from Pegg's Green Colliery.

In 1852, William Worswick and Benjamin Walker had entered into an agreement with the partners in the Pegg's Green Colliery for the exchange of coal lying near to the California mine and Pegg's Green colliery to the benefit of both collieries and also for the joint pumping of water out of the California mine into the Pegg's Green mine where it would be pumped out by the Pegg's Green pumps.

Encouraged by the success at the California pit, Worswick turned towards Swannington where large quantities of the Main Seam coal plus other seams remained, and in December 1852, he made an agreement with the land owners, the Trustees of Wyggeston Hospital to lease the Main Coal under 747 acres at £111 per acre for 35 years. Within 3 months he had started sinking shafts to the east side of Swannington Common (see map) for his Swannington No.1. Calcutta Colliery.

In 1855, shafts had been sunk for the new Coleorton No.2. Califat colliery to the west side of Swannington common. Although this was referred to as a Coleorton mine it was in fact just inside the Swannington parish boundary. This was a joint enterprise between Walker & Worswick.

Apparently, little forethought was given to the provision of pumping the water out of these mines or to their ventilation except by making a water and airway through a portion of the Pegg's Green mine into the close by California mine and then turning the whole of the water pumped from the Calcutta, Califat and California mines into the Pegg's Green mine pumping facilities.

The working of the coal had become increasingly difficult at Pegg's Green, which persuaded the main shareholder at the time, the Cowlshaw and Breedon Everard family to sell 30 shares to Worswick and Walker, for which a contract was drawn up on the 14th October, 1856. This gave Walker and Worswick a controlling interest in the Pegg's Green colliery, but the ulterior motive was clearly to force the closure of the Pegg's Green mine and facilitate the pumping of water into it via interconnecting roadways from Calcutta, Califat and California.

A court injunction was obtained by other partners in the Pegg's Green Colliery in September 1857 to try and prevent Worswick and Walker interfering with the engine pumping the water at Pegg's Green which was subsequently overturned in the Vice-Chancellor's Court in the following November.

Other partners went to court after the horse had bolted in January 1859 to try and void the sale of the shares by Cowlshaw and Everard which had taken place in 1856 to Worswick and Walker, but this was thrown out in Vice-Chancellor Wood's Court. Two of the remaining partners, Thomas Bostock and John Knight, were accused of colluding with Walker and Worswick.

It was only 12 months later on December 3rd 1859 that Pegg's Green Colliery was dissolved by mutual agreement of the remaining shareholders Thomas Bostock, John Price, William Kidger, Benjamin Walker and William Worswick. **So, it seems to the author that Worswick and Walker had finally achieved their aim!**

THE SALE BY AUCTION OF PEGG'S GREEN COLLIERY

Leicester Journal – December 9th 1859

**Valuable Colliery and Plant, at Thringstone, in the Parish of Whitwick,
Leicestershire**

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION

(Without Reserve)

By Mr. CHUBB

**At the Queen's Head Inn, Ashby de la Zouch, on Wednesday, the 28th day of
December, 1859, at Four o'clock in the Afternoon, subject to conditions of sale
which will then be produced**

A VALUABLE COLLIERY called the Pegg's Green Colliery, situate at Thringstone, in the county of Leicester, and comprising about 40 acres of ungot Coal, and about 23 acres of LAND, and several MESSUAGES or DWELLING-HOUSES and COTTAGES; the reserved Rent of the Plant, Land, and Building being £125 per annum, and the minimum Rent for the Colliery £400 a year.

Also, a STEAM PUMPING ENGINE, of 55 horse power, 2 WINDING ENGINES of 30 and 14 horse power, and the valuable PLANT and MACHINERY on the premises.

The Colliery and Land (except the engine and machinery and other erections) are held under a Lease, which will expire on the 25th day of March, 1873.

Pegg's Green coal is of the first quality, and commands the best price in the market, and the demand has always exceeded supply. The colliery is situated on a branch railway connected with the Midland Railway between Burton-on-Trent and Leicester, and has direct access by Rail to Leicester, and other parts of the Kingdom ; and an extensive and lucrative Land Sale may be relied on.

Printed particulars with plans and conditions of Sale may be obtained after the 14th day of December at the principle Hotels in the neighbourhood, and of the Auctioneer, and the undermentioned solicitors, and in the meantime further information will be given on application to Messrs. Miles, Gregory, and Bouskell, Solicitors, Leicester ; or to MR. GEORGE F. BROWN, Solicitor, Ashby de la Zouch.

To view the premises, apply to Mr. William Kidger ; or, Mr. John Price, Pegg's Green Colliery, Ashby de la Zouch.

**TRANSCRIBED NEWSPAPER REPORTS
WHICH MAKE REFERENCE TO PEGG'S GREEN COLLIERY**

Leicester Journal – January 3rd 1834

During the high winds on Thursday last, one of the high chimneys belonging to a whimsy at Pegg's Green Colliery in the parish of Thringstone, in this county, was blown down with a tremendous crash ;A team of horses, standing near the spot, had just been removed or it would have proved fatal for them.

Leicester Chronicle – March 1st 1834

Wm. Smallwood, of Griffydham, committed for six weeks, for absenting himself from the employ of his master, Mr. Prior, of Pegg's Green Colliery.

Leicester Journal – July 11th 1834

PEGG'S GREEN COAL

The public are respectfully informed that business is resumed and this very superior Coal is now being sold at **11s. per Ton**, at the Railway Station, or it will be delivered in any part of the town at **12s. per ton**.

Geo. Eaglesfield, Agent

Market Street, Leicester, July 8th. 1834.

Leicester Chronicle – August 30th 1834

PEGG'S GREEN AND IBSTOCK COAL

SAMUEL COLEMAN begs to return his sincere thanks to his numerous friends for all favours conferred upon him since he has been in the Coal Trade, and to inform them and the public that he has ENTERED INTO PARTNERSHIP with MR. GEORGE EAGLESFIELD for the SALE of PEGG'S GREEN and IBSTOCK COAL, for which he now respectfully solicits their commands.

Orders left at their Residences, POLCKINGTON'S WALK and MARKET STREET, or at their OFFICE, WEST-BRIDGE RAILWAY STATION, will be thankfully received and promptly attended to.

Pegg's Green Coal, per Ton 11s. 0d.

Ibstock Coal, per Ton 8s. 6d.

Ibstock cobbles per Ton 6s. 6d.

West-bridge, Railway-station,
Aug. 29, 1834.

**Nottingham Review and General Advertiser for the midland Counties –
February 26th 1836**

John Cambridge, of Whitwick, a collier, committed **for one month to hard labour**, for absenting himself from his work at the Pegg's Green Colliery.

**Nottingham Review and General Advertiser for the Midland Counties –
September 30th 1836**

Police Office, Loughborough

Wm. Shaw, of Thringstone, charged with neglecting his work at the Pegg's Green Colliery ; To pay the costs.

Leicestershire Mercury – December 23rd 1837

PEGG'S GREEN COAL

T.B.HARRIS

Respectfully acquaints the public that he is appointed Agent for the sale of Pegg's Green Coal. This fuel is now generally admitted, after long experience, to be superior to any other Leicestershire Coal. Its freedom from everything which does not contribute to its character as a wholesome, economical, and excellent fuel, renders it worthy to the attention of all, but of larger consumers in particular. T. B. H. begs,

therefore, to solicit the orders of his Friends and the Public, which will be thankfully and promptly executed, the company having now a very large stock, and can supply the article in any quantity.

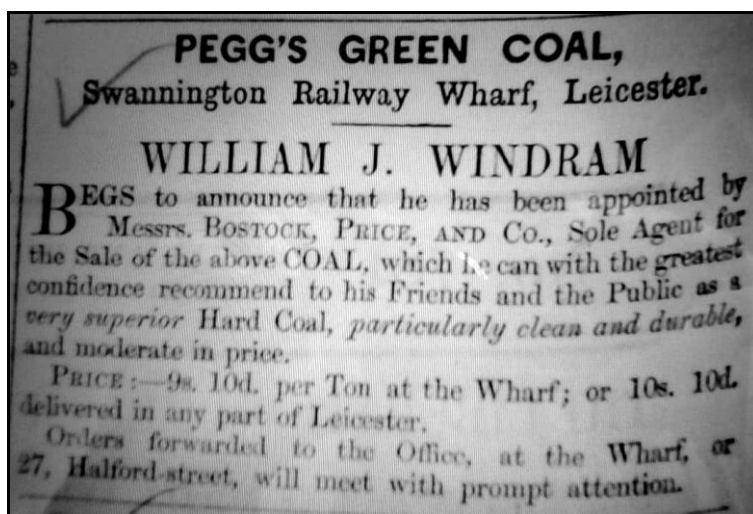
Price, 13s. per Ton.

Office, West Bridge Station, Dec. 7. 1837.

Leicester Chronicle – December 29th 1838

JAMES TYLER, blacksmith, of Thringstone, in the employ of Messrs. Price and Co., at Pegg's Green Colliery, charged with stealing a large quantity of iron and horse shoe moulds, the property of the said company. – Committed to the sessions

Leicester Mercury – May 16th 1840



Leicester Journal – January 22nd 1841

Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions

John Williams of Pegg's Green, was committed by Robert Green Cresswell, Esq., on the 14th inst., to the House of Correction for two months, for stealing on the 13th instant a post and rail forming part of a dead fence, the property of Pegg's Green Colliery Company.

Leicester Chronicle – May 7th 1842

Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions

William Green of Whitwick, charged by John Price, agent to the Pegg's Green Colliery Company, with absenting himself from work; case adjourned for a week, in consequence of the Constable not having served the warrant.

Leicestershire Mercury – October 8th 1842

REDUCTION IN PRICE OF COAL

THE PEGG'S GREEN COMPANY impressed with gratitude to a liberal and discerning public, for the support they have hitherto received, embrace the present opportunity of informing them, that on MONDAY next, the price of the very superior Coals and Cobbles will be as under, and they trust, by a strict attention to the assorting of their Coal, to merit a continuance of their support

MAIN COAL	6s. 8d. Per Ton.
COBBLES	5s. 10d. Per Ton.
SPIRES	5s. 0d. Per Ton.

Pegg's Green, Oct. 5th 1842.

Leicester Journal – April 19th 1844
Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions

George Perry of Thringstone, was charged by the Pegg's Green Colliery Company with neglecting his work. It appeared that the defendant had signed a written contract to serve the company as a Collier, to work six whole days, and to give 14 days notice before leaving. The defendant had given the notice, and since then had only worked a quarter of a day, thereby causing a severe loss to the company. The defendant said he had joined the Miner's Union, and he was obliged to do a certain portion of work, if he did more, he should have to forfeit 2s. 6d. per day. The Magistrates considered the case clearly proved, **and they committed him for three months to the house of correction to hard labour.** Several other men from the same colliery, who had signed similar contracts were committed for the same period on Monday last. It is believed that this mode of proceeding has had good effect, as the men at the Pegg's Green Colliery are for the most part of them now at work.

Leicester Chronicle – April 20th 1844
Ashby e la Zouch Petty Sessions, April 13th

George Perry, of Thringstone, **was committed for three months hard labour** for violating his contract with the Pegg's Green Colliery Company; and several men working at the same colliery were committed on the previous Monday for the same offences.

Leicester Chronicle – January 4th 1845
Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions

SAMUEL FREEMAN (25; Neither read nor write) was charged with stealing, on the 6th of December, two "picks" from the Pegg's Green Colliery. – Mr. Simpson conducted the prosecution. – Mr. John Price stated that a great number of picks had been lost from the colliery, and that he could swear positively to one of the picks produced as the property of himself and partners. Prisoner, who is a Blacksmith, had come to ask for work in the Blacksmith's shop at the colliery, on the very day the picks in question were missed. – Samuel Bonser, a labourer residing at Whitwick, deposed to meeting prisoner on the 6th December in the morning; prisoner asked him if he had anything to do, and, if not, if he would accompany him to Pegg's Green to ask for work? Witness said he had no objection; they went, neither got work, and, as they were coming away, prisoner pulled the picks out of his pocket, and said, "see what I have nipped". Witness advised him to go and restore them, or they would both get into trouble; but prisoner said no – he would go and swop them at Baltimore's; which he did, in witness's presence, for a poaching net. – Robert Baltimore, a barber at Whitwick, said that the prisoner came to him on the 6th December to ask him to swop the picks, and told him the things were is own – asking witness if he had ever known him to do anything wrong. He had a job to do, and had no tools. Witness then gave him a pocket knife, pair of pincers, a hand vice, and a net he had for "covering over fruit trees" and so keeping the blackbirds from getting at the cherries.....continuation not available.

Leicester Journal – January 24th 1845

WANTED

At the Pegg's Green Colliery,

A MACHINE MAN ; also a person to Superintend the over-ground Department, and Collect Accounts. None need apply but whose character and ability will bear the strictest inquiry.

Application to be made to Mr. Price, at the above colliery, on or before Saturday the 1st day of February next.

Pegg's Green Colliery, near Ashby de la Zouch,
January 22nd, 1845

Leicester Journal – June 20th 1851

**PEGG'S GREEN COAL
SWANNINGTON RAILWAY WHARF, LEICESTER**

WILLIAM J. WINDRAM begs to announce that he has been appointed by Messrs. Bostock, Price, and Co., Sole Agent for the sale of the above coal, which he can with the greatest confidence recommend to his friends and the public a very superior hard coal, particularly clean and durable, and moderate in price,

Price, 9s. 10d. per ton at the wharf, or 10s. 10d delivered in any part of Leicester. Orders forwarded to the Office, at the Wharf, or 27, Halford street, will meet with prompt attention.

Leicester Chronicle – September 5th 1851

PEGG'S GREEN COLLIERY

Having received information that other parties were selling coal in the name of the above Colliery, we beg to inform purchasers that the PEGG'S GREEN COAL can only be had of Messr's. C. and W. R. Morris, at the following Stations :- OAKHAM, MANTON, LUFFENHAM, SEATON, AND ROCKINGHAM.

THOS. RODGERS and CO.,

Agents for Pegg's Green Colliery.

Leicester, August 29, 1851.

Leicester Journal – March 27th 1857

Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions March 21st – before W. W. Abney, Esq., and T. Mowbray, Esq.

John Bradford of Thringstone was charged with having on the 8th inst., stolen some pieces of wood valued at 8d and belonging to the Pegg's Green Colliery Company. It appeared from the evidence of P.C. Earpe, that whilst on duty during the night in question, he saw the prisoner come from the wood-yard near to Pegg's Green Colliery. He had some wood under his arm, and when he saw witness he lay down under the hedge, and put the wood in the hedge bottom. He afterwards said, "Master allows me to take it". **This was denied by Mr. Wm. Kidger, one of the partners**, and the wood was identified. In defence, prisoner said he was going through the yard, and took the wood, but did not know he was doing anything wrong. – **He was sentenced to 14 days imprisonment in the county house of correction.**

FATALITIES RECORDED FOR PEGG'S GREEN COLLIERY

Samuel Burrows

Age: 24/25
Date: 1838
Occupation: Hewer
Colliery operated by: Price & Co. and Bostock & Co.
District: Ashby-De-La-Zouch, Leics
Reason for fatality: 1 Ton stone fell from roof and crushed him

John Birch

Age: 20
Date: 1838
Occupation: Blasting coal
Colliery operated by: Price & Co. and Bostock & Co
District: Ashby-De-La-Zouch, Leics
Reason for fatality: Gunpowder explosion

Thomas Hurst

Age: 15
Date: Aug 17th 1843
Occupation: ?
Colliery operated by: Price, Bostock and Co.
District: Ashby-De-La-Zouch, Leics
Reason for fatality: Fell from skip whilst ascending the shaft

William Smith

Age: 35
Date: 1844
Occupation: ?
Colliery operated by: Price & Co. and Bostock & Co
District: Ashby-De-La-Zouch, Leics
Reason for fatality: Buried by mass of coal falling on him

John Hutchinson (From Sheepshead)

Age: 20
Date: 1845
Occupation: ?
Colliery operated by: Several partners including Price & Co, Bostock & Co, and Cowlinshaw.
District: Ashby-De-La-Zouch, Leics
Reason for fatality: Crushed by large stone falling from roof (10/12 cwt's)

John Waldram

Age: 20
Date: Aug 12th 1853
Occupation: ?
Colliery operated by: Several partners including Price & Co, Bostock & Co, and Cowlinshaw.
District: Ashby-De-La-Zouch, Leics
Reason for fatality: Fall of roof.

Jarvis Marshall

Age: 20
Date: 1853

Occupation: Loader
Colliery operated by: Several partners including Price & Co, Bostock & Co,
and Cowlinshaw.

District: Ashby-De-La-Zouch, Leics
Reason for fatality: Fall of roof.

Frederick Barkby

Age: ?
Date: Nov 2nd 1854
Occupation: ?
Colliery operated by: Several partners including Price & Co, Bostock & Co,
and Cowlinshaw.

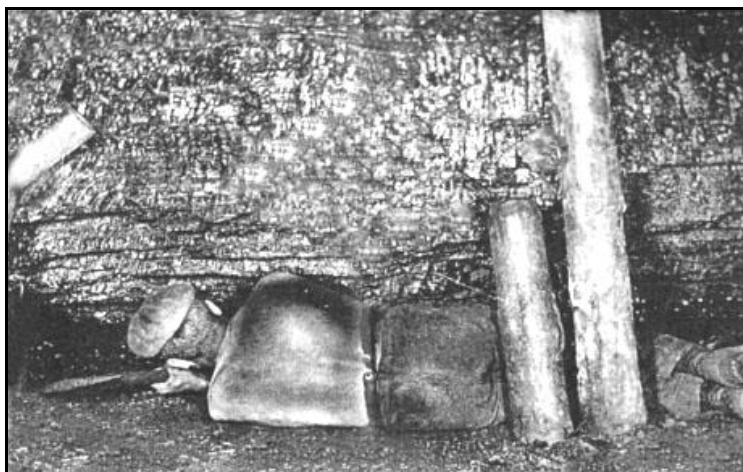
District: Ashby-De-La-Zouch, Leics
Reason for fatality: Fall of roof.

TRANSCRIBED NEWSPAPER REPORTS OF INQUESTS

Leicester Chronicle – February 10th 1838

Inquest on Fatal Accident at Pegg's Green –

On Wednesday evening, the 31st ult., Samuel Burrows aged about 24 or 25, went to work in a pit at Pegg's Green Colliery, for the first time; and at midnight, while engaged in breaking out the coal, a large stone, weighing upwards of a ton, fell from the roof, and crushed him to instant death. **Verdict accordingly.**



Leicester Chronicle – February 10th 1838

FATAL ACCIDENT AT PEGG'S GREEN

On Wednesday evening, the 31st ult., Samuel Burrows, aged about 24 or 25, went to work in a pit at Pegg's Green Colliery, for the first time ; and at midnight, while engaged in breaking-out the coal, a large stone, weighing upwards of a ton, fell from the roof, and crushed him to instant death. – Verdict accordingly.

Leicester Journal – September 14th 1838

Accident – On Saturday week, an accident occurred at Pegg's Green Colliery which might have been attended with more serious consequences. A man named Birch had put a portion of powder into a cavity made in the coal for the purpose of blasting it, and laid the bag from which he had taken it a short distance from him, on the ground. As soon as the explosion had taken place, a portion of the touch paper, not burnt out, fell upon the bag unperceived by Birch, who went to take it up, when it suddenly ignited, burnt off his hair, whiskers &c., and severely injured his head and neck.

THE INQUEST

Leicester Chronicle – September 22nd 1838

DEATH FROM GUNPOWDER; FATAL RASHNESS. – An inquest was held on Tuesday at Thringstone, on the body of John Birch, a young man aged 19, who was severely burnt from the explosion of a bag containing two or three pounds of gunpowder, in the Pegg's Green Colliery, on Saturday fortnight. Four blasts had been made by drilling holes in the coal, at about two yards asunder; three of them had been fired, and the last, which was deceased's, had been loaded first, and was fired last. A bag of gunpowder belonging to the deceased had been laid by one Richard Wardle about six yards from the blast. After the blast had gone off, some paper which had been used in preparing the blast, fell in a lighted state upon the bag containing the deceased's powder. As soon as the other young men who were round, saw it, they ran away; but the deceased very thoughtlessly and incautiously went to knock the fire off the bag, for the purpose of saving the powder, when just as he was touching the bag with his hand the powder exploded, and blew the deceased backwards to the

ground. He was picked up, and found much burnt on the stomach and front of his body; he lingered until Saturday last. – **Verdict, “Accidental Death”**.

Leicester Chronicle – August 26th 1843

**CORONER'S REPORTS
PEGG'S GREEN, THRINGSTONE**

On the 17th instant, on the body of Thomas Hurst, aged 15, who was employed at the Pegg's Green Colliery, and who fell from the “skip” while it was going up the shaft and was at a great height from the bottom of the pit ; this occurred on the Tuesday. Deceased was a venturesome youth, and had once before been brought up with one leg hanging by the chain ; and on this occasion it is supposed he had caught hold of the bucket intending to drop off when a short distance from the ground ; but that when the bucket was rising he feared to drop, and held on by the hook till he was exhausted. The back of his head was broken to pieces by the fall. – Verdict ; “Accidental death”.

Leicester Mercury – March 9th 1844

SHOCKING DEATH IN A COAL PIT – An inquest was held at Thringstone, in this county, on Tuesday last, by John Gregory, Esq., on the body of Wm. Smith, about 35 years of age. From the depositions of witnesses it appears the deceased was employed at Pegg's Green Colliery, and on the Friday previous was employed in boring the coal for the purpose of putting in a charge of gunpowder. While thus employed, an immense mass of coal suddenly gave way, and, falling on him, literally buried him, with exception of his head. The poor fellow gave an alarm, and by prompt assistance, he was extricated in about five minutes, scarcely able to speak, and was carried home where he lingered till nine o'clock on Sunday morning. The deceased had been employed at boring “all his life”, was an experienced workman, and had just before sounded the coal and thought it was too firm to give way without a “shot”. Mr. Lomas, surgeon, who was sent for when the accident took place, stated that he had no hope from the first. The immense pressure of the coals had seriously injured the spine, the pelvis, and most of the internal viscera, from the effects of which he had no doubt death ensued. **Verdict, “Accidental Death”**.

Leicester Chronicle – April 5th 1845

FATAL COLLIERY ACCIDENT. – An inquest was held at Thringstone, in this county, on the 1st inst., before John Gregory, Gent., on the body of John Hutchinson of Sheepshead, aged twenty. Deceased had come from his home in search of employment, and, with a namesake, but not a relative, was engaged early on the Monday morning in pumping out water from one of the pits at Pegg's Green Colliery, when a large stone, weighing between 10 and 12 cwt., fell from the roof and crushed him to death; he only said “Oh dear”. The stone covered nearly the whole of his body, and fell without any warning; the roof was supported by timbers in the usual way, and no indication of it being unsafe had been perceived; the stone in question fell from between the supports. – Verdict; “Accidental death”.

Leicestershire Mercury – August 1853

COLLIERY ACCIDENT

On Saturday, and by adjournment on Tuesday, an inquest was held at Osgathorpe upon John Waldram deceased/ He was a young man twenty-eight years of age, employed at Pegg's Green Colliery. He went to work about 6 o'clock on Thursday evening, and about 2 o'clock the next morning was brought home dead. It appeared that he was busy building up the way head, when a large piece of stone fell from the roof and crushed him to the earth. When the stone was removed he breathed for a few minutes and then died. The fall of the stone was quite unexpected, the piece breaking from the roof between the props. Deceased had been blowing up stone

about a yard from the place the night before. He had been in the pit from a lad and was acquainted with his work. – Verdict, “Accidental Death”.



Leicester Mercury – June 7th 1851

A BOY DROWNED AT PEGG'S GREEN

On Thursday week, about 7 o'clock in the morning, Thomas Locker, a lad about sixteen, went with another youth to bathe in the reservoir at the Pegg's Green Colliery. He could swim a little, and tried to swim across, but when about the middle went down. A boy named Barkby, who was on the bank, seeing him sink, called out for help, and Henry Smallwood, who was at work close by, immediately went in with his clothes on, and soon brought out deceased, and took him to the Engine Inn, where the usual efforts to restore animation were made, but without success. Mr. Price, part proprietor and manager of the colliery, hearing of the accident, sent off directly for Mr. Orton, surgeon, but his exertions were also fruitless. The reservoir was about six foot deep, and though strict orders were given that no one should bathe in it, the boys would occasionally transgress in the absence of Mr. Price.— **On Friday, Mr. Gregory held an inquest at Thringstone on the body of the deceased, when a verdict was returned of accidental death.**

Leicester Mercury – September 3rd 1853

Fatal colliery accident – On the 24th ult., an inquest was held at Griffydam, upon Jarvis Marshall, deceased. He was about twenty years old, and employed as a loader in Pegg's Green Colliery. On Saturday, the 20th ult., he was employed in loading the stone from a horse way, which was being made in the pit. The stone was blasted from the roof, and a great many shots had been fired in the course of the morning. About one o'clock a blast having been fired, deceased, who had no occasion to have done so, went to the place, and proceeded to try a stone which had been shaken in the roof with a pick several times. Another man took the pick from his hand, and, in less than a minute, the stone fell on the hip of deceased, and crushed him against a heap of stones on the floor. He was extricated as soon as possible, and taken home in a cart, but was so much injured internally that he died on the following Tuesday. **Verdict, “Accidental Death”, and the jury recommended that Mr. Price, the manager, should give strict orders to the loaders not to go to the spots where shots had been fired, till the safety of the roof had been ascertained.**

"LEST WE FORGET"

The following reports from 1841 / 2 puts into perspective the state, condition and treatment of young children (girls and boys) down the coal mines.

Whitwick and Snibston pits feature initially but Pegg's Green Colliery would have been no different:-

THE CHILD EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION 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 lb. 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.

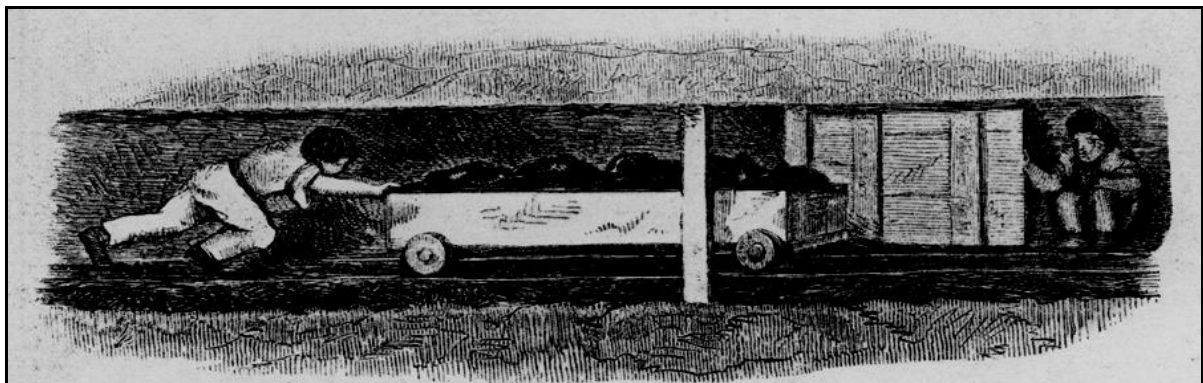
I like being in the pit very well and will be a collier as long as I live.

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 !!

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

No. 255.

I have been a bottom-steward 44 years. We used trappers till lately, and they used to go
30 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
35 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
40 after. We reckon to give over pulling at 5 out; they generally give over at 3. The hurriers
will stop to eat their bread at 12; but the bigger ones of 12 or 14 years old will be kept to
work in the hole shovelling muck, or picking it away. When I was a hurrier, they had good
reason to be tired with a belt and chain, and without rails. I do not think now that children's
work is hard work. They have generally play enough after their work is done. If a child
45 does not begin to be a hurrier at 9, he never will do in thin coals; they must be brought up
to it. We could do with them at 9; but it would be better to have them at 8. It would be
possible to cut the gates higher; but it would be a great expense. It is not only the expense
of cutting away, but there is that also of taking the stuff away. We are now paying 6d. a yard
extra for straight work in the thin bed, where we cut 16 inches of muck, &c. It would be a
50 capital thing to make the men more regular in their hours of work; but if we were to take a
man and hang him every now and then, it would not make them regular. Nine hours for
drawing coals would be plenty of time. I have known pits in the neighbourhood drawing
coals at 9 at night. The education of the children is very much neglected. The parents
don't value it, and think nothing about. The proprietors of coal-pits don't notice schooling
55 much, except the Stansfelds'. They are the best I ever knew; they are always doing some-
thing for education to the children; and Mrs. Milnes has always done a great deal too; and
Mr. Briggs also is a very good one for that. I don't know how we are to do without girls;
we cannot do without. It would be a good thing to stop girls from going after they are 12 or
13 years old. I have known a married woman hurrying for a man who worked stark naked,
60 and not any kin to her. I fear colliers could not do without the wages of girls; and they
are far better hurriers, and more attentive to their job.



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).

SEE PARAGRAPH 30 ABOVE

**WEEKLY EXPENSES OF A COLLIER AT MOIRA, WITH A WIFE AND
THREE CHILDREN, THE OLDEST FIVE. THE WIFE DOES NOT EARN
ANYTHING BY WORKING FOR ANYONE.**

	s.	d.
Flour, 1.5 stone at 2s. 4d.	3	6
Meat, 5lb, at 6.5d.	2	8.5
The meat is delivered on Friday and they us a little every day till Wednesday, when they buy 0.25lb. of bacon	0	2.25
Sugar, 0.75lb. at 8d.	0	6
Potatoes, 1.5 gallon at 4d.	0	6
Small beer, 3 gallons at 3d.	0	9
Butter, 0.5lb.	0	9
Sometimes 0.5lb. of Irish salt butter, or butter which is salted when more is made than can be sold, costs 5.5d		
Skimmed milk, a pint morning and night, 0.5d per pint	0	7
Pease, 1 pint (not bought every week)	0	2
Oatmeal	0	1
Cheese, 1lb	0	7
Rent	1	6
Leaving coals	0	7.5
Tea, salt, soap, pepper,, mustard, coffee, he could not tell, but estimated at	1	6

	13	11.25

The remaining money is spent in clothes, shoes, beer,
at the public house and other extra charges.