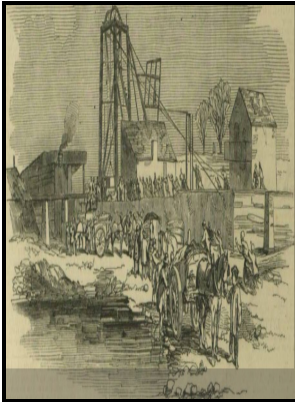


Colliery legislation and its consequences - 1842 and the women miners of Lancashire.

John Rylands University Library of Manchester - The 'Pit Brow Lasses' of 19th



Description: -

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Occupations: 19th century coal miners

Some suggested the examination of children's teeth as a guide to the ages of applicants, whereas others urged the use of statistical evidence of average heights. It is estimated that by 1851 the industry employed 216,000. I have drawn till I have had the skin off me; the belt and chain is worse when we are in the family way.

Scratching the Surface. Women, Work and Coalmining History in England and Wales on JSTOR

Wood, the sub-commissioner says: The result of my inquiries is in every case to show, that the employment of female children and young persons in such labour, shuts them out entirely from all useful and necessary knowledge; the wives are so little capable of rendering a house comfortable, that the husband is constantly driven to the alehouse, whence arise all the evils of drunkenness to themselves and to their families. We return as soon as able—never longer than ten or twelve days; many less, if they are much needed. A people may be in a frightful condition as citizens, and yet but few appear before the magistrate or infringe the laws:—why take such a picture as this? Hannah Neale says,—My boy, ten years old, was at work: about half a year since his toe was cut off by the bind falling; notwithstanding this, the loader made him work until the end of the day, although in the greatest pain.

Why 'pit brow lasses' were coal mining's unsung heroines

With regard to the provisions of the bill, he had never intended to oppose the clause prohibiting the employment of females in mines and collieries under ground; but at the same time it might be worth while to consider whether that rule ought to be rigidly extended to persons of a mature age, who had already been for years employed; as for instance widows, who might have families, and who would, under the operation of such a clause, be deprived of their usual means of supporting their families. Notwithstanding this, it is known that John Fletcher was the proprietor of the pits in Denton. This was a significant blow for many mining families, who had relied on the extra income from labour; for some women, mining had been the only option.

Coal Zoom

MINES AND COLLIERIES. (Hansard, 14 July 1842)

I have known my father go at two in the morning to work when we worked at Twibell's, where there is a day-hole to the pit, and he didn't come out till four.

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