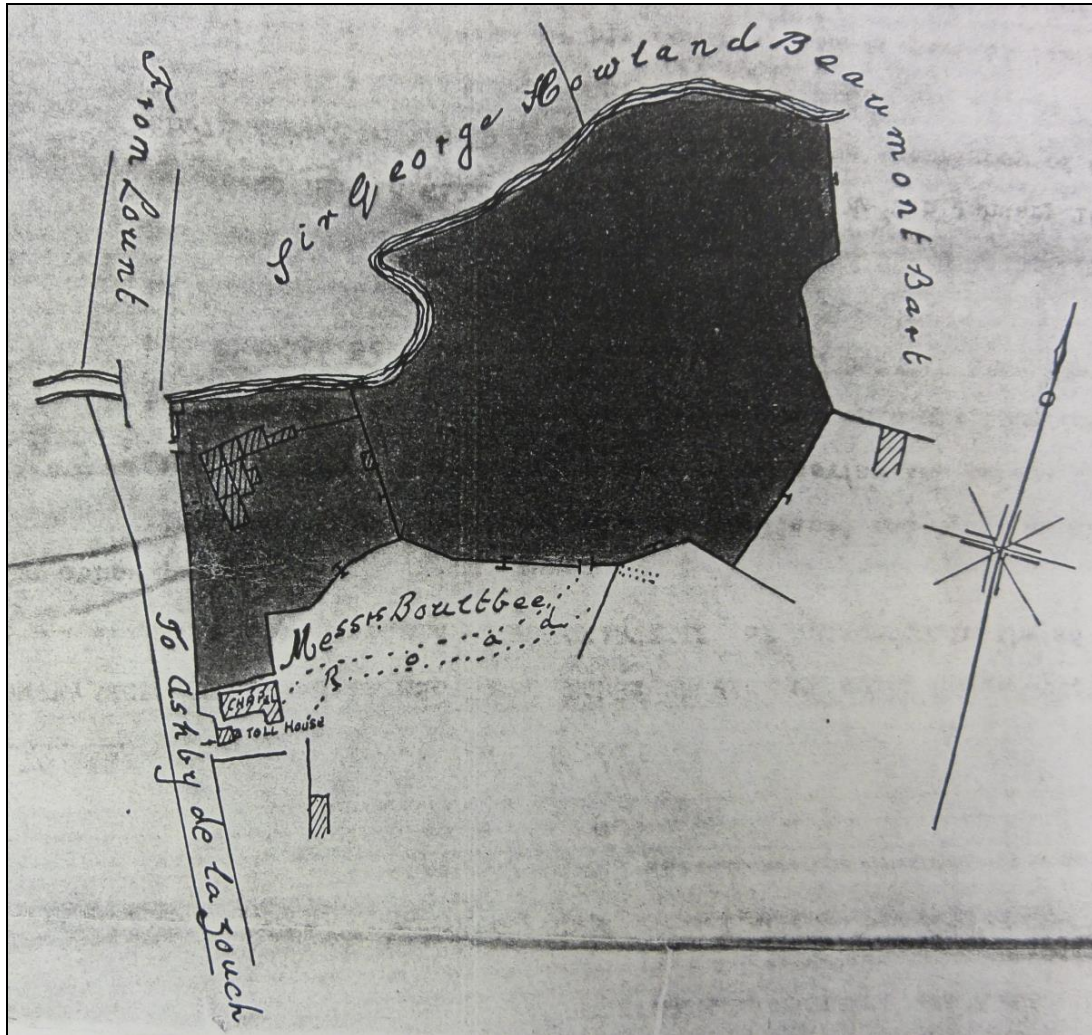


**MESSR'S BOULTBEE'S COAL MINE IN  
THE AREA OF "ROTTEN ROW"  
(PLUS SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION)**



**BY SAMUEL T STEWART - AUGUST 2022**

## **FRONT COVER**

See page 6 for information

## **PREFACE**

This short publication has been written to record an important Boulton coal mine located in "Rotten Row" in the Township of Thringstone. No research information specific to the actual colliery workings or output has been found, but the author has attempted to put together information found relating to the colliery in terms of its location and its Newcomen atmospheric fire engine (pump). Information on the turnpike toll house which took the tolls relating to the output of the colliery, and the Old Engine Inn which was built close to the site is also included.

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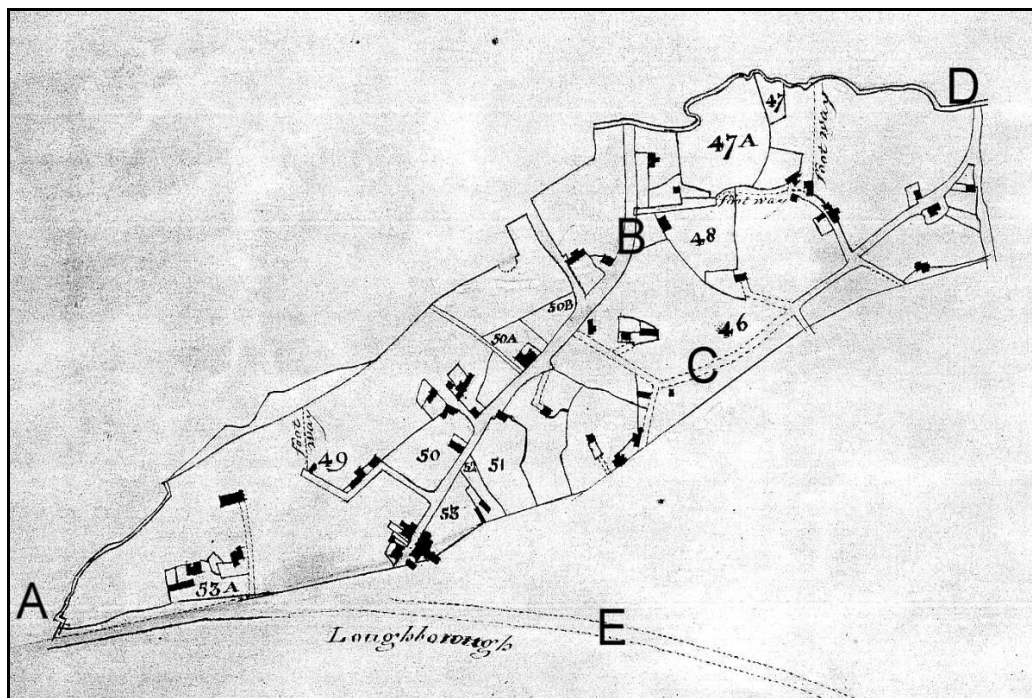
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## THE BOULTBEE'S COAL MINE IN "ROTTEN ROW"

### INTRODUCTION

It is first necessary for the reader to gain a basic understanding of where the area of "Rotten Row" was located. This was basically an Island of land within the Ecclesiastical parish of Coleorton which was part of the Township of Thringstone (part of the Ecclesiastical parish of Whitwick) till 1884, when it then became integrated into the Ecclesiastical parish of Coleorton.

The "Manor of Thringstone", including "Rotten Row" was purchased by Joseph Boulton senior of Coleorton in 1764 for £1,600 from a Mr. Busby. Boulton gave Sir George Howland Beaumont, 7th Baronet, the opportunity to purchase it, but he declined the offer, only to find Boulton benefited financially from the purchase, by mining coal in that area, but that is another story. Joseph Boulton Senior and Junior made a fortune leasing mines from Sir George Howland Beaumont, 7th Baronet (1753-1827) and an acrimonious court case in the Chancery ensued following the discovery by Sir George Howland Beaumont, 7th Baronet, that Joseph Boulton senior had been swindling him whilst acting as his Steward for a number of years. Joseph Boulton junior had to pay the 7th baronet £20,000 which was later reduced to £15,000. The whole matter was not finally settled till 1805.



**THE AREA OF ROTTEN ROW - TAKEN FROM THE PEGGS GREEN AND THRINGSTONE 1807 ENCLOSURE MAP**

The following key will provide the reader with an idea of how the area of "Rotten Row" relates to the current geography of the area:-

**A** = Coleorton Fish Pond, **B** = Lower Moor Road, **C** = Stoney Lane, **D** = The Woolrooms, **E** = Loughborough Road.

The brook coming from Coleorton Fishpond which passes under Lower Moor Road is represented by the double line at the top, and also defines the Worthington parish boundary.



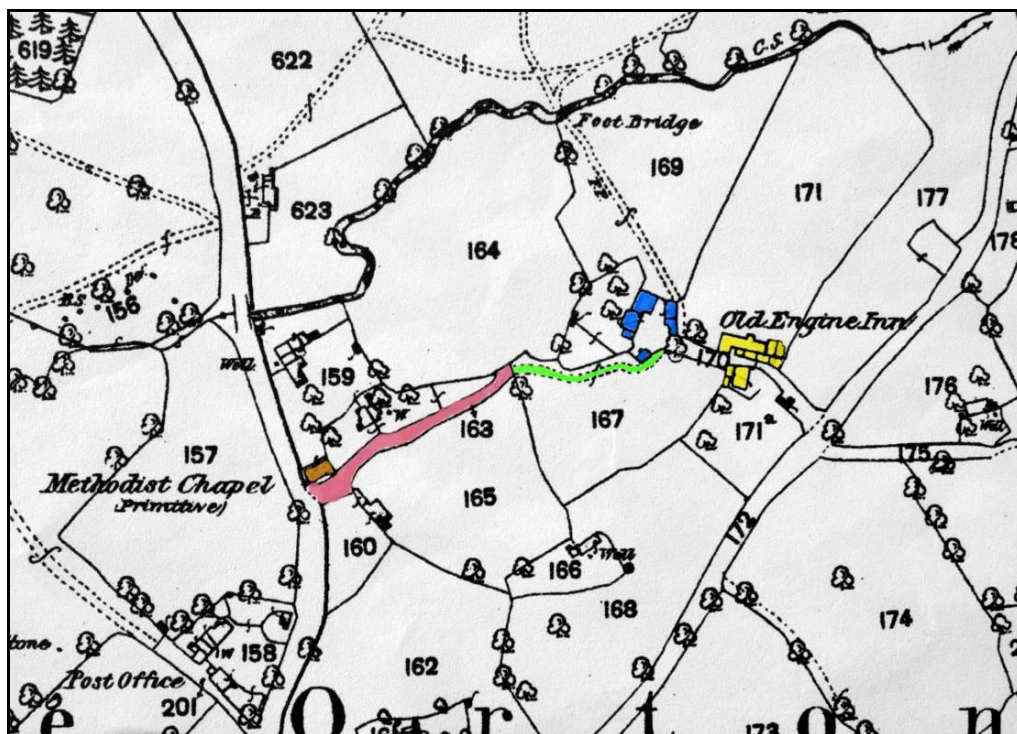
## LOCATION

The following extract from the 1881 surveyed, 1885 published O/S map shows the entrance to Elverston's yard off what became Stoney Lane, and this can be related to the preceding 1807 map, where it is shown at the intersection of two foot ways at right angles to each other, just south of the brook flowing out of Coleorton fishpond.

Messr's Boulton's coal mine was thought to have been sunk in the field marked 164 on the map below, which can be related to plot 47A on the preceding "Rotten Row" map and the area shaded black on the front cover map. It was sunk in the late 18th century, but it is not known how long it was worked, although evidence suggests that it would have been post 1839 as the original Primitive Methodist Chapel built in that year is included on the front cover sketch map. It was most likely sunk by Joseph Boulton senior (1700-1789) and subsequently inherited by his son Joseph Boulton, junior following his father's death.

A Newcomen atmospheric fire engine is recorded as being installed as was common practice at this time to pump water out of the mine, and it is assumed that the "Old Engine Inn" took its name from that. Details of the Old Engine Inn follow later.

It is reasonable to assume that the Newcomen Atmospheric Fire Engine would have deposited the pumped out water into the brook north of the mine via a sough.



1885 PUBLISHED (1881 SURVEYED) O/S MAP

A branch of the ancient Elverston's families cluster of buildings in Elverston's Yard are coloured **blue** on the above map. When comparing this map, with the preceding 1807 map, it can be seen that a number of buildings already existed in 1807 along the short track leading to Elverston's Yard.

When the author as a boy attended the old Primitive Methodist Chapel Sunday School (built 1839 & coloured **brown**), it was customary to walk via the track off

Stoney Lane which bypassed several cottages (coloured **yellow**) before arriving at the remaining foundations of what used to be the original Elverston's Yard buildings (coloured **blue**).

At that time, c.1948 only the foundations of the buildings in Elverston's Yard remained, however, there were apple trees remaining in what was the orchard there, which were scumped on the way to Sunday School during the season.

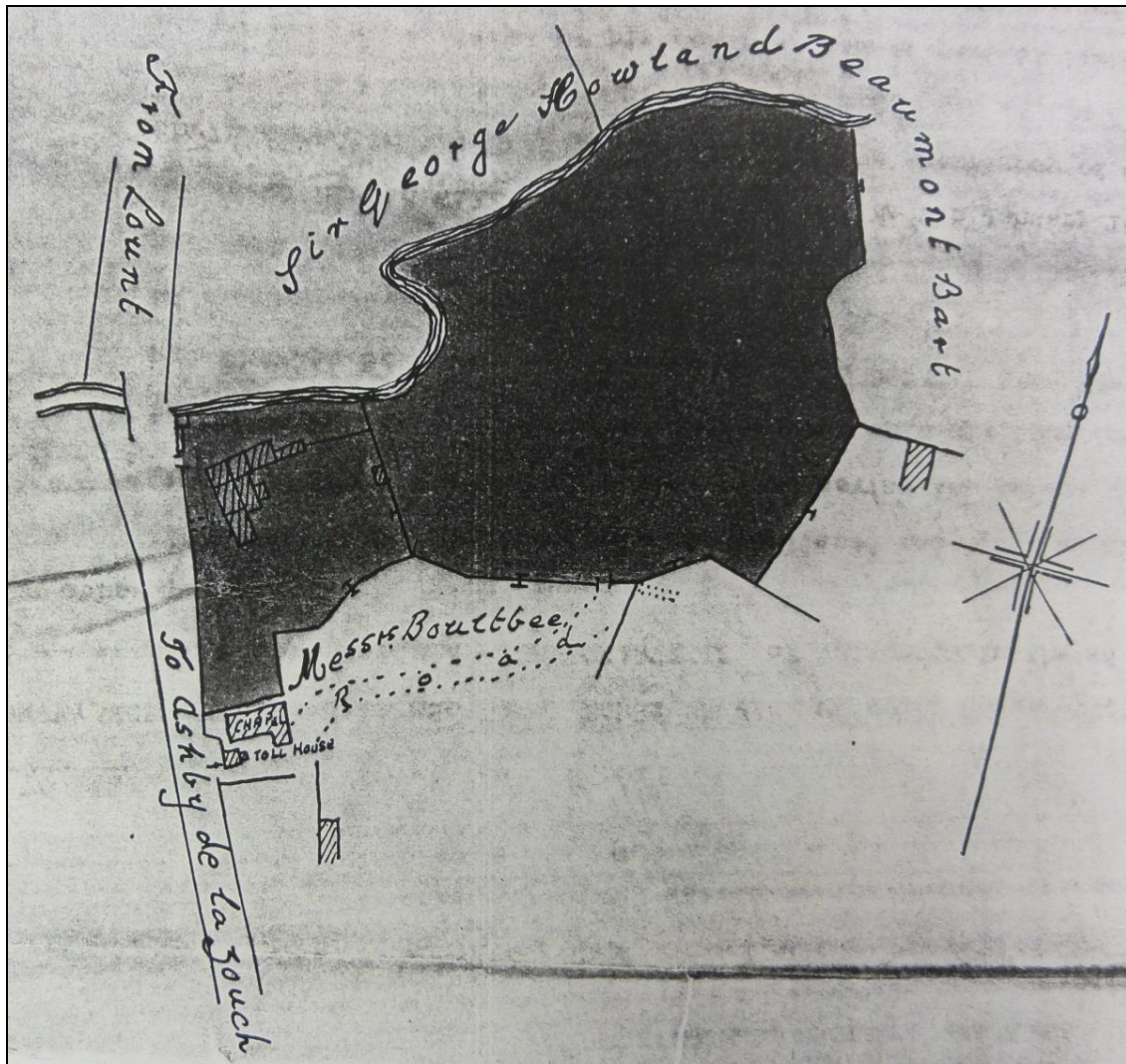
The track across the field (coloured **green**) was referred to by the locals as "Chatter Lane" presumably because of the "Chatter gate" that existed there, prior to a stile being built for the council by the author's wife's grandfather Fred Barkby.

The trackway (coloured **pink**) is now referred to as Chapel Lane but this was just a track at that time providing access to the two semi-detached properties that existed along there at that time, which were occupied by the Sheppard's in one and Minnie Stinson in the one nearest the Chapel. These buildings are shown on the map.

**It seems from the front cover map that what became known as Chapel Lane would have been the former roadway into and from Boulton's coal mine.**

The area including the **yellow** and **blue** buildings and the track leading to them eventually took the name of Elverston's Lane / Yard.

## AN OLD UNDATED MAP



The date of the above sketch map must be post 1839 as this was the date when the old Primitive Methodist Chapel, shown on the map, was built.

The map is important in that it defines the road to / from Messrs Boulton's coal mine, which later became known as Chapel Lane. It also shows the Toll house adjacent to the chapel and the Coleorton branch of the Hinckley to Melbourne turnpike road running north to south. As this part of the turnpike branch was within the area of "Rotten Row", then strictly it would be incorrect to refer to it as Coleorton. One assumes that Boulton would have paid a toll at the Toll house on all the coal being transported from his mine onto the turnpike road.

The author suggests that this map, with the area shaded black was perhaps produced as a legal document to define the area of Boulton's coal mining activity and to differentiate this part of "Rotten Row" owned by Boulton from the land to the north owned by Sir George Beaumont.

In an interview carried out by Lavengro at the Coleorton "Darby & Joan" club in the old Primitive Methodist Chapel, which featured in the Coalville times newspaper dated October 9th 1953, he recorded the following:-

*History, it appears, was all around us as we sat : the site of the old Toll-gate was just outside, and there were old pit shafts here, there and everywhere ; each with its own story. There was one colliery quite near the chapel. The shaft was simply boarded up when the workings were finished, and in due course, a garden was formed above it. then the boards rotted, and one day the whole contraption collapsed, and an apple tree and part of the garden disappeared into the bowels of the earth.*

## THE “OLD ENGINE INN” – ELVERSTON’S YARD

Ale Houses were commonly built near to coal mines so the miners could imbibe before going home. Some of course never made it home and would have gone straight to the next shift having slept off the intoxication! Until the 1825 Licensing Act came into force, it was not necessary for an Ale House to be given a name, only a location. It is thought that the Inn was named after the Newcomen atmospheric “fire engine” discussed earlier.

Due to the fact that there was also the New Engine Inn at Peggs Green, and the licensing records refer to them both as the Engine, notwithstanding also that their records are both mixed up also, it is extremely difficult to differentiate between the two, even with some local knowledge.

The following table is a list of licensees taken from the licensing records which the author is confident can be relied upon:-

NAME OF LICENSEE	DATES LICENSE HELD	OWNER OR LEASEHOLDER
Isaac Waterfield	August 1842 to Aug 1846	Not given
Henry Lakin	August 1846 to Aug 1855	Not given
Rachel Lakin (wife of Henry)	August 1855 to Aug 1864	Not given
John Jinks	August 1864 to Aug 1868	Not given
John Toon Jinks	August 1868 to Aug 1872	Not given
Joseph Toon Jinks	August 1872 to Aug 1878	William Harrison, Ashby
William Ward	August 1878 to Aug 1886	Mathew William Harrison
James Grice (Coal miner and Inn Keeper 1891 census)	August 1887 to Aug 1892	Mathew William Harrison / Executors
Edward Robinson (32) Licensed victualler at home Own account	1901 Census	Not known if he followed James Grice and purchased the Inn from the executors
Thomas Turner	1904 (see following newspaper article)	

### WILLIAM WARD - LICENSEE

*Following his departure from the Old Engine Inn, William Ward appears to have moved to the Blacksmith's Arms, Rotten Row (now Lower Moor Road) and situated just opposite Bradford's Lane, where he is recorded as Beerhouse Keeper, Smith's Arms in White's Directory for 1887-8. This is the first written occurrence of a name for that establishment I am aware of, although it had likely operated from at least the 1840s. His move there was not by chance, but likely from family connection, since the property was actually owned at that time by Francis Smith, his brother in law, who had himself been its licensee before then. The Blacksmith's was kept by several generations of his descendants until its demolition in ca. 1961 when the bungalow 'Greenfields' was built on the site. (Written by Terry Ward who currently resides in Coleorton and William Ward was his GGrandfather)*

The *Old Engine Inn* occupied what is now the right hand of a pair of cottages, currently named Willow Cottage which was formally part of a row as shown in the preceding O/S map. The following undated photograph depicts an iron work pole for the hanging sign which hung at the end wall of the former Inn. Apparently there was some writing on this wall also.





Photograph copyright of the originator – date not known

The “Old Engine Inn” finally closed its doors to the public in 1908 as confirmed in the following newspaper report.

**Leicester Chronicle and Leicester Mercury 27<sup>th</sup> June 1908, page 4.**

*Under: Leicestershire Licensing Authority  
Ten Licenses Refused Renewal.*

**THE OLD ENGINE COLEORTON**

*Supt.Lockton said the house was fully-licensed and was owned as the last house. The population of Coleorton was 783 – one license to every 156 persons – and in witness opinion, not only was the license not required, but the house was structurally unsuitable.*

*No opposition was offered in this case and magistrates refused the license.*

**FURTHER RELATED NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:-**

**Nottingham Evening Post 26<sup>th</sup> November 1904**

**THE COLEORTON BURNING FATALITY**

*At the inquest held at the Old Engine Inn, Coleorton, yesterday afternoon, touching the death of Florence Annie Turner, the three year old daughter of Thomas Turner, Landlord of the Inn, Dr. Atkinson, of Osgathorpe, attributed death to shock, The evidence of the mother was that on Tuesday she left the child playing in the taproom whilst she walked in the garden. On returning she met the child, who was in flames, running towards the door. The burns were confined to the face, chest and arms. Death ensued on Thursday. There was no fireguard in the taproom and the child was wearing a loose pinafore. A verdict in accordance with the medical evidence was returned.*

**This case once again illustrates how vulnerable young boys and girls were to burning accidents due to wearing long flammable clothing.**

**Leicester Journal 29<sup>th</sup> August 1919, page 3.**

**COLEORTON**

**PROPERTY SALE.** – *Messrs. Orchard and Joyce conducted a successful property sale at the George Inn on Monday. ....*

*The last item on the list was three cottages situated in Elverson's yard, and the bidding reached £220, Mr. Hough being the purchaser.*

**INFORMATION WHICH MAY BE OF INTEREST TO GENEALOGISTS REGARDING OTHER LICENSEES IN THE PRECEDING LICENSEE CHART**

Henry Lakin died in 1855, his widow Rachel then married John Toon Jinks 4th quarter of 1861. John T. Jinks seems to have been a widower, since the 1861 census records him living at Peggs Green (age 40) as a coal miner with his children - Thomas (age 18), Clara (age 14) and Charles (age 7).

Rachel died 2nd quarter of 1867 (age 48). Assuming John Jinks and John Toon Jinks are the same person then this is all consistent with the licence records and explains how John Jinks came to be the licensee.

After Rachel's death, John Jinks seems to have married yet again and is recorded in the 1871 census at 'Engine Row', Thringstone (Elverston's Yard) as a coal miner aged 51 with his new wife Jane (age 30) his daughter Eliza Jinks (age 18, seamstress) and stepdaughter Hannah Lakin (age 12, seamstress). No mention is made in the 1871 census of the licensed trade.

John Jinks died in 1892 aged 72.