

COAL



Introduction

Coal was the major source energy available to the working classes since the industrial revolution. All houses in Balsall heath would have relied on coal for fires, cooking and heating water. The area had many coal merchants one example of which was George Harry Mullis whose yard was at 208 Edward Road. Interestingly a William Henry Mullis operated a Coal delivery service from 189 Edward Road. His daughter ran a dress making business from the same address. Was this a family concern?



Sue

My maiden name is Mullis and my dad and my grandfather used to be the coal merchants at 208 Edward Road. I

remember my dad coming home every night covered head to foot in coal dust, and it was a bath before he could do anything else. I used to

go out with my dad collecting the money on Saturday mornings. On a couple of occasions I went down with him to the railway yard to watch them putting the coal into bags on the back of the waggons. That was at Camp Hill. In Edward Road there was a big yard and they used to have different piles of coals - sunbright, there was the coke, the smokeless - all round the yard. Originally they had horses to pull the carts; they had stables down the one end.



Reg

My job with a pram was to go to the same coal-yard and get a bag of coal for my gran and my mother. What Pat's saying is exactly right: "You make sure when you fill those bags up that the scale goes up and down level. I was about ten or twelve, pushing this pram up Edward Road. It was alright going up but it used to run away with me going down it.



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