Fatality at Nailstone colliery

100 YEARS AGO – 1918

AN INQUEST was held on Tuesday afternoon, at the Coroner's Offices, Market Bosworth- the first inquest to be held by Mr. F. Bouskell without a jury- concerning the death of William Preston, 61, miner, of Newbold Verdon, who was killed in the Nailstone Colliery during the early hours of Monday morning.

There were present, Mr. Ball, H.M. Inspector of Mines; Mr. J. J. Sharp (Coalville) for the Nailstone Colliery Co.; Mr. C. E. Crane (Coalville) for the Midland Mining Officials' Association; Mr. F. Tatham (Coalville) for the Colliery Deputies Association: and Mr. Levi Lovett, J.P., the Leicestershire miners' agent.

Frank Preston, of Mill Lane, Newbold Verdon, said the deceased was his father, who was 61 years of age, and had been employed at the Nailstone Colliery as a chargeman for nearly 30 years. He was quite well when witness last saw him alive on Oct. 20th. His hearing and sight were good and he had never complained to witness of his work.

John Allen, of Chapel St., Ibstock, said he was deputy at the Nailstone Colliery bottom seam. He went to work on Sunday night and made examinations at 9 and 11.30pm. A fall had occurred in the gate road near 58 stall and he gave instructions for it to be cleared away.

Deceased was "holing" in the stall, and the place appeared safe. About 3.30 in the morning he was informed that a fall had occurred in the stall, and that deceased was under the coal. Witness assisted to liberate him. The coal came down in one lump, and had to be broken before the deceased could be released. The deceased was always a reliable workman.

By the Inspector; The sprags were all set at 11.30 and in the best possible positions. A slip in the coal was visible after the fall.

Ernest Weston, shifter, Market Bosworth, said he assisted in clearing the fall in the gate road. Everything appeared to be quite safe before the accident, which was very sudden. After the fall, he heard the deceased moan, but did not hear him speak.

He was a chargeman in No. 58 stall and was working near to them as his mates had not turned in to work.

Dr. T. N. Wilson (Ibstock) said death was due to fracture of the base of the skull. The Coroner found that it was a case of accidental death, and no one was to blame.