

*OVER 70 YEARS OF SPAR ORNAMENT /
BAUBLE MAKING IN THE LOCAL AREA*



A CASTELLATED WATCH STAND (BAUBLE) MADE AT COLEORTON

BY SAMUEL T STEWART - APRIL 2020

PREFACE

A local area industry which endured until the end of the 19th century was the making of ornaments out of various kinds out of Derbyshire Spar, a marble-like gypsum which was found at Chellaston, near Derby, some ten miles away. An ornament, or gaud of small actual utility, formerly classed as a plaything, was termed a bauble. Hence, the small workshops connected with this trade in the district, were always referred to as "Bauble Shops"; an interesting survival of a word now scarcely or ever heard.

Various names were used to describe the industry such as - Petrificationer, Spar Worker, Spar Turner, Spar Manufacturer, Spar Ornament Manufacturer and Journeyman Spar Maker. A Spar Painter added decoration and text to the finished Spar ornaments / baubles.

The marble - like gypsum usually exhibited mottled shades of light brown to cream when finished.

From the 1851 census records covering Coleorton, Griffydam, Thringstone, Whitwick and Swannington, there were approximately 37 people involved in the Spar Ornament / Bauble making business at that time, including those termed as Petrificationers (see later explanation).

There were 21 owners and 16 employees listed. It is not always possible to pinpoint where the bauble shops were located, as they were not shown on maps of the period as it was basically a back yard cottage industry, and people often moved around the locality to which added confusion. In several cases their businesses were attached to Public Houses which helped to identify their location.

A Hawker of Spar Ornaments / Baubles would have travelled the country by horse and cart selling them to shops and the public from their barrows. As featured later, the more successful makers would have exhibited their own wares from stands at local fairs, seaside resorts and towns popular with Victorians like Matlock.

In the 1851 census records, 8 people were operating Bauble Shops near Peggs Green, 6 in Griffydam, 1 in Coleorton, and 6 in Whitwick. In addition, there were 16 employees mentioned. It is significant, that 12 of the people listed, were born in Derbyshire with 8 in Derby itself.

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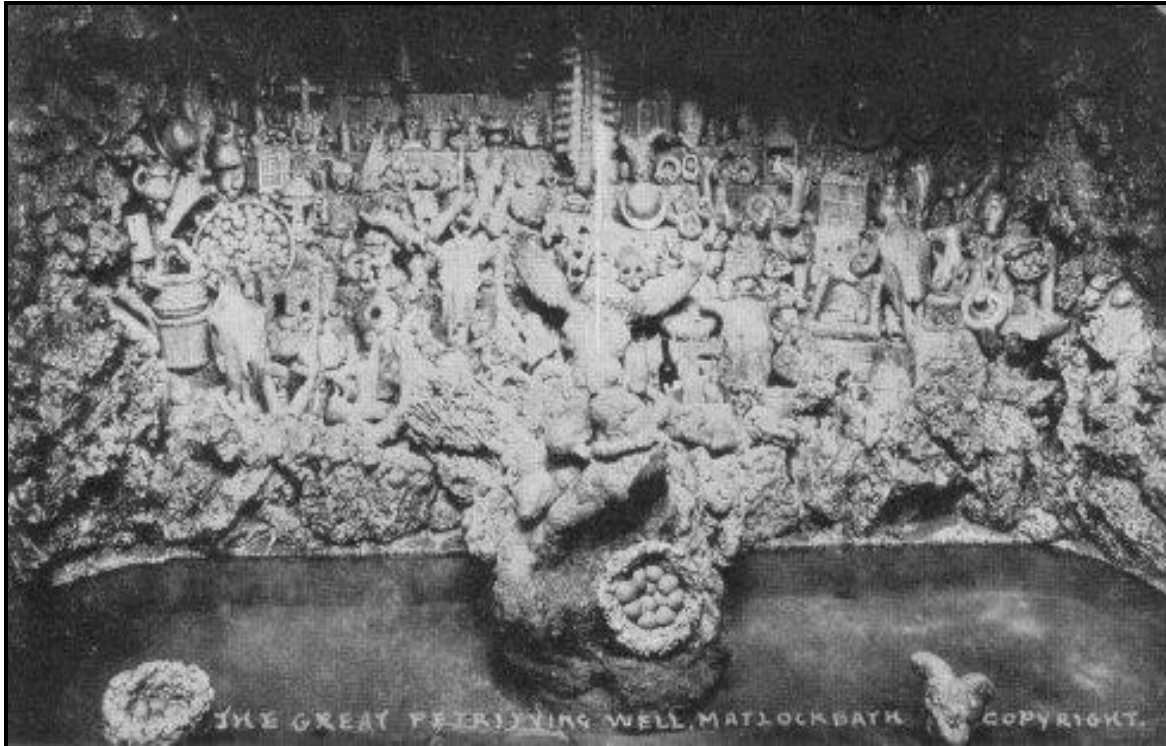
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PART 1

PETRIFICATION



An old postcard featuring “The Great Petrifying Well”, Matlock Bath, with its many and varied items undergoing petrification

Prior to Spar ornament / Bauble making becoming established in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire, an industry described as “Petrifaction” developed and continued on into the early Victorian period alongside Spar ornament / Bauble making. The people who engaged in this industry were referred to as “Petrifactioners”

This industry flourished in Matlock Bath at one time, and provided great entertainment for the visitors. The author leans towards the view, that the term “Petrifactioners” included in the local 1841 and 1851 census records and earlier baptism and marriage records were in fact Spar ornament / Bauble manufacturers as well as “Petrifactioners”. Many Spar ornament / Bauble workers owned Petrifying Wells as a side line, in order to supplement their income.

The only references found to a “Petrifying Spring” in the locality, was at Gelsmoor, Worthington which is specifically mentioned in “The Post Office Directory of Leics & Rutland 1855 and Whites Directory’s dated 1863 & 1877.

Presumably, with the prevalence of limestone in the area, there would have been a number of springs coming up through the strata, providing the right conditions for petrification.

THE PETRIFICATION PROCESS

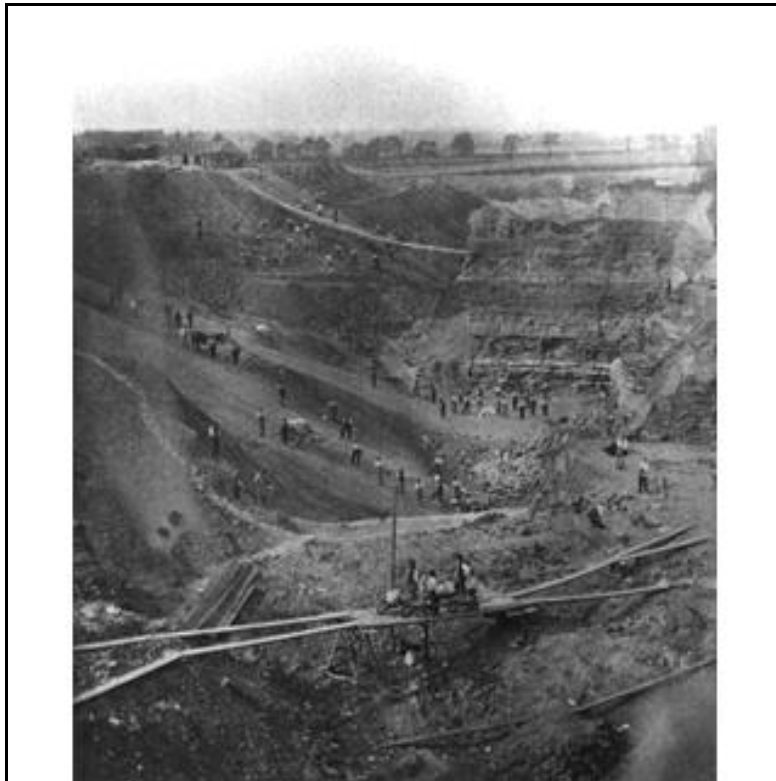
1. A Petrificationer, was a person who uses the natural waters of an area to coat an object in Calcium Carbonate. The objects, usually children's shoes, crockery, dolls, etc. were dunked for a period in the water, and when retrieved after obtaining a stone like appearance from the build up of CaCO_3 on the outside. Matlock, being in a limestone area, provided the right conditions for doing this, and the technique was used as a bit of a holiday / fairground style attraction in the town.
2. Petrification working, as it was referred to, became an important, and certainly not the least lucrative branch of the "curiosity" business at Matlock, there being several wells in the tufa (the calcareous and siliceous rock deposits of springs, lakes, or ground water), where this curious and interesting act of nature was carried on.

The process of incrustation is an exceedingly simple one, the articles to be treated (embracing almost every conceivable object, but chiefly birds' nests, baskets of fruit, moss, and the leaves and branches of trees) are placed on stands, and the water that filtrates through the tufa allowed to drip gently upon them; the moisture in percolating through the concrete mass becomes strongly impregnated with lime, and on reaching the open air, rapidly evaporates. A calcareous deposit is formed, that in time completely incrusts the object on which it falls, and gives it the appearance and hardness of stone.

PART 2

THE MANUFACTURE OF SPAR ORNAMENTS / BAUBLES

A local area industry which endured until the end of the 19th century was the making of ornaments of various kinds out of Spar, a marble-like gypsum which was quarried at Chellaston, near Derby, some ten miles away and Gotham, Nottinghamshire. In earlier days it was also referred to as Alabaster



Gotham gypsum quarry, Notts – c.1900
Copyright – Nottingham City Council

An ornament, or gaud of small actual utility, formerly classed as a plaything, was termed a “Bauble”. Hence, the small workshops connected with this trade in the district, were always referred to as “Bauble Shops”; an interesting survival of a word now scarcely or ever heard. Details of people the author has researched and who were engaged in this work in Griffydam, Peggs Green and Coleorton from the mid nineteenth century follow later.

Numerous people were also engaged in this activity in the Loughborough, Thringstone and Whitwick areas also. The following information suggests that the manufacture of Spar ornaments / Baubles started much earlier, than other records have suggested. The Whitwick Parish register for baptisms 1813 to 1833 lists the following father’s occupations-

1. 1828 - Edward Cockayne - Spar Manufacturers
2. 1829 - John Fields - Spar Manufacturers
3. 1831 - John Fields - Spar Manufacturer
4. 1825 - Thomas Hudson - Hawker of Derbyshire Spar
5. 1826 - Thomas Hudson - Hawker of Spar Ware

6. 1831 - Frederick Mead - Petrificationer
7. 1830 - Frederick Mead - Petrificationer
8. 1822 - John Roome - Derbyshire Marble Worker
9. 1830 - John Spinks - Spar Worker.
10. 1826 - John Tomlinson - Hawker of Spar Ware
11. 1829 - William Tugby - Spar Work Manufacturer.
12. 1831 - William Tugby - Spar Manufacturer
13. 1825 - William Walthall - Spar Manufacturer

In 1851, James Peters senior (38), who was born in All Saints Derby, was a Spar Manufacturer employing 5 men in Whitwick. There were 5 other people, all listed as petrificationers, operating in Whitwick in 1851 - John Allgood, Frederick Meads, Andrew Clark, Frederick Room, and Alfred Cash. The author takes the view that those given as petrificationers would have been Spar ornament / Bauble makers, but this is only conjecture of course.

Bauble making was also carried out in Loughborough from the 1840s onwards. The earliest record found, was that of John Cunningham in 1846 when he was listed as a Spar and Marble Ornament manufacturer in premises on the High Street. The "History Gazetteer & Directory of Leicestershire & Rutland 1877", confirms that Spar Ornament Manufacturing was still being carried out by John Cunningham of 7 Warners Lane.

One can only surmise as to how this industry, which demanded artistic taste and skill, came to be established in a coalfield many miles from the source of the raw material. In the "Middle Ages" the Image makers, Tomb makers, and Alabaster workers of Nottingham and Burton-On-Trent were famous throughout England and the continent. Their supplies of Alabaster, or Marble, - hence the term, "Alabastermen" - were obtained from Chellaston and Gotham.

Alabaster workers from these towns most likely drifted into the local coalfields to find work in times of stress and then established their bauble making in the local area to supplement their income. There are many examples given later of Spar ornament / Bauble makers in the local area being born in Derby.

THE BAUBLE MANUFACTURING PROCESS

Firstly, we should remind ourselves that the natural Spar would have had to be delivered from Chellaston, about 10 miles from the local area, in large blocks by horse and cart. We can only imagine how long that would have taken. The cost per ton in the mid 1850's, would probably have been in the order of 10s to 15s depending on colour and quality. The local peddlers would have perhaps collected smaller pieces from Chellaston for selling on to the bauble makers. The manufacturer would then have had to saw the block into suitable shapes for the items to be made, in what would have been an extremely dusty environment. The circular ornaments would have been turned on a treadle lathe to the required design. *During the turning process, they would have been smoothed with a wet pumice paste. In some cases, dependant on the design, the baubles were made in separate pieces which were then glued together with spar dust, resin and the white of an egg .The bauble was finished by being warmed and waxed before a final polishing with fullers earth* (reference a "Lost Leicestershire Industry" by J.A. Daniell). The baubles were sometimes decorated by painting, as on the Tulip Vase shown on page 9, but this would not have been long lasting. For ease of manufacture (turning and drilling only) the great percentage were circular in shape. The skill in making baubles should not be underestimated, particularly due to the variance in the structure and quality of the material, and many of the people had no previous experience of this. We should not underestimate the danger to the workers health in the "Bauble Shops" with no protection from the dust produced in a confined environment. However, James Peters, who features later, worked in the trade for at least 40 years and lived to over 80 years of age.

EXAMPLES OF VICTORIAN BAUBLES (some made locally)



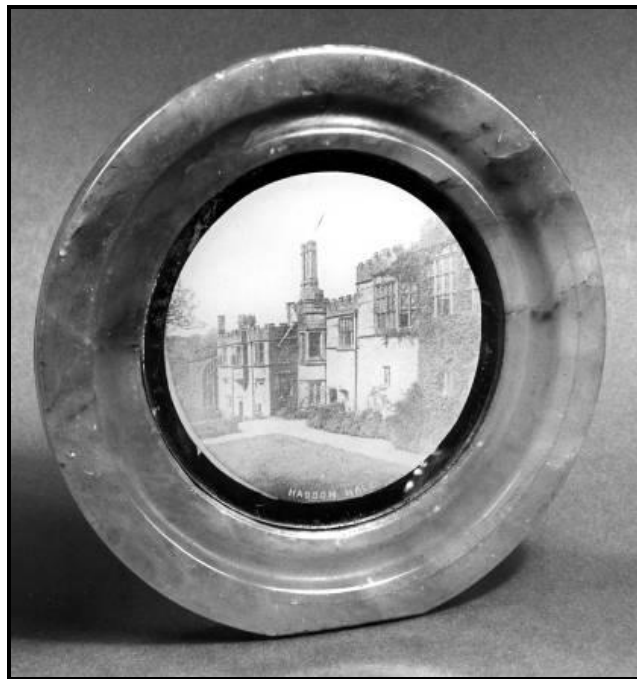
**Castellated Watch Stand kept in Leicester Museum
made at Coleorton**



Watch Stand



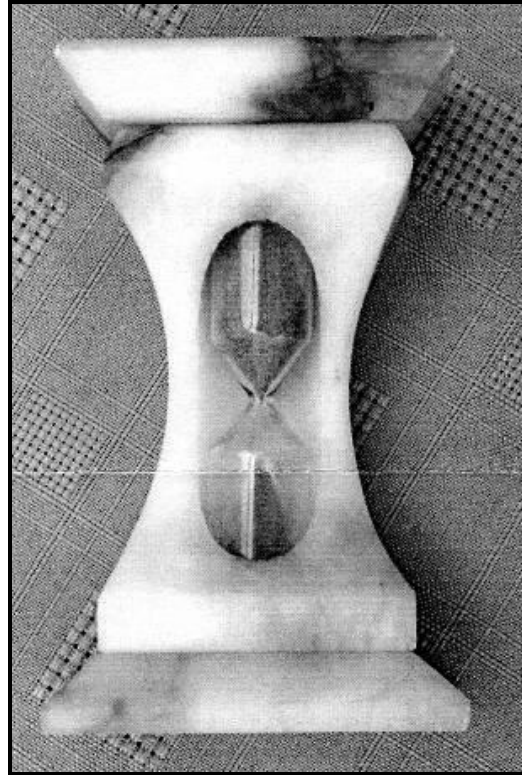
Tobacco Jar



Picture Frame - Haddon Hall



Pair of Candlesticks



Egg Timer

EXAMPLES OF VICTORIAN BAUBLES MADE IN WHITWICK



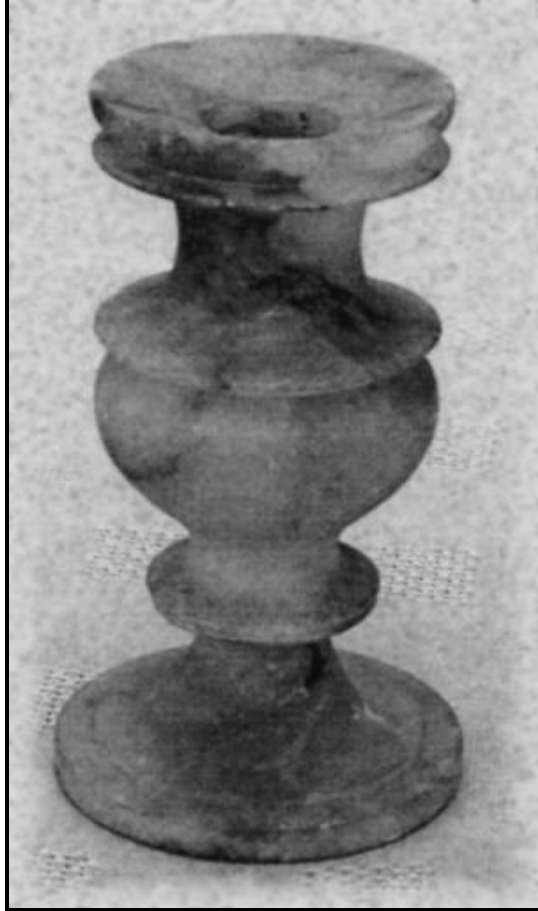
Trinket Bowl with two birds
Ht 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches Dia 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches



Pen and ink holder
Ht 2 inches Dia 3 inches



Hand painted Tulip Vase from
Mount St. Bernard's Abbey
Ht. 5 inches



Candlestick
Ht. 5 inches

PART 3

THE MARKET FOR BAUBLES

Very few baubles were made for sale locally, although there was a limited market for them at St. Bernard's Abbey and other Monasteries for selling to visitors by the monks. The largest and most lucrative markets were at Fairs / Wakes, places like Matlock and sea-side towns such as Weston-Super-Mare. Victorians visited Matlock in their droves and a substantial market for the sale of baubles was established there. It is noticeable that within Bauble making families, there were often people listed as "Hawkers of Spar", who were clearly engaged in selling the Baubles made at home to these markets, from their barrows, during the season. Like any good salesman, they would have been ultimately responsible for the output of the manufacturer and stocks would have been built up during the winter months. The cost of the items shown in appended photographs would have varied from say a few pence for the small simple items, to perhaps say 4s for the more complex one like the watch stand shown on the front cover.

The industry came to an end in the last decade of the 19th century due to an influx of cheap imports from abroad, and a change in fashion.



JOSEPH ASHTON WAS A BAUBLE MANUFACTURER IN PEGGS GREEN & WHITWICK. HE IS SEEN HERE SELLING HIS WARES AT WESTON SUPER MARE between 1875 & 1880.

**(by kind permission of Leicester Museum)
Photograph copyright of the originator**

PART 4

SPAR ORNAMENT / BAUBLE MAKING AND PETRIFICATION IN GRIFFYDAM AND PEGGS GREEN

A LIST OF SPAR ORNAMENT / BAUBLE MANUFACTURERS RECORDED IN GRIFFYDAM AND PEGG'S GREEN IN THE 19TH CENTURY

Joseph Ashton (Peggs Green),

Samuel Barlow (Peggs Green),

James Ford senior, James Ford, junior, George Ford & Edwin Ford (Griffydam and Peggs Green)

Charles Platts (Elder Lane, Griffydam),

Jabez Wilkinson (Griffydam),

William Richardson (Journeyman Spar maker Griffydam, lodging with for James Ford)),

Leonard Palmer (The Tentas, Griffydam),

John Tugby (Peggs Green),

Arthur Whyman (Peggs Green) possibly working for John Tugby,

George Peters (Elder Lane, Griffydam),

Oliver Farnsworth (Elder Lane, Griffydam, lodging with George Peters),

John, Samuel & William Spinks (Peggs Green),

Peter Morley (Peggs Green)

**CHARLES PLATTS – BAUBLE MANUFACTURER
ON ELDER LANE, GRIFFYDAM**

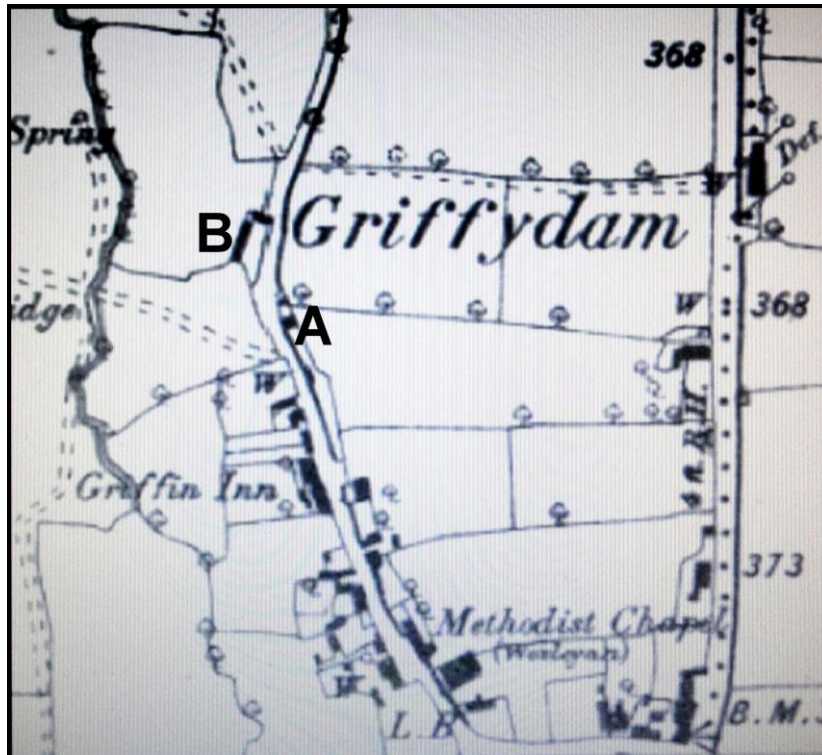


The upper photograph is of the cottage where Charles Platts' lived in Elder Lane, Griffydam, and where he manufactured Baubles in his "Bauble Shop", over a period of at least 40 years. The cottage is marked **A** on the following map. Charles was born in Worthington. The cottage was demolished in the 1950's. The old cottages in the distance on the left, marked **B** on the following map were also demolished in 1996 to make way for a new property. The lower photograph shows fragments of baubles which were found when a ditch was opened for pipe work in relation to a new house built on the site adjacent to the above cottage. The following photograph shows the exact location of where the fragments were discovered. Charles is first recorded as living in the above cottage in the 1841 census at the age of 7. He was recorded as a "Spar manufacturer" in the 1851 census at the age of 17, and similarly in the 1861 census at 27. In the 1881 census, he is still recorded as a "Spar Manufacturer" living with his wife Mary, who was born in Market

Bosworth, and they are aged 46 & 42 respectively. If we now fast forward to the 1901 census, he is listed as being a "Retired Bauble Manufacturer" and "invalid" still living with his wife Mary.



The area of bare earth on the RH side of the above photograph is where the ditch was excavated and the bauble fragments found. The area behind the gate was where the old cottage was situated.



JOSEPH ASHTON – PEGGS GREEN & WHITWICK

Joseph Ashton was apparently one of the more successful local people involved in the Bauble making industry (see earlier photograph) and he had his workshop somewhere in Peggs Green according to the 1851 census. He was born in St. Michael's, Derby. He was the son-in-law of John Spinks below, also a spar manufacturer, and was living with him and his wife Martha in 1851.

Joseph Ashton combined beer house keeping with bauble making, and was Landlord of the "Cricketers Arms" in Leicester Rd, Whitwick according to "Harrods Directory of Leicestershire and Rutland" in 1870. He was listed in "The History, Gazetteer & Directory of Leicestershire & Rutland 1877", as a Spar Ornament Manufacturer. Joseph was reported as still operating as a beer retailer and Spar Ornament maker in 1895 in Leicester Road, Whitwick.

JOHN, WILLIAM & SAMUEL SPINKS – PEGGS GREEN

John Spinks was aged 78 in 1851 and was born in Derby All Saints. He was on "Parish Relief" at that time, but listed as a Spar manufacturer also. John's son William, aged 19, born in Derby and living at the same address was also listed as a Spar manufacturer.

By 1861, John Spinks had died and William Spinks with his brother Samuel was listed as living at home with his mother Martha. Both Samuel and William were listed as Petrificationers.

PHILIP JACQUES – PEGGS GREEN

Philip Jacques (52), who was born in Coleorton, is listed in the 1851 census as employing 6 men and living next door to John Spinks above. He must have been running a significant operation, yet, In 1861, Philip Jacques was living in North Street, Whitwick as a Traveller.

WILLIAM HANDFORD – PEGGS GREEN

In 1851, William Handford (28), who was a "Hawker of Spar" and born in Swannington, was the son-in-law of Philip Jacques above, and living at the same address. He was presumably selling his father-in-law's wares.

THE FORD FAMILIES OF GRIFFYDAM

This is a good example of people moving to the area from Derbyshire to work in the Spar ornament / bauble / petrification manufacturing industry locally.

- In the 1851 census, James Ford, aged 58 (father), who was born in Darley, Derbys, is listed as a Spar Manufacturer. He is living with his wife Ann, aged 56, who was born in Langley, Derbys. **Also in the household is William Richardson (servant), aged 45 and listed as a journeyman spar maker. He was born in Ashbourne, Derbyshire.**
- In the 1851 census, George Ford, aged 32, is living next door with his wife Mary Ann, aged 26, and daughter Ann. George is listed as a Spar Painter. They were all born in Derby. Presumably George is the son of James above and would presumably be painting baubles made by his father and other makers. On the next page is an example of a painted bauble.

The Fords' adjoining cottages, were somewhere on the Top Road (now Nottingham Rd and formerly Frogatt's Lane), and the last recorded by the enumerator before Waterloo cottages at the Rempstone Rd cross roads.

- In the 1851 census, Edwin Ford, aged 26, and listed as a “**Petrefication Maker**”, is living with his wife Elizabeth aged 35. They are from Derby and Etwall, Derbys respectively. They appear to be living near to the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel.



A hand painted Bauble

JAMES FORD – PEGGS GREEN

James Ford, aged 24 and born in Derby P.N.P. is listed in the 1851 census as a Spar manufacturer also on Frogatt’s Lane, Peggs Green (In Thringstone Township at that time)

In 1861, James Ford was still operating as a Spar Manufacturer and living in Thringstone.

LEONARD PALMER - GRIFFYDAM

Leonard Palmer’s business was indicated by the census enumerator’s walk as being located near to the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, and the author understands lots of spar shards have been found in that area also. His Spar manufacturing business appears to have been the last surviving in Griffydham and Peggs Green.

Leonard, who was born in Ravenstone, is listed in the 1861, 1871 and 1891 census as a Spar manufacturer.

He was also listed in trade directories dated 1870, 1875, 1877, 1880 and 1892 as a Spar Manufacturer / Turner suggesting that he was running a sizeable and successful operation

JOHN TUGBY - PEGGS GREEN

In the 1851 census, John Tugby (54) born in Coleorton, was listed as a Spar manufacturer employing 5 men in Peggs Green. His wife Elizabeth, born in St. Mary’s, Nottingham was 50 years of age. His son Thomas (23) was living at home as a “Hawker” with 3 other siblings, Catherine, Sarah and William, so was probably selling his father’s wares.

Baptism records for St. George's Church, Swannington, showed that in 1832 John Tugby was a Hawker, and in 1840 a Spar worker. He was recorded in licensing records as being the landlord at "The New Inn" in from 1842 to 1860, yet the following advertisement from the Leicester Journal shows him to be the proprietor in 1841. It is clear from all the evidence that the "New Inn" was not sold and John Tugby remained there for 18 years as both licensee and the owner of a successful Spar ornament / Bauble manufacturing business in the adjacent workshops, presumably until Thomas Cox took over as landlord in 1861. Neither John Tugby nor his wife Elizabeth appeared in the 1861 census.

Leicester Journal 8th October 1841

Valuable Dwelling Houses and Land, at Pegg's Green, Thringstone

On the premises, on Tuesday, 28th October, 1841, at 5 o'clock in the afternoon, subject to conditions to be then produced, and in one or more Lot, or Lots, as may be agreed upon at the time of sale all that well-established PUBLIC HOUSE, called "The New Inn," with good stabling, workshops, Outbuildings, Gardens, Orchard, and Appurtenances adjoining the Melbourne Turnpike Road, near to Pegg's Green Colliery, and in the occupation of the proprietor, Mr. John Tugby.

*Also two comfortable, COTTAGES, adjoining the said Inn, with Gardens thereto, in the occupation of William Barkby and Francis Barkby. And a Close of excellent LAND, containing 1a. 1r. 17p. or thereabouts, lying on the opposite side of the road to the said Inn, and in front thereof. The above premises are situate in the Township of Thringstone, and are in good repair. The Inn is admirably situated for business, owing to it being in a populous and thriving neighbourhood, and its contiguity to the colliery, and has a good trade connected with it. **The Workshops are now used in the manufacturing of Spar Ornaments, and are adapted for occupation as Workshops, or, at a trifling expense, might be converted in to Cottages, for which tenants are readily found at good rents.***

For further information, application to be made to Mr. Tugby, on the premises; or to Messrs. Fisher & Sherwin, solicitors, Ashby-de-la-Zouch

Leicester Mercury – January 29th 1859

Pegg's Green, Coleorton –

On Monday evening, January 17th, Mr. Tugby, Spar Manufacturer, gave his usual treat to his workmen of a good supper.

TUGBY'S LANE, PEGGS GREEN WAS PRESUMABLY NAMED AFTER JOHN TUGBY.

ARTHUR WHYMAN

The 1891 Census lists Arthur Whyman as a Spar Stone Turner living at Tugby's Lane, Peggs Green. Apparently he worked for James Peter's junior in the workshop in "Bauble Yard", Thringstone. **See Part 5.**

PETER MORLEY – PEGGS GREEN

In the 1861 census, Peter Morley, aged 22, is listed as a Spar Manufacturer

GEORGE PETERS & OLIVER FARNSWOTH – GRIFFYDAM

George Peters, the son of James Peters senior was born in Whitwick and is listed in the 1881 Griffydam census as a Spar Manufacturer, Griffydam (**see Part 5**). Lodging with him is Oliver Farnsworth, born In Derby, also listed as a Spar Manufacturer. According to J. A. Daniell, Oliver Farnsworth formerly worked for George Peter's brother James Peters junior at his workshop in "Bauble Yard", Thringstone and he could neither read nor write, but had a good head for business and was entrusted by James Peters junior with taking a barrow of baubles to local fairs and markets (**see Part 5**).

SAMUEL BARLOW - PEGGS GREEN

Samuel Barlow aged 36 and born in Derby was listed as a **Petrifactioner** in Peggs Green in the 1851 census.

JABEZ WILKINSON

In 1851, Jabez Wilkinson (16), born in Breedon, was a Spar Turner in Griffydam.

BAUBLE SHOPS STILL SURVIVING IN GRIFFYDAM AND PEGGS GREEN IN THE 1890's

- **Charles Platts Elder Lane, Griffydam.** Charles Platts was first mentioned as a "spar manufacturer" in the 1851 census at 17 years of age, so presumably he had developed an early talent for this work. Further information on Charles Platts is given earlier.
- **Leonard Palmer's business appears to have been located on the Tents opposite the chapel next to Herbert Rowell (grocer and baker).** He is listed in the 1861, 1871 and 1891 census as a Spar manufacturer. He is also listed in trade directories dated 1870, 1875, 1877, 1880 and 1892 as a Spar Turner / Manufacturer in Griffydam, which suggests that he was operating a successful business.

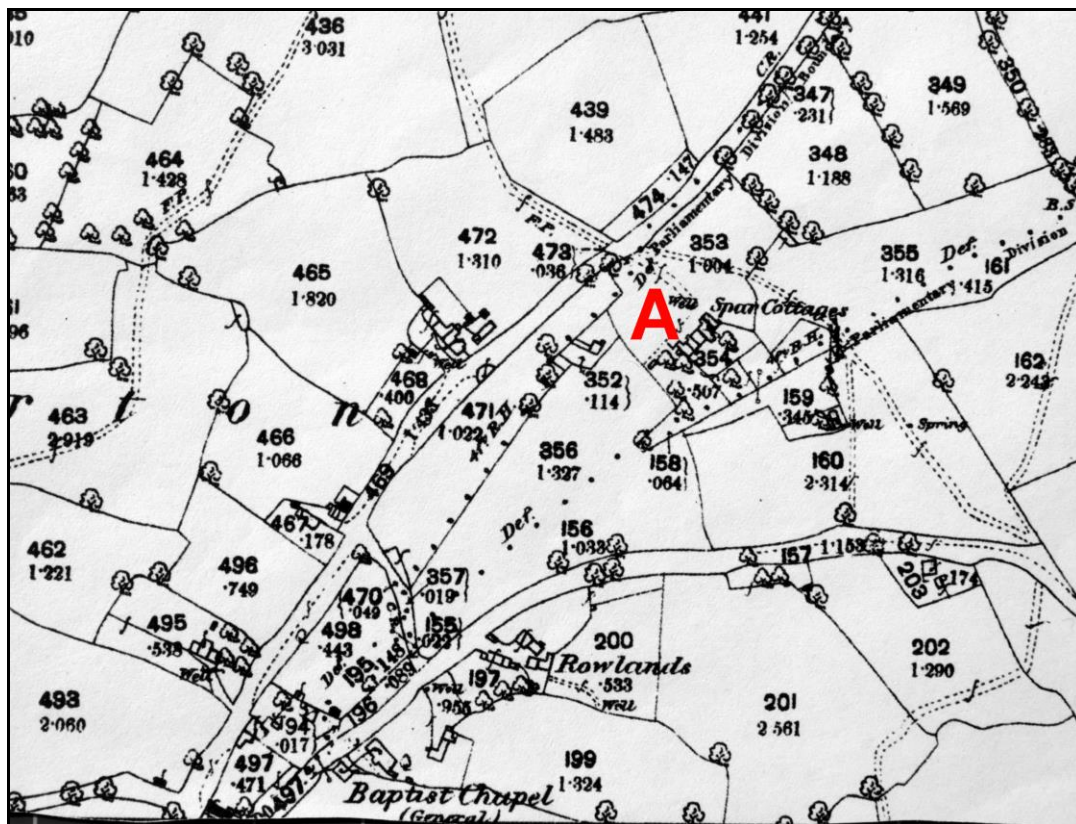
PART 5

SPAR ORNAMENT / BAUBLE MAKING IN COLEORTON (INCLUDING RELATED INFORMATION ON THRINGSTONE)

Workhouse Lane (later renamed Moor Lane) became the centre of the Coleorton bauble industry for a number of years. However, it must be said, that as far as the author is aware, we only have hand me down hearsay to confirm the existence of what is known locally as the “Bauble Shop” on Workhouse Lane which was reputedly the single story building that still exists next to Heather Cottage, thought to be some 400 years old. This is supported by an older member of the community reporting that as children, they would find fragments of Spar in that area, which they used as chalk, to mark out hopscotch games and such like. H. Butler Johnson in his “Vanished industries” written c.1910, mentions a “Bauble Shop” in Workhouse Lane which adds weight to the evidence. Heather Cottage is mentioned in the 1842 Coleorton tithe map register, but there is no reference made to a “Bauble Shop”.

Below is an extract of the 1885 published O/S map (surveyed 1881) which shows a row of cottages, marked “Spar Cottages” designated by the letter **A**, which further complicates matters. The first thought that comes to mind is that Spar Ornaments / Baubles would have been made there, hence the name. However, there is no evidence available to confirm that was the case. The row, thought to have been built up piece meal over the years was demolished towards the end of the 20th century and new properties were built on the site as part of a complex of farm buildings. The row was actually in the Township of Swannington till 1884/85 when the area around it was transferred into Coleorton Parish. As the map was surveyed in 1881, Spar Cottages must have been referred to by that name prior to then.

Cont'd on following page.....



The theory has been put forward that James Peters senior worked from the “Bauble Shop” and perhaps lived along with his workers in Spar Cottages, but however likely that is, we have no actual proof of that. From the following, we can deduce that if this theory is true, then it would have been between c.1860 and August 1872 prior to the family moving to the Queens Head, Coleorton. We should not discount the possibility that the blocks of natural Spar were stored and sawn into the required shapes at the cottages. So, we have a number of non-proven possibilities until someone comes along with some definitive proof.

In the 1841 census, James Peters senior (28) was listed as a Petrificationer on the “Moor”, Coleorton. Together with his wife Sarah (25), they were living with the Thomas and Sarah Berkin and their five children. Thomas Berkin’s trade was “General Dowler” which was thought to be a maker of headless pegs / dowels. It is almost certain that James Peters was making baubles, presumably in Thomas Berkin’s workshop, and the census enumerator had used the old word “Petrificationer” to describe his trade. However, we cannot discount that there may have been a petrifying spring in the locality as well (**see page 4/5**).

James Peters clearly did not settle long in Coleorton, as White’s Trade Directory of 1846 records him as an Ornamental Spar Manufacturer in North St, Whitwick. This is confirmed in the 1851 census where he is listed as being a Spar manufacturer employing 5 men there.

In the 1851 Coleorton census for the “Moor”, John Allgood (35), given as a “Petrificationer” and born in Tewksbury, is living with his wife Lucy (43) who was born in Coleorton. They have five children, coincidentally all born in Thringstone as previously John Allgood had been a Petrificationer in Whitwick. It is possible that they were living in “Rotten Row”.

We know that James Peters senior came back to Coleorton from North St, Whitwick before 1861, as the 1861 census for Coleorton Moor, lists James Peters senior, now aged 48, with his wife Sarah (45) and his son’s James junior (19) and Thomas (15), George E (14), William (12), Alfred (4) and daughters Sarah (8) and Clara (1). James senior, James junior and Thomas are all given as Spar Manufacturers.

In the 1871 census for Coleorton Moor, James (58) was listed as an “Ornamental Spar Manufacturer”, his wife Sarah (55) as a “Spar Painter”, and son Thomas (25) as a “Spar Turner”. Daughter Clara (11) is still living with them. We do not know whether his workshop was the aforementioned “Bauble Shop”. The business by this time was known as “James Peters & Son”. This presumably referred to his son Thomas, on the basis that James Peters junior by 1881 (39) had started his own Spar ornament / bauble manufacturing company in what became known as “Bauble Yard”, Thringstone (**see page 17**).

In “Wright’s Directory of Leicestershire 1892”, and “Kelly’s Directory of Leicestershire and Rutland 1895”, James Peters junior is listed as a Spar Ornament Manufacturer and Sub-Postmaster / Post Office, Thringstone. Apparently, by the turn of the century the business had declined and was closed down prior to his death in 1909 aged about 67.

From information given in Trade Directories dated 1876, 1877, and 1881, the James Peters senior business was shown as operating from the Queens Head Inn, Workhouse Lane, during that period. We know from “for sale advertisements” that the Queens Head had ample facilities to establish a “Bauble Shop” there. The Ashby de la Zouch register of licensees also confirms that James Peters senior was licensee of the Queen’s Head, Coleorton from Aug 1872 to Aug 27th 1881 when the license was noted as being discontinued. Interestingly, there is no licensee given after James Peters so it is assumed therefore that the Queens Head ceased to be an Inn after 1881. The 1881 Coleorton census (normally taken before April) lists James Peters as “Licensed Victualler Queens Head Inn”, which confirms the information in the licensing records. He is living with his wife Sarah and daughter Clara (barmaid), but there was no mention of Thomas or Spar Manufacturing.



The “Queen’s Head” after being converted to a modern residential property is located at the junction of where Moor Lane meets the area known as “The Rowlands”.

In the 1891 Coleorton census, James Peters senior, aged 80, is living on his own means with his daughter Clara Shaw (31), her farmer husband James Shaw (29) and their four children. They employed three servants.

Spar Ornaments / Baubles were still being manufacturing in Moor Town in the 1890's. In the 1891 census, George E. Peters (the third son of James Peters senior), aged 43, was listed as a “Spar Turner”. He is living with his wife Sarah A. Peters (43) and daughter Sarah (22). He had 2 lodgers George Howson, 48, “Spar Turner” from Derby and Charles Hodson, 61, “Spar Turner” from Ripley. In “Kelly’s Directory of Leicestershire & Rutland 1895”, George Peters is still listed as a Spar Ornament Manufacturer on Coleorton Moor.

There must have been considerable entrepreneurial skills coupled with artistic talent in the Peters family, as the father and his three sons all became Spar Ornament / Bauble manufacturers, and even Sarah the mother was involved as a painter of Baubles. By 1900, Spar / Bauble Manufacturing would have come to an end in Coleorton and there is no further mention of it in the 1901 census records.