

# **THE SPORTING BARONET**

**SIR GEORGE ARTHUR HAMILTON BEAUMONT,  
11<sup>TH</sup> BARONET OF STOUGHTON**

**Born January 18<sup>th</sup> 1881 – Died October 2<sup>nd</sup> 1933**



**Sir George seated on one of his horses (probably “Coleorton”) in his racing colours of Scarlet cap and French Grey**

**BY SAMUEL T STEWART – APRIL 2020**

## FORWARD

Unfortunately, the Beaumont archives have been variously lost, stolen, or destroyed, and what remains is scattered and incomplete. It is known that an extensive archive existed at Coleorton Hall before the death of the 9<sup>th</sup> Baronet (1882), after which the hall was leased when the 10<sup>th</sup> Baronet abandoned his wife. The 11<sup>th</sup> Baronet only lived at the hall for nine years before his death in 1933, after which the property was leased and eventually purchased by the National Coal Board in 1948. The N.C.B. archive contained relevant documents only as far as their ownership or lease of property was concerned, and detailed examination of these papers suggested that the bulk of the 19<sup>th</sup> century Beaumont archive had been lost prior to 1948. The majority of the paperwork relating to Estate Management between 1850 and 1933, held at the "Ginn Stables" Estate Office was burnt in 1933, and the Ashby Solicitors cleared out most of their Beaumont documentation following the Waste Paper Drive during the war in 1943.

Following the Beaumont's' parlous financial position in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the hall was rented / leased during the period 1877 to 1926. It was leased for 25 years between 1901 and 1926 by the wealthy Abel-Smith's. The Abel-Smith's move to the hall approximately coincided with the time Sir George Arthur Hamilton Beaumont, 11<sup>th</sup> Baronet, joined the army at the age of twenty. His father, the 10<sup>th</sup> Baronet died in 1914 in Aix le Bains, France at the age of 63. He had lived abroad for many years with his mistress Mademoiselle Gabriel Louise Liegeard. On his death, his son Sir George Arthur Hamilton Beaumont, 11<sup>th</sup> Baronet, inherited the Beaumont honours and estate.

When Sir George Arthur Hamilton Beaumont, 11<sup>th</sup> Bart, married Renee Northey, they went to live in "The Gables" at Coleorton, as the Abel-Smith's lease still had three years to run, and they then moved into the Hall after the expiry of the lease. The Gables was owned by the Beaumont's at that time. After leaving the hall in 1926, the Abel-Smiths went to live at "Rotherwood House", Measham Road, Ashby de la Zouch, Leics.

The author is of the view that after the death of her husband Francis, who was an "extremely" wealthy banker, Mrs. Abel-Smith, saw herself as the "Lady of the Manor", during her time at the Hall. It is understood that they had moved from Papplewick Hall, Notts to Coleorton. They certainly played an interesting part in Coleorton History, and their son Capt. Henry Abel Smith married into Royal circles. There is ample evidence that the Able-Smiths appeared to be extremely well liked by the people of Coleorton. During the period of the Abel-Smith's lease of Coleorton Hall, they organized "The William Wordsworth Centenary Commemoration".

John Crocker, a respected local researcher was appointed by the NCB, Coleorton Hall offices where he worked to carry out research into the Beaumont's. This followed from John unfortunately contracting a terminal illness and he sadly passed away a number of years ago after carrying out an impressive amount of research into various aspects of the Coleorton Beaumont's history. The author was given access to some of John's research which was unfortunately extremely fragmented, as he had not had the opportunity to publish anything.

The author decided to try and put John's work into a format that could be published, but that proved difficult as there were too many gaps in what was available. However, diligent research into newspaper articles that recorded much about the 11<sup>th</sup> Baronet's life plus other research material obtained, enabled the author to put together a reasonable account of this.

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## ARMY LIFE AND HORSE RACING

Sir George inherited the Coleorton estate and became lord of the manor on the death of his father in 1914, and by this time he had joined the army. He served as an officer in the "Kings Royal Rifle Corps" during the European war from 1914-1918, and was wounded twice. By the end of his period in the army, he had risen to the rank of Brigade Major.

Sir George had a keen interest in horse racing, and this had developed from when he was in India in his soldiering days under General Edward Northey, who later became his father-in-Law. At one time, Sir George was the owner of some useful race horses and he had a reputation for being a good jockey, particularly on the flat. Certain horses for racing on the flat were trained by Capt. Oswald Marmaduke Dalby Bell ( known as Ossie). He was an Australian who had started training race horses in India and to whom Sir George was reputedly introduced by General Northey. Captain Bell married Sir George's wife, Renee Muriel Northey, after his death. According to village gossip, an affair had existed between the two of them prior to Sir George's death. Capt. Bell was a very successful trainer, and amongst his winner's were **Felstead**-1928 Derby, **Rockfel**-1938 Oaks & 1000 Guineas, **Flint Jack**-Ebor handicap 1922/3, **King Salmon**-Coronation Cup and Eclipse Stakes 1934. Sir George kept some horses at the "Ginn Stables" at Coleorton which were ridden locally at Uttoxeter or Nottingham. As the Abel-Smiths were leasing and residing at Coleorton Hall at the time, this was presumably the reason, as adequate stabling existed at the hall.

There are numerous examples of Sir George competing in horse races all over the country, and his typical riding weight on the flat on his horse named "Coleorton" in 1919 / 1920 varied between eight stone seven pounds and nine stones. Some examples of races "**Coleorton**" ran in were – At Lingfield in the "Oak Tree Maiden Three Year Old Plate" over six furlongs; the horse being trained by Capt. Bell and in "The Ditton Four Year Old Selling Handicap" (200 guineas) at Hurst Park in February 1921, but the jockey on this occasion was Reardon. It did not finish in the first three, but he was given reasonable odds of 100-30 against. In June 1921, "**Coleorton**" appeared to have a different owner, so we have to assume he had been sold by that date. One of the better horses owned by Sir George was named "**Husky**". Riding this horse, he was the hero of a sporting match which took place at Derby in 1921. He had put up 3lbs overweight to ride at 8st 9lbs. He beat another owner, Mr. C. J. Galstaun, who rode King Sol. Odds of 9 to 4 were laid on King Sol, which had won the Steward's Cup two years previously, but Sir George won easily. Another of Sir George's horses was named "**Wistow**". One of the jockey's retained by Sir George to ride his horses on the flat was named Michael Bleary.

A true story involving his horse Husky was as follows – During the 1926 coal strike, he accepted an invitation to address the miners on strike, and he received a distinctly hostile reception from the audience of 1,500 men, most of which worked in his own coal mines. Above the shouts of the men however, he managed to make himself heard, and soon had the meeting in a good humour, and ended up mixing with the colliers and exchanging views on both their situations. Sir George informed the miners that the next day, he was riding his horse Husky in a race at Epsom, and that if the horse won, he would give £10 to the fund for the relief of the miner's wives and children. The horse won, and Sir George was true to his word. No wonder the miners always regarded him as a "good sport". It was said by the locals that Sir George would bet on anything, including local cockfighting, and he later developed an interest in grey-hound racing, all of which feature later.

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:-

The Baronet was descended in paternal line from King Louis VIII, of France., whose son, Charles of Brienne, held the uneasy crowns of Jerusalem and Sicily. It appears that Sir George remembered this piece of his family history when he later named his daughter Brienne.

Apparently the Dunmow Estate in Essex of which Sir George Howland Beaumont 7<sup>th</sup> baronet was lord of the manor was put up for auction in 1850, but the sale did not go forward. In fact, it was not until after 1914, that the final sale was completed which enabled the 11th sporting baronet to buy himself a race horse out of the proceeds.

## **A FLYING VISIT TO COLEORTON FOR THE RENT AUDIT DINNER AT THE BEAUMONT ARMS (c.1915)**

### **FROM AN UNTITLED NEWSPAPER CUTTING:-**

The annual rent audit for the Coleorton estate of Captain Sir George Arthur Hamilton Beaumont, 11<sup>th</sup> Bart, took place on Thursday. Upon the conclusion of business at the Beaumont Arms, a capital dinner was served. Mr. Fisher Jesson who was agent for the estate presided, and the company, included Mr. T. Radford (who has farmed on the estate for 53 years), Mr. C. Jackson, and Mr. Josiah Walker (50 years each), and Mr. J. W. Knight (who 25 years ago succeeded his brother, and whose family have occupied the same farm for at least three generations). Others present were Supt. Lockton, Mr. Tom Orton (Ashby), Mr. H. Wilson (of the hall gardens), Mr. F. Tatham, &c., the company numbering about 40. The menu was as follows:-

<b>Cod Fish</b>	<b>Oyster Sauce</b>
<b>JOINTS</b>	
Roast sirloin of beef. Horse radish sauce	
Boiled round of beef	
Boiled leg of mutton.	Caper sauce
<b>RABBIT PIE</b>	
Jugged Hare	Red current jelly.
Boiled fowls and ox tongue.	
Roast chicken.	
Roast turkey,	
Roast goose.	
<b>SWEETS</b>	
Plum pudding	Lemon pudding
Mince pies	Cherry tarts.
Wine jellies	Blanc mange
Cheese and celery.	
Wines and desert.	

The first toast submitted after the cloths had been removed was that of "The King", which was given by the chairman, who referred to the outstanding characteristics of his majesty; his care and thought for his subjects, his devotion to agriculture, and his contribution to the fighting forces at the present juncture – a son to the Army and another to the Navy. Mr. Jesson invited the company to drink to the health and prosperity of his majesty, with the hope that peace would speedily be restored.

The toast having been well received, that of "The Queen and Royal Family" was submitted from the chair and duly accorded.

The chairman said that before proceeding with the toast list, he felt he must refer to the fact that since they last met, Sir George H. W. Beaumont, 10<sup>th</sup> Baronet, had passed away. He felt he had lost a good friend and master, and they would agree that they had lost a good landlord. He was more closely in touch with the late Sir George than most of them, and he could speak of Sir George's interest in the tenants and his desire to do all he could for their welfare. These sentiments were endorsed by the company, who silently rose in their places.

Mr. A. Walker then sang "Hearts of Oak".

Mr. T. Radford then proposed the health of Sir George Beaumont (11<sup>th</sup> Baronet), he said he had known the present landlord all his life, and knew his good qualities. He hoped he would make as good a landlord as his father; he ought to do so, as he had a good mother – (hear, hear).

Referring to the fact that Sir George was proceeding to France with his regiment, he said they would all wish him a safe return.

The company drank the health of their landlord and wished him a safe return, and concluded by singing "For he's a jolly good fellow". Mr. Josiah Walker recited "the Irish-man's shave".

Mr. Jesson then replied on behalf of Sir George. Before proceeding to do so, he read letters of apology from Mr. John Shields, Capt. Hassall, and Mr. Hough (the estate bailiff). Mr. Jesson said that it had been his duty and his father before him, to respond to this toast year after year, and he had hoped that this year Sir George would be here to speak for himself. But an Englishman's duty was to put country before private interest, and that was what Sir George was doing. After serving in the Army in India for some years he had returned home. He paid Coleorton a flying visit, and whilst at home tried to meet every tenant, even to the humblest, and proceeding to resume his military duties, was now in France, where they could rest assured that he would do his duty. On Sir George's behalf, he thanked Mr. Radford for the kind way in which he had submitted the toast. It was very kind of Mr. Radford to be there, because it had required a great effort after his recent accident, and he also thanked the company for the cordial reception of the toast. Superintendent Lockton then sang "The Veteran".

Mr. T. Tatham proposed the health of Lady Beaumont, who, he said, was one of the finest ladies in the district, whom every woman could take pattern by, and of whom they were all proud. He hoped that her ladyship would live to see her son return in safety, to see him married, and see another heir to the name and estates. Mr. R. Timms contributed a song of his own composition, "Britain's volunteers".

Mr. Jesson responded on behalf of Lady Beaumont, and said Mr. Tatham had in no way flattered her ladyship. She was indeed a pattern to follow, and was ever at the beck and call of rich and poor alike. They did not know half the good she did, because she did not let her left hand know what her right hand did.

Mr. Trivett sang "Sally in our Ally". (*William Oram Trivett leased and ran the Coleorton Pottery under the name of "The Trivett Potter Company" between 1911 and 1918, hence his presence at the dinner*).

The meeting then gave over to lengthy reports on the farming and agricultural situation together with the raising of numerous toasts supported by musical entertainment &c.,.....

The meeting concluded with Mr. T. Orton submitting the health of Mrs. F. Abel-Smith, and referred to her great goodness and kindness. *She was in the 14<sup>th</sup> year of the Abel-Smiths 25 year lease on Coleorton Hall.*



## ENGAGED TO BE MARRIED



**A panoramic photograph entitled - Coleorton Tenants entertained by Sir George Arthur Hamilton Beaumont August 16<sup>th</sup> 1919.**

This party in the grounds of Coleorton Hall was thought to be when Sir George left the army after WWI and returned to his Coleorton estate. As the Abel-Smiths were leasing and residing at Coleorton Hall at this time, **it is not known where Sir George lived**, although it is likely that he was either with his mother at “Swannington House” or at “The Gables” where he lived for three years following his later marriage, and which was owned by him.



**Front of Swannington House**

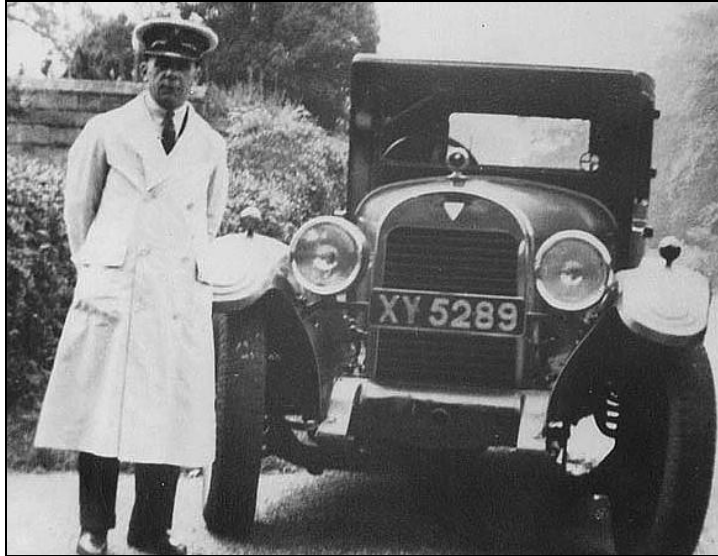




**Painting of rear of Swannington House and gardens  
by Miss F. E. Fullager – c.1917**



**Lady Dowager Beaumont sitting to the left of her son (11<sup>th</sup> Baronet) in 1919,  
with her nurse on his right left**



**Ernie Yates was the Lady Dowager's chauffeur  
seen here with her car.**

### **Nottingham Evening Post – September 27<sup>th</sup> 1923. A Bachelor's Confession**

Sir George A. H. Beaumont, of Coleorton Hall, Leicestershire, who last January told his tenants that he had remained single because he had never met a woman he loved more than his mother, is now to marry.

When he made his confession at the annual rent dinner, where the tribute to Lady Beaumont (his mother) was received with cheers, it was gaily hinted that "there was still time".

Sir George's engagement was announced yesterday, the prospective bride being Miss Renee Northey, second daughter of Major- General Sir Edward Northey of Woodcote House, Epsom.

Forty-two years of age, Sir George (*born at Killyleagh Castle, Northern Ireland, County Down, which was the seat of Colonel Garwin William Rowan Hamilton*), was the only son of the late Baronet whom he succeeded in 1914. He served as an officer in the "Kings Royal Rifle Corps" during the European war from 1914-1918, and was wounded twice. The family has for generations lived in Coleorton.

Miss Northey, who is described as a very pretty girl, will be **twenty-one** at Christmas.

### **Nottingham Evening Post – November 13<sup>th</sup> 1923**

The children of Coleorton School, Leicestershire, yesterday presented Sir George Beaumont with a silver-mounted ink stand, on the occasion of his forthcoming marriage to Miss Renee Northey, daughter of Sir Edward Northey.

## BARONET AND HIS FIANCEE

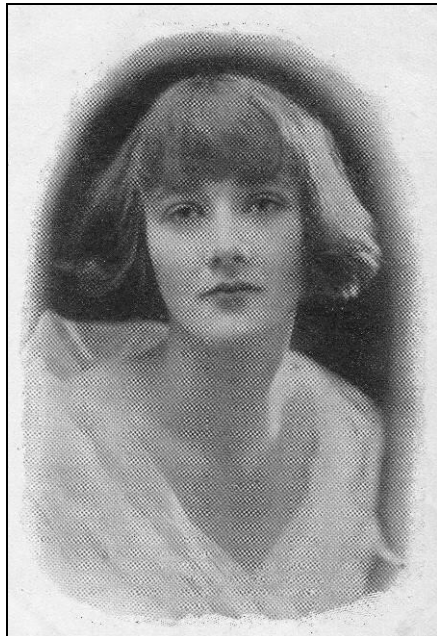


Sir George Beaumont, Bart., and Miss Renee Northey, daughter of Major-General Sir Edward Northey, who are to be married this month, photographed at Alexandra Park Races on Saturday.



## THE WEDDING OF SIR GEORGE BEAUMONT TO MISS RENEE MURIEL NORTHEY

Nottingham Evening Post - November 19<sup>th</sup> 1923.



The wedding on Saturday afternoon (17<sup>th</sup> Nov 1923) at Epsom Parish Church of Sir George Arthur Hamilton Beaumont, Bart., of Coleorton Hall, and Miss Renee Muriel Northey, a member of a well known Surrey family, was witnessed by a crowded congregation. The streets were lined with people as the bride proceeded to the church in the family carriage drawn by two horses. The bride was given away by her father, Major General Sir Edward Northey. Both bridegroom and the best man, Major E. B. Dennison, were officers in France in the 60<sup>th</sup> rifles, of which Sir Edward Northey was in command during the time when Sir George was a subaltern. This is where he first met his wife who was a child at the time.

The bride wore a medieval silver dress with a train of old lace lent by her grandmother. The bridesmaids (*six*) wore white dresses designed on medieval lines, and carried bouquets which were in the bridegroom's racing colours (*French Grey and Scarlet*).

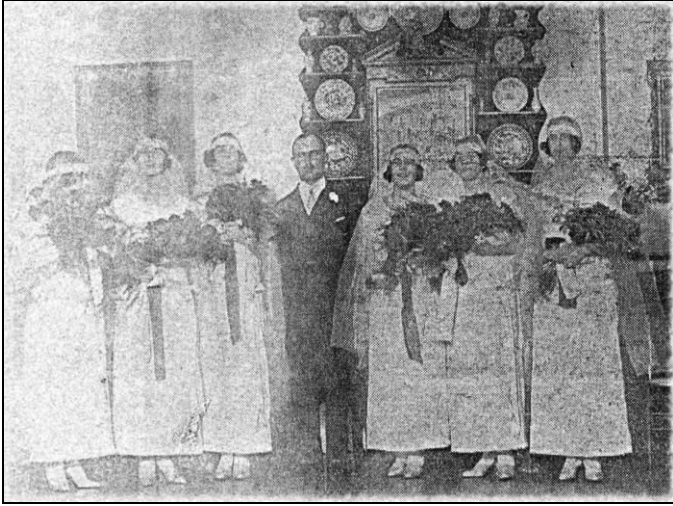
The guests numbered 400, including 70 of the bridegroom's Leicestershire tenants. A reception was held at Woodcote House, Epsom, which has been the Northey family seat for generations. For the purpose of the reception, a large temporary building had been built on the drawing-room. The honeymoon is being spent in France and Italy.

At the wedding service, Psalm 75 was sung to a chant composed by the late Rev. Edward Northey, the bride's grandfather.

About 90 tenants on the Coleorton estate left Coalville in two saloons attached to the 9 o'clock train to attend the wedding. Motor charabancs met them at St. Pancras to convey them across London. The party included one woman aged 78 years, and several of them had never been to London.

Supplementary information - Major General Sir Edward Northey (1868-1953) was educated at Eton and Sandhurst. He was a former Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the British East African Protectorate (which became Kenya in 1920). In 1917 he was appointed a Companion of the Order of the Bath and in 1918 he was Knighted and promoted to Major-General. Subsequently he was made a Knight Grand Cross of the Order of St. Michael and St. George

## WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHS



**Bridesmaids with Sir Edward Northey  
Both taken at Woodcote House**



**Bride and her father**



**Leaving Woodcote House  
by horse and carriage**



**Outside Epsom Parish Church**



## Hull Daily Mail – January 2<sup>nd</sup> 1924

Weighing half a hundredweight, a wedding cake was divided among the 350 tenants and ex-tenants of Sir George Beaumont, who were invited to Sir George's wedding reception at Coleorton. Sir George and his wife joined in the dances up to midnight in the room which was decorated in Sir George's racing colours of French Grey and Scarlet. **This of course was a follow up reception to the one held after their wedding at Epsom.**



Above is the centre section from a large landscape photograph of guests being entertained at Coleorton Hall. Sir George and Lady Renee are in the centre, with his mother, the Lady Dowager on Sir George's LH side. The occasion is thought to be the wedding reception held at the hall for 350 guests following their official wedding reception at Epsom, which is described in the newspaper article above.

## Nottingham Evening Post – December 12<sup>th</sup> 1924

The great popularity which Sir George Beaumont enjoys among his tenants on the Coleorton Estate, was evident by the cordiality displayed at the annual rent dinner in the Beaumont Arms Inn, Coleorton.

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**LADY BEAUMONT CUTS FIRST SOD OF TURF FOR NEW LOUNT COLLIERY FOUNDATION IN 1924, WITH A SILVER SPADE**



**Lady Beaumont turning the first sod on land at Newbold for the “New Lount Colliery”.**



**Sir George Beaumont holding the silver spade whilst an old lady reads the inscription recording the event.**

**Supplementary information** - The history of “New Lount Colliery” is included in the book entitled “A History of Coal Mining in Coleorton & the Local Area” by Samuel T Stewart. And as a separate publication on his website



## GEORGE HOWLAND FRANCIS - FIRST BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

### Nottingham Evening Post – September 26<sup>th</sup> 1925

Interesting celebrations extending into the early hours of Friday morning at Coleorton Hall, Leicestershire, marked the first birthday anniversary of the son and heir (*George Howland Francis*) of Sir George and Lady Beaumont. (*Francis, as he was known was born on September 24<sup>th</sup> 1924*). 350 tenants were entertained to supper followed by fireworks in the illuminated grounds. A huge bonfire lit up the whole countryside (*held in Mr. Carter's field below the hall rose garden about midnight with more fireworks*). The tenant's gifts to the baby were a silver porringer and biscuit box.

**Report from another untitled newspaper of the same date** – Thursday was a red letter day for the people of Coleorton, who for the first time in almost 50 years (not true), were entertained at Coleorton Hall by a member of the Beaumont family. Amongst the 350 guests were Earl and Countess Ferrers, Lady Northey (mother of Lady Beaumont), Mrs. Heygate, Major Gerald and Mrs. Heygate, Major Paget, M.F.H., Mrs. Paget and Miss. Paget, The Rev. J. N. and Mrs. Philpott, and many other people well known in the county. A reception was held at five o'clock, and then the guests were able to view the grounds. Supper was served in a four-pole marquee, which had been fitted up as a huge dining-room. An excellent repast was served, and the desert included about 50 bunches of grapes grown in the hall vinery, and the concluding item of the menu was the birthday cake. There were three tiers, and Lady Beaumont cut the first slice as shown in the following photograph. Her Ladyship wore her Ascot dress of printed chiffon, and a close-fitting hat.

Many toasts were submitted, and Mr. Fisher Jesson gave the toast "The Coleorton Estate" and followed this with a lengthy speech, during which he mentioned that..... "They would all hope that the new colliery in the district would prosper, providing work and money, and there was no reason why the people on the estate should not be in for an era of prosperity. As for the future, they could not foretell, but if they wanted a thorough-bred they look to the breed, and they had it in the Beaumont family. He believed that the son and heir would be a stayer, and would stay in Coleorton all his days. They had heard what his father had said of him – that he could finish his bottle and then tackle his porridge. That was probably more than he or any present could do. His father had only won a five furlong race at Derby and they hoped the son would win the Derby".

Sir George took the opportunity of presenting the cottage gardens competition challenge cup. Five judges had been unable to divide the gardens of Joe Haywood and Herbert Wright, so that the trophy would be held six months by each. His idea in starting the competition was because he wanted the gardens of Coleorton to look nice. He had hoped that there would be at least thirty entries but there were only five, and both Lady Beaumont and himself were disappointed. He hoped there would be thirty five or forty next year. Nasty gardens meant a nasty village.

Mr Jesson also said that he had advised Sir George to sell a small part of the estate, and if he had not done so, he could not have returned to the hall. He said that had it not been for Sir Georges' mother the estate would probably have been sold. When her ladyship left the hall 42 years ago (*incorrect as she left c.1900*) she went to live on the outskirts of it at Swannington House and therefore kept in touch with it. Sir George said that "had he been brought up elsewhere, he would not have clung to it". Sir George Howland Francis' sister Eleanor Brienne was born 3 years later in 1927.

### Supplementary information –

Wilf Lord, one of the eight church bell ringers recalled that when Sir Francis was born, the ringers were invited over to the hall to celebrate. Champagne was served in Sir George's "Racing Trophy Cup", which was kept full and passed around; most of the ringers went home intoxicated!!

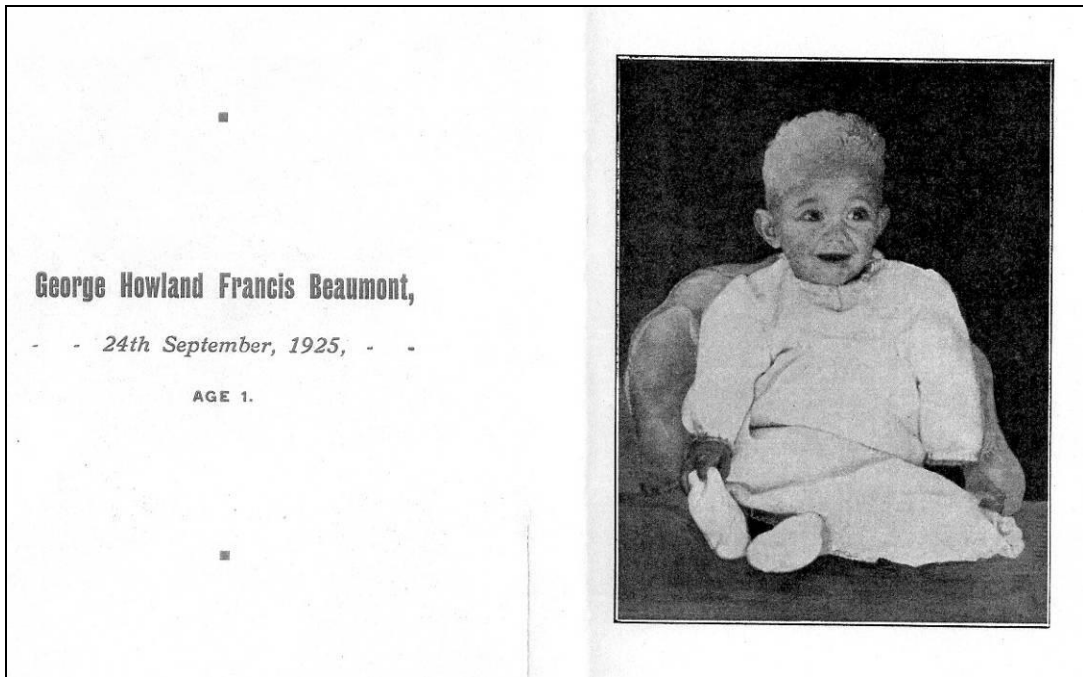


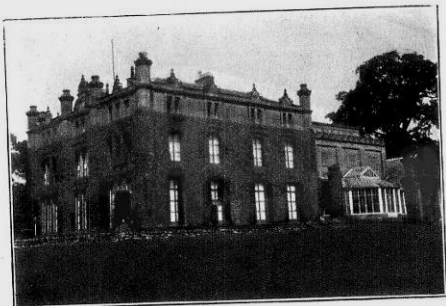
**Lady Beaumont cutting Francis first birthday cake**

Their follows copies of an invitation sent out to one of the tenants of the estate, namely:-

**Mr & Mrs J.E. Fern and the Misses Esther and Alice Fern**

The actual invitation consisted of five double pages held together with a red ribbon.





G.H.B. G.H.F.B. R.M.B.

George Howland Francis Beaumont,

" " 24th September, 1925. Age 1. " "

*Sir George and Lady Beaumont*

and

*George Howland Francis Beaumont*

request the pleasure of the Company of

*Mr & Mrs G. Fern & Misses Esther & Alice Fern*

at Cole Orton Hall, on Thursday,

24th September, 1925, at 5 o'clock

p.m.

WHIST DRIVE. -  
DANCING. - -  
SUPPER, 6.30 o'clock.  
FIREWORKS - -  
BONFIRE. - -

R.S.V.P. to  
Sir George Beaumont,  
Estate Office,  
Cole Orton,  
Nr. Leicester.

## TOAST LIST.

### THE KING.

Proposed by ... .. SIR GEORGE BEAUMONT

GEORGE HOWLAND FRANCIS BEAUMONT.  
THE DOWAGER LADY BEAUMONT. - -  
SIR GEORGE AND LADY BEAUMONT. -

Proposed by ... .. MR. H. CUTHBERT

Reply by ... .. { SIR GEORGE BEAUMONT  
LADY BEAUMONT

### THE COLE ORTON ESTATE.

Proposed by ... .. MR. J. FISHER JESSON

Supported by ... .. MR. J. PARGETER

Reply by ... .. SIR GEORGE BEAUMONT





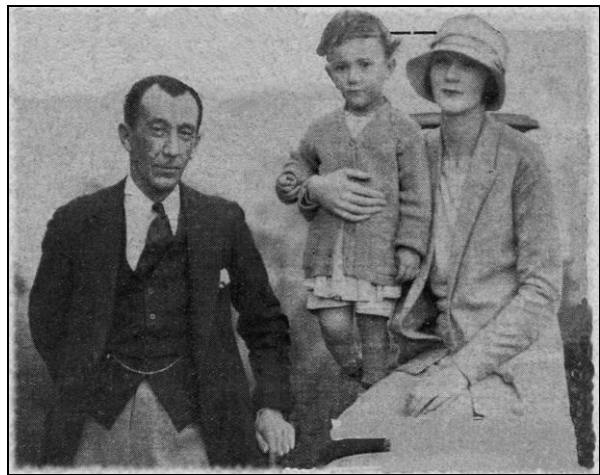
**Mr & Mrs Fern lived in the above thatched cottage which was situated opposite / close to the Coleorton Primitive Methodist Chapel on Lower Moor Road. Due to a lack of basic facilities the house was condemned by the council and they moved to a council house at "The Moorlands", Coleorton.**



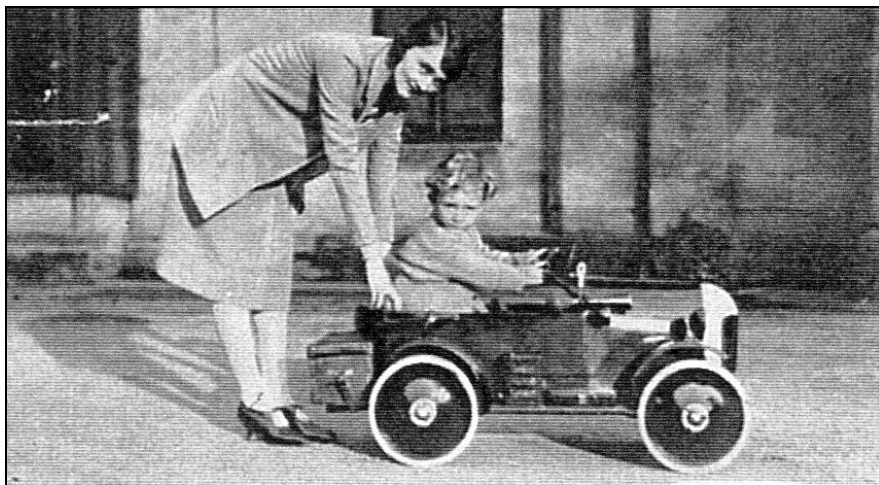
## FAMILY LIFE



Above are photographs taken on the occasion of the Horse & Hounds visiting Coleorton Hall. Francis is sitting in his pram in both photographs. In the top photograph he is marked **A** (possibly with the nursery maid Winnie Saddington) and in the bottom one Sir George is pushing the pram. Assuming Francis was aged about two at the time, the photograph would have been taken in 1926, the year following the end of the Abel – Smith's 25 year lease on the hall. Note the workmen on the roof carrying out repairs, which was accessed by the long wooden ladder on the left.

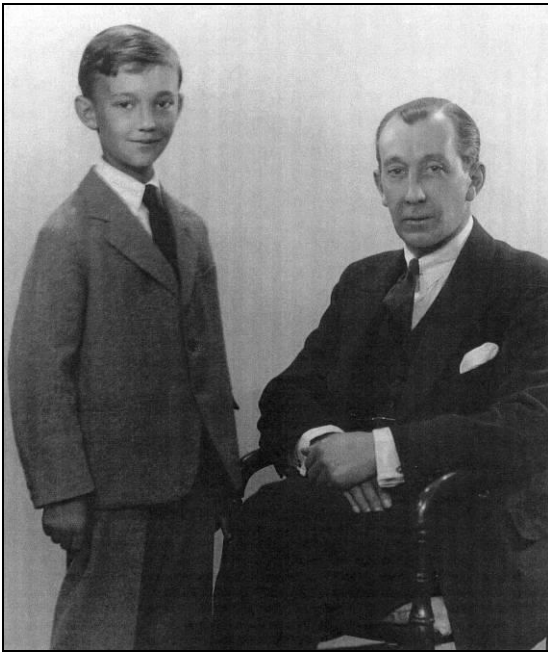


**Later photographs of Sir George & Lady Beaumont with their son Francis, who would have been about 3 years of age. Lady Beaumont is holding his new sister Eleanor Brienne in the upper LH photograph. She was born in 1927.**



**Lady Renee Beaumont pushing Francis with his mop of curly hair in his rather smart car.**





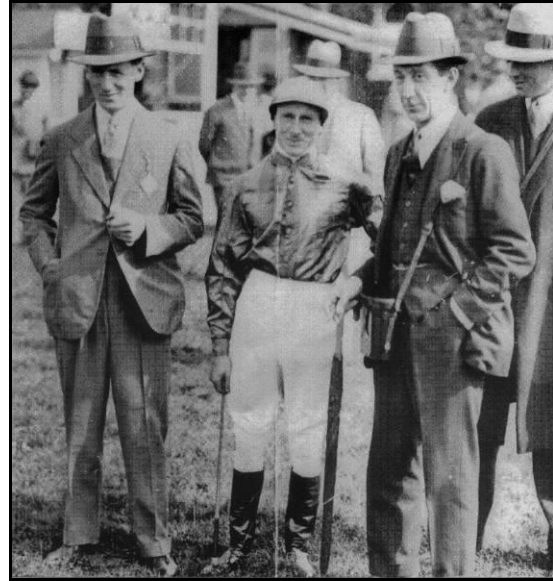
**Sir George with his son and heir Francis**



**Lady Beaumont with daughter Brienne (after Sir George had died)**



**Lady Renee Beaumont, waiting at a table, when she entertained the children of Coleorton to a Christmas party at the hall. This was apparently an annual event.**



**On the left are Sir George & Lady Beaumont at the races. On the right is Sir George with his jockey Michael Bleary. The gent on the left of this photograph is thought to be Capt. Bell, who was Sir George's race horse trainer.**



**Sir George with Lady Renee and the children at the races**

## SIR GEORGE'S GREYHOUND RACING PROJECT



### **Nottingham Evening Post – December 12<sup>th</sup> 1927 “Clean Sport For Miners”**

#### **Sir George Beaumont's Project at Coalville.**

The announcement by Sir George Beaumont, Bart, of Coleorton Hall, that he is to run grey-hound racing at Coalville, has created considerable interest in sporting circles.

In an interview last night, Sir George said; “I am not out for financial gain from my grey-hound racing project, my idea is to provide clean sport for miners, which will be above any suspicion of crooked dealing, miners are my friends and they are jolly good sports”.

Having thought the matter over, he said, he was certain that dog racing would come to Coalville whoever ran it, and he thought that in the interests of working men in the district, it would be better if he supervised it himself. He had influenced some of his friends and neighbours of all classes, and they had subscribed capital to start the racing. It would be run under his supervision. He had formed the “Leicestershire and Derbyshire Trackless Hare Grey-Hound Racing Syndicate”, and he had no capital or financial interest in it. To the public that might seem Quizotic, but in his opinion it was not, because it was better for it to be controlled by one who had no financial interest in it. In fact, he wanted all his tenants of the Coleorton estate and his friends in the neighbourhood of every class to be able to have an interesting afternoon's sport that was clean, above board, and correctly run. The first meeting at Coalville is to be held on Boxing Day.

#### **Supplementary information –**

- As there was an explosion / boom in grey-hound racing in 1927, it is hard to believe that Sir George didn't have some ulterior financial motive for getting involved.

- The rather basic stadium was situated to the west side of Belvoir Road in Coalville. The track was 440 yards in circumference and ran the Summer Midland Sprint and Midland Leger. Distances were 300, 510 & 715 yards (sprints, standard and distance races respectively) and racing was on Tues and Sat and also featured Afghan racing. It apparently operated as a flapping track (unregulated) outside NGRC rules. The track eventually closed after planning was given for new housing, the only memory left now is the road called Stadium Close in the housing estate. The track was active from 1927 to 1990.

- In an interview with Frank Brooks in 1988, he recalled the following.....On boxing day it was bitterly cold and the work to prepare for the opening ceremony was running well behind, so extra help was called in, and Frank was amongst this number. Sir George arranged with the local hostelry to bring up some hot punch to renew the flagging spirits of the workers – the publican arrived with a flagon of punch to be met by Sir George – “That's no “b----- “ good said Sir George, go back and fetch a bucket full!”. Needless to say this considerable outburst was well remembered by those for whom the punch was intended.

## SPORTSMAN TURNED LOCAL BUSINESSMAN

**Dundee Courier - April 12<sup>th</sup> 1933 and Grantham Journal April 15<sup>th</sup> 1933.  
Baronet turns florist / Sporting Baronet as salesman.**

Sir George Beaumont, Baronet, of Coleorton Hall, Leics, has started a business as a florist and fruiterer. Yesterday he toured Leicestershire villages in a van selling produce grown in his gardens. He stated that he decided to do this because in a local shop he was charged 3d. for a lettuce grown by himself, which he sold for a penny. Sir George drove the van, which was painted in his horse racing colours, and was accompanied by, a white coated salesman. He did a splendid trade, and some of the flowers were sold out in one hour. He called at houses in the villages, and gave advice on cultivation to those who bought plants. He is arranging for the van to visit local markets, and is selling produce only grown at Coleorton Hall. In previous years, the produce has been sold wholesale. Sir George said on Tuesday that his first order came from Lady Nutting, and was for a large number of plants, which he delivered himself in the van on Thursday.



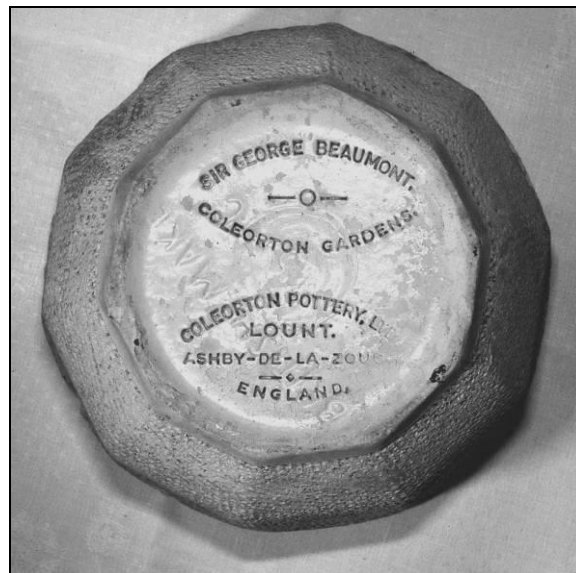
**Sir George with his white coated salesman Les Dodds.**

**Supplementary information** – The white coated salesman referred to above was apparently Les Dodds, one of Sir George's gardener's at the time. Sir George said he didn't want to make a profit, but expected to cover the costs for his garden only. Sir George's van was a Jowett and it had a canvas roof. The shop he called into was Stone's Vegetable Shop in Ashby next to Union Passage – a vegetable shop still exists there (as per memories of Winnie Saddington).

Frank Brooks, a local nurseryman, also related that Sir George could also see an opportunity and would not stand on his dignity if it meant exploiting it. Les Dodds the gardener was sent out with produce from the nursery to sell it in the village and came back with most of it. Knowing that the

villagers would respond to his eccentricity, Sir George donned a white coat and went around the village again himself, first making sure everyone knew he was coming – and he of course had resounding success which he was not slow to embarrass Les with.

A range of garden pottery was also manufactured at Coleorton Pottery for “Coleorton Gardens / Nurseries” which was for sale to the general public. Example of the pottery produced is shown below. Samuel T Stewart has written a book on the history of Coleorton pottery which appears on his website.



**Leicester Chronicle – 1933 – June 3<sup>rd</sup>, June 10<sup>th</sup>, October 7<sup>th</sup>  
“A West End Shop in the Centre of the Leicestershire Coalfield”**

This was the description given by Sir George Beaumont, the Sporting Baronet of Coleorton Hall to his new establishment, which is rapidly nearing completion in Belvoir Road, Coalville. Sir George is shortly opening the shop for the sale of fruit, flowers and vegetables grown at his home; He is leaving no stone unturned in order to make his shop the finest of the kind in the Midlands and on a par with any in the country. The shop is tastefully lighted by electricity and the interior is to be decorated with a painting of a view from Coleorton Hall, the work of a French artist. The assistants will wear overalls in Sir George’s racing colours – “French Grey and Scarlet”. The Baronet is personally supervising the alterations, and can be seen in the shop daily.



The opening of the shop was announced in the June 10<sup>th</sup> edition and carries a photograph entitled "Baronet in Business". It shows Sir George, his wife, and others, including Mr. Frank Hodges, the former secretary to the miner's federation and now (1933), managing director of New Lount Colliery.

**Supplementary information** – Frank Hodges officially opened the shop. The Beaumont's flag was also flown above the shop. In this venture, Sir George took into partnership his eight year old son and heir, Master George Howland Francis Beaumont.

Memories of Winnie Saddington - The shop was purchased from Mrs. Bird who ran a confectionary shop on Belvoir Rd, near what was "The Grand" at that time. Sir George took all the stock of jars of sweets, boxes of chocolates etc., up to the hall and set them all out for the servants to help themselves. The painting referred to in the shop was a mural done by Lady Beaumont's cousin "Le Brie" who was staying at the hall at this time. He later had an altercation with Sir George and left the hall abruptly.



The above photograph shows one Of Sir George Beaumont's, 11<sup>th</sup> Baronet cars, which was a French made "DELARGE" painted in his racing colours. The gentleman in the photograph is Raymond Walker, who was Sir George's chauffeur.

The young lady seated on the running board is Winnie Saddington (2<sup>nd</sup> cousin of the author) who shortly after leaving school, aged 15½, went into service at Coleorton Hall, and became nursery maid to the Beaumonts'. The photograph was taken c.1932, not long before Sir George died.

## THE DEATH OF A LEICESTERSHIRE BARONET AND SPORTSMAN

### **Grantham Journal - Oct 7<sup>th</sup> Oct 1933 Death of a Leicestershire sportsman.**

Sir George Beaumont of Coleorton Hall, died on Monday October 2<sup>nd</sup> 1933, at Lambourne, Berkshire, where he and Lady Beaumont were holiday guests at Stork House, the residence of Capt. Oswald Marmaduke Dalby Bell the race-horse trainer. Sir George, who was 52, was a well known sporting baronet. He leaves his wife, a son, George Howland Francis Beaumont, aged 9, and a daughter, Eleanor Brienne, 6. Early this year, Sir George, a descendant of one of the oldest families in the land, surprised the inhabitants of the villages near his home by calling from door to door selling garden produce.

**Supplementary information** – Sir George died of Cardiac Failure & Coronary Thrombosis.

### **The Funeral of Sir George Beaumont, Bart. October 5<sup>th</sup> 1933**

The funeral of Sir George Beaumont, Bt., of Coleorton Hall, Leicestershire, took place on Thursday. The church was crowded for the funeral which was conducted by the Rev. H. D. Handford (vicar of Ashby), the Rev. Harold Robinson, vicar of Plumtree, Notts, formerly Rector of Coleorton, and the present rector, The Rev. H. E. Stevens.

Buglers of the Kings Royal Rifle Corps, Sir George's old regiment, sounded the "Last Post" and "Reveille" at the graveside.

The mourners were – Lady Beaumont, Major-General Sir Edward and Lady Northey, Miss. Northey, Mr. Edward Northey, Mr. Rudolph Northey, Mrs. Compton Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Le Briero, Captain Bell, Colonel Heygate, Mrs. Fisher, Sir Francis Newton, Colonel Crosby, Colonel Denison (*best man at Sir George's wedding*), Colonel Sturgess, Mrs. Orfla Fisher, Mrs. Compton Smith, Colonel A.E. Martin.

***Those listed as being present are far too numerous to record.***

Lady Beaumont's wreath, a huge Maltese cross in pink carnations and ferns, bore the inscription, "With all our dearest love, Renee, Francis and Brienne".

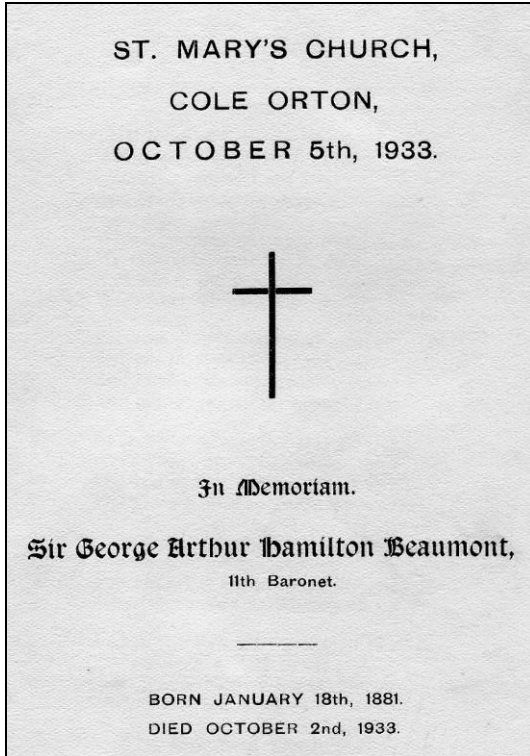
The Dowager Lady Beaumont's wreath was inscribed, "In ever loving memory, from mother".

***There were so many other wreaths, again far too numerous to record.***

Many of the villagers and their children carried sprays of flowers, which they affectionately dropped at the graveside.

Sir George's coffin was draped with the Union Jack and he was buried in the shadow of the Hall, in the new portion of the churchyard, formerly part of the hall grounds, which he and his mother, the Lady Dowager Beaumont, of Swannington, gave to the church. A portion of this was reserved as the burial place for the Beaumont family, as the vault in the church had been closed ever since Sir George Howland Beaumont restored the church in the 1870's. (for further details, see "A History of Coleorton and the Locality" by Samuel T Stewart). The choir led the procession to the grave. The hymns sung during the service were "The King of Love" and "Rock of Ages".





**Lady Beaumont and Major General Sir Edward Northey**



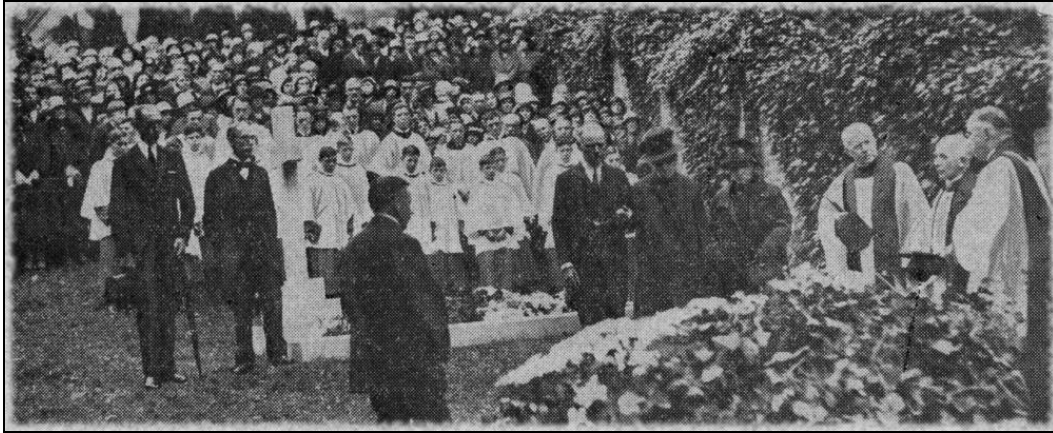
**Taking the coffin on the bier to the graveside, borne by Messrs, J.J. Knight (oldest tenant), J. Capenor, R. Walker, and E. Toon. Sir George's mother, the Lady Dowager (Dame Lillie Ellen) is following the bier**



**The choir leading the cortege to the graveside**



**A large gathering of mourners**



**At the graveside**



**Buglers of the King's Royal Rifles (Sir George's old regiment) sounding the "Last Post" at the funeral at Coleorton of Sir George Beaumont.**



**A MEMBER of the Coalville British Legion with a wreath at the funeral of Sir George Beaumont at Cole Orton Church.**

**INTERVIEWS WITH VILLAGE FOLK AND COLEORTON HALL  
STAFF CARRIED OUT AND RECORDED BY  
JOHN CROCKER IN 1988**

- Lady Beaumont (*Renee Muriel – wife of the 11<sup>th</sup> Baronet*) will be remembered for her exquisite politeness and gentle and ladylike behavior. Sir George apparently had an explosive temperament, and although of a friendly disposition insisted on a submissive recognition of his title and position in the local community. At home, his dress was informal and he enjoyed local gossip, he was also well known for his appreciation of attractive young women.
- 
- Bell ringing at the church was on Monday nights and there were eight bell ringers. Sir George used to invite the bell-ringers over to the hall after ringing for drinks. He used to talk a great deal about horse racing, and would often introduce his jockeys including Michael Bleary to the ringers. Sir George was generous with his racing tips, and it was recalled that their bets placed on his tips (though modest) were quite profitable. After one occasion when Sir George had invited the ringers to the church and had spent some time proffering inside info, he left them there more taken up with the possible winners rather than their commitment to campanology. Naturally, it followed that this red-hot info should be followed through and a copy of the "Racing & Football Outlook" was clandestinely produced later below the silent bells. It was the rustle of the Rectors Cossack which warned the intent punters of their approaching doom. Mr. Philpott was not the sort of man to take such ongoing lightly. In 1925 the bell ringers included Ted Preston the Blacksmith, Jim Yates, John Wardle and Wilf Lord.
- Sir George had a new floor installed at Coleorton School which enabled dances to be held there, and this proved very popular. Sir George and Lady B would attend, and Sir George always showed more interest in the village girls than in his wife. While Sir George was dancing with the girls, Lady B was quite happy dancing with the village lads – in fact on several occasions, she was mistaken for one of the village girls and liberties were taken by immigrant miners from Scotland who had been brought down to work in the local coal mines. Although people did not like to talk about it, there were some ugly scenes.
- Sir George's local pub was the Beaumont Arms although he did pay a visit to The Angel on occasions. He dispensed racing tips liberally and on occasions when his hot tips had failed miserably he was known to have been generous in the bar that evening, standing the losers drinks all round by way of compensation.
- It was related that Sir George was a gambling man and would bet on anything. Cock fighting was a popular pastime and he would bring along other gentry to watch and bet on the prize fights. These select events were held in secluded spots such as Spring Wood away from prying eyes, and away fights were organised as far away as Staffordshire. Tommy Turner who died in 1981, and his father before him, were renowned for breeding prize English game cocks. Tommy apparently kept upwards of 30 birds with eight or so cocks and the rest hens, and he reputedly had great skill in bringing out the fighting spirit of these proud birds. In the arranged prize fights the cocks wore lethal spurs made by the local blacksmith that were razor sharp. Apparently, before going to the fight venue, the cocks were run in front of the fire in order to shed a few ounces of weight. Cock fighting was carried on locally till at least 1939 it seems.

- In one recorded interview, it was explained that Sir George had “runners” to keep him informed of village gossip. He positively encouraged this spying and was extremely well informed as to all the goings on in the village. People were generally careful about what they said, in fear of eviction or other recrimination, however, tongues were loosened in the local bars and there was always a listening ear to carry tittle tattle back to the hall.



**LADY RENEE MURIEL BEAUMONT,  
WIFE AND WIDOW OF THE 11<sup>TH</sup> BARONET.**

Following the death of the 11<sup>th</sup> Baronet, Lady Beaumont married his horse trainer Capt. Oswald Marmaduke Dalby Bell (Ozzie) of Lambourne, Berkshire on October 26<sup>th</sup> 1934.

Captain Bell died in 1949. She continued to live at Lambourne till she married at the age of 50, a gentleman by the name of Lisle Hawkins on the 29<sup>th</sup> December 1952. He was aged 57 and was a farmer and cattle dealer. They were later divorced. She subsequently, by "Deed Poll", changed her name back from Renee Muriel Hawkins to Renee Muriel Bell. In her later years she was in residential care, where she died on November 28<sup>th</sup> 1987 at Edgecombe Nursing Home, Hollington House, Woolton Hill.



**Mrs Renee Muriel Bell in 1940 at a race meeting wearing her owner's badge. This was following her marriage to the racehorse trainer Capt. Bell in 1934 after the death of her first husband Sir George Beaumont, 11<sup>th</sup> Baronet.**