On Friday evening, about seven o'clock, a fire broke out on the premises of Mr. Neale, brewer, of Souldern. From inquiry we learn he was boiling potatoes in a copper, with furze; and while absent for a short time the whole of the furze caught fire, and quickly communicated with the thatch buildings, which were soon consumed, with the greater part of the dwelling house, before engines arrived. It is due to the inhabitants to say that they rendered every assistance possible. The premises are insured.

Oxford Chronicle and Reading Gazette - Saturday 20 October 1838 - Souldern Fire