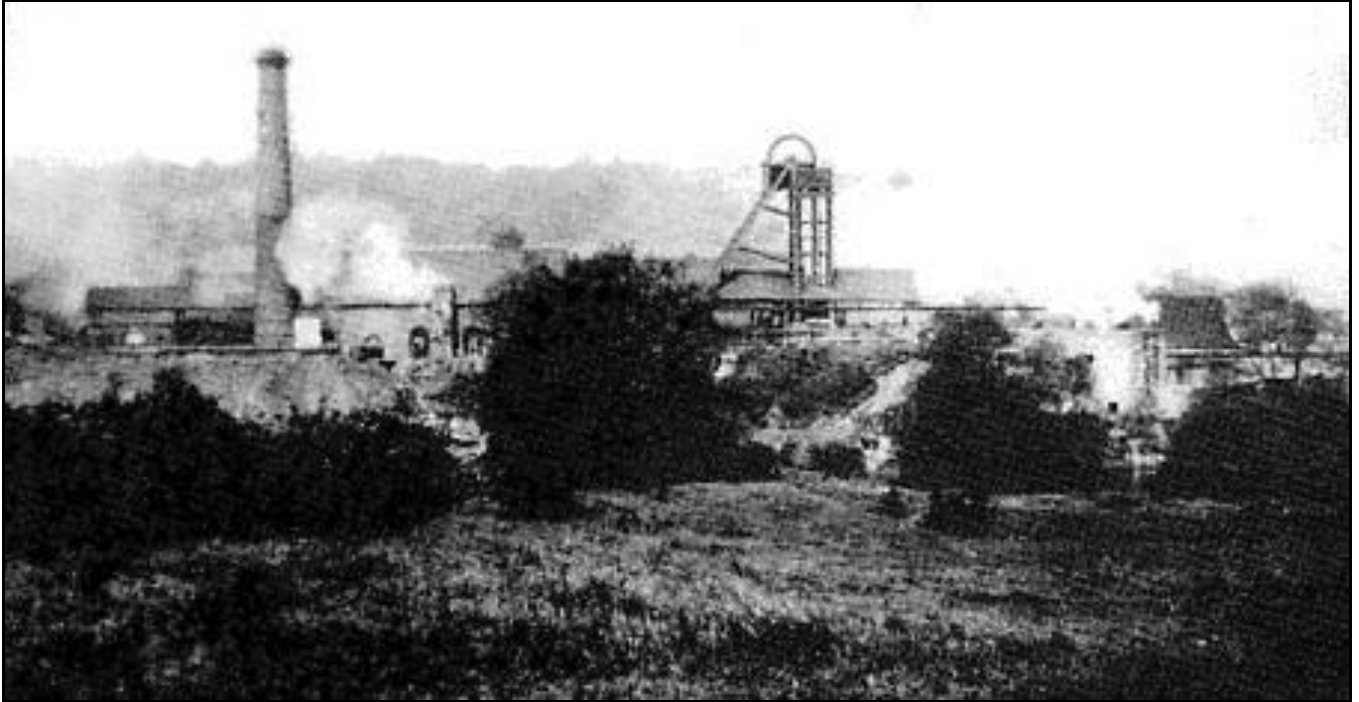


**TWO BROTHERS, THOMAS AND NATHAN
LORD, KILLED IN UNDERGROUND
ACCIDENTS AT THE BUG & WINK**



COLEORTON No. 3. COLLIERY (BUG & WINK)

BY SAMUEL T STEWART - JANUARY 2023

PREFACE

This is an extremely tragic story about two brothers who were killed in underground accidents at the Bug & Wink within 8 months of each other, by a fall of stone from the roof in the stalls in which they were working. Four of the Lord brothers Thomas, Nathan, James and John were working down the Bug & Wink. Thomas also had three sisters - Elizabeth, Florence and Maria.

COMPLEMENTARY READING

Numerous mining books on the local area are free to download and read on the author's website:-

<https://samuelstewart940.wixsite.com/mysite>

PUBLISHED BY SAMUEL T STEWART

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THOMAS LORD



Coleorton Beaumont Cricket Club 1904

Thomas Lord was the great uncle of the authors wife Sheila and a respected member of the Coleorton Beaumont Cricket Club. He is featured second from the left in the top row of the above photograph.

Tommy, as he was known, was tragically killed in an accident at Coleorton No.3. Colliery (Bug & Wink), on the 19th of August 1911 at the age of 32, leaving his wife Margaret (nee. Barkby) widowed with her three young children - Robert (aged 10), Eunice (7) and Alec (5). The family lived in half of a semi-detached pair of old beamed cottages in the Woolrooms, which although within the parish of Worthington is always thought of as being in Coleorton. The second half of the cottage was rented out till Robert lived in it when he became married to his wife Flo who gave piano lessons. Alec married Elizabeth (Lizzie) and they lived in a detached house at the entrance track to the Woolrooms where it meets Aqueduct Lane. This was demolished in more recent times and a modern house built in its place. Eunice never married and she and her mother lived out their lives in the cottage where Sheila spent many happy hours as a child with them.

This sad event had aroused much public sympathy, the deceased being so well known, and a large number of people attended the funeral as a last mark of respect. A copy of the Coalville Times newspaper report of the funeral and reports on the accident are appended. **Thomas's brother Nathan was also killed at the Bug & Wink 8 months later and Samuel Matchett (thought to be his brother-in-law) was killed there on 18th December 1918.**

An official accident report on the death of Thomas Lord:-

At the time of the accident, Thomas was working as a "Stallman", and the colliery was owned by Checkland and Co. Thomas was ripping in the gate road, five or six yards from the coal face, when, without previous warning, a part of the roof which was two to three feet wide and two feet thick, fell from two unseen converging slips, killing him instantly.

Fatality at Coleorton Colliery

100 YEARS AGO – 1911

THE funeral took place at Coleorton on Saturday afternoon of Mr Thomas Lord, the unfortunate young man who was killed in the Coleorton Colliery on the previous Tuesday.

The sad event had aroused much public sympathy, deceased being so well-known, and a large number of people attended the funeral as a last mark of respect.

The service was conducted by the Rector the Rev Harold Robinson, the first portion being in the parish church, and at the close, the hymn

"Thy will be done" was sung. The chief mourners were deceased wife, daughter and two sons. Mrs James Lord (mother), Mr and Mrs Barkby (father in law and mother in law), Mr James Lord (brother) and Mrs Lord, Mr John Lord (brother), Mr Nathan Lord (brother) and Mrs Lord, Mrs Harding, of Leicester, Mrs Matchett, Elizabeth, Florence and Maria (sisters), Mr T Matchett, Mrs S Shakespear, of Shirebrook, E Barkby (sister in law) and other relatives.



Margaret Lord (nee. Barkby)
Great auntie and uncle of the author's wife Sheila Stewart (nee. Bannister)



Thomas Lord

INQUEST REPORT

**TRANSCRIBED FROM THE MELTON MOWBRAY MERCURY & OAKHAM
& UPPINGHAM NEWS - THURSDAY 07 SEPTEMBER 1911**

THE FATALITY AT COLEORTON COLLIERY JURMAN'S SERVICE DISPENSED WITH INQUEST AND VERDICT

At the Beaumont Arms Inn, Coleorton, on Thursday afternoon, Mr. Coroner Deane held an inquest on the body of Thomas Lord, a coal miner aged 32 of Coleorton, who was killed in Coleorton Colliery on Tuesday by a fall of stone.

Mr. W. M. Saint, inspector of mines for the South Midland District, attended the inquiry, and others present were. Mr. F. T. Tatham, manager of the colliery, and Mr. Levi Lovett, agent of the Leicestershire Miners Association.

A juryman arrived after the jury had been sworn in, and the coroner said he could dispense with the man's services. He ought to have been punctual.

John Lord a stall man working at Coleorton Colliery, identified the body as that of his brother, 32 years of age, a stall man at the same colliery. On Tuesday, witness and his brother, were working in No.28. stall, deceased being engaged ripping, and witness at the coal face was about eight or ten yards away from him. Witness, about a quarter past two heard a fall, and he called out "Tommy" and could not see him, and he looked down in No.30. stall. Witness then saw a light down the road, and called his brother's name again, but Tommy Reed answered that he was not there, and then witness saw one leg of his brother under the fall - a large stone with a number of other stones around. Witness called for help, and deceased was brought out. He

was quite dead and no doubt was killed instantly. Deceased was the chargin man who examined the stall before they started. He was there first and told the witness "it was alright". Plenty of timber was available. There had been, so far as witness knew, no shot-firing in his stall or that of No.30. stall. Some distance away there had been shot firing. The stone which killed his brother fell from the roof, straight down, and he would say it gave no warning. Witness noticed no slip or fault in the roof, but had noticed a slip since. None of the timber had been drawn that morning, but some had been set. The condition of the gateway had not been altered that morning, in any way. The props were five feet apart where the fall occurred. The stone roof was not supported in any way by bars.

By the inspector : It looked a good roof. He did not hear his brother knock any timber out. The fall might have knocked some out. Deceased was a most careful man. Witness examined the roof by sounding it, when he went to work. About four yards fell and the thickness would be about a yard. The sounding of a thick stone like that would give no indication of a fall. Deceased and witness had been working together for about ten years. Four brothers worked at the colliery.

By Mr. Levi Lovett : Witness did not think there was any necessity for a bar to be placed across the roof when he went to work in the morning.

Benjamin Marsden, a deputy at Coleorton Colliery, said No.28. stall was in his district in the mine. He went there at 10.30 on Monday morning and examined it with the gate-road, and found it in safe working order. He sounded the roof but not the sides. The roof sounded safe for work. At about 2.15 p.m. the witness heard of the fall, and he had since examined the roof from which the stone fell. The length of the fall would be about sixteen feet, and the depth of the stone in the middle about two feet. Witness had since seen a slip, or fault, where the stone came from. Witness had not noticed any slip before. He considered that deceased was wedging the lip. Deceased's pick was in his hand when he was found.

By the inspector : There were two lines of slips, but he did not know how far they were apart. In witness's opinion no bars across the roof were necessary when he examined it in the morning. It was a rock roof, and a big stone would give very little indication of falling. the props which were down were caused by either deceased ripping, or were knocked out by the fall. It was quite possible that deceased removed a prop.

By the Coroner : The stone fell straight down from the roof.

Br Mr. Lovett : Mr Gill had been in the stall before witness went. The packing formed the sides.

The Coroner said he had two other witnesses if the jury desired to hear them. The deceased was a charge man, who sounded the roof, as did the deputy and others, and it was considered safe.

Dr. Neil Nail, of Coalville, assistant to **Dr. Jamie**, deposed to examining the deceased after removal from the mine. There were extensive injuries, including a fracture of the frontal bone, and a scalp wound at the back. The cause of death was fracture of the skull.

The jury returned a verdict of "**Accidental Death**".

The manager of the colliery, on behalf of Messrs. Checkland and Co., expressed sympathy with the widow and family, and said that all that could be done to comfort them would be done

Mr. Lovett, on behalf of the Leicestershire Miners Association, and the Coroner joined in the expression of sympathy. It was stated that the deceased left three children.

The following was written by Robert Lord, one of the son's of Thomas Lord, in the Leicester Daily Mercury - Tuesday January 16th 1979, whilst living at 113 Limby Hall Lane, Swannington:-

My father Tommy Lord, a coal miner and musician, was entertaining the company in the Beaumont Arms, the next day he came home hoping to go to the wakes.

The Rector met us at the door, speechless, my grandmother told us children, aged 10, 7 and 5 that our father was dead. *The Wakes were silent as he was brought home with his legs hanging out the back of a coal cart.*

Thomas had been far sighted enough to pay a penny a week to the Leicestershire Miners fatal accident fund from which my mother Margaret Lord (nee. Barkby) received 7s. 6d. per week and the magnificent sum of £240 compensation from the colliery owners.

Eight months later his brother was killed, and another brother was later seriously injured. A few years later his brother-in-law was killed.



A miner filling a typical Wooden Tram, Tub (local name) or Jottie at the coal face. Note the safety lamp hanging on the roof support, which would have only provided very poor lighting.



Ponies were eventually used to haul the tubs from the face



Timbering Up

NATHAN LORD

An official accident report on the death of Nathan Lord, who was brother to Thomas Lord :-

Nathan Lord who worked as a "Stallman" was killed on Apr 25th 1912 - "The deceased was travelling along the endless rope haulage road to his work, and, when nearing the end of it, a large stone displaced a stretcher and fell upon him from a height of 7 feet, and killed him. The rail track had been lifted several feet so that the roadway was in solid stone. Some coal was being worked some distance away, and there was a slight movement in the strata.

**TRANSCRIBED FROM THE LEICESTER EVENING MAIL - THURSDAY 25
APRIL 1912**

**COLEORTON COLLIERY FATALITY
MINER KILLED BY FALL OF STONE**

At Coleorton Colliery, Leicestershire, this morning, Nathan Lord was struck on the head by a piece of stone which fell from the roof as he was proceeding along an incline to his work in a stall, and was instantly killed, he resided at Coleorton and was about 28 years of age, and leaves a widow and one child. The other men with the deceased at the time had a narrow escape. Deceased was the younger brother of Thomas Lord, killed in the same pit last September.

**TRANSCRIBED FROM THE BURTON OBSERVER AND CHRONICLE -
THURSDAY 02 MAY 1912**

Another fatality, the fourth in recent years, occurred at Coleorton Colliery, near Ashby, on Thursday, and there is a sad connection between the last two accidents. In the present case the victim is Nathan Lord, a young married man, who resided on the Moor, Coleorton. On his way to work he was killed by a fall of stone in the roadway. The deceased who had only been married about a year ago, leaves a widow and one child. he was the younger brother of the late Thomas Lord, who was killed in an accident eight months ago.

INQUEST REPORT

**TRANSCRIBED FROM THE LEICESTER EVENING MAIL - SATURDAY 27
APRIL 1912**

**COLEORTON COLLIERY FATALITY
Coroner's Investigation
VERDICT OF ACCIDENTAL DEATH**

The accident at Coleorton Colliery, on Thursday morning, by which Nathan Lord, aged 30, a coal miner, met with his death was the subject of an inquest by Mr. H. J. Deane, at the Angel Inn, Coleorton, yesterday afternoon. Mr. W. H. Hepplewhite, H.M. Inspector of Mines was present, as was Mr. F. Tatham, manager of the colliery, and Mr. Levi Lovett, miners' agent.

The coroner said the facts were very simple, deceased being struck and killed by a stone which fell as he was proceeding along the Nether Incline to his work in a stall. They had no doubt all read in the press that there might be some danger in mines which had been re-opened after standing for a time, and they would no doubt have their attention drawn by the inspector to any points that might arise in that connection, as to precautions for safeguarding the men.

Dr. Burnett, assistant to Dr. Jamie, of Coalville, said the skull was fractured, and death was due to lacerations of the brain.

John Whyman, stallman, said he and the deceased and Frank Pickering worked together, and they left the shaft bottom for the stall about 6.40 a.m., proceeding along the Nether Incline. Witness and Pickering were about 8 yards in front, when they heard a noise. Witness called "Nathan" without getting a reply, and noticed deceased's light was out. Going back, they found him lying dead on the road, with a large stone on his head, which they at once removed. About two tubfuls of stuff fell altogether, and it came without the slightest warning.

Benj. Marsden, deputy, said he examined the place three times last night, the last time being at 6.15 a.m. When he was coming up the incline, he met the deceased and Whyman and Pickering going to work, about 500 yards from the scene of the accident. The stone fell from the side extending nearly to the roof. A slip was noticeable now the stone had come away, but not before. A stretcher was knocked out but not broken.

Replying to the inspector, witness said it had not appeared to him that more timber should have been put up before the accident, though more had been put up since as an extra precaution. They had been getting coal in a new district, and he had talked with the under-manager as it being likely to affect the road, but they thought a 30ft. pillar of coal they were leaving would be sufficient protection.

By Mr. Lovett : It was a rock roof, and usually very good.

Mr. Tatham : There was always a plentiful supply of timber. There were seven stretchers within 20ft. of the spot which had not been moved for five years. It was much better to use stretchers than bars in a road that had naturally become arched.

Mr. Tatham observed that the stretcher which came out had been in for five years.

The Coroner said he thought it was a pure accident which no amount of foresight could have prevented.

The jury returned a verdict accordingly, and expressed sympathy with the deceased's relatives.

Mr. Lovett, on behalf of the Miners' Association, also expressed sympathy, remarking that it was said that the accident should so soon have followed that of the deceased's brother Thomas Lord.

deceased's brother.
Mr. Tatham also expressed regret
colliery owners. It was hard
have had four fatal accidents
after going 12 years with
owners were deeply grieved
rence. They made the
their first consideration
was anything that
lesson from the accident