

Haycop and Bottom Coal Collieries, Broseley

S. Dewhirst

The Haycop and Bottom Coal Collieries are closely connected, making it difficult to determine which mine is being referenced in contemporary reports. However, Bottom Coal appears to be the older of the two mines, and in this area, the term "Bottom Coal" generally refers to the Big Flint coal seam.

From 1856, the Mines Inspector's returns list mine names, including Haycop and Haycop Hill. Bottom Coal is not listed, suggesting that Haycop Hill is what is now known as Haycop, while the Haycop listed may have been Bottom Coal. Thus, any reference to the "Haycop Pit" must be treated with caution. Locally Bottom Coal is the name of the area and of the blast furnace on the opposite side of Ironbridge Road.

The first reference to a pit at the Haycop is in 1813 when William Gittins was killed (see events) and the newspaper reference mentioning the 'Haycop Pits' appears in 1853. Subsequent reports refer to either a pit or pits, making it difficult to determine which specific mine is being discussed.

History

The mines are located on what was the Broseley Hall Estate. In the late 16th and early 17th centuries coal mines were being worked by James Clifford owner of the Broseley Estate with coal being taken by railways to the Severn for export on the river.

The estate passed into the hands of the Browne family of Caughley then William Yelverton Davenport (d 1811), the Harries family and finally to the Jenkins family in 1879.¹ They held the land until 1913 when Charles Edward Jenkins sold much of the estate.²

The earliest surviving survey of the estate, dated 1728, provides valuable insight. Page 16 of this survey shows that the area now known as Haycop was once part of Perry Furlong, Horse Pasture, and Little Haycop. No shaft or railway shown on this page, but Page 24 shows the Jackfield Rails in Perry Furlong, running in the direction of Bottom Coal (Fig.1).

In 1786, Bancks and Onions erected the Coneybury (or Bottom Coal) blast furnace and leased nearby land from the Broseley Estate with the associated coal and ironstone mines.

The blast furnace was constructed on Glebe lands, recorded in 1728 as "Parsons & Mr." Weld's Land," as well as on Brick Kiln Leasow, which by this time included parts of Perry Furlong and Horse Pasture. By 1803, the valuation of the Broseley (Hall) Estate has several references to Bancks and Onions, including:

- Furnace Bank, Cinder Bank, Pit Mounds, etc.
- Hay Cop: "Much encumbered with pit mounds, etc., now in work."
- Brick Kiln Leasow: "Much encumbered with pit mounds and roads and for taking off the mines."
- Little Hay Cop and Little Brick Kiln Leasow were listed as meadow and pasture.

In 1822, James Foster, who had taken over Barnett's Leasow Furnaces, secured a 21-year lease for the mineral resources previously leased to Onions in connection with the now-disused Coneybury Furnace. The associated map from this period only shows a shaft at Bottom Coal.

Each mine required a weighing machine to ensure accurate record-keeping and royalty calculations. Each ton was calculated as 48 hundredweight, with the following royalty rates:

- Clod and Flint coal – 4 shillings per ton.
- Ganey coal – 2 shillings 6 pence per ton.
- Slack and lime coal – 2 shillings per ton. (except for slack used in the mine engines)
- Crawstone and Pennystone ironstone – 2 shillings per hundredweight.

These royalties were subject to reduction if the total sum exceeded £350.³



Figure 1. Broseley Hall Estate Map 1728. There are two shafts in Perry Furlong connected to the Jackfield Rails which are shown on page 24. Although the railway is not shown on page 11 it is likely that that it ran to the Bottom Coal shaft. From Shropshire Archives 6001/2365



Figure 2. 1822 Map for mineral lease to James Foster. The Bottom Coal mine is shown on plot 25 with associated structures. No shaft is shown for Haycop Mine. The map also shows the Coneybury furnaces to the east of the mine From Shropshire Archives 6000/11420.

In 1827, a new road was constructed from the Iron Bridge to the Temple, which is now known as Ironbridge Road and The Avenue. This road runs just to the east of Bottom Coal Mine, and plans for the road show a (weighing) Machine House at Bottom Coal.

The 1833 1-inch Ordnance Survey map depicts Bottom Coal Mine connected by a railroad to a wharf on the Severn at Lloyds Head. This network also had links to Holywell, Yew Tree, Astley Fields, Fishhouse, and other mines, suggesting that James Foster was exporting coal and ironstone down the River Severn for use in his other furnaces in the Black Country. Each mine required a weighing machine to ensure accurate record-keeping and royalty calculations. Each ton was calculated as forty-eight hundredweight, with the following royalty rates:

- Clod and Flint coal – 4 shillings per ton.
- Ganey coal – 2 shillings 6 pence per ton
- Slack and lime coal – 2 shillings per ton (except for slack used in the mine engines)
- Crawstone and Pennystone ironstone – 2 shillings per hundredweight

These royalties were subject to reduction if the total sum exceeded £350.⁴

His successors continued exporting Pennystone ironstone from mines in the Broseley area until the 1880s.

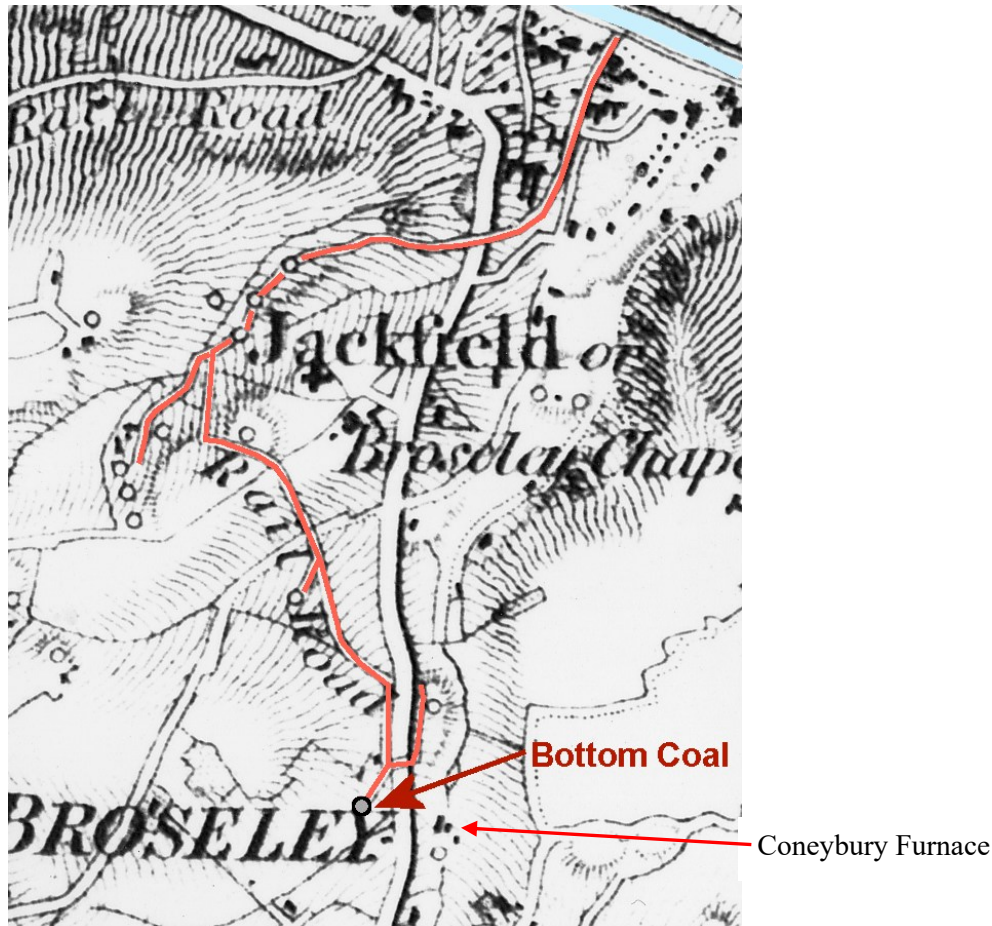


Figure 3. 1833 1" O.S. Map showing Bottom Coal Colliery and the Rail Road to the Rover Severn. No shaft is shown for the Hay Cop Mine. By this time the Coneybury furnace had closed but it is still shown on the map.

The 1838 Tithe Apportionment lists Marice Foulk, who lived at Haycop House as occupying Little Hay Cop and part of Little Brick Kiln Leasow which was pasture land. Foulk has sublet the land, Coal Pits, Engine and Weighing Machine to Thoams Birch. Bottom Coal shaft is shown but it is not mentioned on the Tithe Apportionment.⁵ Thomas Birch had come to Broseley in the early 19th century to manage the Barnetts Leasow furnaces for Jesson and Wright. In 1820 he was still running the furnaces when he was declared bankrupt. When the

Tithe Apportionment was taken in 1838, he was also working at Astley Fields Colliery. On the 1841 census, Birch (51) lived at Broseley Hall and listed him as ‘Coal Master’. Birch was again declared bankrupt in 1851 when he was described as ‘Coal Master, Dealer in Malt, Dealer and Chapman’ however he was still calling himself a coal master in 1858.⁶ Although the minerals on the Broseley Estate were under lease to Foster until 1843 the Title Apportionment lists his mines mainly being on the Forester and Calcutts Estates.

When the local furnaces closed there were still large reserves of Pennystone ironstone which were unworked. Pennystone ironstone comprised nodules of ironstone in a clay matrix. This generated a large amount of clay soil and the site at Bottom Coal had limited space to dump this waste hence it only has a small spoil tip. The new pit at Hay Cop was probably opened higher up the hill to allow more space for clay dumping. When the mine closed, most of the Hay Cop was covered by spoil. As the Tithe Apportionment lists the Little Hay Cop as pasture and does not mention spoil or waste suggests that extraction of the Pennystone Ironstone had only recently begun.

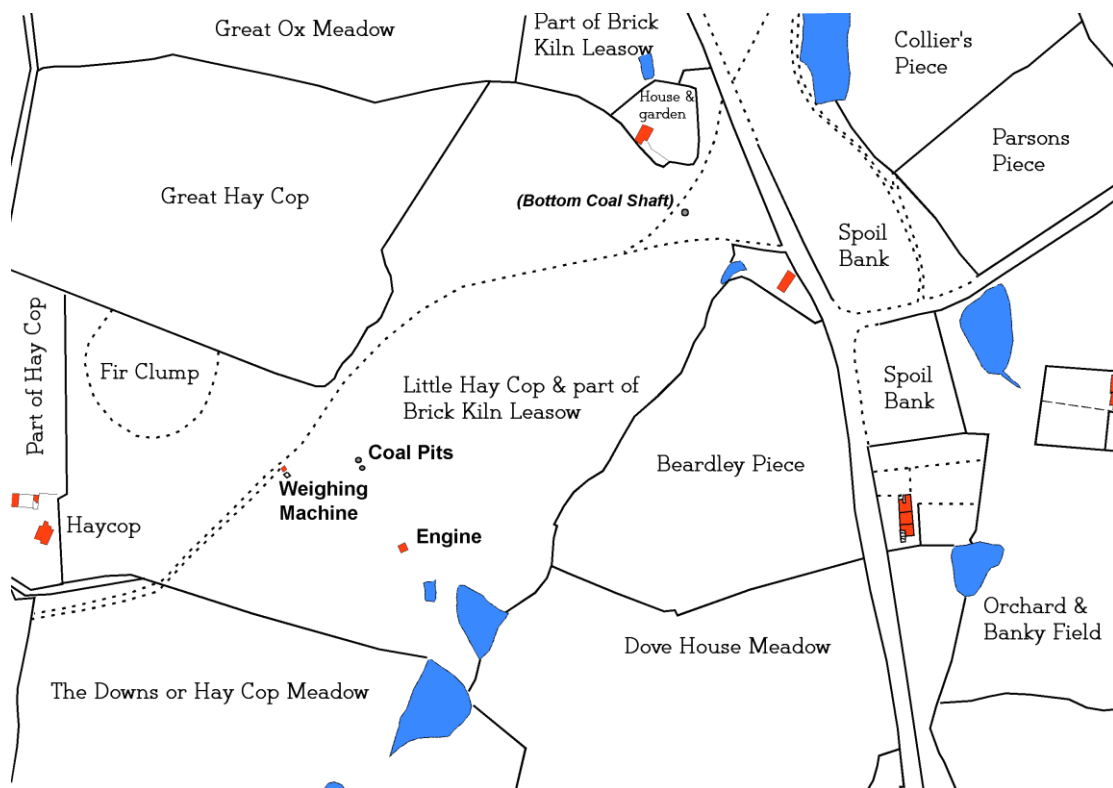


Figure 4. 1840 Broseley Tithe Map. The Hay Cop mine has two shafts, a winding engine and a weighing machine. Only a shaft is shown at the Bottom Coal.

The depths of minerals recorded in 1838 were:⁷

Sulphur Coal	82 yds
Bider (Viger?) Coal	None
Pennystone Measure (ironstone)	90 yds
Gainey Coal	103 yds
Clod Coal	108 yds
Crawstone Ironstone	118 yds

Foster's lease expired in 1843, and the estate mines were likely leased individually. The next mention of the mine was in 1853 Samuel Meredith was the chartermaster (manager) and in the 1851 Census, lists him as living in Broseley Wood with an occupation of Ironstone miner (see accidents, people).⁸

Before 1856 the Mines Inspector's returns did not list the names of mines but from 1856 the published list includes both Haycop and Haycop Hill. Bottom Coal is not listed in any of the returns, so Haycop Hill probably was what is now known as Haycop and Haycop could have been the Bottom Coal mine so any reference to the Haycop Pit must be treated with caution.⁹ The first reference in the newspapers is in 1853 which refers to the Haycop Pits and subsequent reports mention a pit or pits.

In the returns, the partnership of Hill and Aston is recorded as operating the Haycop Pit from 1856. Before that Aston and Hill were 'working the outcrops for the coal chiefly for brick kilns' but where this was is not recorded. Hiram Hill had also been operating another mine on his own accord since at least 1854. Between 1856 and 1867 Haycop was operated by Hill and Aston and Haycop Hill by Thomas Davies.

In 1862 H.M. Inspector of Mines inspector was in the area checking compliance with the Act for the Regulation of Mines and Hiram Hill and James Aston were found to be in breach of the rules. My Wynne visited the pit on 19th January and found a disused shaft which was not properly fenced. There had been a chain around the mouth of the pit, but it was trodden down and lay partly covered with dirt. They were fined £1 and 10s costs.¹⁰

In 1868 Haycop Hill is listed as not working and from 1869 both mines are listed as being operated by Hiram Hill and James Aston. Haycop disappeared from the records in 1874, but Haycop Hill continued to be shown as being operated by Hill and Aston until 1880. In 1872 they were supplying coal to Maw's tileworks.¹¹ Records for ironstone mining for 1873 to 1875 an list 620 tons as being extracted in 1874 however it was reported in 1875 that water prevented the mining of ironstone in the vicinity of Hay Cop and Bottom Coal.¹²

In 1874 Haycop mine disappeared from the inspector's reports and only list Haycop Hill which was operated by Hill and Aston. Haycop Hill disappears from the mining reports between 1885 and 1890. The inspector's reports are however at odds with the royalty returns for the Broseley Estate which are available for the period 1878 to 1886. In these Langford and Plimley or Plimley & Co. operated the Haycop mine until September 1885 with Samuel Meredith in 886 (see Appendix 1).

There may have been a second shaft for ventilation, which may be shown on the 1882 25" OS map, but there are no visible remains. There was always a shortage of water in Broseley and in 1893 the local board looked at the Haycop shaft as a possible source. It was recorded as being 80 feet deep with 50 feet of water. It was proposed to raise the water using a wind pump and they appear to have deepened the shaft and installed an engine, but they discovered there was only a supply of 3000 gallons a day which fell far short of what was required.¹³

After closure, the site is said to have been used as a tip for domestic waste and by the Benthall Pottery to dump pottery waste.¹⁴

Bottom Coal

The first reference to a pit with this name is in when 1867 Jeremiah Venn, chartermaster at the Bottom Coal pit unsuccessfully claimed a four-night's wages from Thomas Lee in lieu of notice.

The plant at Bottom Coal was put up for sale in 1877 and probably purchased by Samuel Meredith.¹⁵ Unfortunately, we do not know who had worked it previously or why the plant was being sold.

BOTTOM COAL, BROSELEY, SALOP.
TO COLLIERY PROPRIETORS AND OTHERS.
Important and Unreserved SALE of MINING PLANT, on
MONDAY, October 15, 1877.

MR. THOMAS RUSHTON

Is favoured with instructions from the representatives of the late Mr. Joseph Hill, to **SELL by AUCTION,**

THE whole of the **PIT PLANT, &c.**, comprising a Vertical Steam Engine, 12-horse power; Boiler; 3 link Flat Chain, 135 yards long; Tacklers, Bonnet Pit-head; Pulley and Runner, all complete and in proper working order; about 14 tons of Wrought and Cast-iron Rails and Sleepers, in lots to suit purchasers: Iron Plates, two good Carts, good Mare and Colt; Black Horse, a very good worker; a lot of useful Pit Wood; excellent Weighing Machine, to weigh 12 tons, by Brownhill & Sons; Pit Baskets, Saws, Shovels, Stone Boxes, Picks, Mattock, Blowing Tools, Crowbars, Culling Machine; Stack prime Hay, about 2 tons; Chain Fencing round field, Wood Hurdles, and about 1 ton of old Iron, &c.

Sale punctually at One o'clock.

Figure 5. Sale notice for the plant at the Bottom Coal Pit. Using a small vertical engine for winding is unusual particularly as it was winging flat chain. Wellington Journal 6th October 1877.

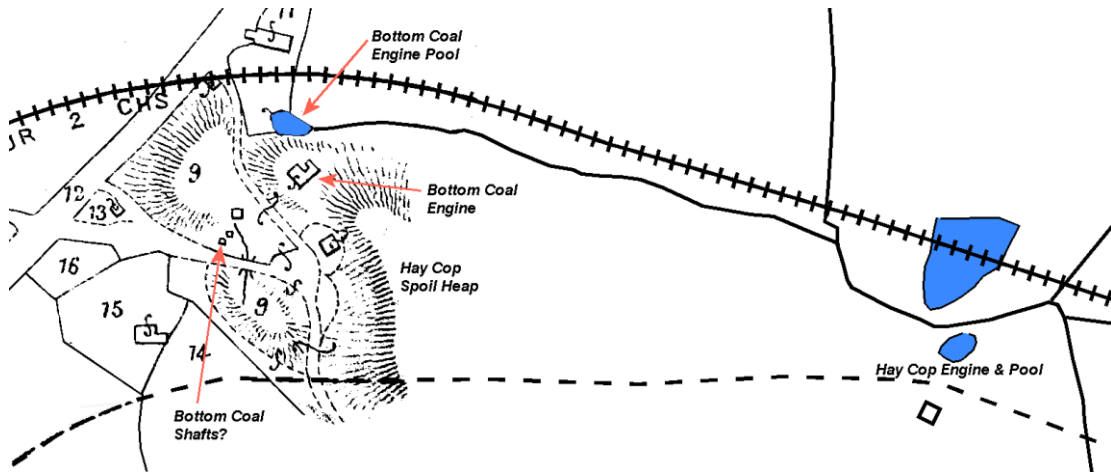


Figure 6. Broseley Railway Map and book of reference November 1880. Plot 9 is described as: a pasture field, pit mounds, engine sheds and footpath. It was owned by Charles Vanbrugh Jenkins (successor to Blithe Harries as the owner of Broseley Estate) in the occupation of Samuel Meredith, Edward Meredith, Thomas Langford, and Edward Plimley. (Samuel Meredith operated the Bottom Coal mine with Langford and Plimley operating Haycop - UK Parliamentary Archives HL/PO/PB/3/plan1881/B4).

Bottom Coal Pit, Broseley, Nov 11th 1878

Mr. T. Rushton

Bought of SAMUEL MEREDITH.

	T.	C.	Q.	at	per Ton	£	s.	d.
Coal		6		10/10		3	3	
Slack								
Clay								

Received by S. Meredith 33

Figure 7. Receipt for coal bought from Samuel Meredith at his Bottom Coal Pit.

Meredith was working coal (most of which was slack) and also tile clay. For the six months, October 1878 to March 1879 Meredith mined 902 tons of coal and 338 of clay. In 1882 he was driving underground roads to find more coal, but this appears to be unsuccessful as the coal had been previously worked by the Haycop mine. It was suggested that if the search was unsuccessful the machinery should be moved to the Coneybury mine and this is what appears to have happened (see Appendix 2). Thus, by the end of 1883, the mine seems to have been abandoned because it was worked out.¹⁶ There is no record of any sale of the associated plant.

In 1913 when Jenkins sold the Broseley Estate, the mine was disused and tenanted by George Roberts who farmed other parts of the estate.

From Sale of Broseley Estate on Wednesday, March 5th, 1913. The plot numbers are those shown on the 1902 OS map (Fig 4.)¹⁷

The Site of the disused Haycop & Bottomcoal Collieries						
With the Buildings and Penistone thereon and the Mines and Minerals underlying also underlying Lots 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and part Lot 2 (Field No. 268.)						
Fronting the Main Road.				Tenant: —Mr. George Roberts.		
<i>The Lot a sold subject to a Right of Road for the benefit of the Owners and Occupiers of Lots 8, 9 and 10 as shown on Plan No 1.</i>						
APPORTIONED ANNUAL RENTAL £3 14s. 0d.						
MINERALS. The Mines and Minerals, Penistone and veins of valuable Brick Clay in and underlying Lots 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and Field No. 268 (part Lot 2) are to be included in the Sale of this Lot. The Penistone (<i>sic</i>) on the surface of this Lot is of considerable value and it is estimated that there are about 4.000 Tons (quantity not guaranteed). The valuable Clay is rich in quality and of a very thick stratum.						
OUTGOINGS: — Tithe, Value 1912 13s						
Land Tax, ... Nil.						
SCHEDULE.						
No. ON PLAN.	DESCRIPTION.	AREA.				
		A.	R.	P.		
200	Pit Mound	6	0	2		
268a	Pit Mound and Building 1	0	11	0		
269	Pt. Ditto ditto ...	0	0	20		
265	Pasture	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>29</u>		
	Total ...	<u>8</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>22</u>		

People

James Aston (1794-1870)

1841 Duke Street, Coal Miner.

1851 Caughley, Ground Bailiff.

1861 Mill Terrace, Coal Master employing 21 men, 7 boys, and 5 women.

1865 Elector for Borough of Wenlock. House & land.

1870 Probate, coal master, effects under £200

Hiram Hill (1798-1877),

1841 Benthall Rail, Ironfounder

1851 King Street, Iron Founder & Lime Merchant (Benthall foundry)

1861 Cape Street (Burnt house), Coalminer, son James, coal dealers clerk.

1871 Cape Street, Coal Merchant, son James and accountant.

1877 Probate estate of under £450.

His nephew Hiram ran the Half Moon pub.

Thomas Langford (1821-1887)

1820 Baptism, Father Thomas a collier

1841 Folly, Miner, Father Thomas (50), Brothers Joseph, John, Emmanuel Coalminers.

1851 Folly, Coal Miner

1861 Lower Folly, Miner, coal

1871 Furnace Cottages. Coal Miner

1875 Son Emanuel manager at Haycop Pit for Mr Hill

1881 Folly, Coal Miner, son Richard (34) Coal Miner

Samuel Meredith (1822-1896)

1844 Marriage at Linley, Miner

1851 Broseley Wood, Ironstone miner

1853 Chartermaster at Hay Cop Pit

1861 Broseley Wood, Stone Miner. Son John (16) Engine driver at Stone Pit, William (10) Ironstone miner.

1876 Road surveyor 1874-6 (see accidents)

1881 Coalford. Coal Miner

1896 Meredith died on 30th January at which time was the proprietor of Coneybury Colliery. He was a nonconformist.¹⁸ Probate, Coalmaster left £231 13s 9d. Son John Meredith as colliery proprietor.

Edward Plimley (1830-1906) – Wesleyan

Brother of Thomas Plimley who worked Coneybury pit until 1877.

1841 Living on Duke Street. Coal Miner

1851 Living on Duke Street. Engineer at Coalpit (drove winding engine)

1861 Living on Duke Street. Engine tender at Coalpit

1871 Living on Birch Row. Engine Driver

1881 Living on Birch Row. Colliery Proprietor

1891 Living on Birch Row. Stationary Engine Driver

1901 Living in Fillongly. Warwickshire. Retired local preacher, Wesleyan.

Jeremiah Venn (1811- 1873)

1851 Living at Stocking, Coal miner.

1861 Living on Matthews land (Near Woodlands Green) Chartermaster and Coalminer.

1871 Living on Matthews Lane, Miner.

He died on 31st May 1873 and left effects under £300 which was a considerable amount for that period.

Accidents and Events

The first recorded accident was in 1813.

17th Jan. 1813 at Broseley before the coroner John Onions Jun. and under the oaths of Thos Cockrane, John Hill, Benjamin Bradnock, Richard Colley, Willm Gwynn, Thos Rashaps (*Raspass?*), Richard Poole, J J Guest, James Gwynn, John Hughes, John Bradley, Robert Jones, Hiram Hill, John Madelin, Thos Lewis, Richard Haynes, Wm Haynes and ? Loyd. William Gittons was at work at the 100yds deep stonepit known as 'Haycop' when the chain broke, and he fell to his death down the shaft.¹⁹

William Gittins aged 27, of Broseley, was buried at Barrow Church on 27th January 1813

An inquest was held on 3rd September 1823 at the Duke of York into the death of John Peat.

It was decided that John Peat died accidentally as a result of a rock fall of about 7 cwt, fell on his head at the Haycop coal pit at Broseley when he was killed instantly. Witness statements from Thomas Wild, who was at work in the Haycop pit he said he and John Peat were carrying a bucket of water towards the bottom of the pit when 'a quantity of stuff' fell on John Peat and covered his head. William Thompson came to help get it off but found Peat dead. William Thompson, collier of Broseley, corroborated the evidence and said the stuff was about 7 cwt.²⁰

No record can be found of his burial.

The next death was in 1826 when an inquest was held on the 8th of February at the Leopard Inn, Benthall.

It was decided that James Gething was at work in a certain coalpit called the Hay Cop pit in Broseley when a quantity of clunch fell on him. He sustained several mortal blows to the head and body and died instantly. Witness statements from Joseph Patten, who said he was at work in the Hay Cop pit in Broseley with James Gething when a quantity of clunch fell on James Gething, so he became smothered. John Glover corroborated that and said they both went up the pit and informed 3 men on the bank that James Gething was killed. John Ledbitter (*see 1855 accident*) said he, with 2 other men, went down the pit and found the dead James Gething under a quantity of clunch and on removal they found him quite dead and much bruised.²¹

James Gething, aged 49, was buried at Benthall on 12th February 1826.

An accident in 1853 indicates the mine had two shafts, although one is only shown on the contemporary maps so perhaps the mine was connected to Bottom Coal at this time.

One of those unfortunate events which too frequently occur to those whose mode of life is connected with mining of coal and ironstone took place at the Hay Cop Pits. One of the pit shafts was rendered unsafe in consequence of the sides giving way; and as it was necessary that one of the charter masters, Samuel Meredith, who was in the works, should come to the top, he chose the other shaft for his ascent rather than that which presented so threatening an aspect. He had not proceeded more than twenty yards from the bottom of the shaft upwards when a piece of coal detached from the top of the shaft struck him with such force on the back of the head as not only to produce a stunning effect, but, in consequence, he relaxed his hold of the rope, fell out of the chains, and was precipitated to the bottom. It would seem as if one of the hooks of the spare chains caught him under the chin in his descent. As the head, however, would fall on one side, a fearful rent was made in the throat; and the sufferer was found at the bottom in a complete state of insensibility. On further examination, it was discovered that he had sustained a compound fracture of one of his thighs. Life was for a considerable time not only jeopardized but hopeless. At present, it is pleasing to add that he is progressing favourably.²²

Two years later in March 1855, there were two fatalities in another winding incident:

ACCIDENT AT THE HAY-COP (iron stone) PITS. On the morning of the Fast-day (sic) a man named Maiden, and a boy of the name of Leadbitter, when about to descend the shaft for the purpose of attending to the hones, were unfortunately precipitated from within a short distance of the mouth of the pit to the bottom, a distance of 100 yards. The accident appears to have been owing to the chains not being properly hooked to the iron loops of the skit or basket, which, in consequence of the jerk of the engine, slipped off and suddenly let down one side of the basket in which the poor unfortunate fellows were standing. - On Friday, an inquest was held before Edward G. Bartlam. Esq., coroner, at the Cape of Good Hope, and from the evidence produced, it appeared the father of the deceased, George Leadbitter went to send the deceased down the pit. The shaft is rather narrow, and the skip catching occasionally, consequently, two of the hooks became unfastened and threw the men to the bottom. The coroner suggested that it would be better to use a skip without hooks, especially as the shaft was so narrow.²³ The shaft is also reported as being 110 yards.²⁴

John Maiden aged 35 and George Leadbetter aged 17 were buried at Broseley on 24th March and were probably related. In the 1851 census, John Maiden, who had been born in Barrow, was listed as a brickmaker's labourer living in Broseley Wood with his wife Eliza (Leadbetter) and two children under 3. His uncle Richard Leadbetter, a pauper aged 77, was also living with them. In the 1851 census, the Leadbetter family were living at Jackfield with George's father William (45) listed as a miner and George, who had been born in Wolverhampton, was a labourer at the pit bank. The family had travelled around the country;

Willaim and his wife Drusilla were both born in Broseley but three children aged 14 to 8 were born in Wolverhampton, Albert aged 4 in Eccles and Druscilla aged 1 in Broseley.

In 1860 George Shaw was charged by Richard Aston, collier of Broseley, with stealing a gimlet with three pence from the machine- house or cabin and later that year Mr. Aston charged a man called Langford for leaving his work. Langford was given the choice of a fortnights hard labour at Shrewsbury however he chose the alternative option of paying his costs and returning to work.²⁵

There was an accident in 1862 which fortunately was not fatal.

ACCIDENT AT THE HAYCOP PITS. --On Monday, about noon, as Mr James Davis, one of the butty colliers of the above pit, was employed in the operation of "holeing," a portion of the roof near to where he was employed suddenly gave way. Some of this fell on the unfortunate man, and with the exception of his head buried the whole of his body beneath its weight. His fellow workmen of course immediately proceeded to remove the rock and rubbish which surrounded him, when it was found that his left side was much lacerated, while the other side, from the shoulder down to the hip, bore fearful evidence of the injury indicted by the falling mass. The unfortunate man was quickly conveyed home, where it is understood that he is progressing favourably.²⁶

Another non-fatal accident occurred in 1866.

On Thursday last a man named John Dodd residing in Broseley was seriously injured by a fall of earth while working in the Haycop Pit, belonging to Messrs Hill & Aston. Dr Hartshorne was quickly in attendance and rendered the unfortunate sufferer all assistance possible.²⁷

In 1868 Richard Highway was sentenced to two months of hard labour for stealing a small quantity of coal for Hill and Aston's Hay-cop pit.²⁸

The last record accident at the mine was in August 1875 when William Lister was killed by a roof fall.

Inquest. - Yesterday week an inquest was held at the Lion Hotel, Broseley, before K Bartlam, Esq, coroner, on view of the body of William Lister, who was injured in the Hay-cop coalpit some time previous The following evidence was adduced: Emanuel Langford stated that he was manager for Mr Hill at the Hay-cop Pit. About eleven o'clock on the 17th of July deceased and Thomas Hunt were at work in the pit. Witness was in another part of the works when he was informed that an accident had happened to Lister, and he went to his assistance. He had examined the work the previous evening, and it appeared quite safe. There was always plenty of timber in the pit to make it safe. -Thomas Hunt stated that on the day in question, he was at work with deceased. About 11 a.m. deceased removed a prop from a piece of coal and was getting it out when it fell upon his back and forced him down. The weight that fell was from two to three hundredweight He got assistance and removed the coal off him, and he was conveyed home. - Dr. Hartshorne stated that on the 17th he was called to see deceased and found him very much injured. The spinal cord was broken, and the vertebrae dislocated No medical assistance could be of any avail. Deceased lived till the 27th ultimo. -The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death."²⁹

Willaim Lister aged 41 was buried at Broseley on 30th July 1875. In the 1871 census, the family were living on King Street. Jane (30). They had three children Willaim (11) John (5) and Elizabeth M. (9 months) all of whom had been born in Broseley. John McCoy (26) a miner from Walsall was boarding with them. In 1881 Jane who is listed as a Hawker of oranges etc, and her two youngest children were boarding with George Parker an unmarried man of 36 at Hockley.

Haycop Remains

This Coal and Pennystone ironstone mine which operated for most of the 19th century probably has the most complete remains of a colliery in the Broseley area a striking feature being a sizeable Pennystone ironstone clay mound. The foundations of the engine house and nearby building can still be seen and there are also foundations of the office and weighbridge house hidden in scrubby trees. The engine pool has been restored and is now part of the nature reserve.³⁰ The shaft suffered a partial collapse in the late 20c and was filled in, but its location is still visible.

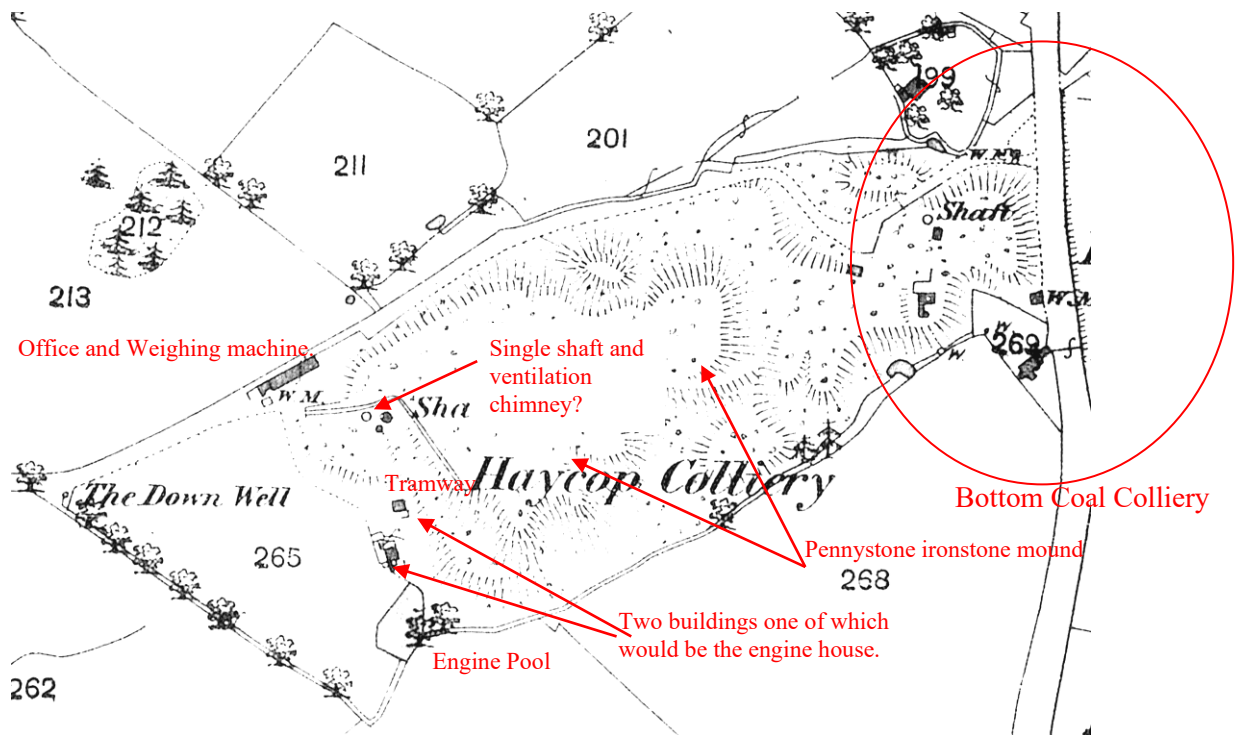


Figure 8 Features of the site in 1882. 25" O. S. Map Shropshire LI.2

Engine pool is named on an 1885 plan for the Down Well tank (see Shropshire Archives 1681/60/1)



Figure 9 Haycop shaft in the 1990s. It had opened up presumably due to poor filling and was later capped by the Coal Authority. It is approximately 6'6" Diameter.



Figure 10. Culvert – probably between the engine pool and engine house. A small section was exposed in 2008 and has now been refilled.



Figure 11. Building near engine house. Partial clearance of soil in 2008. SJ 6791 0785.



Figure 12. Engine Pool looking north.

Bottom Coal Remains

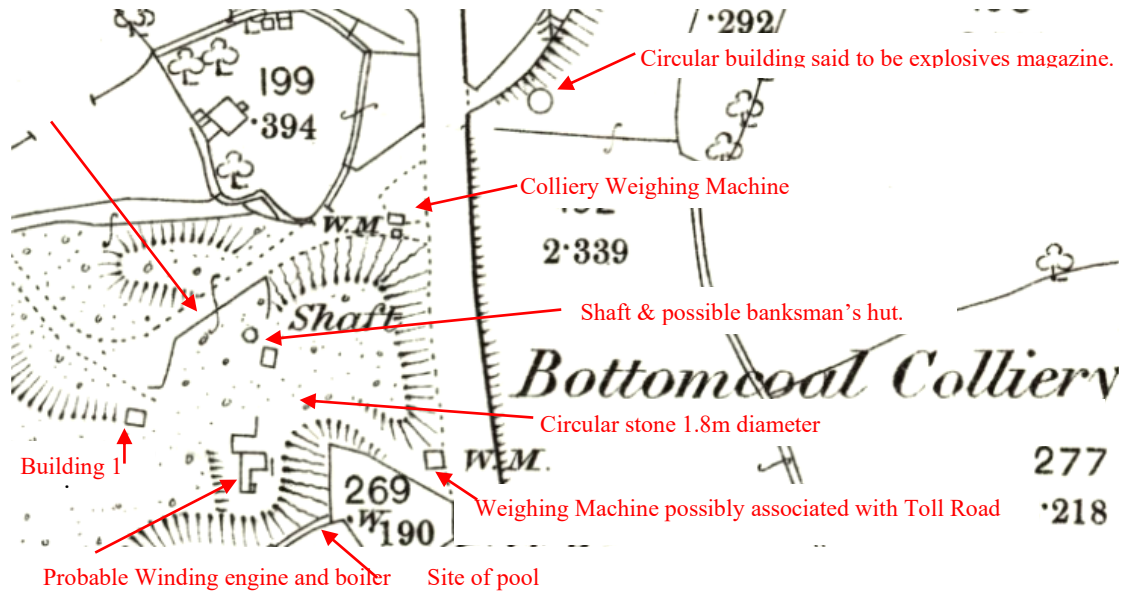


Figure 13 Bottom Coal features. 1882. 25" O. S. Map Shropshire LI.2

The shaft location is visible as a fenced-off depression. The probable site of the winding engine is viable as an overgrown depression with part of a brick wall remaining. Later OS maps show a rectangular building here which appears to be later. There are no above-ground remains of Building 1, the banksman's hut or the weighing machine.



Figure 14, Partially collapsed shaft recently fenced by Coal Authority Marked 'Old Shaft on 1927 OS map. SJ 6809 0195. S Dewhirst 2018



Figure 15 Brickwork in rectangular depression – probably the site of the Winding Engine/Boiler. SJ 6809 0192.



Figure 16 Circular stone – possibly an edge runner for a pug mill in one of the brick yards. It probably has no connection with this mine, and it is not known when or how it got here. It is 1.8m in diameter and has a 300 mm square slot at the centre. SJ 6810 0194.



Figure 17 Brick paving close to the site of Weighing Machine SJ 6811 0197 S. Dewhirst 2018



Figure 18. Circular building on the opposite side of Ironbridge Road – said to be an explosive magazine but may be associated with Coneybury Furnace. SJ 6815 0200. S. Dewhirst

Appendix 1. Royalties for the Broseley Estate³¹

Undated note:

Mr Hurdley says there should be Tile clay at Hay Cop Pit
Clay lies just below the stinkers above? –coal & Pennystone.
Bottom coal – clay should be there too.

Plimley (Haycop)

Undated: Half a year's rent & for Engine chain &c £11.0.0, Half a year royalty £24.8.6

	Coal (&Slack)	Slack	Rate	Cost	Note
Mar 1878	451.16				Hay Cop Pit
Mar 1879	488.11			£24.8.6	Langford & Plimley Hay Cop
Sept 1879	437.6			£21.17.4	
Mar 1880	472.7		1/-	£23.12.4	Rent £11, Langford & Plimley
Sept 1880	175.2	196.11	1/-	£18.11.7	Plimley & Langford
Mar 1881	513.10			£25.13.6	
Sept 1881	300.11			£15.0.6	
Mar 1882	560.2			£28.0.0	
Sept 1882	413.5			£20.13.3	Plimley & Langford
Mar 1883	424.4			£21.4.2	Hay Cop Pits
Amr 1884	207.14		1/-	£10.7.8	Dec13 -25 Mar 1884
Sept 1884	217.10	35.14		£23.10.2	Mr Edward Plimley
Mar 1885	356.9			£17.16.6	Mr E Plimley
Sept 1885	174.17	135.3	1/-	15.9.14	
Samuel Meredith (Late Plimley)					
Sep 1886	399.10		8d	£18.19.6	

Samuel Meredith (Bottom Coal)

	Coal (ton.cwt)	Slack	Rate	Cost	Clay	Cost	Note
Sept 1878	9.2	19.12			54		
Mar 1879	902.10			£32.16.11	338	£5.12.8	Bottom Coal
Sept 1879	491.15			£18.8.3	105.11	£6.15.1	
Mar 1880	2.15	447	9d	£16.15.3	445.16	£17.12.3	Fire clay
Mar 1881	380.11			£14.5.5	462	£7.14.0	
	Coal & Slack						
Sept 1881	633.13			£25.15.7	125	£2.1.8	
Mar 1882	859.13			£32.4.3	150	£2.10.0	
Sept 1882	521.8			£19.11.5	298	£4.19.4	
Mar 1883	572.3		9d	£21.9.0	327	£5.9.8	Bottom Coal
Mar 1884	477.10		1/-	£23.17.6			
Sept 1884	503.2		1/-	£21.7.6			
Mar 1885	645.16		1/-	£32.5.9			
Sept 1885	656.6		9d	£24.11.6			

In March 1886 Samuel Meredith was working the Coneybury Pit

Appendix 2³²

28th May 1882 Loxdale House, Bilston

To E. B. Potts

Mr Samuel Meredith the tenant of Bottom Coal Colliery belonging to General Jenkins has driven a gate road to prove the existence of coal without success, at the end of which he has come upon an old gateroad driven I have no doubt for the Hay Cop pits which goes to prove that the face of coal has been taken from the Hay Cop pits towards the roadway leading from Jackfield to Broseley, but how far the face of Coal has been worked towards the said road remains to be proved. From a conversation I had with Meredith on Monday last it was thought practical to drive a Gate road towards and in the direction of the Face of Coal Wm Meredith

said that if you would allow him off his royalties to the sum of £10 (ten pounds) he would drive a road 40 yards (forty yards) and if he found the coal he would not ask for £10.

In my opinion, before closing the pit it would be prudent to do this as the amount is not much and if the coal is not found then the machinery could be moved to the Coneybury Pits, but if the coal should be found then the £10 would not have to be paid to Meredith.

I may say that Meredith has spent more money in the time he has worked this pit in having the Generals' mines than all the other coal Tenants have.

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¹ [A History of the County of Shropshire: Volume 10, Munslow Hundred \(Part\), the Liberty and Borough of Wenlock.](#)

² Shropshire Archives 1681/61

³ Shropshire Archives 6000/11420.

⁴ Shropshire Archives 6000/11420.

⁵ Broseley Tithe 1838 (IGMT).

⁶ London Gazette 1851 p355., Shrewsbury Chronicle 8th January 1858

⁷ Shropshire Archives 1190/4/390

⁸ Shrewsbury Chronicle 17th June 1853

⁹ Mineral statistics of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, these are available at the National Coal Mining Museum, on Google Books and at www.hathitrust.org .

¹⁰ Wellington Journal 25th January 1862.

¹¹ Shrewsbury Chronicle 1st November 1872

¹² The Coal and Iron Industries of the United Kingdom, 1893. www.hathitrust.org. Wellington Journal 8th May 1875

¹³ Wellington Journal 1893 and 1894.

¹⁴ Twelve Mines in the Broseley Area. *A.J. Mugridge* 1992.

¹⁵ Royalties for the Broseley Estate. Shropshire Archives 1681/191/10

¹⁶ Shropshire Archives 1681/191/10 Letter from W. Grove to E. B Potts explaining the situation after a conversation with Meredith.

¹⁷ Shropshire Archives 1681/16

¹⁸ Wellington Journal 1st February 1896

¹⁹ Shropshire Archives Wenlock Borough Inquests WB/F/3/3/11, WB/F/3/3/12

²⁰ Shropshire Archives. Wenlock Borough Inquests WB/F/3/3/83/1-3

²¹ Shropshire Archives Wenlock Borough Inquests WB/F/3/3/110/1-3.

²² Shrewsbury Chronicle 17th June 1853

²³ Wolverhampton Chronicle 28th March 1855. John Maiden was 35 and was buried on 24th March. The paper names the other victim as Leadbitter but this was probably George Leadbetter who was buried the same day.

²⁴ Eddowes Shrewsbury Journal 23rd March 1855. Shrewsbury Chronicle 30th March 1855

²⁵ Shrewsbury Chronicle, 27th January 1860, 5th October 1860

²⁶ Wellington Journal 15th March 1862

²⁷ Eddowes Shrewsbury Journal 20th June 1866

²⁸ Wellington Journal 11th July 1868

²⁹ Wellington Journal 7th August 1875.

³⁰ Shropshire Archives 1681/60/1 names the engine pool

³¹ Shropshire Archives 1681/191/10

³² Shropshire Archives 1681/191/10