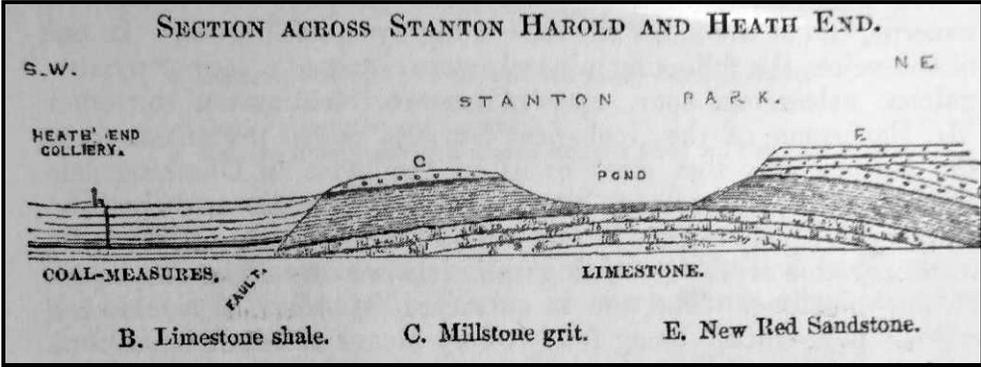
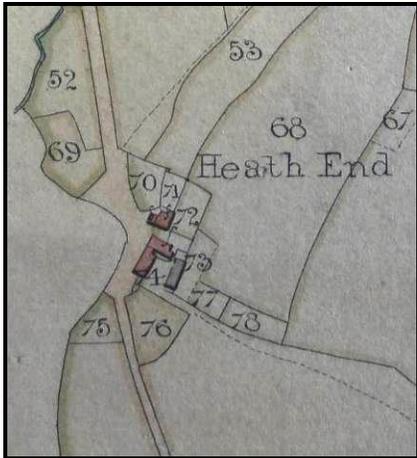
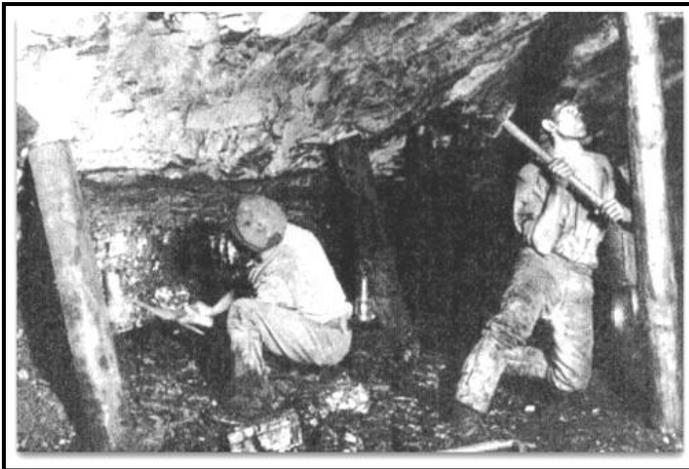


A SOCIAL & INDUSTRIAL HISTORY OF "HEATH END" AND THE SURROUNDING AREA



BY SAMUEL T STEWART – 2019

CONTENTS

PART 1 – Page 3

The Hamlet of Heath End

PART 2 – Page 6

Property & Land in Heath End in 1859 & 1885 – To the East and West of Callan's Lane

PART 3 – Page 8

The Bird in Hand, Elm Tree & Saracen Head Inns

PART 4 – Page 17

Coal Mining in the Locality of Heath End



© Samuel T Stewart 2017

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by means, electronic, mechanical or otherwise without first seeking the written permission of the author

PART 1

THE HAMLET OF "HEATH END"

Heath End was at one time a small hamlet divided east and west by Callan's Lane between the parishes of Staunton and Ashby de la Zouch in NW Leicestershire. The surrounding area of Heath End has an interesting industrial heritage which the reader will experience later in the book. Presumably, the name of Heath End is related to the adjacent area known as Rough Heath.

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

In J. Nichols', History of Leicestershire (Vol 3 part 2 1804), he makes the following statement....."Ashby Old Parks is now enclosed and four large farms interact of Mr. Moore, Mr. Brown, Mr. Hill, and Mr. Litherland, besides several small tenements in part leading to Staunton Harold. Prestop Park, formerly two farms, now only one is let to Mr. Pilkington, **and at Heath End is a farm hamlet, containing seven houses, two of which are Inns.**

One of the Inns referred to by Nichols was "**The Elm Tree**" which was actually in the parish of Staunton Harold. The other, known as the "**Bird in Hand**" would have been part of what is now "Ley's Farm" which was within the former hamlet of Heath End and was in the parish of Ashby de la Zouch. **PLEASE REFER TO PART 3 WHICH FEATURES THESE INNS.**

Members of the Tetley family are thought to have occupied "Ley Farm" for at least 125 years.

According to an "Illustrated History of Pubs and Ale Houses in Ashby De La Zouch" by Robert Jones, the "Ley Farmhouse" building was described as being timbered and thatched and included a stable and wood house. All were in a bad state of repair when it was surveyed in 1802. The half timbered building was later incorporated into the property now known as Ley Farm which is still in existence today, and is in the Parish of Ashby De La Zouch.

We can see from the following inventory for the property now known as Ley's Farm, which was carried out in 1684 for probate purposes (LRO PR/1/86/133), that pottery was being produced here on a reasonable scale (4 pot wheels recorded!) at that time. The incumbent was Henry Tetley (1637-1684), whose occupation was given as a potter. The address was given as Inner Southwood and the appraisers were Richard Mellor, Thomas Sherbrooke, Robert Ault, John Kendall and William Langley (**A copy of the itinerary was kindly provided by Robert Jones of Ashby Museum**).

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

In the following 1684 itinerary list, "3 piggs of lead", are recorded as being in the entry to the house. This is important, as it is the earliest factual evidence of lead being mined and smelted at Dimminsdale.

His purse and apparel	£9. 0s. 0d.
In the house	
1 seeled cupboard, 1 table, 1 dishboard	
3 little brass pots, 2 seeled forms, 1 brass skimmer	
1 brass ladle, 1 warming pan, landiron	
Pot hooks, frying pan and other things	£6. 9s. 2d.
In the chamber over the house	
The (bed hat) with linen, 1 blanket	£3. 0s. 0d.
1 coffer with curtains in it	£1. 0s. 0d.
1 other bed with the appn, within it	£2. 6s. 8d.
1 chest with linen in it	£1. 8s. 0d.
1 other chest with woolen and linen in it	£5. 0s. 0d.
1 (lasket) with linen in it	£1. 3s. 4d.
1 coffer with some woolen cloth	£0. 6s. 8d.
Malt, a small quantity	£2. 0s. 0d.
In the far chamber	
1 cheese bason and other things	£3. 0s. 0d.
In the buttery	
Barrells,-----, and other things	£0. 10s. 0d.
1 fowling piece	£0. 6s. 8d.
In the new chamber	
Wool, leather and other lumber	£6. 10s. 0d.
In the little parlour	
1 bed and cover lid, 1 old coffer and other material	
Belonging to the bed	£2. 0s. 0d.
In the far parlour and the chamber over it	
3 beds and other things	£2. 10s. 0d.
In the kitchen	
-----brewing vessels	£2. 0s. 0d.
In the entry	
<u>3 piggs of lead and an iron plate</u>	£1. 16s. 0d.

In the workhouse

One hundred and seven----boards	£4. 10s. 0d.
-----pottery	£1. 0s. 0d.
4 pott wheels, 2 pot----, and other pot tools	£1. 6s. 0d.

In the yard

1 plough and utensils for husbandry	£9. 10s. 0d.
7 mares and geldings and a (stoned) horse	£31. 0s. 0d.
3 score and 13 sheep	£17. 0s. 0d.
-----swine, great and small	£2. 3s. 4d.
A small (parcel) of wood	£1. 3s. 4d.
2 ricks of hay	£12. 0s. 0d.
1 stack of beanes, rye and wheat	£29. 0s. 0d.
1 shovell in the yard	£0. 16s. 0d.
2 cows and 2 heiffers	£4. 16s 0d.
Clay on the common	£1. 0s. 0d.
1 cheeses press and form	£0. 2s. 6d.

In the grounds of Calke

1 mare and foal	£3. 0s. 0d.
Three and fourty-----and all (enc)	£6. 0s. 0d.
1 hayrick	£3. 0s. 0d.
1 bull calf	£0. 10s. 0d.
Muck	£0. 2s 6d.

In the old park

Some young beefs and 1 hayrick	£10 0s. 0d.
2 young filleys and colt	£8. 0s. 0d.
1 old mare	£1. 10s. 0d.
8 sheep	£2. 0s. 0d.

In Smisby Park

2 coves	£12. 10s. 0d.
---------	---------------

In the Ashby grounds

1 rick of hay	£4. 0s. 0d.
---------------	-------------

Separate debts

For the (clotts ?) in Ashby fields.	£2. 10s. 0d.
-------------------------------------	--------------

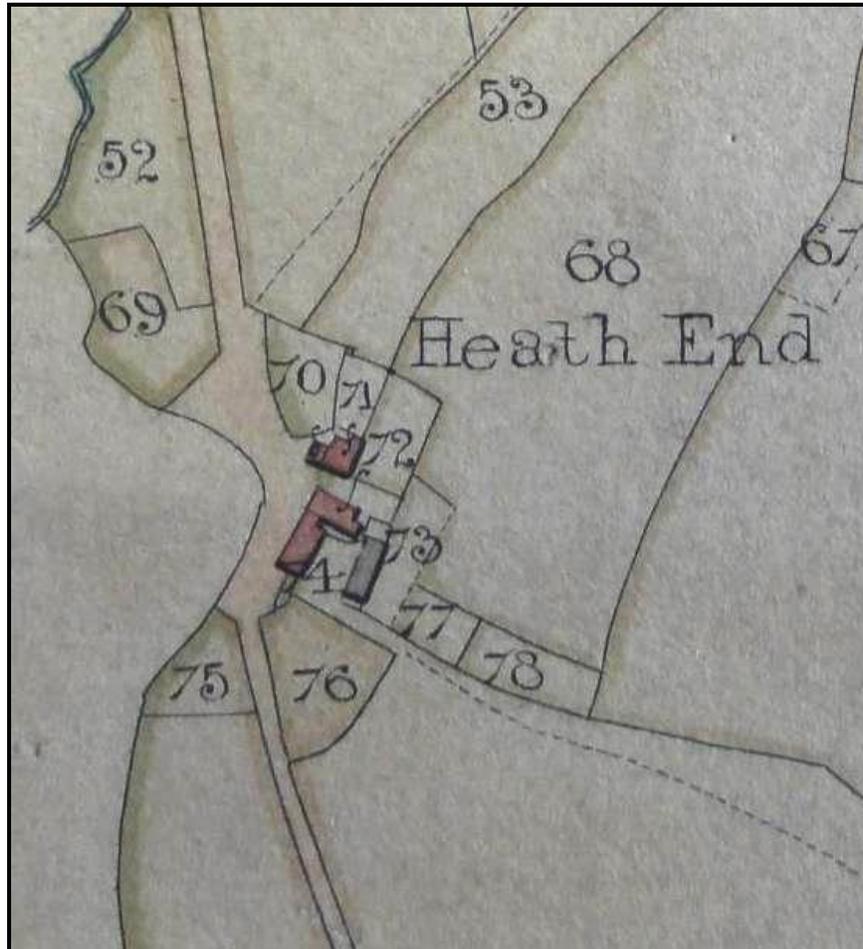
Total	£270. 0s. 6d.
--------------	----------------------

An excavation of an 18th Century Pottery Kiln at what is now Leys Farm, Heath End, was carried out for Ticknall Archaeological Research Group by Mercian Archaeological Services in 2013. We acknowledge TARG for giving permission to mention brief details of this:-

The excavation revealed part of the remains of an 18th century coal fired pottery kiln with associated features. The firing chamber was 1.83m diameter and four flues were encountered in the dig with a suggestion that it had originally been built with eight.

PART 2

PROPERTY AND LAND IN HEATH END IN 1859 & 1885 TO THE EAST & WEST OF CALLAN'S LANE



Staunton Harold 1859 estate map showing property to the east of Callan's Lane

In 1859, only properties and land which fell nominally to the east of Callan's Lane were in the Township of Staunton Harold. Property and land to the west was in the Parish of Ashby de la Zouch. In the schedule which accompanies the 1859 Staunton estate map, four cottages and gardens are given as being on plots 70 to 73 with 74 given as a building and yard. 75, 77 and 78 are listed as cottages and gardens, but there are no buildings shown on the plots on the map. No 76 is listed as a garden only. The buildings shown on this map, which were opposite Ley's Farm to the west of Callan's lane (see following 1885 map), do not exist anymore. On the following page is a photograph of one of the four cottages that were demolished. Mary Joynes is holding the bucket, with her sister Pat operating the pump handle. In the background is Mrs. Shaw.



An extract from the 1885 published O/S map which can be related to the preceding 1859 estate map but also shows the properties to the west of Callan's Lane including "Ley Farm" which were in the Parish of Ashby de la Zouch

PART 3

THE BIRD IN HAND, ELM TREE, & SARACEN HEAD INNS

THE BIRD IN HAND

The "Bird in Hand" was originally an "Ale House" and part of "Ley Farm". It was quite common for Ale Houses to be located in farms.

Members of the Tetley family are thought to have occupied the premises for at least 125 years and were licensees of the "Bird in Hand" for at least 50 years. The "Leicestershire Alehouse Recognizance Book" 1753 to 1819 which is held at the L&RRO gives the earliest record of the Tetleys running an Alehouse as 1759 when Ann Tetley is listed as being the licensee. Her husband Joseph Tetley stood surety for her.

From 1760 to 1804, Joseph Tetley is listed as the licensee, followed by Elizabeth Tetley from 1805 to 1809

THE ELM TREE



An extract from the 1859 Staunton Harold Estate map to show the location of the "Elm Tree Inn" on plot 56

Various fragmented and confusing information have been written about the Elm Tree and Saracen's Head Inns at Heath End, so the author has carried out his own independent research into them, and hopefully the following will add some clarity to their history.

The preceding section from the 1859 Staunton Harold estate map proves that there were two separate Inns, and the "Saracen's Head", which features later, was not built on the foundations of the Elm Tree! The schedule which goes with the map, tells us that the plot marked 56 adjacent to the rear entrance to Staunton Harold Hall housed the Elm Tree Inn (coloured red) and the surrounding buildings suggest that it was probably part of a farm, as was often the case in those times. No.53 was a croft, No.54 was an orchard, No.55 was a garden and No.57 was a garden also. The Saracen's Head had not been built in 1859, hence it not being shown on the map.

From John Nichol's comments that there were two Inns at Heath End in 1804, it is not unreasonable to assume that the later named "Elm Tree" was in use as an Alehouse at that time, along with the older "Bird in Hand Inn" described earlier.

LICENCEES OF THE "ELM TREE", 1790 - 1842

We now know from "The Alehouse Recognizance Books" held at the LRO that William Palmer was the licensee at what was later named the Elm Tree from 1790 to 1827. We have no further records till 1842, when the licensee was still showing as William Palmer. The license was transferred from William to Miss Elizabeth Palmer (his daughter) in 1842, and she held it till 1858 when it was then transferred to Joseph Burton who subsequently held it till 1864. It seems likely that the Elm Tree closed for the selling of beer in 1864, the year before the "Saracen's Head" opened its doors (see the following feature), However, it continued on as a farm till at least 1881 and was still being referred to as The Elm Tree. The Alehouse started to be recorded as the Elm Tree in 1825, as it was in 1825 that a new licensing Act required Alehouses to be named and/or have a hanging sign displayed.

FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE "ELM TREE"

Newspaper advertisements showing the Elm Tree as being used for wood sales from the Staunton Estate in 1826, 1827, 1828, 1829, 1830, 1835, 1838 and 1839. There was also similar sales recorded at Mr. Palmers, Heath End, in 1810 & 1817 but they do not mention the Elm Tree Inn as it was just an Alehouse with no name at that time, and would have been mostly frequented by the local miners. It is probable that the Elm Tree Inn / Farm would have served as the Staunton Harold estate office at some point, based on the fact that the estate wood sales were held there for at least 30 years. Due to the intense industrial activity which took place in the locality, including Dimminsdale, Heath End and Lount, it is possible that this was the central point where men who worked in the mines gathered to be paid by their charter masters in money and ale for their work, bearing in mind the reference to a "Reckoning House" being located on the Staunton estate.

EXAMPLES OF WOOD SALE ADVERTISEMENTS:-

Leicester Journal - January 5th 1810

The annual sale of spring wood, belonging to the R.H. Earl Ferrers at Staunton Harold, will be this year, a part of Spring Wood, a part of Lount Wood, and a part in The Wilderness, which will be sold in lots, as usual, on Tuesday the 23rd day of January, 1810, at **W. Palmers**, Heath End.

Leicester Chronicle - January 21st 1826

Wood Sale
In the Manor of Staunton Harold
By Benjamin Cheatle

Thursday January 24th 1826 at **Mr. Palmer's the Elm Tree Inn**, Heath End
Upwards of thirty lots of Spring Wood growing in the Rough Heath and Staunton Estate.
Twelve months credit on approved joint security
Dinner on the table at one o'clock
To view the timber, apply to Joseph Fairbrother of Staunton Harold

Leicester Chronicle - November 14th 1829

Wood Sale
In the manor of Staunton Harold
To be sold by auction
By B. Cheatle
At the Elm Tree Inn, Heath End, in the County of Leicester,
on Wednesday, November 18th 1829

Forty lots of Oak, Ash, elm and Birch, now fallen and lying in Lount Wood, and the Rough Heath. - Dinner on the table at one o'clock. - Credit on approved joint security. - Description particulars may be had at the place of sale, and of the Auctioneer, Ashby-de-la-Zouch. - Joseph Fairbrother of Staunton will show the lots.

Leicester Chronicle - December 4th 1830

To be sold by auction
By B. Cheatle,
At the Elm Tree Inn, Heath End, the third week of the present month
Upwards of 40 lots of *GROWING TIMBER* -
Day of sale in next weeks paper
Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Dec 1st 1830

In the **History Gazatteer & Directory of Leics & Rutland 1846**, and **White's Directory 1846** we find that Eliz. (Elizabeth) Palmer is listed as Victualler, at the **Elm Tree**, Heath End.

In "**Melville & Co Directory and Gazetteer of Leics**" dated 1854, she is given as Elizabeth Palmer, Elm Tree, Heath End and in the "**Post office Directory of Leics & Rutland**" dated 1855, she is recorded as Miss Elizabeth Palmer, farmer and beer retailer.

In **Drakes 1861**, Joseph Burton, Heath End is listed as a victualler.

In the "**Post office Directory of Leics & Rutland**" dated 1876, we now find Joseph Burton, **Elm Tree** and farmer, Heath End. The mention of the Elm Tree here must be just a reference to the farm as we know that the alehouse had closed in 1864.

In trade directories dated 1876, 1880 and 1881 we have Joseph Burton still being listed at the Elm Tree as a farmer (and in one case a victualler). Trade directories are notorious for giving mis-leading information, and the author would suggest that the Elm Tree was still being run purely as a farm after it ceased trading as an alehouse in 1864, but still continued to be referred to as the Elm Tree.

We now return to the **Elm Tree** in "**Wright's Directory of Leics & Rutland**" dated 1880, where Joseph Burton is given as a farmer and Victualler, **Elm Tree**, Heath End. Again, the Elm Tree would have been just a reference to the farm

In "**Kelly's Directory of Leics & Rutland**" dated 1881, Joseph Burton is given as **Elm Tree**, and farmer, Heath End.

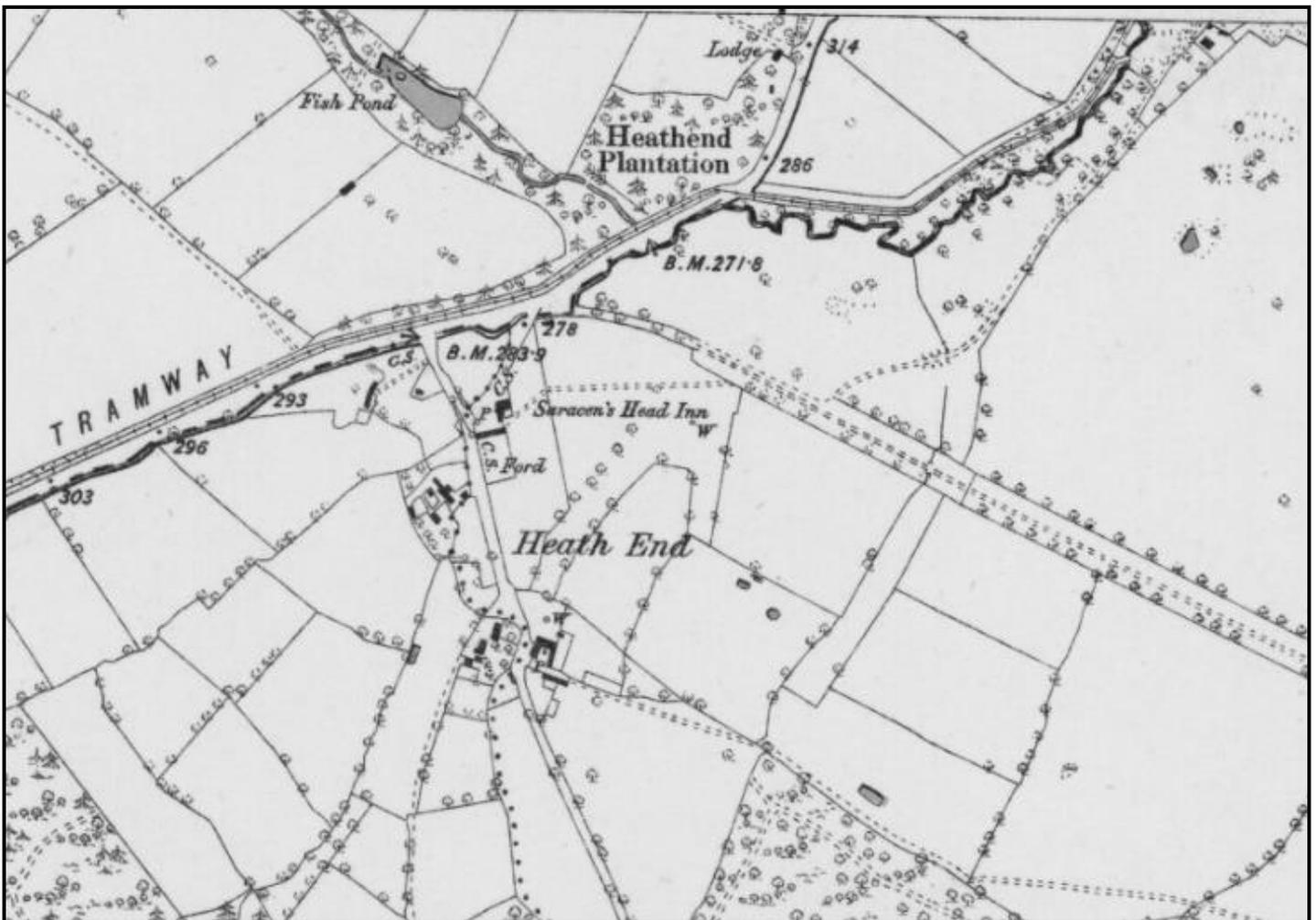
THE SARACEN'S HEAD

The following advertisement is of some interest, as the author believes that the details refer to the farmhouse which initially incorporated the **Saracen's Head**. This was for 4 new buildings, with 3 of these on the Ferrer's "Chartley Estate", Staffs and the remaining one on the Staunton Harold estate. As the earliest reference we can find to the Saracen's Head being opened is 1865, this would tend to strongly support that theory:-

Leicester Journal - March 4th 1864

Persons desirous of contracting for the erection of any of the following buildings, for the Right Hon. the Earl Ferrers may inspect the plans etc.....

On Staunton Harold Estate, Leics - New Farmhouse, Heath End.



1885 O/S Map showing location of the "Saracen's Head" (opened in 1865) adjacent to the rear entrance to Staunton Harold Hall and Garden Centre



The above photograph of the Saracen's Head Inn / farm house, was thought to have been taken in the mid 1900's, and shows the farm buildings at the side. Above the right hand side upper floor window can be seen the pole from which a sign has previously been hung or was ready for a sign to be hung in the future. Below this same window is a sign which incorporates "Trumans", who were a large UK brewery, and the name "The Saracen's Head".



The van in the photograph suggests that this picture was probably taken c.1960, and could be earlier or later than the previous one. Note the sign now hanging from the pole extending from the farm house / Inn in this picture, and a smaller plaque above the right hand ground floor window.



The above photograph was taken not long before the Saracen's head closed c.2000, although the landlord Norman Grey and his wife Ann lived there for a while after the pub closed. It was renowned in their time for its particular Bass beer and cheese and onion cobs. Norman Grey was preceded by Ray Thorley, who was his father-in-law. Even though they had beer on tap, they also used to serve a particular type of Bass beer via a jug filled from a wooden barrel. A pint of Bass and a cheese and onion cob at the Saracens' was never to be forgotten, by all who were fortunate enough to experience it. The author has fond memories of sitting on the grass with family and friends in the summer sunshine at the Saracen's Head in the 1980's.

The Inn sign reflects the head in the Shirley family crest shown in the following photograph. This is also cast into the Staunton Ashby Lodge entrance gate posts. Saracen's Head is a common pub name in England, and "Saracen", *in this context*, means a Muslim at the time of the Crusades. (The word predates the origin of Islam, and hence the Crusades). A Saracen's Head appears as a heraldic device in the coats of arms of some families (as with the Shirleys') that fought in the Crusades, and it has transferred from there to pub names.

In "Stemmata Shirleina by E. P. Shirley, he tells us the following:-

I have not found any deed in which Sir Thomas is mentioned before the 31st of King Edward III, at which time he was married. Although his seal, engraved in "Dugdale's Warwickshire, is taken from a deed of the 3rd year of that reign. Above the coat of Shirley, on this seal, is engraved the "Saracen's Head", perhaps assumed from some memory of some encounter with the infidels, **the first instance of bearing what has ever since continued on the family crest.**



On the Ashby Lodge gate posts



From the Ferrer's Family Crest

The Ashby Lodge and iron railings at the southern end of the Estate were built over two hundred years ago at the end of the Georgian era. The lodge-keeper's job was to keep the entrance gates closed, and open them when a visitor approached.

LICENSEES OF THE "SARACEN'S HEAD, 1865 - c.2000

The 6 day license refers to **no Sunday opening**. Up to Frederick William Lewin, information is taken from a combination of the Leicestershire Licensing Law lists and trade directory information, and other sources.

Joseph Burton - 1865 to 1887?? (New License)

He was the last licensee of the **Elm Tree** which had closed in 1864, but continued to work the farm which the Elm Tree was incorporated into till at least 1881.

William Harris - 1888 to 1898

Charlotte Harris - 1898 to 1905 (Wife of William Harris)

William Thomas Harris - 1905 to 1922 (six day license)

Thomas Lovatt - 1922 to 1923

Alfred Hutchinson - 1923 to 1930

Christopher Thomas Hutchinson - 1930 to 1934 (six day license)

Frederick William Lewin - 1935 to 1936

Ernest Roland Thesley - 1937 to 1939 and 1940 to 1946

Ray Thorley and Norman Grey were the last two landlords before closure c.2000.

TRADE DIRECTORY INFORMATION

In "**Harrod and Co Directory of Derbys / Leics**" 1870, we find that a Joseph Burton is the licensee at the **Saracen's Head**. This is the first mention of the "**Saracen's Head**" we have found in trade directories

In "**Wright's Directory of South Derbys**" 1874, Joseph Burton is listed as Victualler, **Saracen's Head** still.

In the "**History, Gazeteer and Directory of Leics & Rutland**" 1877, Joseph Burton is given as the Victualler, **Saracen's Head**, Heath End.

In "**Wright's Directory of Leics**" dated 1887 - 1888, William Harris is listed as farmer, grazier and Victualler, **Saracen's Head**.

In "**Kelly's Directory of Derby's, Leics**" 1891 (Pt 2; Leics & Rutland), William Harris is now listed as - **Saracen's Head Public House**, farmer & bailiff to Earl Ferrers, Heath End.

In "**Wright's Directory of Leicestershire**" 1892, we have William Harris, farmer, grazier, and victualler, **Saracen's Head**.

In "**Kelly's Directory of Leics & Rutland** 1895, William Harris is given as **Saracen's Head Public House** and farmer, Heath End.

In "**Kelly's Directory of Leics & Rutland**" 1899, we now have William Harris (Mrs), **Saracen's Head Public House**, and farmer, Heath End.

In "**Kelly's Directory of Leics & Rutland**" 1908, we have William Harris, **Saracen's Head Public House**, farmer, Heath End

In "**Kelly's Diectory of Leics & Rutland**" 1916, we have William Harris, **Saracen's Head Public House**, Heath End.

PART 4

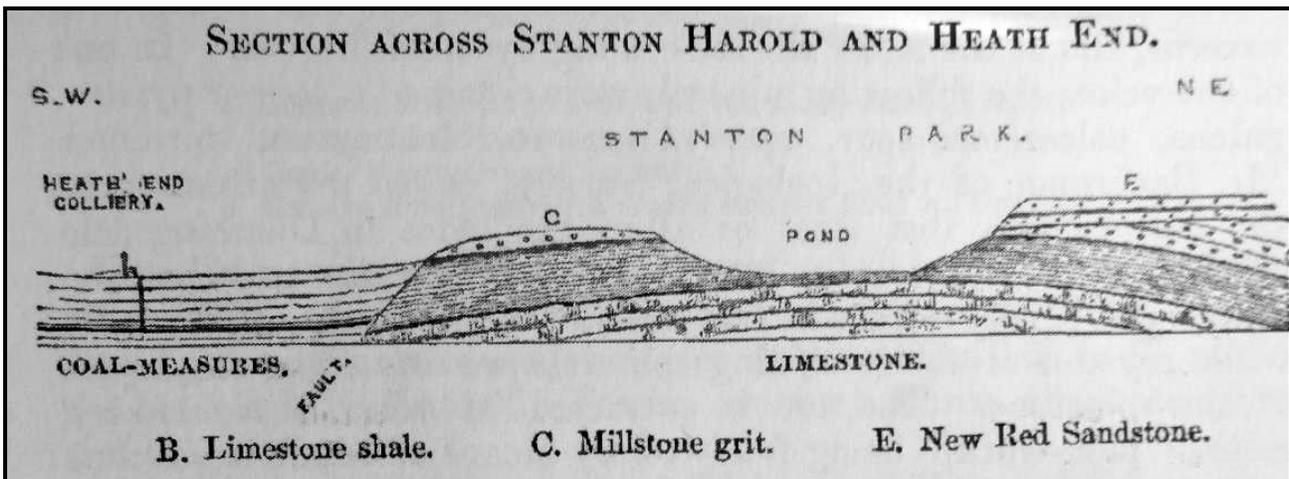
COAL MINING IN THE LOCALITY OF HEATH END

It will be advantageous for the reader to have a basic understanding of the coal seams and boundary/branch faults in this area. The following is taken from "The geology of the Leicestershire Coal-Field and of the Country around Ashby-de-la-Zouch" by Edward Hull and is dated 1860:-

Heath End Coals - These constitute, as far has been hitherto determined, the lowest workable seams of the Coleorton coal-field. Their outcrop occurs at the entrance to Dimmingsdale, and the seams are broken off against the boundary fault to the north-east of the Heath End pits on one side, and by a large branch fault, which ranges along the west side of Rough Heath, on the other. Please note that faults are breaks in the strata, accompanied by a vertical displacement.

The following is a section of the coal seams which were worked at Heath End Colliery. The coal seam was some 50 yards below the surface:-

- | | | |
|----|--------------|-------|
| 1. | Bind (shale) | 10ft |
| 2. | Stone | 4ft |
| 3. | Bind | 2ft ? |
| 4. | Coal | 4ft |
| 5. | Stony bind | 1ft |
| 6. | Coal | 9ft |
- (Coal 2ft , Cannel 7ft)



In some places, the 4-foot coal rests immediately upon the thick coal, so as to form a solid seam 13 feet in thickness. The outcrop is visible (1860), but though the cannel is somewhat anthracitic so near the surface, there is reason to infer that its quality improves on the deep, and should this prove to be the case, it will form a seam of great value under the Coleorton district. At Heath End, the dip is southward, and it is terminated both to the east and west by large upcast faults.

The earliest reference to coal pits at Heath End that we can find were those referred to as being worked by the old men as shown in the later Colin Owen map.

In 1788, Earl Ferrers decided to withdraw from the management of Lount Colliery and other enterprises on his estate. For an annual rent of £315, Joseph Boulton was able to lease from him for 21 years the "Lount Colliery", a lime works at Dimmingsdale, a smelting house on Staunton Common, and 30 acres of land. Boulton was granted full access and mining rights for both lime and coal, and the right to extract clay in order to make bricks for the colliery, to use water from one of the pools to work the pump for the lime works, and to use up to 21 cords of wood per annum from the estate. He was entitled to use all the existing equipment in the colliery and the lime works on condition that he returned them in good order when the lease expired. The agreement gave Boulton a monopoly of coal mining throughout Newbold, Lount, Staunton, and Heath End plus a large part of Coleorton, and during the ensuing years, he was able to operate both Lount and Newbold collieries by employing the same companies of colliers, using Lount to do little more than satisfy the requirements of the lime works kilns. John Farey (the English geologist) recorded that a pit at Heath End / Staunton (half a mile west of Staunton Harold had closed prior to 1810. This was likely to be one of the mines operated by Boulton, as his lease had expired in 1809.

It was decided to include the following as evidence of the coal mining and limestone quarrying activity taking place in 1811:-

A Petition from Tenants of the Marquis of Hastings dated 1811

We the undersigned tenants of the most noble the Marquis of Hastings occupying farms in Ashby Old Parks beg leave to represent to you that we sustain the most serious inconvenience forward of the road we formally used from Calling's Lane near Heath End leading through Lount Wood and communicating at the south end of the said wood with the turnpike road leading from Ashby de la Zouch to Nottingham.

The road through Lount Wood was of great consequence to us in the management of our respective farms, as the manure, lime, and coals used by us and the corn and other produce of our lands was often carried that way, and this road was of great utility and very generally used by the public to Derby and other places.

It is here that the general use of the road in question has been discontinued some time by reason of Earl Ferrers (*Robert Shirley 7th Earl Ferrers*) to whom Lount Wood belongs, having thought proper to make another road near to Staunton House for the use of his colliery and lime works, which being a convenient line for the country and kept in better repair than the other road, and carriages of every description being allowed to pass that way, the original road through Lount Wood was gradually discontinued and has of late being hardly ever used.

Lord Ferrers having recently thought it proper to prevent all persons, save and except those going to his colliery and limeworks from passing along the road near to Staunton House and having also closed the entrances into Lount Woods, and the original road through the same being nearly closed up and impeded by the growth of underwood as would naturally be the case from want of useage, we again beg to recommend this matter to your serious attention, trusting that you will adopt such prompt and efficacious measures as may restore to us the public that right of road to which use we were formerly accustomed, and of which we now consider ourselves to be unjustly deprived, and without which it will be impossible for us to cultivate our respective farm with profit or convenience.

Signed - Thomas Robinson, John Sharp, Charles Knowles, John Lagor, Frances Heathcote, William Elverson, William Hall.

Following the expiry of Boulton's lease in 1809, it was renewed by James Orme of Sutton Bonnington, Nottinghamshire for a period of 21 years at an annual rent of £350. This entitled him to the privileges previously enjoyed by Boulton. Orme was still working a colliery at Heath End in 1827 when the Ashby Canal Company agreed to pay him £39 compensation on condition that he refrained from mining a section of land immediately beneath the Cloud Hill railway.

Apparently, mining was interrupted for several years on the Staunton estate by a lengthy dispute of the ownership of the Ferrer's estates, and it was not until 1833 that new leases were taken out in respect of a colliery at Heath End.

The following two advertisements appeared in the Leicester Mercury on June 4th 1823 and Jan 15th 1825 respectively for coal mines at Staunton Harold :-

TO COLLIERS

Wanted, two respectable and well experienced colliers, as Charter Masters, to undertake the getting of coal by the ton, at a colliery where the coal is three feet thick, good roof, and floor, the pits not more than forty yards deep and the works perfectly free from wild fire.

TO COAL MASTERS

To be let for a term of years, a very valuable and extensive colliery, now in full work, which may be entered upon immediately, together with all the implements and other machinery thereto belonging

William Mathews, an Architect and surveyor from Ashby, and William Springthorpe, a miner from Staunton Harold had formed the company "Mathews and Springthorpe" and acquired a 21 year lease from Earl Ferrers in September 1833, pretty well on the same terms that Joseph Boulton had acquired it in 1788. The basic terms of the lease (with reference to coal mining) held at the Leicestershire and Rutland Record Office (25D60/107) are as follows. The lease also allowed him to work the lime and lead quarries at Dimmingsdale :-

- Two mines or seams of coal on lands comprised in 1825 settlement in Staunton Harold with power to sink shafts for working mines; messuage and appurtenances, on closes called Home Close, Wilkin's Close & Coal Pit Close (14 acres). Rent £165 p.a.
- £25 per 1,000 tons when more than 6,000 tons p.a. produced.
- 1s 6d for every 1,000 bricks used for the colliery
- Date Sept 30th 1833

As explained above, Mathews and Springthorpe had formed a company named "Mathews & Springthorpe", however, as the following newspaper advert shows, this partnership apparently only lasted about a month although it is suggested in another respected publication that this lasted much longer:-

Leicester Journal - December 26th 1834

NOTICE IS HEARBY GIVEN

That the partnership lately subsisting between William Mathews and William Springthorpe, hereto before carrying on the trade or business of coal miners and coal merchants, at Staunton Harold, in the County of Leicester, under the firm of Mathews and Springthorpe, is dissolved by mutual consent, as from the 5th day of November last past.

All persons to whom the said firm is indebted, are requested forthwith to send in their accounts to the said William Mathews; all debts due or owing to or from the said partnership, are to be received and paid by the said William Mathews who alone carries on the said trade and business at Staunton Harold aforesaid. Dated the 21st day of December 1834.

(Witness)
H. C. Whatmore

William x (His Mark) Springthorpe
William Mathews

Notice of Mathews and Springthorpe partnership being dissolved

Leicester Journal - December 7th 1838

CHEAP COAL

The public are respectfully informed that there is a regular supply of coal to be had at the Heath End Colliery, at the following reduced prices:-

Main Coal - £5 per ton

Cannel Slack (a superior quality of slack) - £4

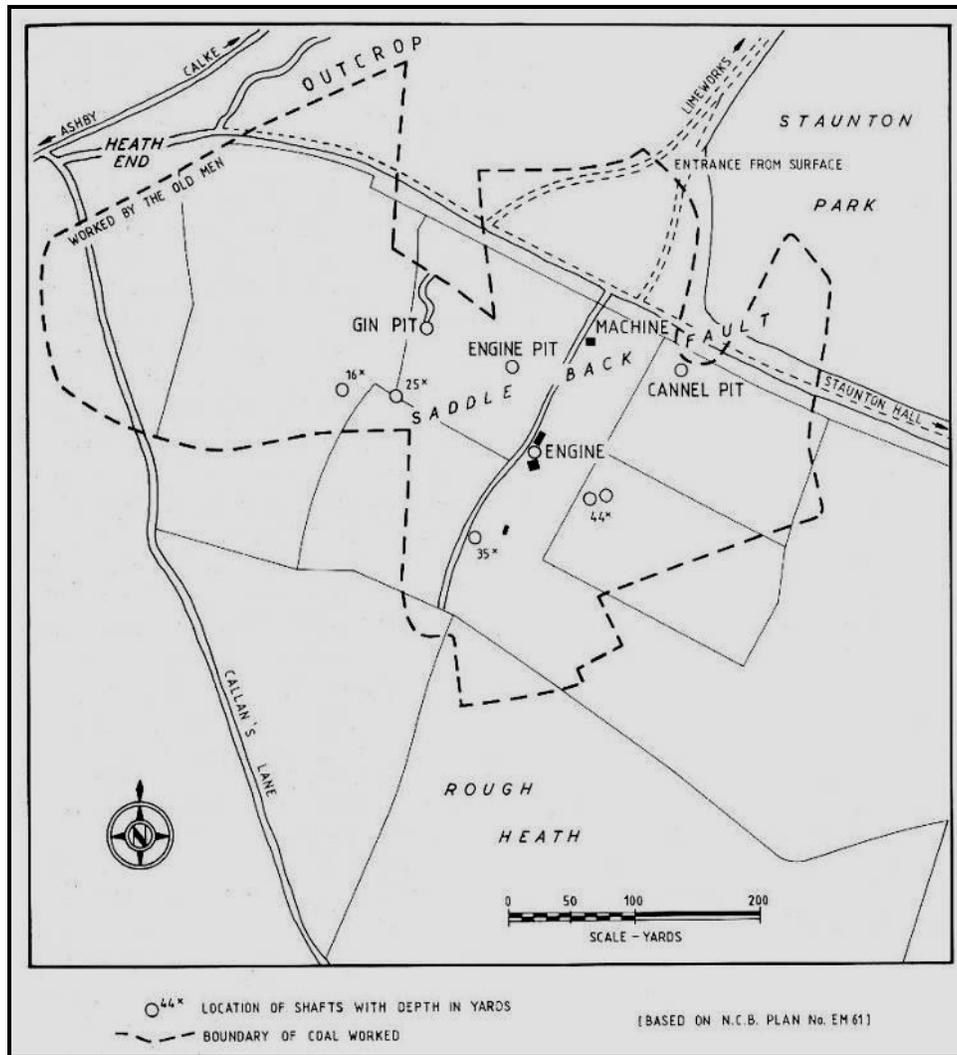
To make a cheerful fire, it is recommended to use the cannel slack with the main coal

N.B. There is generally a supply of cannel coal, which is sold at 8s. 4d per ton.

Staunton Harold - November 26th 1838

Copy of an advertisement for coal being mined by William Mathews

During the time of **Boulton, Orme, Mathews** and later **Lancaster**, 16 known pits were worked in the area of Heath End, including gin and engine pits, varying in depth from 48ft to over 200ft. They worked the Heath End seam, including 7ft. of cannel coal, some of which was sent to Leicester for gas production. The evidence relating to the location of the numerous coal mines in the vicinity of Heath End, Rough Heath Wood and the hall is to say the least, somewhat sketchy, but Colin Owen's map below will at least demonstrate the considerable coal mining activity that took place in this area of Heath End over hundreds of years.



Coal pits in Heath End 1853 (copyright Colin Owen-Leics & South Derbys Coalfields). This has been included to demonstrate the high level of mining activity in this area.

When Mathew's lease expired in 1854, Earl Ferrers of Staunton Harold Hall accused Mathews of using wasteful mining practices, which had resulted in the loss of large quantities of coal and limestone through subsidence. He claimed compensation amounting to £1,870 for the loss of 17,600 tons of limestone, and a further £1,750 for the loss of 70,000 tons of coal. Eventually, the dispute was submitted to arbitration. J.T.Woodhouse of Overseal represented Ferrers and T. D. Jeffcock, a mineral agent from Sheffield represented Mathews. In 1855, following thorough inspection of the works, they ruled that Ferrers was entitled to all fixtures and materials in the lime works and to all colliery buildings, but that Mathews' executors were entitled to the engines, machinery and railway at the colliery. Furthermore, Ferrers was to pay them £150, while the cost of the case was to be shared.

The following advertisement appeared in the press in 1855 confirming that Mathews was selling off some of his mining equipment:-

Leicester Journal - November 9th 1855

**HEATH END COLLIERY, STAUNTON HAROLD
TO BE SOLD BY PRIVATE CONTRACT**

An excellent condensing engine, twelve-horse power; Pump trees, Rods, Skeps, Waggon for Skeps, Buckets, Iron wheels, Iron barrel, Turn barrel, Chains, Wood uprights, Winding machine, Gin, A quantity of railway metals, Blocks, Bricks, and numerous other things connected with a colliery plant.

Particulars may be had of Miss Mathews, or Mr. Thomas Davenport, Auctioneer, Ashby de la Zouch.

The mention of a "Gin" and condensing engine in the above advertisement suggests that this was for equipment at the Gin and Engine Pits shown on the preceding Colin Owen's map.

DEATH AT HEATH END COLLIERY DURING MATHEW'S LEASE

WILLIAM BIRD & JAMES BIRD

Age:	39 and 13
Date:	January 1 st 1840
Occupation:	Miners
Colliery operated by:	
District:	Ashby de la Zouch, Leics
Reason:	Buried by collapsed scaffolding and rubbish

Conflicting newspaper reports give William and James as father and son and uncle and nephew respectively. However, we know from a gravestone in Breedon Church cemetery that William Bird was the father and James was his son. The gravestone shows that his daughter Harriet, also died on the same day. Although it cannot be proven, it is quite possible that she also died down the mine or shortly afterwards from injuries received. This was just before the 1842 child commission enquiry into children working down the mines who often used to carry candles, open fire doors and sweep the railroads etc. Certainly her death or injury would not have been publicised at this time.

Leicester Journal - January 10th 1840

DEATH AT HEATH END COLLIERY, STAUNTON HAROLD - FATAL ACCIDENT

On Friday last, an inquest was held at Staunton Harold on the bodies of William and James Bird, father and son, who were killed in a coal pit belonging to Mr. Mathews, on Wednesday, by the scaffolding giving way and a large quantity of earth falling upon them. The former

was thirty nine years of age, and the latter 13. The unfortunate sufferers remained alive for some time buried in the soil: the father was heard to utter "I cannot live", and when they were extricated life was extinct. - **Verdict, "Accidental Death"**.

ALTERNATIVE NEWSPAPER REPORT

DEATH AT HEATH END COLLIERY, STAUNTON HAROLD

On the 3rd inst., an inquest was held at Staunton Harold, on view of the bodies of William and James Bird, who came by their deaths in the following manner: - The deceased, one of whom was in his thirty ninth year, and the other in his thirteenth, uncle and nephew (*actually father and son*), had been at work at the colliery of Staunton Harold, but latterly were obliged to desist, in consequence of a fire in one of the pits. About ten days previous to the deaths of the deceased, it was believed that the fire was sufficiently got under to enable them to resume work. On their attempting to do so, it was found that the roof had partially fallen in, when it became necessary to form a temporary scaffold to support it. This was done, but, owing to the want of sufficient props, had again fallen in. Another, and apparently a more secure scaffold was put up on which a great quantity of the rubbish had been laid for the purpose of clearing the pit. A ground bailiff of the name of Dent, with the deceased, went under the scaffold for the purpose of securing it by props, when it suddenly gave way and buried the uncle and the nephew in the ruins. Dent, who was rather out of it at the time escaped. The deceased were dug out as speedily as possible, and were found quite dead. - **Verdict "Accidental Death"**.

THE OPENING OF A NEW COAL MINE AT HEATH END

Leicester Journal - August 28th 1857

TO COLLIERY PROPRIETORS

TO BE LET

The collieries at Staunton Harold (Heath End) near Ashby de la Zouch, in the County of Leicester, a most favourable opportunity presents itself for a safe and productive investment of capital in this improving district.

A seam of coal 13 feet thick has been proved at a moderate depth of 50 yards; also bands of iron stone, very rich in quality and a considerable extent may be leased.

The works are connected with the Midland Railway, at Ashby de la Zouch, by a tram road, and thence to the Ashby canal. Immediate possession may be had

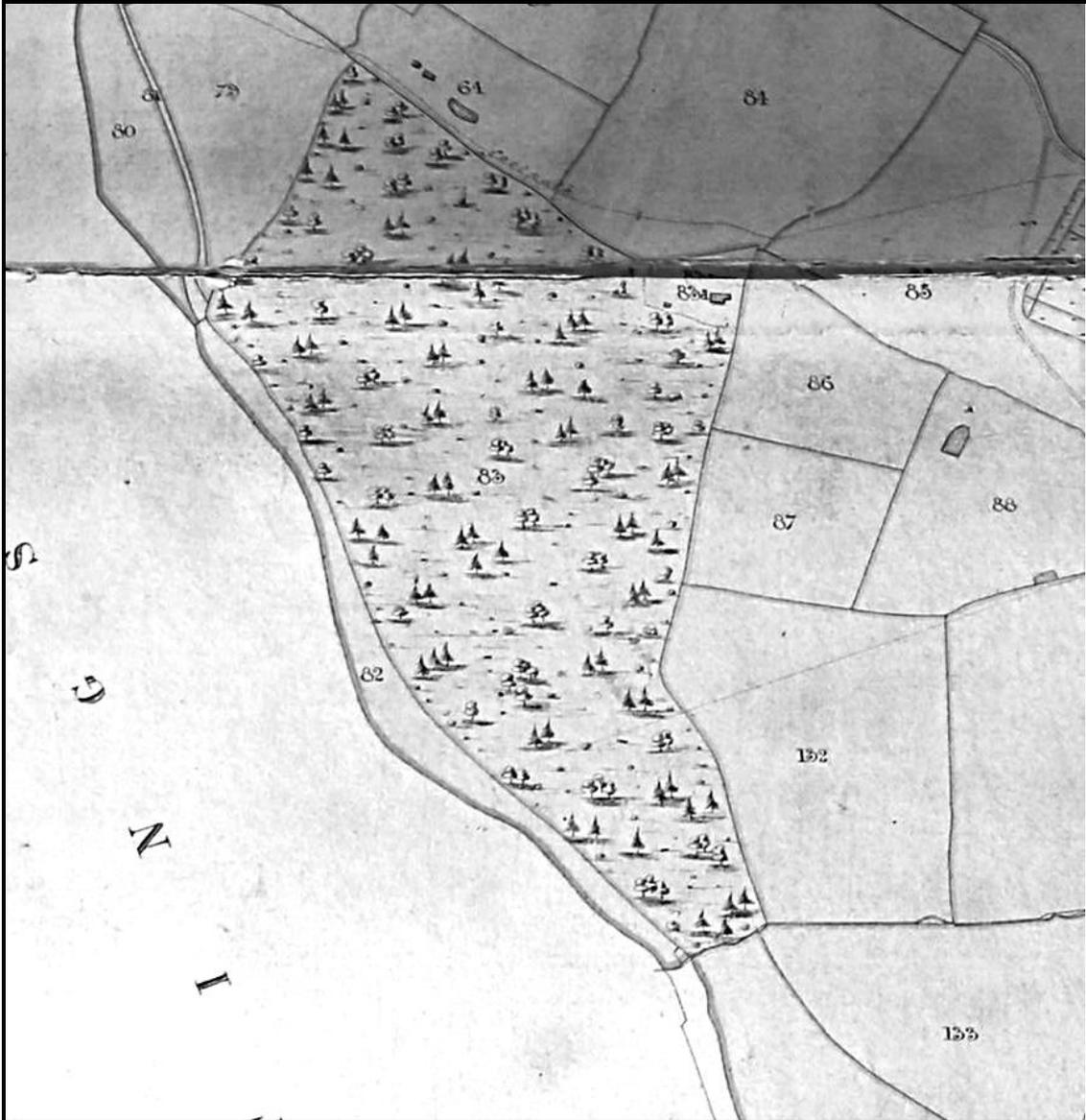
To view the works, applications may be made to William Harris, Bailiff, Staunton Harold, and for particulars relating thereto, or to them for the same, to Mr. W. S. Cope, mining engineer, Hallfield Cottage, Hanley; or Mr. Ralston, Chartley, Nr. Stafford.

**The above advertisement appeared in the press on May 16th
and August 21st 1857.**

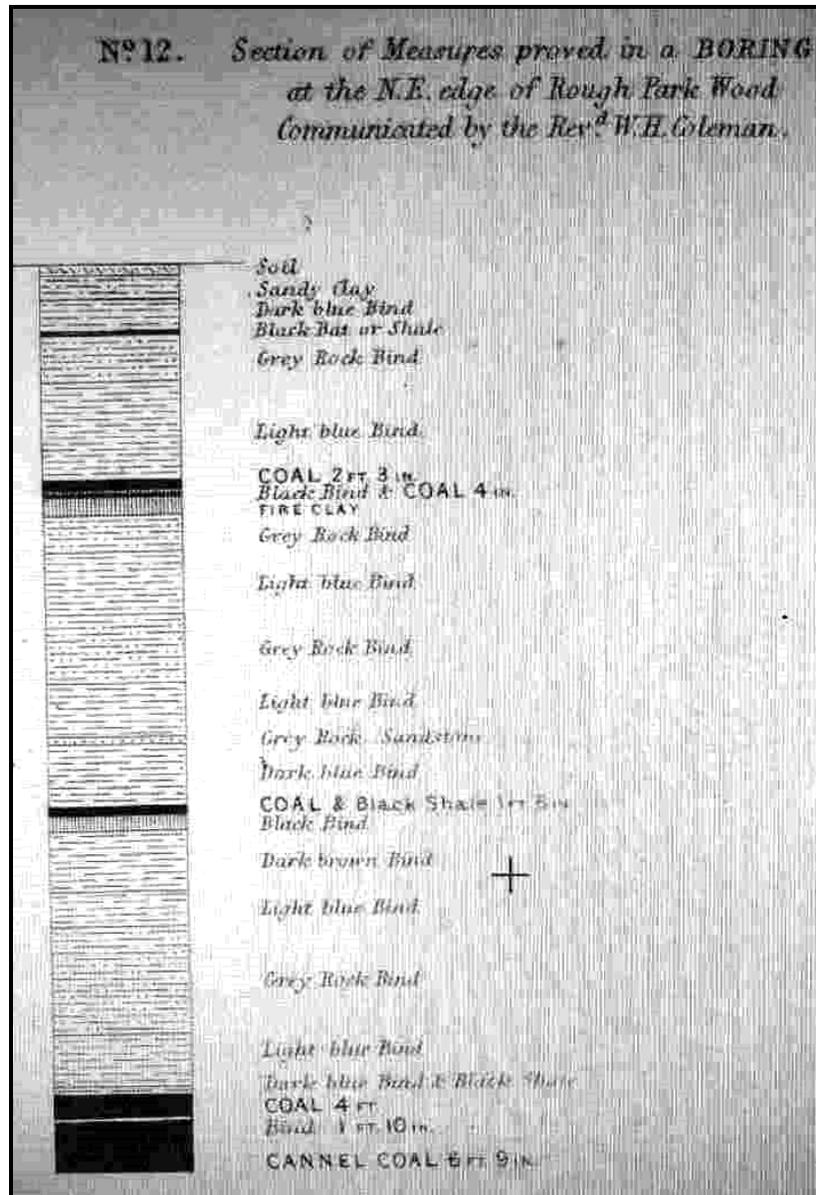
A lease dated May 28th 1856 between Mr. Ralston and Mr. Richard Hall held at Derby Record Office tells us that new tenants, Richard Hall of Pensnett near Dudley and W. Whitehouse, the manager of Corbyns Hall works, Dudley leased a colliery, which it is not unreasonable to assume that this was the colliery referred to in the above advertisement. The lease was taken for 21 years at 1s. 0d. per ton royalty charge for large coal and 6d per ton for small coal or slack.

The lessees were given the right to mine ironstone and clay for brickmaking but were to **supply Ferrers' limeworks with slack at 2s. per ton.** Three borings were made on the north east side of Rough Heath wood, two of which encountered Heath End coal. The schedule for the 1859 Staunton estate map lists plot 83a as a colliery (adjacent to the top left corner of plot 86), and this can just be discerned on the following extract of the map. Rough Wood is numbered 83.

Colin Owen tells us that Hall and Whitehouse seem to have lost interest in the venture, and the mine was closed in 1862,



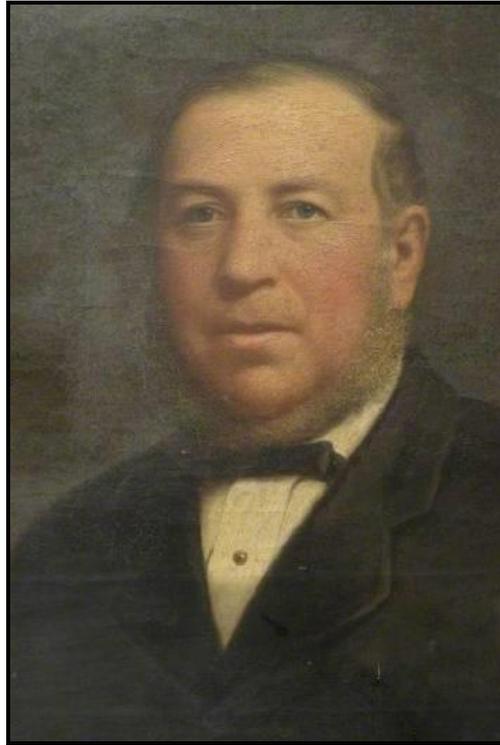
Extract from 1859 estate map showing Rough Wood to the south of Heath End. Hall and Whitehouse's colliery is shown adjacent to the north-west corner of plot 86 and is marked 83A.



The above is evidence of a boring carried out in 1856 to a depth of 100 feet adjacent to where Hall & Whitehouse's Colliery was located, and clearly shows the good seam of cannel coal available.

THE OPENING OF A FURTHER NEW COAL MINE AT HEATH END BY JOHN LANCASTER & CO IN 1873 - CLOSED IN 1881.

There seemed to be a lengthy period of inactivity in the mining of coal in the Heath End area until workings were restarted in 1873 by John Lancaster & Co.



John Lancaster - Photo Credit - Kelmarsh Hall

A SYNOPSIS OF THE LIFE OF JOHN LANCASTER

John Lancaster was born in Radcliffe near Bury on the 19th September 1815 and was one of seven sons of that place. . From an early age he showed a liking for mechanics and an interest in mining engineering. When he was about 20 years of age, he and his brother bored for coal on Chat Moss. He married Euphemia Gibson in 1841 who bore him four children, Catherine, John, Robert and George Granville. In 1841 he worked on the sinking of a colliery at Patricroft where coal was cut to a depth of 1,400 ft. Although this colliery was run by his father and partner for several years, John retained responsibility for the engineering management of the site. In 1847 he became mineral agent for Lord Mostyn at Mostyn Colliery. From 1849 to 1856, he was manager of Earl Granvilles Ironworks and Collieries at Shelton, Staffs, and from 1855 to 1858 he took charge of the sinking a new colliery at Shireoaks, near Worksop, 520 yards deep, for the Duke of Newcastle.

He was a key figure in the Kirklees Hall Coal and Iron Company and with his partners built the Kirkless Hall Ironworks. Five furnaces were built from 1856 to 1860, and they were the first erected in Lancashire, with the exception of two small charcoal furnaces at Ulverston.

Between 1855 and 1868 he leased Hindley Hall, Wigan from the Leigh family and in 1861 had purchased Bilston Grange a Victorian mansion in 175 acres of land in, Dunchurch, Nr. Rugby, Warwickshire. He was appointed deputy Lieutenant of Warwickshire.

He became chairman of the Wigan Coal and Iron Company in 1870, five years after the Kirklees Hall Company amalgamated with the Earl of Crawford's coal and engineering interests. He was also a significant share-holder in the company. In 1859, he had purchased a yacht by the name of Deerhound, a three masted sail and steam vessel, and by 1864 had joined the Royal Yacht Squadron at Cowes, Isle of Wight. It was during a leisurely trip with members of the family and others in 1864, that he stopped at Cherbourg. When he sailed out of port, he got caught up in a sea battle off the coast between the confederate ship Alabama and the Union ship Kearsage which was in the latter years of the American Civil war. Lancaster's ship rescued the crew of the Alabama when it was sunk by the war steamer Kearsage. John Lancaster was also a Lieutenant in the Naval Reserve.

In 1865 the Lancashire union Railway was started with John Lancaster as president. By 1868 he had become MP for Wigan for six years and from 1870 to 1884 was chairman of the West Cumberland Iron and Steel works.

During the same period that John Lancaster was working his pit at Heath End, he invested in the Welsh coal mining industry. At the beginning of March 1878, Messr's J. Lancaster & Co took over control by lease of the Henwaun, Blaini colliery from the debt ridden Nan-ty-glo & Blaina Co., and on the 23rd of March it was reported that he held the lease for both collieries. There were 2 steam winder pits within yards of each other sunk to 178 yards and raising 500 tons per day. One of the pits was an ironstone pit.

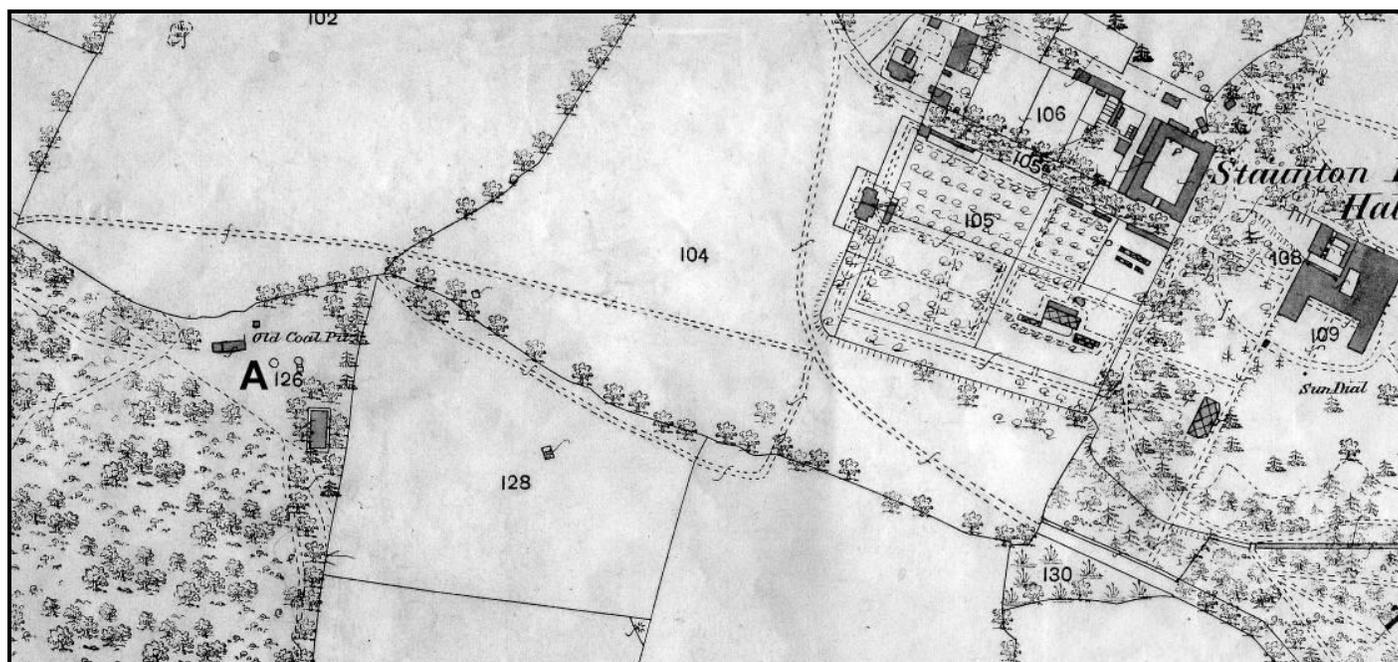
By 1881, Lancaster he had sold his significant share holding in the Wigan Coal and Iron Company. John Lancaster died on April 21st 1884 aged 69 at his home in Hampstead.

However, the company of John Lancaster & Co apparently lived on, as in July 1888, it is recorded that the company took over the lease of the Cwmtillery and Roseheyworth collieries in Wales and in 1892 they opened a brickworks in Blaina and started manufacturing their own bricks. In 1896 they owned Arrael Pit in Aberbeeg. As late as 1938, the company is recorded as still being involved in the coal mining industry.

**PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING THE OPENING OF
JOHN LANCASTER'S COAL MINE AT HEATH END IN 1873
(CLOSED EARLY 1881)**

LEICESTER CHRONICLE - AUGUST 2ND 1873

This new foundation has been entered upon by Messrs. Lancaster and Co., who, after sinking 60 yards, have come upon coal. Earl Ferrers was immediately apprised of the happy result, and shortly afterwards, accompanied by Captain Walsh (*husband of Lady Augusta Shirley, sister of the 10th Earl*) and another gentleman, arrived at the pit mouth, and attended by Mr. Edwin, made a descent, and brought therefore a piece of the mineral. Afterwards Captain Walsh made a similar excursion, with a like result. His Lordship was highly gratified, and as an earnest of his satisfaction, ordered an excellent dinner to be provided and given to all the workmen, on Saturday the 26th. A number of workmen and miners, headed by the Coleorton Brass Band, presented themselves at the Staunton Hall, one of the seats of the noble Earl, and, after playing out a well selected programme, led the way to the place above mentioned, where a spacious marquee was erected. After the cloth was drawn, a plentiful supply of good ale, and lighter drinks and beverage, with stacks of tobacco, were introduced for appropriation to personal use and comfort. On Mr. Edwin taking the chair, the usual loyal toasts were proposed. The next toast was "Earl Ferrers and family", at which the cheering was immense. Next followed "The Messrs. Lancaster & Co", which was received with musical honours, the workmen expressing their gratification that such gentlemen had come into the neighbourhood. Mr. Edwin and Messrs Leadbitter (Steward) and Harris (*Bailiff*) were warmly toasted, and suitably responded. The band played at intervals, and a song occasionally lent greatly to the enjoyment of the company.



**John Lancaster's Coal Mine in the north east corner of Rough Heath Wood
with the two shafts marked **A** (1881 surveyed O/S map)**



The four large remaining stones in the above photograph would probably have been the foundation stones for one of the two colliery head stocks. They have substantial bolts / fixings in them secured by lead in the holes.



The above photograph shows the area of the "Engine Pond" which is now full of silt of course; however, the perimeter can clearly be discerned still. The engine pond would have been used to supply water to the boilers of the winding and pumping engines. This is shown to the south east of the two shafts marked **A** on the preceding 1881 map.

Two shafts were sunk to a depth of 68 yards (62metres) and 12 feet (3.7 meters) in diameter in the north east corner of Rough Wood, and are shown on the preceding map, marked **A**. The one on the RH side having winding gear, with the LH one presumably being an air shaft. They worked the bottom seven feet of the good quality Heath End cannel coal and sold large quantities of it to Leicester to be used in gas production. They were seriously hampered by the varying thickness of the seam and its high pyrites content which caused it to ignite through spontaneous combustion. The mine proved expensive in terms of human life and details of those who lost their lives are appended at the end of this section.

John Lancaster's son *George Granville Lancaster*, aged 27, who was a qualified mining engineer, was shown in the 1881 census as living in Staunton Harold with his wife Emily aged 29 who was born in Mansfield, and their daughter Isabella aged 4 months who was born in Staunton Harold. They were not listed in the 1871 census. We can only assume that *George* had moved to the locality to become involved in the day to day running of the colliery along with the colliery manager at that time, Jonathan Enion.

The difficulties encountered, led to attempts to locate coal to the south, including the sinking of two more shafts in 1881 under the direction of *George Granville Lancaster*. One was recorded as 70 yards deep in the corner of Rough Wood and the other 100 yards further south. Although this proved the existence of Heath End coal, the seam thickness had reduced somewhat and water became a constant problem. Therefore the whole development was abandoned, finally resulting in the closure of the colliery in early 1881.

**JOHN LANCASTER & CO.,
COLLIERY PROPRIETORS,**

AND

COAL MERCHANTS.

CLEMENT PRETTY, Agent.

CENTRAL OFFICES:

22, LONDON ROAD.

BRANCH:

190a, HUMBERSTONE ROAD, LEICESTER.

Coals supplied in Bags of 112 lbs. nett, at Market Prices.

CANNEL COAL, burns bright and clean, emits great heat, and is in every respect a first-class coal.

THE BEST CANNEL is hand-loaded in lumps, and does not make any slack.

THE COBBLES are passed over screens, and both these qualities are well adapted for household purposes.

THE DERBY BRIGHTS are also a first-class coal, and suitable for very best house purposes.

DERBY COBBLES of the same description.

Truck Loads supplied to any station at nett colliery price.

Orders received for the above at the Offices, 22, London Road, Leicester, will receive prompt attention.

Scribbling Diaries and Pocket Books, at J. & T. Spencers'.
4

1880 advert for Lancaster's coal in Leicester by their agent Clement Pretty

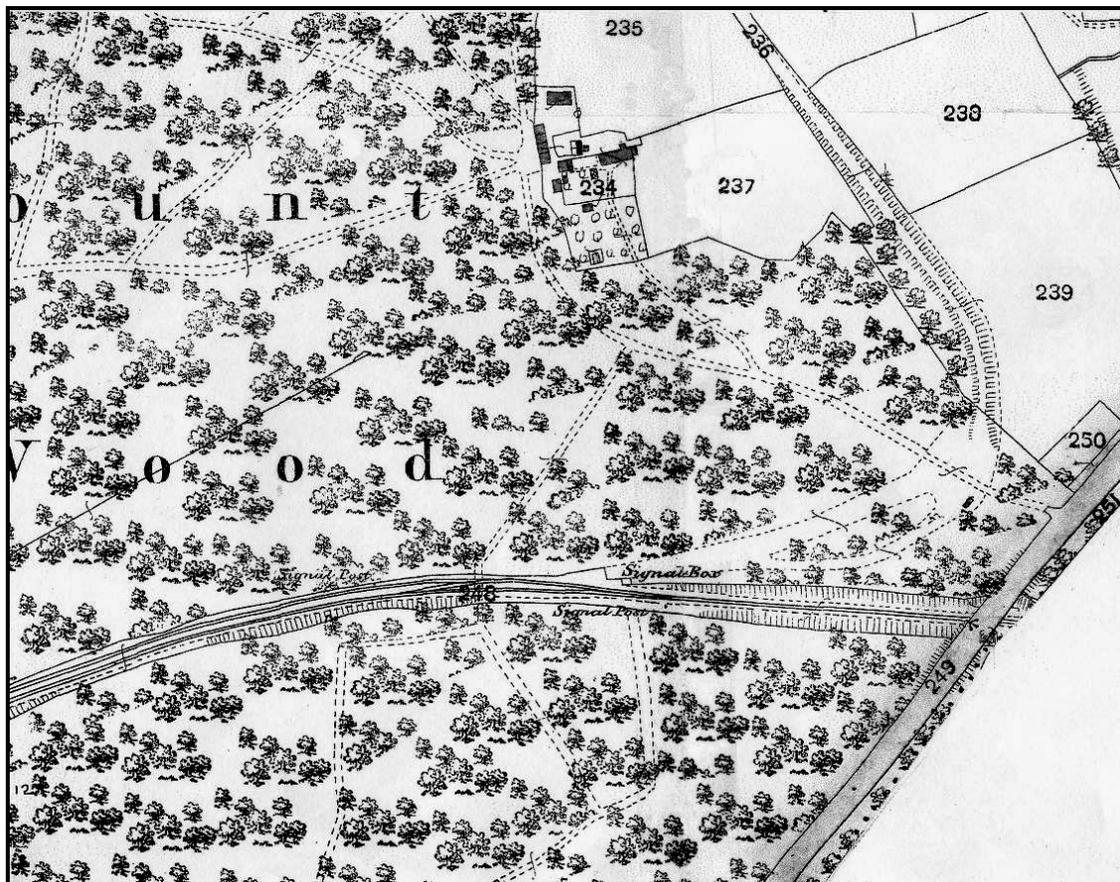
Please read in conjunction with the following O/S map surveyed 1881.

The John Lancaster colliery had its own $1\frac{1}{4}$ mile branch line (236) running in a north westerly direction from an exchange sidings on the Worthington to Ashby section of the Midland Railway (248), about 2 miles south west of Worthington Station. This part of the Midland Railway had opened on January 1st 1874, and presumably this was one of the major attractions in John Lancaster's decision to sink this colliery at Heath End. The dates show that it would only have taken in the order of 12 months to construct the line from the colliery to the main Midland Line. The private sidings agreement was made on 9th October 1872. The main line passed under the Ashby to Breedon road (249) through a tunnel, presumably to allow Lancaster to move shaft sinking materials to his remote colliery site. In the publication "Industrial Railways and Locomotives of Leicestershire and Derbyshire" - "Industrial Railways Society 2006 A.R.Etherington & J.R.Bendall" it is recorded that part of

the exchange sidings and a short length of the branch at the junction were reinstated by 1901, without formal agreement, for the use of Earl Ferrer's tenants and not lifted until October 1955. The rail gauge was 4ft 8½ins.

John Lancaster had invested a significant amount of money in this mine, including the extra cost of building the branch railway to connect the mine with the Midland Railway at Lount Wood side, and also including the purchase of a Manning Wardle 0-6-0ST saddle tank loco named Earl Ferrers. After the colliery closed, this engine went to Bestwood Coal & Iron Works which John Lancaster opened and became the first director of.

Name	Class	Wheels Gauge	Builder Works No/Year built	Built For
"EARL FERRERS"	M Class	0-6-0ST Standard	<u>Manning Wardle & Co,</u> Leeds 561/1876	J. Lancaster & Co - Heath End Colliery. (Sold to Bestwood Coal & Iron Works)



If the following is correct then it is quite possible that John Lancaster made use of the tramway to transport his equipment up to the coal mine prior to building his railway.

In a book entitled "Stone Blocks and Iron Rails (Tramways)" by Bertram Baxter and published by David & Charles, Newton Abbot 1966, he describes the old Cloud Hill tramway as follows. However, we have not been able to locate the original source for the statement shown in bold letters:-

Ashby and Ticknall tramway from Willesley basin went north east to Ashby de la Zouch then north to Ticknall limeworks. (8m). A branch at Old parks went east to Worthington then north to Cloud Hill lime works (4.25m) and was opened in 1802. Also a branch from the Cloud Hill branch at Lount Wood went north to Heath End colliery (1m) opened 1826. Also east of Lount Wood, south to a colliery near Park Wood (300 yards) opened 1836. Plateway 4ft 2inch gauge.

It is only conjecture, but it is possible that this tramway was built by Richard Hall and W. Whitehouse for their colliery in the north east corner of Rough Wood described previously.

In the 1881 census, John Lancaster is given as living at Bilton Grange, Dunchurch, Rugby with his wife Euphemia and servants etc. This is now a school, and the Victorian mansion which forms the main school was built in 1846. He had sold his major share holding in the Wigan Coal and Iron Company in 1881 and died at his home in Hastings on the south coast in 1884, suggesting he had been experiencing failing health.

One can only assume that his son George, who by then was probably a wealthy man also, did not want to continue with a loss making venture at Heath End.

The following newspaper advertisement confirms that the mine was closed in early 1881 by termination of his lease, and gives details of the sale by auction of the substantial colliery plant, machinery and railway lines, sleepers, points etc., on May 31st 1881. **This advertisement clearly demonstrates the considerable sums of money invested by Lancaster in the colliery.**

LEICESTER CHRONICLE - MAY 28TH 1881

HEATH END COLLIERY

William Graham and Son are instructed by Messrs. J. Lancaster & Co. (in consequence of the termination of their lease) to sell by auction at the above colliery, connected by a siding with the Midland Railway Company on Tuesday, May 31ST, 1881 at twelve o'clock noon, in Lots.

The first-class modern Colliery Plant and Machinery, consisting of locomotive tank engine, six wheels coupled, 20 inch horizontal winding engine, beam condensing winding engine, fitted with 6ft. drum complete, 30 inch direct acting pumping engine, 12 inch horizontal engine, 5ft. drum, table engine, fitted with 6ft drum, pair of 8in. diagonal engines (geared for endless rope), Tangye's special steam pump, 8in. by 12in., complete, Garforth's steam pump, 8in. by 12in., 2 donkey engines, 1 double flue boiler, 1 single flue ditto, and 1 egg end ditto, 2 colliery head stocks, with pulleys, two 4ft. side pulleys, with pedestals, 12in. flange pump, with 54 yards of 14in. piping, air compressor, with 3 rock drilling machines, about 155 tons of bridge and T. head iron rails, 15 tons steel rails, 30 tons of bridge pit rails, 3000 square and half-round main road sleepers, 5 sets of points and crossings, about 10 tons of chairs and fish-plates, about 300 yards of 5in. cast iron pipes, quantity of steel wire rope and chains, 2 mortar mills, 20 ton Pooley's weighing machine, about 1000 yards of 2in. wrought iron steam tubing and fittings, saw bench with 2 circular saws by Clayton, about 10 tons wrought scrap and 8 tons cast iron, quantity of useful timber, 5 cwt. Brass, 2 cwt. Lead, 2 double and 2 single winches, contents of Smith's shop, including new iron, office furniture, with various other colliery requisites, together with the materials in certain buildings, and a quantity of firewood, &c., &c.

One has to ask the question, why, with all John Lancaster's wealth, experience and involvement in large engineering enterprises, would he invest considerable sums of money developing this relatively small coal mine at Heath End, and then build a railway branch line from his colliery to the Midland Railway, particularly when a good percentage of the coal in the area had been worked out. Also the working of the coal in this area proved extremely difficult due to problems with water. One can only presume that it was an initial attempt to further establish himself in the Leicestershire and South Derbyshire coal fields where he owned two other collieries.

We have found no records of any further attempt to re-open Lancaster's mine at a later date.

**RECORDED DEATHS WHICH OCCURRED AT
JOHN LANCASTER'S COLLIERY**

THOMAS TOON

Age: 30
Date: Sept 15th 1877
Occupation: Stallman
Colliery operated by: John Lancaster & Co
District: Ashby de la Zouch, Leics

WILLIAM MEAR

Age: 27
Date: Oct 3rd 1877
Occupation: ?
Colliery operated by: John Lancaster & Co.
District: Ashby de la Zouch, Leics
Reason for fatality: Fall of coal whilst holing. Coal broke over sprags.

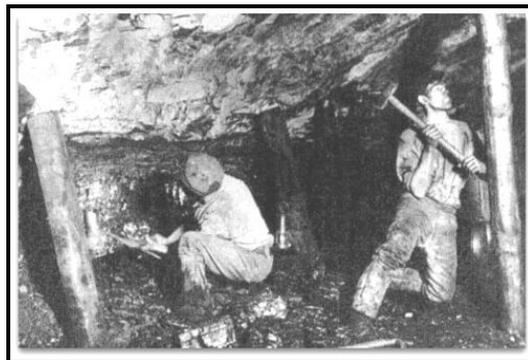
JOSEPH HEWITT

Age: 24
Date: Feb 10th 1880
Occupation: ?
Colliery operated by: John Lancaster & Co.
District: Ashby de la Zouch, Leics
Reason for fatality: Fall of roof in stall

Leicester Chronicle - February 21st 1880

ACCIDENT AT HEATH END COLLIERY

At the inquest held at the Railway Inn, Worthington, by Coroner Deane, on the body of Joseph Hewitt, a collier, aged 24, who was seriously injured by the fall of coal whilst working in the pit at Heath End Colliery, and who died on the 10th inst., the jury, after returning a verdict of "Accidental Death", said while they were satisfied that the deceased himself was the immediate cause of the fall, by picking the corner of the stall, they were of opinion that the evidence showed that the roof of the stall was insufficiently propped, and had not been inspected with sufficient care.



HEATH END NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

Derby Mercury - September 26th 1799

A ROBBERY AND FELONY

Last night, between eleven and twelve o'clock, George Hill, who is upwards of 80 years of age, was stripped and robbed by a person unknown at the brick kiln, by the side of the road leading from a place called Heath End to the village of Calke, in the County of Derby, of a dark spotted velveret waistcoat, a light coloured pair of corduroy breeches, having a patch on the right knee, and a spot of grease on the left thigh; a pair of shoes and buckles, and a brown cotton handkerchief, with white and yellow spots thereupon; a silver watch, the maker's name and number - "Will. Gill Hastings, No 590", one guinea in gold, one shilling and sixpence in silver, and some half pence; The person also took from the shed belonging to the kiln, a blue livery gold coat, with double rows of white metal buttons, and a coal hammer marked H.H.

The man who committed the above robbery appeared to be about 25 years of age, fresh coloured, stout and well made, five feet seven or eight inches high, his hair and beard of a dark sandy colour, had on a round hat, brown coat, and an old velveret waistcoat, and old leather breeches.

A REWARD OF FIVE GUINEAS

Will be paid by Sir Henry Harpur, bart, to any person or persons who will give such information of the offender, that he may be convicted, to be paid upon conviction, over and above what he will be entitled to under the Act of Parliament - and also a further reward of five guineas to be paid on his or their conviction by the treasurer of the "Ticknall Association".

If the person who went to the brick kiln about 10 o'clock in the evening, and assisted in making up the fires, will give evidence of what he knows of the offence, he shall be entitled to the same rewards (and endeavour will be made to obtain a free pardon) upon conviction of the person who committed the robbery, if he were an accomplice. - **Calke September 17th 1799**

Leicester Chronicle - May 30th 1840

ASHBY DE LA ZOUCH PETTY SESSIONS

Thomas Fairbrother of Heath End, was charged by Thomas Heathcote, with misconduct in service. Defendant agreed to return into the service and pay the expenses.

Leicester Mercury - May 21st 1842

ASHBY DE LA ZOUCH PETTY SESSIONS

Maria Calladine, of Heath End, charged William Hough of the same place, with an assault. It appeared from the evidence that a great deal of ill-feeling had existed between the parties for a long time. On the day in question, a quarrel having ensued, the complainant

accidentally, as she termed it, threw some water out of the door, which went upon defendant, and after this the assault complained of was committed. The magistrate therefore dismissed the case, each to pay their own costs.

Leicester Chronicle - August 16th 1862

SUICIDE OF AN OLD WOMAN

On the 7th inst, an inquest was held at Heath End, in the Parish of Ashby de la Zouch, on the body of Mary Shaw, aged 84 years, widow of the late William Shaw, labourer. For the last two or three weeks deceased had been very restless, and in a low state of mind, but no fear was entertained that she would injure herself. On the night of the 5th she seemed afraid of going to bed, as something, she said, was always talking to her, and telling her she should not rest. She went to bed once or twice, but got up again, and seemed very restless. Ultimately, on the morning of the 6th, she went out of doors, and as soon as she was missed, search was made for her, but without success. Between five and six o'clock, she was seen by two young men in a reservoir belonging to some limeworks; she was got out but was quite dead. For thirty years passed deceased had exhibited symptoms of a very uneasy mind, and on the last occasion was more restless than ever she had been before. **The jury returned a verdict of insanity.**

Leicester Chronicle - August 21st 1897

JUVENILE FORESTERS TREAT

On Wednesday the juveniles of the Loyal Prince of Wales Lodge, I.O.O., Ashby, journeyed to Staunton Harold Park and gardens, by permission of Earl Ferrers, for the annual treat. The party left about one o'clock in the inclement weather. Tea was served at the Saracen's Head, Heath End. During the afternoon the weather cleared up, and contributed to the happiness of the youngsters.