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Research leads to interesting places as well as people. The former coal mines at Blaenavon, South Wales, and Caphouse Colliery in Overton, West Yorkshire, provide a look into the past and merit a visit. They are now (respectively) the Big Pit Museum and the National Coal Mining Museum for England, formerly the Yorkshire Mining Museum, complete with trips several hundred feet into the earth to former workings. Some seams were so small that miners had to lie on their sides, half-naked because of the heat,
often in pools of water, to hack out the coal. To stoop and crawl into these spaces, without the noise and dust of mining and without having to do any work, is a humbling experience. A slight shift of the earth above, and it would be all over.