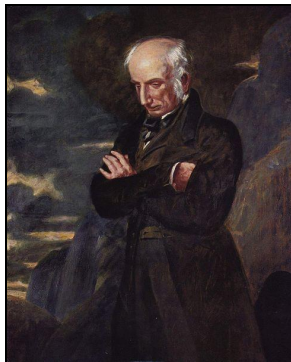
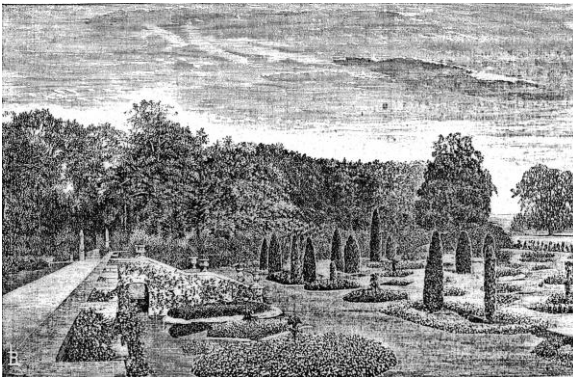
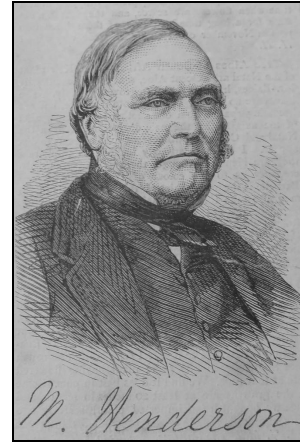
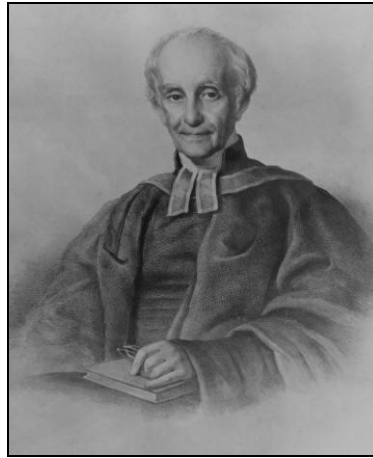
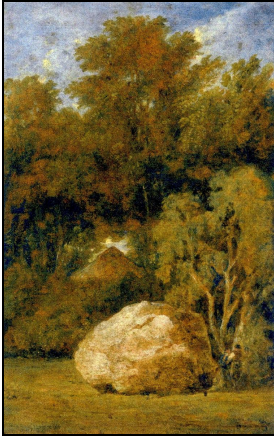


Coleorton Village History

(As seen through the eyes of the newspapers)



By Samuel T Stewart - 2015 (Update April 2022)
(Updated Feb 2025)

Preface

This book has been structured around newspaper articles of the day.

Part 1

This is specific to Coleorton village life and features a comprehensive and fascinating selection of old newspaper articles for the period 1776-1951, with supplementary information and photographs added by the author where appropriate. The following is a typical short example:-

The following appeared under the deaths column in
the Leicester Chronicle dated Jan 17th 1829

Lately at Coleorton, in this County, James Prestall, aged 94 years and ten months. He was the oldest inhabitant of that place, and died in the same house he was born. He was the father of seventeen children and was esteemed by his neighbours as an honest, sober, and industrious man, from where he received many favours, particularly from the late Sir George Howland Beaumont and his Lady.

The newspaper articles, give a wonderful insight into the village happenings in the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries.

Part 2

This part features newspaper articles dedicated to "The Beaumonts" and "Coleorton Hall". Numerous supplementary articles with photographs are again featured such as - The Design & Construction of the present Coleorton Hall and its gardens etc., The contributions of architects George Dance & Robert Chaplin, Wordsworth's Winter Garden at Coleorton Hall, The Engraved Memorials, The visits of Constable & Haydon, A tribute to Montgomery Henderson, The lives of the Beaumont 11th and 12th Baronets.

Many of the features in this book have been published on the author's website as separate publications which include substantially more information. These are free to download and read:-

samuelstewart.com



An old timber framed Coleorton Thatched Cottage - 1810.
A pencil and grey wash drawing by Sir George Howland Beaumont, 7th Bart.
Note the colliery on the horizon to the right of the cottage.

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Front Cover illustrations :-

All illustrations on the front cover appear at various stages in the book, together with details.

Acknowledgements:-

- Thanks to Ashby de la Zouch Museum for allowing access to and use of the Coleorton Historical Archives.
- Thanks to John Macdonald (Coleorton Heritage Warden) for his continued support. John has spent a long period catalogueing research material at Ashby Museum gathered by John Crocker, which relates to the Beaumonts and Coleorton Hall. John Crocker was a highly respected local historian and researcher who had spent some 20 years researching the Beaumonts. Unfortunately, John passed away before he could commit any of his twenty years research into literary form. Access to John's research material has proved invaluable in the writing of parts of this book.
- Thanks to Sue Puliafito for her contribution into the research for this book.
- Thanks to Prof. Tim Reynolds for taking the time to show me around the grounds of Coleorton Hall recently, and for permitting certain of his photographs to be used.

Bibliography:-

Where appropriate, bibliography details have been appended to the articles within the book. Newspaper articles have been researched from numerous sources including the Beaumont collection.

Notes:-

The author would welcome any additional social history information or photographs that have not already appeared in his books. This can be submitted via the Coleorton Parish Website, as it is intended to continue publishing further information on important aspects of Coleorton history, before it is too late. A few minor corrections to information given in the book entitled "A History of Coleorton and the Locality" appear in this book, this unfortunately is unavoidable due to the ongoing research process which continually brings new information to light.

Part 1

Coleorton Village Social History 1776- 1951

This section is based entirely on a selection of newspaper articles of the day which make reference to Coleorton or its inhabitants in some form or other. Supplementary information has been added to certain articles by the author.

Some of the more mundane articles have been recorded for genealogical / historical purposes only, and also where it may be of interest to people with past links to the village. Due to the numerous people's names included in many of the articles, it is hoped that genealogists may find the book of help in researching any Coleorton descendants also.

The reporters of the day tended to use three words where one would suffice, likewise, the occasional unusual old word or spelling appears, but it was felt that it would be wrong not to report the complete text, as originally written.

Petty crime and assaults in Coleorton and the locality were rife in the 1800's, but even more striking was the severe sentences imposed, even at "Petty Session" level. It is impossible to list all of these, but the author has tried to include a wide and varied selection. At one point, the rector of Coleorton, the Rev. W. B. Beaumont wrote to the Ashby-de-la-Zouch magistrates complaining that the name of Coleorton was appearing too frequently and unfairly in criminal reports, and that in many cases, people were being listed as natives of Coleorton, when in fact they were not from the village.

Leicester & Nottingham Journal - August 10th 1776

Wanted, a master for the "Workhouse" at Coleorton: Apply John Ayre or Henry Whirlledge
Supplementary information - The Workhouse was situated opposite Workhouse Lane (now Moor Lane) and was listed in a Parliamentary survey in 1776/7 as having 30 places. This advert could well indicate the approximate opening date of the workhouse.

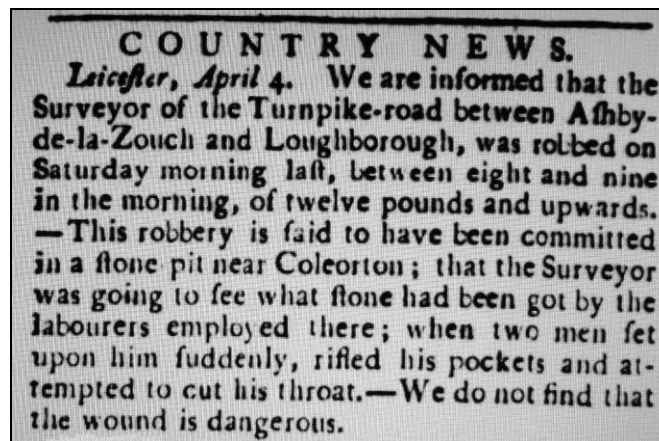
Leicester & Nottingham Journal - June 15th 1776

Under list of prisoners for debt in Leicester Prison were - Jos Wardle (Shopkeeper) and Thomas Henson (Hatter) both of Coleorton.

Stamford Mercury - February 12th 1778

The Rev. William Belcher, A.M. Chaplin (*This should read Rev. William Beecher M.A.*) to the right honourable the Earl of Harborough, is collated by his grace the Archbishop of York to the prebend of Woodborough, in the collegiate Church of Southwell; likewise instituted, by the Lord Bishop of Lincoln to the rectory of Coleorton in Leicestershire, upon the presentation of Sir George Beaumont, Bart. **Supplementary information** - This was Sir George Howland Beaumont, 7th Baronet, and Beecher was instituted on February 3rd 1778. It confirms that a rectory existed elsewhere on the estate before the one built in 1816.

Stamford Mercury - April 10th 1783



COUNTRY NEWS.
Leicester, April 4. We are informed that the Surveyor of the Turnpike-road between Ashby-de-la-Zouch and Loughborough, was robbed on Saturday morning last, between eight and nine in the morning, of twelve pounds and upwards. — This robbery is said to have been committed in a stone pit near Coleorton; that the Surveyor was going to see what stone had been got by the labourers employed there; when two men set upon him suddenly, rifled his pockets and attempted to cut his throat.— We do not find that the wound is dangerous.

Northampton Mercury - April 28th 1783

On Monday last was committed to Leicester Gaol, Thomas Fretwell and George Leedham, of Hartshorne, in Derbyshire, on suspicion of having committed a robbery on the highway, near Ashby de la Zouch. - The manner of them being apprehended was thus: They were drinking at a Public House in Coleorton; and the landlord having felt something in a bag which one of them had, that he took to be a pistol, he sent for a constable and searched it, when they found a gun cut short to the length of about 6 inches in the barrel, and shortened behind the lock; it was loaded with powder and ball; upon this they seized both the men; Leedham hastily put his hand in his pocket, and endeavoured to pull out a very neat pocket pistol loaded, but was prevented.- Since apprehending the above prisoners, it appears that they are the two persons who stopped Mr. Biddle of Queeneborough, on Saturday night about 10 o'clock, in Thurmaston Lane.....

Supplementary information - It is likely that the public house in which the above took place was either the "Bell Inn" or the "Rose and Crown" (now "The George Inn") as both of these were situated on the main Ashby to Loughborough road.

Derby Mercury - October 1st 1789

Deaths

Friday the 25th ult. died at Coleorton-hall, in the county of Leicester, Joseph Boultee, Esq; in the 89th year of his age.—He was a gentleman of the most exemplary piety, of the strictest honour and integrity, and a constant friend to the poor, to whom his charity was on all occasions liberally extended.—He justly merited the respect due to the most affectionate husband, the tender parent and sincere friend; whose happiness centered alone in doing good.

Supplementary Information - Joseph Boultee (who was living at the old Coleorton Hall / Manor House at the time of his death) and his son were important people in Coleorton history. There is a comprehensive article on them in the books entitled "A History of Coleorton and the Locality" and "A History of Coal Mining in Coleorton and the Locality" by Samuel T Stewart.

Joseph Boultee's connection with the Beaumont family is a story whose ramifications continued long after his death, indeed into the next century, and also included his only son Joseph. It began in 1757 when Joseph Boultee senior was appointed as land agent to the Beaumont family estate in Leicestershire by Sir George Beaumont, 6th Baronet. In the late 1700's, Sir George Howland Beaumont, 7th Baronet, still thought of himself as the squire of Dunmow, more than of Coleorton, however, about this time, several things combined to turn his thoughts towards his Leicestershire property. To begin with, he had just discovered the justice of his earlier suspicions about his agent at Coleorton. The Boultees had lived comfortably for many years on the profits of their dishonest stewardship, residing in his master's house and working his master's coal mines. In 1798, Sir George brought a successful Chancery lawsuit against the son, Joseph Boultee junior, and successor of his late steward Joseph Boultee senior, who had been systematically swindling him during his management of Beaumont's coal mines in Coleorton and the locality which were leased from Sir George. The whole matter was not finally settled until 1805 and as part of the settlement Sir George received compensation of £15,000.



Coleorton Hall as it would have looked about the time of Joseph Boultee's death in 1789, when he was living there. The picture was painted by Sir George Howland Beaumont, 7th Baronet.

Derby Mercury - January 17th 1793 (Advertisement)

It was felt that the following was historically important, hence its inclusion. Although originating in Ashby de la Zouch, Coleorton is mentioned, and much support for the declaration and resolutions would have come from there anyway.

Queen's Head, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Dec. 24, 1792.

AT a large and respectable Meeting of the Inhabitants of this Town and Neighbourhood, assembled to support the present Constitution against every Attempt to subvert or weaken it.

PENN ASHETON CURZON, Esq. M. P. in the Chair.

The following Declaration and Resolutions were moved, and unanimously approved of and agreed to.

Many seditious Publications having been circulated throughout this Kingdom, and various Meetings held, for the Purpose of exciting a Spirit of Disaffection to the Established Government: We feel ourselves called upon, at a Period like the present, to declare our unshaken Loyalty to our Sovereign, and our steady Attachment to our happy and free Constitution A Constitution

so admirably tempered and compounded as to afford the Means of preserving it from Danger and Abuse, and whose Laws equally protect the highest and lowest Subject: Ever ready to express our Gratitude, for the Blessings we enjoy under so mild and equitable a Government, and unanimously determined to resist all Attempts to subvert or weaken it.

Resolved, 1st, That we mutually bind ourselves to defend and maintain, with our Lives and Fortunes, our present excellent Constitution.

2nd, That we will use our utmost Endeavours to suppress all seditious Publications circulated within our Neighbourhood, and prosecute by due Course of Law, the Authors, Publishers, and Distributors of them.

3^{dly}, That we will, in Conjunction with the Magistrates of this Hundred, give every Support in our Power to the Executive Government, and strenuously exert ourselves in preventing all

illegal Meetings, and in bringing to Justice, all Offenders against the public Peace, and good Order of Government.

4thly, That all the Gentlemen who are Subscribers for defraying the Expences, shall form the General Committee, and the following Gentlemen, (viz.) Dr. Kirkland, Wm. Cave Browne, Esq. Joseph Wilkes, Esq. Valentine Green, Esq. Richard Gresley, Esq. Philip Jervis, Esq. James Richards, Esq. George Moore, Esq. the Rev. John Prior, the Rev. Francis Harris, the Rev. John Moore, the Rev. John Cave Browne, the Rev. Thomas Jones, the Rev. Wm. Gresley, the Rev. John Prior, jun. the Rev. John Piddocke, Mr. Ellis, S. Pestell, Mr. Henry Smith, Mr. Joseph Farnell, Mr. James Kirkland, Mr. Thomas John Kirkland, Mr. Benjamin Dewes, and Mr. Henry Joyce, be a Select Committee; that Five of them be a competent Number to transact Business, and that any of the General Committee may attend and assist at any

Meetings of the Select Committee, if they think proper.

5thly, That these Resolutions be signed by the Chairman, and published Three Times in the Leicester Journal, Aris's Birmingham Gazette, the Derby Mercury, St. James's Chronicle, and the General Evening Post.

6thly, That Copies of these Resolutions be left at the Queen's Head in Ashby, the Three Tons in Appleby, the Swan in Measham, at Mr. Cresswell's, Ravenstone; and the Rev. Mr. Harris's, Coleorton; for the Signatures of those who wish by that Means to testify their Loyalty to their Sovereign, and Approbation of our excellent Constitution.

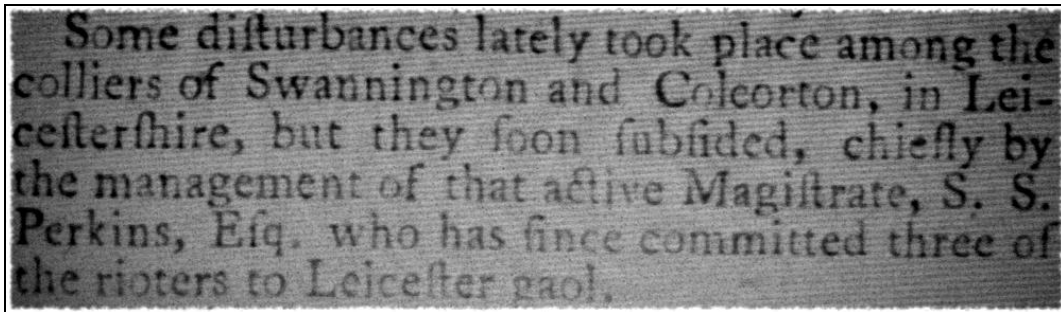
7thly, That Mr. Leonard Piddocke be the Solicitor and Treasurer to this Association, to whom all Letters and Information are requested to be addressed.

The Thanks of the Meeting were unanimously given to the Chairman, for his Politeness and Attention to the Business of the Day.

The Sum of 46l. 6s. was immediately Subscribed by the Company present, for defraying the necessary Expences of carrying the above Resolutions into Effect.

P. A. CURZON, Chairman.

Stamford Mercury - November 22nd 1793



Some disturbances lately took place among the colliers of Swannington and Coleorton, in Leicestershire, but they soon subsided, chiefly by the management of that active Magistrate, S. S. Perkins, Esq. who has since committed three of the rioters to Leicester gaol.

Leicester Journal - May 9th 1794

An advertisement appeared in this newspaper for Sir George Beaumont selling coal to "Brickmakers" for 5 shillings per ton.

Northampton Mercury - November 15th 1794

Marriage - On Tuesday at Coleorton, Leicestershire, the Rev. John Piddocke, of Ashby de la Zouch, to Miss Harris, only daughter of the Rev. Francis Harris of Coleorton aforesaid.

Derby Mercury - June 13th 1811 (Advertisement)

Timber

To be sold by Auction

75 Oak and 19 Ash Trees, now lying on the estate of Sir George Howland Beaumont, 7th Baronet, at Coleorton, Nr. Ashby de la Zouch - Among the oaks are four trees of large dimensions, one of which contains 300 feet of timber (*presumably when planked up*).

On application to Mr. George Telfer, at Coleorton Hall, the timber may be viewed every day in the week, immediately preceding the sale.

Leicester Journal - November 12th 1813 (Advertisement)

Valuable Freehold Estate in Swannington

To be sold by Auction

by Mr. Shaw.

At the house of Mr. Stinson's the Bluebell, in Coleorton., near Ashby de la Zouch, in the county of Leicester, on Wednesday the 24th day of November 1813, between the hours of three and four in the afternoon, unless previously disposed of by private contract, of which the earliest notice will be given, in one or more lots, as may be most suitable to purchasers.

Leicester Chronicle - March 20th 1824

In the County Gaol - Thomas Griffin, William Braithwaite, John Burrows, William Wilkinson, Randall Copson, William Walker, Robert Browett and Thomas Wollerton, for burglariously entering the premises of William Sherwin, of Coleorton, and stealing a quantity of hosiery there from.

Leicester Chronicle - January 15th 1825

John Burrows, who pleaded guilty to having taken a dog collar, and various other articles, out of the shop of W. Preston, of Coleorton was sentence to one month's hard labour.

Leicester Chronicle - January 19th 1828

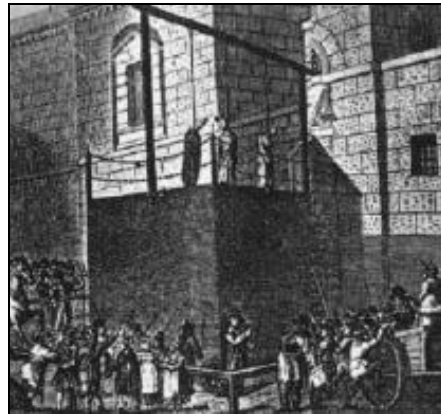
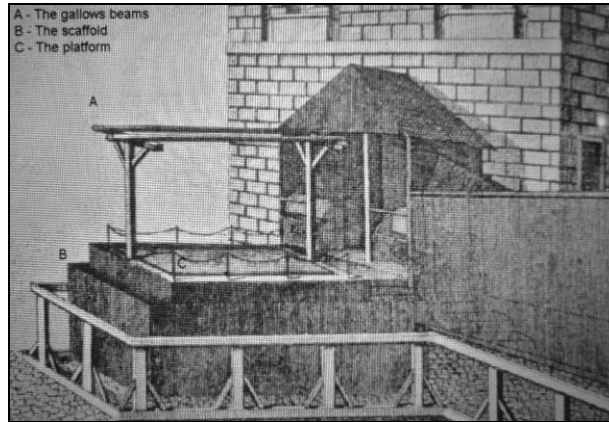
County Sessions

William Williamson and William Roberts, for stealing two couple of fowls, the property of William Preston of Coleorton, on the 14th of September, were found guilty, and sentenced to be imprisoned six months to hard labour, and to be once privately whipped. - The fowl is seemed to have been stolen by the prisoners with an idea that they had the right to take them because the parish officers would not find them work.

Leicester Chronicle - Jan 17th 1829

Deaths - Lately at Coleorton, in this County, James Prestall, aged 94 years and ten months. He was the oldest inhabitant of that place, and died in the same house he was born. He was the father of seventeen children, and was esteemed by his neighbours, as an honest, sober and industrious man, from where he received many favours, particularly from the late Sir George Howland Beaumont and his Lady.

Death by Public hanging of a Coleorton man named John Varnam in 1829



Leicester Journal - April 3rd 1829

Leicestershire Lent Assizes

CROWN BAR - Before Lord Chief Justice Sir W. B. Best

John Varnam 19, pleaded guilty to an indictment charging him with stealing a "Black Galloway" from a close near Huntingdon on the evening of Friday the 19th of September last.

The Lord Chief Justice in addressing Varnam told him he had better retract his plea as horse stealing had become so prevalent in this Country that an example must be made. -

Guilty - Death.

Joseph Varnan, 21, brother to the preceding prisoner who had pleaded guilty, was indicted for stealing a "Dan Gelding" from a field in the parish of Telsworth, in the County of Oxford, belonging to Mr Thomas Green.

The Prosecutor examined - I had a Dan Gelding which I missed out of my father's field on the 13th of January 1838; it was safe in the close before; I afterwards saw

the same gelding at the "Rose and Crown" (now "The George Inn") in Coleorton on the 9th October following; I took it home on the 12th.

Thomas Shaw examined - I am a Blacksmith; I know the prosecutor Mr. Green; I saw him take a horse away from the Rose and Crown on the 12th October; I remember the prisoner coming to my house with a dan gelding some time ago to have a shoe put on; I remember the horse well, and it was the same one that Mr. Green afterwards rode away.

John Harket examined - I am a horse dealer residing at Swannington in this County; I recollect the prisoner coming to my house last February 12 months, and bringing a dan horse with him; he asked me if I would buy it, stating as a price twenty three pounds, and that he had brought it at Chipping Norton; I afterwards saw the prisoner and the horse at Ashby, when the prisoner was committed; I am quite sure it is the same horse; I did not see anybody but the prisoner's father about it after he was committed; I do not know a man by the name of Smith.

John Potter examined - My father keeps a public house at Swannington; I remember the prisoner offering for sale the horse to the last witness but one; I believe it was in February 1828; I afterwards saw the same horse in the possession of Mr. William Kirby.

Mr. William Kirby examined - I live at Coleorton in this County, and remember the prisoner coming to me sometime in February of last year; there was a person named John Smith and John Varnam with him at the time; Smith offered the horse for sale at nine pounds; Smith and the prisoner brought the horse to him; I gave the money into Smith's hands.

William Briggs examined - I was present when the horse was sold to Mr. Kirby; the prisoner told him that he need not fear as the horse was alright, and belonged to a man named Smith; the father of the prisoner said to Mr. Kirby that his son and Mr. Kirby were in partnership; the prisoner's father lives in Thringstone Parish; Smith himself repeatedly said that the prisoner and he were in partnership.

Mr. Cox stated that the prisoner came to his house at Thringstone either in January or February last; that he had not room for his horses, but he supplied them with some corn.

The prisoner in his defence said that Smith sold the horse and took the money, and that he told him he brought it of a man belonging to Chipping Norton. **Guilty - Death**

Report of the Public Hanging Outside Leicester Gaol

Cambridge Chronicle and Journal - May 1st 1829

Execution - Varnam, Hinton and Forrester, convicted of horse stealing underwent the extreme penalty of the law on Monday the 20th ult., at the "new drop" (see supplementary information at the end) in front of Leicester County Gaol (this was the current jail which stands adjacent to Welford Road., Leicester today). The concourse of spectators were immense - not far short of 20,000 were present. The demeanour of the unhappy men, from the time of their being found guilty, up to the last moment they ceased to exist, was highly praiseworthy: They expressed the justice of their sentence, and wished to die at peace with mankind. On entering the yard to have their irons knocked off, they all walked with a

firm step. About half past ten they were pinioned by the executioner. Shortly after that they were brought out on the scaffold - Hinton first, Varnam next, and Forrester last. They were placed under the fateful beam, when the executioner drew the cap over their faces, and after a few minutes in prayer, the fatal bolt was drawn, and they were cut off from the land of the living. Hinton seemed to die without a struggle; Varnam once appeared as if he were in the last agonies, clasped his hands together, gave a heave and was still; Forrester seemed to die very easy. The bodies after hanging the usual time, were cut down, placed in coffins, and delivered over to their respective friends.

Varnam's body was taken that same day to be buried at Coleorton, his native place. Forrester's father who resides in Northamptonshire, was in town, but did not witness the execution of his son, whom he had seen or heard nothing of, for several years until he was condemned.

Supplementary information -

The last public hanging to take place outside Leicester Gaol was in 1856. A young man from Melton Mowbray named William Brown and nicknamed "Peppermint Billy" had committed a double murder. His hanging attracted a crowd of 25,000.

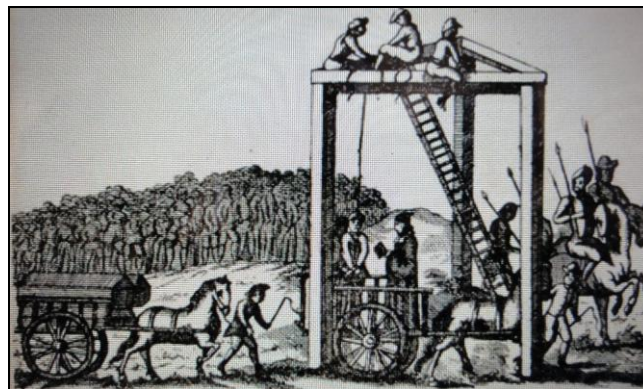
Public hangings were a source of popular entertainment until 1868 when an act of Parliament ordered that all executions should in future take place behind public walls.

Men and women were hung for the most trivial offences, and hung in batches after almost every assize court. There is a record of five or six poachers being hung outside Gloucester Gaol at the same time.

The reference to the executioner pinioning the men, entailed, tying their hands in front of them with a cord and often a second cord passed around the body and arms at the elbow. This was done to allow them to pray at the gallows.

The "new drop" referred to above, was introduced by the County Gaols in the early 19th century, and soon became universal, as executions were moved from their previous sites on the outskirts of towns to the actual prison. The gallows were big enough to accommodate two or three prisoners side by side and was erected for each execution. The platform was between 3 and 5 feet high and shielded by either wooden boards or black cloth drapes to conceal the legs and lower bodies of the prisoners in their final struggles. At this time the trapdoors were released from underneath by withdrawing bolts.

Hanging using little or no drop was effectively universal up to 1872. The prisoner would be suspended by a variety of means, from the back of a cart or a ladder, -



or later by some form of trapdoor mechanism which was used in the hanging of John Varnam. When the person was dragged off the tail of a cart, they usually got a few inches of actual drop, and it was not unusual for the relatives and friends of prisoners to hang on their legs to shorten their suffering. With the introduction of the "new drop" gallows, the condemned fell 12 to 18 inches and this was found to give a slightly quicker death than the cart method. However, death was still typically by strangulation, and the prisoner could still struggle for several minutes in agony after the drop fell. After the "new drop" was introduced, the hangman sometimes had to pull down on the prisoners legs.

Between 1800 and 1899 - 3,365 males and 172 females were hung.

Leicester Chronicle - Jan 2nd 1830

The poor of Coleorton, in this County, return their sincere thanks to Mr. W. Sherwin, for a donation of upwards of 60 loaves of bread; and a "fat" sheep, distributed to them during the last week.

Leicester Journal - March 5th 1830 (advertisement)

To be let

With immediate possession if required

That well established public house, "The New Inn", Coleorton, with good stabling, and with or without a quantity of land.

The situation will be found a very desirable one for a butcher, or baker, or horse dealer. For further details apply to the occupier.

Leicester Journal - July 9th 1830

Superior oak Timber

To be sold by Auction,

By B. Cheatle,

On Monday, July 12th, 1830, at Mr. Thomas Stinson's the Queen's Head Inn, Coleorton, in the county of Leicester, at three o'clock in the afternoon,

600 capital oak trees in various sized lots for the convenience of purchasers.

Descriptive particulars may be had ten days previous to sale, of the auctioneers, Ashby de la Zouch, at the place of sale, and of Thomas Lord, the woodman, who will shew the lots and may be found daily by application at the Newbold toll bar.

N.B. Credit on approved joint security until the 6th day of April next.

Coleorton Hall, June 21st 1830.

Leicester Chronicle - November 30th 1830

On Friday last, the constable of Coleorton, had in custody a man of notorious character, on a charge of felony; They were returning into a room at the "Queen's Head Inn", which they had just left, Mr. Constable marching first, when he suddenly heard the back door open -

Saw his prisoner escape, and clamber over the garden wall. In his retreat, the prisoner fell in with the person whom he had robbed, but the latter only having one leg, the chances were two to one against him in the pursuit, and the rogue, for the present remains at large. *This journalist must have been a comedy script writer, in his spare time!!*

Leicester Journal - December 17th 1830 (Advertisement)

To be let and entered upon on the 6th of April next

A very desirable farm called the Coleorton Hall Farm, situate in the parish of Coleorton, near Ashby de la Zouch, consisting of a very capital substantial farm house, with all convenient stables, barns and other buildings attached thereto, together with 160 acres of very useful meadow, pasture and arable land, the whole Tithe-Free. The above farm is situated about a mile and a half from Ashby, and adjoins an excellent turnpike road. For further particulars apply personally, or by letter (post paid) to Mr. E. B. Knight, agent to Sir G. H. W. Beaumont, Bart., Coleorton near Ashby
Coleorton 7th December.

Supplementary information - Hall Farm, which is historically important, features later in the article on William Wordsworth who stayed there in 1806/7, whilst designing "The Winter Garden" at Coleorton Hall.

Leicester Chronicle - February 5th 1831

Loughborough Police Office

John Sherwin, fined 5s. for trespassing on the grounds of Mr. Hare, at Coleorton.

Leicester Journal - March 25th 1831

Leicester Lent Assizes on Monday afternoon at 3 o'clock.

Sir George Howland Willoughby Beaumont, 8th Bart, was foreman of the grand jury which consisted of 22 men.

This was a Nisi Prius Court before the Honourable Sir John Vaughan, Knt.

William Lakin, 22, charged with stealing a tea kettle, and various articles, the property of John Gadsby of Coleorton, on the 14th February.

Sentence - Transported for life!!

Leicester Journal - October 7th 1831

COLEORTON, LEICESTERSHIRE.
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,
BY J. TOONE,
At the House of Mr. F. Potter, the Queen's Head
Inn, in the parish of Thringstone, on Monday,
the 10th day of October, 1831, at 4 o'clock in the
afternoon precisely,
ALL that **HOUSE** and **BAKEHOUSE** at-
tached; also, two Tenements, and a Chapel,
with convenient outbuildings, gardens, and about
1½ Acre, more or less, of excellent Pa-ture
Land; the whole now in the occupation of Mr.
Thomas Potter and his under-tenants.
To view the above, apply to Thomas Potter, on
the premises; and for further particulars, to the
Auctioneer, Baxter-gate, Loughborough.
One-half of the purchase-money may remain on
the property, if required.

Supplementary information on the Queen's Head Inn - The Queens Head Inn where this auction was held, was actually re-built in 1827 and continued as a public house into the 1900's. See "A History of Coleorton and the Locality" by Samuel T Stewart regarding the manufacture of baubles there. The chapel, mentioned in the description of the buildings adjacent to the Inn was put up for auction again in 1832, which is shown later. The Queen's Head and the other buildings became part of Coleorton Parish about 1936 in an area known as "The Rowlands" which is situated off Workhouse Lane (now Moor Lane) and can be seen on the map in Part 3 of this book. At this time, the Queen's Head Inn was in Thringstone Parish and the other buildings (including the chapel) were in Swannington, which at this time was a chapelry of Whitwick.

Leicester Chronicle - December 3rd 1831

The Rev. Francis Merewether, Rector of Coleorton, has reduced the rent of his tithes by ten per cent.

Northampton Mercury - January 28th 1832 (taken from Leicester Herald).

Apprehension of Hitchcock a notorious horse-dealer

It will be in the recollection of our readers, that about two years ago this month, three individuals made their escape from the "Borough Gaol" of this town (Leicester), named Bull, Branston and Hitchcock. - The two former charged with house breaking, and the latter with horse stealing and returning from transportation. Bull and Branston were soon after apprehended, and being found guilty were sentenced to be transported for life (*see supplementary information*). - Hitchcock was not taken till Friday week at Coleorton under the following circumstances. - Mr. John Ayres, son of Mr. Thomas Ayres, farmer residing at Coleorton, was at Ashby de la Zouch on the above day, and in company with a person named Kidger, constable of Coleorton, when they met at the Queen's Head in that town, the prisoner Hitchcock. In the course of conversation, the prisoner said he was going to Loughborough, to attend as arbitrator in a case, in which two boatmen of that town were concerned. - Soon after the prisoner left. - On their returning home to Coleorton, Ayres and Kidger overtook the prisoner on the road, and from the tardy manner of walking, suspected him to be upon no good. - Soon after reaching home, young Ayres, having occasion to walk round the farmyard, saw the shadow of a man, and presently after, it being a moonlight night, clearly distinguished Hitchcock as being the same individual he had seen at Ashby. - Determined to watch him, he followed him into a field adjoining, in which were three valuable horses, and very soon saw him get into a ditch, where he remained sometime. Mr. Ayres then went for his father, and both succeeded in bringing Hitchcock into the house. Mr. Ayres senior then left him in charge of his son, while he procured the assistance of Kidger, and when gone, Hitchcock made a desperate attempt to escape. He seized young Ayres and struck him a violent blow upon his head, and fancying nobody was in the house besides his opponent, attempted to grasp a cavalry sword which hung in the room. - Fortunately, Mrs and Miss. Ayres hearing a scuffle went into the room, and thus timely assisted in securing him. Kidger soon after arrived, and recognising Hitchcock as the same person who was transported from Nottingham a few years ago, took him into custody. - A chaise from Ashby (*a horse-drawn carriage for one or two people, typically one with an open top and two wheels*), and being handcuffed, was safely lodged in his old quarters at the Borough Gaol of this town (Leicester). For many years the prisoner has been a terror to that part of the neighbourhood, being perhaps, one of the most expert horse stealers in the country. - The same individual succeeded sometime since, in taking three valuable horses out of the stable of Sir George Howland Beaumont of Coleorton Hall, but luckily none of them had shoes on at the time, and the next morning were found in a close about a mile from the hall. - Great praise is due to Mr. Ayres and family for the courage they evinced in securing the offender, and to mark the conduct of his son, Sir G. H. Beaumont very handsomely presented him with a five-pound note for his trouble. In addition to which, a reward of £20 was sometime since offered by C. G. Mundy Esq., for the apprehension of the prisoner, besides £10 from the keeper of the Borough Gaol, which we understand Mr. Ayres will also receive. Hitchcock had upwards of £4 in his pocket when taken.

Supplementary information - Thomas Ayres farm, rented from Sir George Beaumont, was known as West Farm and consisted of upwards of 200 acres. It was situated in what is now known as Farm Town.

Before the middle of the 19th century, long prison sentences were not often used as a punishment. In fact it was rare for anyone to be imprisoned for more than two years, except for debt. Instead, people found guilty of minor offences were fined or sentenced to some physical punishment, such as being put in the pillory, whipped or branded, while those who had committed more serious crimes were sentenced to transportation or death. The death sentence was often commuted to the lesser punishment of transportation for life. Those who were transported (see earlier reference to Hitchcock's transportation) might return on the expiration of their sentence, which typically lasted for either seven or fourteen years, although they had to pay for, or arrange their own passage back. Sometimes, transported convicts managed to escape before their sentence was completed. If they were then recaptured, they were hanged. We don't know whether Hitchcock received a hanging sentence for returning from transportation, but presumably he would have.

Leicester Journal - April 6th 1832

Advertisement to the builders - Persons desirous of contracting for building a public house at, or near the colliery belonging to Messrs. Stenson and Company, in Whitwick, in the county of Leicester, may see the plans and specifications, on Monday next, on application to Mr. Stenson, at the Colliery

Tenders to be sent to Mr. Stenson before 11 o'clock, on Monday the 16th of April instant.

Coleorton, 5th April 1832.

Supplementary information - See a "History of Coleorton and the Locality" for the article on William Stenson, a native of Coleorton.

Leicester Chronicle - July 28th 1832 (advertisement)

Freehold Chapel at Swannington

In the county of Leicester

To be sold by auction

By B. Cheatle

At Mr. Potter's the Queen's Head Inn in Thringstone, in the county of Leicester on Wednesday, the 1st day of August next at 5 o'clock in the afternoon, subject to conditions to be then produced.

All that building recently erected for, and now, for sometime past, used as a chapel, or place of worship, by a society of the particular Baptists, situate near "The Rowlands", in Swannington aforesaid, with the appurtenances thereto belonging. The property is capable of being converted into dwelling houses at a trifling expense, and immediate possession may be had.

To view the premises, applications to be made to Mr. Boulton, of Coleorton, of whom, or of Messrs Dewes and Fisher, solicitors, Ashby de la Zouch further particulars may be obtained.

Ashby de la Zouch July 23rd 1832.

Supplementary information - At this time, the particular Chapel used by the Baptists and referred to above was situated near to "The Queens Head", and was in the chapelry of Swannington, even though "The Queen's Head" was in Thringstone Township. Sir George Beaumont would not allow nonconformist places of worship to be built in Coleorton at this time, and he later became the owner of the chapel. In Part 3, "The First 100 years History of the Swannington /Coleorton Baptists" will give the reader a better appreciation of how this religion grew up in the local area and the map therein will also give the reader a better understanding of the geography.

Leicester Journal - September 7th 1832

Superior Coal

Messrs Price, Bostock and Co., beg leave respectfully to inform the public at large, that they are now prepared to supply them with very superior quality coal, to any extent, at reduced prices, at their Pegg's Green Colliery, near to the new church on Swannington Common.

P.S. The public will do well to bear in mind, that this seam of coal is a continuation of the same bed, formerly obtained by Messrs. Boulton and Burslem, at their justly celebrated old Coleorton Colliery.

Pegg's Green Colliery, September 5th 1832.

Coventry Herald - August 2nd 1833

Legal Appointment - The Lord Chancellor has appointed William Sherwin (*Junior*) of Coleorton, Leicestershire to be made Master Extraordinary in Chancery.

Stamford Mercury - August 16th 1833

The Coleorton Railway was commenced on Monday, and it is expected to be completed in two years.

Leicester Journal - August 23rd 1833

Coleorton Railway.
THE Directors will be ready to receive Tenders on Wednesday the 4th September next, at the White Hart Hotel, in Leicester, at 12 o'clock, from any persons who may be desirous of contracting with them for the execution of the whole of the works of the Coleorton Railway.
The Directors will engage to supply bricks, iron work, and timber at certain prices; all other materials to be found by the contractors.
Sections and Specifications are prepared, and may be seen at the office of Mr. THOS. MILES, in Leicester, of whom also any farther information may be obtained.
DEWES & FISHER,
Clerks to the Company of Proprietors.
Ashby-de-la-Zouch, 12th August, 1833.

The history of Coleorton Railway is included in the book entitled "A History of Coleorton and the Locality" by Samuel T Stewart.

Coleorton Railway.
THE Directors will be ready to receive Tenders from any persons willing to supply them with patent Malleable Iron Rails, of 35lb to the lineal yard; also for suitable Cast Iron Pedestals, to be delivered at Shardlow.
Specifications may be seen at the office of Mr. THOS. MILES, in Leicester, where, or to our office in Ashby de-la-Zouch, sealed Tenders must be sent on or before 2nd September next.
DEWES & FISHER,
Clerks to the Company of Proprietors.
Ashby-de-la-Zouch, 12th August, 1833.

Leicester Chronicle - September 21st 1833

Died - On Monday last, at Coleorton, aged 52, Mr. Thomas Stinson, of the "Beaumont Arms", in that place, much lamented by his family and friends. This is the earliest factual record we have of the "Beaumont Arms", although it was mentioned in records as being used for a meeting before this date in connection with the Coleorton Railway.

Leicester Chronicle - December 14th 1833

Petty Sessions Exchange, Leicester

Henry Williamson, of Coleorton, was committed for three months for leaving his wife and family chargeable to the Parish.

Leicester Journal - March 21st 1834

**TO PUBLICANS.
TO BE LET,
With immediate Possession.**

ALL that well accustomed INN, with excellent stabling, and every requisite outbuilding, known by the sign of the OLD QUEEN'S HEAD, in COLEORTON, in the county of Leicester, many years in the occupation of Mr. Francis Potter, but now of Mr. John Bradbury.

To treat for the same, application must be made to the occupier.

Leicester Journal - May 23rd 1834

**RAILWAY STATION.
Coleorton Smoil Coal.
F. NEDHAM,**

HAVING contracted for the undivided sale of the above Coal, begs to inform his Friends and the Public, he will be able to supply them on the usual terms after Monday the 26th instant.

All Orders received at the Railway Station, or at F. Nedham's, Granby-street, will be punctually attended to.

Supplementary information - This was as the result of the opening of the "Coleorton Railway" which allowed coal to be transported from the colliery in the Smoile at Lount. This opened up the local market to Leicester. For further information, see the book entitled "A History of Coleorton and the Locality" by Samuel T Stewart

Leicester Chronicle - July 5th 1834

TO BE LET,
And entered upon at Michaelmas next.
ALL that commodious and well accustomed INN, called
the BEAUMONT ARMS, in the parish of COLEORTON,
near Ashby-de-la-Zouch, lately occupied by Mr. Thos.
Stinson, (and now by his Widow, who is about to decline
business,) consisting of an excellent House, good Stabling,
Coach house, and other convenient Outbuildings. 20A.
1R 34P of very good Land adjoining.
For particulars, apply (if by letter post paid) to Messrs.
Knight and Chubb, Land-surveyors, Coleorton, near Ashby-
de la Zouch
Coleorton, June 25th, 1834.

Stamford Mercury - August 1st 1834

Leicester Assizes - Joseph Kirby, aged 40, for stealing a mare from Coleorton, was sentenced to be transported for life.

Northampton Mercury - October 18th 1834

Leicester Quarter Sessions

Mary Powdrell, George Perry, and Thomas Harris, for stealing cheese, knives, forks &c., from the house of Ann Stinson, at Coleorton, to be imprisoned - the former 11 weeks and a week solitary confinement, and the two latter each three weeks and a weeks solitary confinement.

Leicester Journal - December 19th 1834

Coleorton Coal.
F. NEDHAM,
HAS great pleasure in informing his Friends and the
Public, that in consequence of the opening of the
Coleorton Railway, he is enabled to
Reduce the Price of this Coal 1s per Ton!
This Coal, which is now of Superior Quality, he can offer
at the low price of **9s per Ton!**
Leicester, Railway Station, Office No. 2.

Supplementary information - This was as a result of the opening of the "Coleorton Railway" which opened up the local market to Leicester.

Leicester Chronicle - November 7th 1835

Loughborough Petty Sessions - Thursday November 5th

William Cutler, John Cutler and William Bird, all of Coleorton, were charged by William Walker, with misbehaviour in his service and neglecting to work; committed for one month.

Leicester Chronicle - February 13th 1836

SALE OF THE QUEEN'S HEAD INN, COLEORTON

Single Premises, Thringstone.

TO be LET, and entered upon at Lady-day next, all that newly-erected capital MESSUAGE, with Garden and Land adjoining, containing three roods, or thereabouts; together with excellent Brew-house, Gig-house, and commodious Stabling for 15 horses, and other convenient outbuildings, at present known as the "OLD QUEEN'S HEAD INN," now in the occupation of Mr. Robert Bostock, who is quitting the same at Lady-day next; and situated in the township of THRINGSTONE, in the county of Leicester, and adjoining the Ashby and Loughborough, and Hinckley and Melbourne turnpike-roads.

The above is admirably adapted for a Shop of general business, having great extent of warehouse room, and in a very populous neighbourhood. Or it is well calculated for a genteel Residence.

The tenant may be accommodated with a small quantity of Grass Land adjoining, if required.

For further particulars, apply (if by letter, post paid) to Mr. E. B. KNIGHT, Land Surveyor, Coleorton, near Ashby-de-la-Zouch.



Supplementary information - The Queen's Head Inn, owned by Sir George Beaumont at this time, ceased operating as a public house in the early 1900's, and was eventually converted into residential living accommodation as shown in a much later photograph above.

Leicester Chronicle - July 12th 1836

Died - On Friday last, at Coleorton, John Sherwin, *Gent.*

Leicester Chronicle - March 11th 1837

Deaths - At Coleorton on the 2nd inst., Ann, wife of Mr Thomas Heyrick, of "The Beaumont Arms" Inn, in the 32nd year of her age.

Leicester Chronicle - July 7th 1837

Another death by drowning - On Saturday, the 1st inst., three sons of the Rev. James Merewether (*brother of the Rev. Francis Merewether presumably*), accompanied by a cousin who had come from Essex on a visit to the family, went to fish in a pond, commonly called the reservoir (*presumably Coleorton Fish Pond*), in the lordship of Coleorton. In the evening, Charles George Merewether went into the water to bathe, and his brother Lewis (*should be spelt Louis*) expressed a wish to follow him. The third brother, Henry Robert, objected to it, unless he would have a rope round his body; but the youth, without taking this precaution, shortly afterwards jumped into the pond, having undressed without the knowledge of Henry, who was only aware of the fact when he heard him splash into the water. Perceiving that his brother struggled, and then sank, Henry, although he could swim but little, sprang in to his assistance. His efforts unfortunately were to no avail; his brother never rose, and he could not reach him under water. Meanwhile an alarm had been given by the cousin; and Joseph Doughty, a Blacksmith, hastened to the pond, and, after undressing, jumped in, and succeeded in finding the body. At the spot where it was found, there were many weeds, in which the Blacksmith got entangled, but he could not say whether the body was entangled in like manner. Three quarters of an hour having elapsed from the time the youth sank until he was taken out, life was quite extinct. - An inquest was held on Monday at Coleorton : verdict, "Accidental Death".

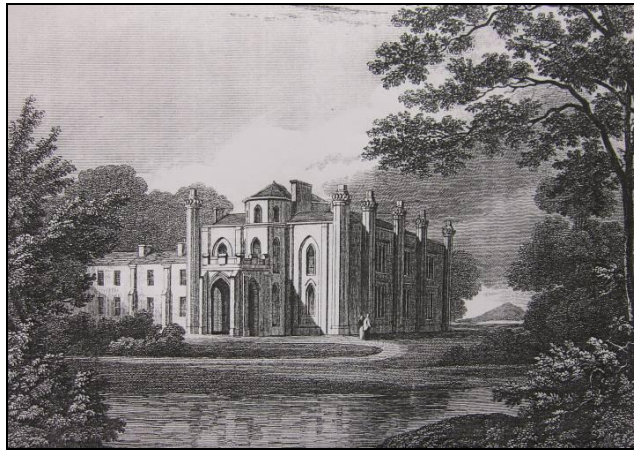
Supplementary information - The author believes that one of the two surviving brothers is the Lieutenant Merewether referred to later in the Leicester Journal article dated December 17th 1847. Louis Merewether is buried alongside the Rev. Francis Merewether in St. Mary's Churchyard, Coleorton. A photograph of the graves is shown later under the article on Rev. Merewether.

Leicester Mercury - June 2nd 1838

Clerical Decency:- Two or three weeks ago, two farmer's servants sitting together at Coleorton Church, happened to whisper to each other, when the vicar observing them from the pulpit, vehemently exclaimed - "You there! Take your hats and walk off!" an order which they doubtless gladly obeyed. On the following Sunday, padlocks were found affixed to the two seats previously occupied by these parties! Sir George Beaumont, on being told of this at the Church Rate-Meeting, not only denied any participation in the transaction but declared he was thoroughly ashamed of it.

Coventry Herald - December 21st 1838

The Marquis of Hasting's Hounds - met at Coleorton Hall, the seat of Sir George Beaumont, Bart., in Leicestershire, on Monday, the 10th inst., where a numerous field of gallant sportsmen assembled. The sport was excellent, and a long race took place over a severe country, breaking cover at Coleorton-Springs with a prime fox, crossing the Ashby Road in Southwood and Pistern-Hills, where he doubled on Lount Wood and ran to Breedon-Cloud, passing Cloud Wood, The Aspinals, through Oakley Wood to Charnwood Forest, when, night coming on, Head, the experienced huntsman who has so long headed the gallant pack, withdrew them. During the chase, an extraordinary leap was made by Mr. John Potter, horse-dealer, Talbot Lane, with a grey Irish horse over a five-barred gate, just at the moment a young horse crossed him and stopped at the gate, both of which he cleared in sporting style, to the astonishment of all who beheld it. The noble Marquis seemed highly pleased with the delight afforded to his numerous friends.



Coleorton Hall 1809

The Leicester Journal - January 11th 1839

Operative Conservative Manifestation - 1839

A most gratifying prospect of the extension of conservative principles among the humbler classes of the community, is manifested by a number of respectable tradesmen of Coleorton and the neighbourhood, having spontaneously formed themselves into an "operative loyal conservative association", - and although the society has been recently established, yet it already numbers a numerous corps of members, who pledge themselves in the words of their adopted motto "for God, our Queen, our Alters, and our Hearths". On Thursday night, these staunch conservatives, "good men and true" to their church and constitution, assembled together at the "Angel Inn", Coleorton, to celebrate their anniversary dinner, which consisted of good old English fare, the providing and arrangements of which reflected an ample need of credit on the taste and management of the indefatigable host and hostess (Mr and Mrs Stretton) whose assiduous exertions to please were acknowledged by all present. The room was tastefully decorated with festoons of laurel and other evergreens, and the red berried holly indicated the festive season of the year. The presidency was

taken by Mr. Thomas Morris, of Thringstone, who upon removal of the cloth, proceeded to give the toasts as follows:-

"Queen Victoria, and may she long live in the hearts of our people".

"The queen Dowager, Adelaide, combined with the rest of the Royal Family"

"The Army and Navy".

"The noble Lord Lieutenant of the County, and the House of Rutland".

"Our glorious constitution in house and state".

"The Duke of Wellington and the House of Lords".

"The membership for the north and southern divisions of the County"; and other loyal and patriotic toasts.

The health of the chairman was proposed, and received with the utmost cordiality and feeling. Mr. Morris rose to acknowledge the toast, by returning his thanks, and further stated his wish that as the society grew in years, it would also grow in numbers and influence, and that every tradesman of conservative feeling, would show his sense of duty by becoming a member, and evince a warmth of heart and loyalty to our glorious constitution, by giving a presence at its annual meetings. The chairman then proposed "The Marquis of Hastings and foxhunting", "Colonel Keek and the Leicestershire Yeomanry Cavalry", which called forth peals of applause, many being present who belonged to that distinguished corps. Then followed - "Sir George Beaumont, the zealous and firm supporter of conservative principals", which was responded to with immense cheering, that lasted some minutes. William Sherwin, sen, Esq., 3 times 3 - William Sherwin, jun, Esq., - 3 times 3 - John Sherwin Esq., - and a variety of other toasts were proposed and drunk with due honours and corresponding enthusiasm, interspersed with many a good song from the company. The meeting was a happy one and worthy of the glorious cause that first occasioned it; and the conviviality throughout was characterised by great spirit, and prolonged till a late hour; the same loyal and patriotic feeling exhibited by larger meetings, being proportionately displayed there, and the party separated expressing their highest gratification, which was not a little enhanced by the unanimous and friendly feeling which prevailed throughout the day.

The Leicestershire Mercury - Saturday, August 10th 1839 & Leicester Journal - August 16th 1839

Loughborough Petty Sessions & Loughborough Police Report August 8th

Neglect of work - Sarah Glover of Coleorton, was charged by Mr. Johnson, the agent of Messr's Hollins, lace manufacturers of Nottingham, with neglecting to run a piece of lace according to agreement. The defendant admitted that she had not done it at the time, but would promise to finish it in a month, to which Mr. Johnson assented, the magistrate giving her to understand that if she was brought there again on the same charge, they would certainly imprison her.

Supplementary information - Many of the village women at this time found home employment sewing tiny beads on to garments for Nottingham manufacturers, and this is most likely what Sarah Glover's job was. If the reader refers to a later article dated 1869, it can be seen that Sarah Glover found herself in more serious trouble for another offence.

In fact, our Sarah (a distant cousin of the author, many times removed), was a regular offender.

Leicester Chronicle - November 23rd 1839

Death - At the "Bell Cottage", Coleorton, Ann Ayre, in the 90th year of her age, universally respected; a kind friend to the destitute, - and the oldest tenant of Sir George Howland Willoughby Beaumont, Bart.

Leicester Journal - February 7th 1840

Loughborough Court of Requests

Messr's Wilson and Proudman, Coleorton v J. Roadley, Loughborough. £4 3s. Case dismissed from non-appearance of plaintiff. (Messrs Wilson and Proudman were the proprietors of Coleorton Pottery. See the book entitled "Coleorton Pottery 1835 to 1938" by Samuel T Stewart)

Leicester Journal - Feb 7th 1840

The poor of Coleorton have to return their sincere thanks to Mr. John Sherwin late of Leicester, for a donation of bread which was distributed to them by his brother Mr.

William Sherwin at the shop of Mr. Wardle, Baker. Mr William Sherwin also gave a quantity of meat to his poor neighbours last Christmas.

Leicester Journal - March 20th 1840

Mary Williamson, 15, charged with feloniously stealing a petticoat, four caps, a pair of stockings, and other articles, the property of Sarah Hall, of Coleorton, on the 9th of January last, was found guilty, and sentenced to six weeks imprisonment to hard labour.

Leicester Mercury - June 6th 1840

Fatal accident at Worthington - On Monday, an old man, aged 82 named Isaac Pearson, while gathering manure off the "Coleorton Railway" line, was overtaken by two wagons loaded with lime, which passed over his right leg and the lower part of his bowels, killing him on the spot. The unfortunate man was called to several times, but it is supposed - in consequence of his sight being very defective - that he had heard the warning, as he turned to look at the wagons, and thought he had sufficient time to get out of the way. The accident occurred about one hundred and fifty yards from the wharf; that part of the line being on a considerable descent, down which the wagons were coming, by their own weight, about eight miles an hour. - An inquest was held on the body on Wednesday, and a verdict of accidental death returned, the jury recommending horses to be used in future in drawing the wagons down the descent.

See the book entitled "A History of Coleorton and the Locality" for details of the Coleorton Railway.

Leicester Chronicle - July 25th 1840

Deaths

On the 16th ult, at Coleorton, aged seventy-three, Mr. William Forster, for upwards of thirty years, agent (*colliery*) to Sir, George Beaumont, Bart. - and at the same place Miss Elizabeth Forster, sister to the above.

Leicester Chronicle - August 15th 1840

Jonathan Perkins (27) was found guilty of marrying and taking to wife Mary Birch, on the 19th Of April, 1836, at Coleorton, his former wife, Nancy Shorrocks being then alive, and was sentenced to six months imprisonment to hard labour.

Leicester Journal - January 1st 1841

The affairs of Messrs Wilson and Proudman

Notice is Hereby Given

That by indenture dated the 16th day of December 1840, Thomas Wilson and George Proudman, carrying on business at Lount (*should say Coleorton*), in the county of Leicester as earthenware manufacturers, have assigned over all of their estates and effects to Benjamin Walker, of Coleorton, in the same county, coal master, and Benjamin Cheatle, of Ashby de la Zouch, in the same county, auctioneer, in trust for the equal benefit of the creditors of the said Thomas Wilson and George Proudman, and by the said indenture, it is provided that such of the said creditors as shall not execute the same within the space of three calendar months, from the date thereof, shall be excluded from all benefit there under.

And notice is hereby also given that the said indenture now lies in the hands of the said Benjamin Cheatle, for the execution of those creditors who intend to avail themselves of the term thereof.

See the book entitled "Coleorton Pottery 1835 to 1938" by Samuel T Stewart

Leicester Journal - January 22nd 1841

Conservative Festivity at Coleorton. - 1841

The anniversary of the "Coleorton Conservative Society" was celebrated last Friday week, at the house of Mr. Stretton, the Angel Inn, and the proceedings were altogether conducted with admirable spirit. On this occasion the large room was decorated with festoons of artificial flowers, evergreens, of various fanciful designs, banners, appropriate emblems, &c. which were neatly and tastefully arranged. At two o'clock the members assembled, when the reports of the past year were submitted, which proved the stability and prosperity of the society, and the extension of conservative principles, in the increase of its members. An excellent banquet was provided by the host, whose judicious arrangements elicited general commendation. After the cloth was drawn, Mr. Thomas Hill was unanimously called to the chair; he said he felt peculiar happiness in being selected to preside over so large and respectable company, in obedience's to the call with which he had

been honoured; and more particularly on such an occasion. He thought that having such meetings as these periodically which they all avowed, and to which they had pledged themselves in their adopted motto, "For God, our Queen, our Altars and our Hearths"; and concluded a pointed and eloquent address by proposing "The Queen and her Illustrious Consort, Prince Albert; may they experience a long and happy reign, and ever escape the evil machinations of base and designing men". (Loud cheers and cries of "Amen"). "Her Majesty the Dowager Queen Adelaide, and the rest of the Royal family". (Great applause). The following toasts were proposed during the evening, and enthusiastically received: "The Noble Lieutenant of the County of the House of Rutland". "The Duke of Wellington and the House of Peers". "The Members of the Northern and Southern divisions of the County". "Our glorious Constitution in Church and State". "The Army and Navy". "The Right Hon. The Earl Howe, of Gopsal". "Protestant Ascendancy". "The Marquis of Hastings and Fox Hunting". "Colonel Keek and the Leicestershire Yeomanry Cavalry". The last toast was acknowledged in an appropriate speech by Mr. Fisher Sharpe, on behalf of himself and many other yeomen who were present. The Chairman's health being cordially received, Mr. Thomas Hill arose and, in a speech replete with constitutional doctrines, returned his thanks, and concluded by exhorting them all, in their general line of conduct, to exercise their whole influence in the support of Conservative principals. After which Sir G. Beaumont, Bart.; **William Sherwin, sen. Esq;** **William Sherwin, jun. Esq;** the Rev. F. Merewether; Mr. Statham (Treasurer); and Mr. R. Mould, (Secretary), were noticed in their proper order during the evening, and received with cheers. Several other toasts, with various songs, glees, and catches, were given during the course of the proceedings, and all contributed largely to the conviviality of the meeting, and to the general fund of good humour. "God Save the Queen" was played by the band at the conclusion of the meeting, the whole company, upstanding and uncovered, joining their voices to the swelling strains, when at a late hour there was "a banquet-hall deserted" at the Angel Inn.

Leicester Mercury - Saturday Feb 7th 1841

Coleorton – At this inclement season of the year, the poorer families of Coleorton and the neighbourhood have been liberally supplied with coal; and in many instances, with money, by the bountiful hand of **William Sherwin, Senior Esq.**, whose goodness of heart upon all occasions has been so attested as to gain him the appellation "The Man of the Ross". ???

Leicester Mercury - Feb 19th 1841

Coleorton - The bitter inclemency of the season, having visited us in one of its old fashioned forms, has generally demanded from the more wealthy assistance towards alleviating the distresses of the poor, occasioned by the suspension of labour, and the "scantiness of fuel and clothing". Coals, money, flannels and other necessaries have been liberally supplied, at this inclement season of the year by **William Sherwin Esq.**, and the Reverent Francis Merewether and his lady. We are happy to find that this practice has been so general throughout our neighbourhood.

Leicester Mercury - August 28th 1841

Coleorton - Church Rates - We are informed that yesterday was fixed by the Rev. Francis Merewether, notorious a few years since, as a red-hot high churchman, for imposing that robbery under the name of law, a church rate, on the inhabitants of Coleorton. We have been informed that the harpies of the establishment ground their hopes of getting a rate, - not on the attachment of the people to the church but on their being disqualified, through the pressure of the times, by non-payment of poor rates!

Leicester Mercury - September 18th 1841.

Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions Saturday September 11th before T.

Mowbray and R.G. Creswell Esq.

John Marsden of Coleorton was charged with assaulting Mary Potter, of the same place, on the 30th of August. It appeared that complainant kept a beer shop in Coleorton, and people of bad character frequented it, that on the night in question, defendant's wife came to fetch him home, and because he would not come, made some disturbance in the house. Two or three persons seized her by the waist, and attempted to put her out of the house, but were prevented by the defendant, who struck complainant several times, and made her very bad "black eyes". The magistrate convicted defendant of 7s. and costs.

Susan Marsden wife of the last defendant then charged five individuals with assaulting her. The defendant brought several witnesses to prove that she began the disturbance first, and that they never struck her. Case dismissed.

The landlady of the beer shop had the assurance, the very day these cases were heard, to apply to the same magistrate, for a license to sell excisable liquors, and presented a memorial signed by the overseer and several other inhabitants certifying that she was a fit and proper person to be entrusted with a license. The magistrate disgusted at the idea, threw aside the memorial, and gave particular directions to the police officer stationed in the neighbourhood to watch the house very minutely.

Leicester Journal - November 19th 1841

Deaths - On Friday last, at Coleorton, in this County, aged seventy, Mr. William Kirby, many years landlord of the Rose and Crown (*now the George Inn*). He was much esteemed and respected.

Leicester Mercury - January 8th 1842

Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions December 24th 1841

John Ensor, of Coleorton, charged Joseph Maud of Ashby, Chimney Sweeper, with retaining a boy under 14 years of age and not a bound apprentice. The defendant said the boy was 14, and called him as witness. When he came, he stated that he was going in 14, and his mother had told him so. The magistrates were of the opinion that the boy had been drilled by the defendant to say that; and he having made this case by so doing, a most aggravated one.

They convicted him in the penalty of £5 plus costs.

The Leicestershire Mercury - Saturday January 22nd 1842 (see following article also)

Lount Death from Suffocation - An inquest was held at Lount, on the 19th inst., before J. Gregory Esq., Coroner, on the bodies of William Massey and James Dakin. Mr. Thomas Wilson stated that he was the proprietor of a Pot-Manufactory in Coleorton, and that the two deceased worked for him. On Monday night he left them both at work, and between twelve and one o'clock, he was called up and informed that the two deceased were found suffocated in the Hot-House - a large room heated by flues, and used for the purpose of drying the newly formed pots in. He got up and hastened down to the room, where he found the two deceased lying on the floor, quite dead. Dakin had his mouth quite full of food. In his opinion, they had gone into the room to warm themselves, or else for the purpose of sleeping there all night. It was quite against his orders for anyone to sleep in the room. The men appeared to have been insensible immediately on their closing the door, as they lay very near it. John Eaton, one of the men whose duty it was to see that the room was properly heated, stated that about 12 o'clock he went into the room, and found two men lying on the floor quite dead. He otherwise corroborated the evidence of Mr. Wilson, and stated that he had known firemen sleep in the room without being attacked in such a manner. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental Suffocation". See the book entitled "Coleorton Pottery 1835 - 1938" by Samuel T Stewart, for a history of the pottery referred to in this article.



Coleorton Pottery

Northampton Mercury - January 29th 1842

Death from suffocation at Coleorton, Leicestershire - On Monday night week about twelve o'clock, John Eaton a workman employed at the pot manufactory at Coleorton, went into the hot house or drying place to see in what conditions the fires were, when on opening the door, which was latched, and on entering the room, he kicked against the legs of a young man named Dakin, who, it was evident from the position in which he lay, must have fallen instantly on closing the door, and never stirred again. Eaton, then got a light, and saw the body of a lad named Massey lying a little further in the room. They were both quite

dead, one of them had his mouth full of bread and the knife used by the other in cutting his food was lying by his side. Eaton, who had been in the room, three hours previously, and did not then perceive any difference in its temperature, but he had sometimes noticed a sulphurous smell. It is supposed that after eating their supper they went into the hot house to warm themselves. The room is heated by flues, and is used for drying the newly formed pots, but no evil consequences had ever been experienced by the workmen before. Dakin was twenty five and Massey about seventeen. The verdict of the coroner's jury was - "Death from accidental suffocation".

Leicester Mercury - May 21st 1842

Joseph Thompson of Coleorton, charged Gilbert Illsley with trespassing on land in the occupation of Benjamin Walker, in the Parish of Coleorton in search of conies (*rabbits*). Fined 7s. 6d. and costs. (*An area where rabbits were bred and lived was called a conery or cunnery.*)

Leicester Mercury - July 9th 1842

County Sessions, Thursday June 30th before W. Heyrick Esq. George Morris (alias Wallis), who was charged with stealing on the 25th December last, at Coleorton, one waistcoat, a pair of stockings, a handkerchief, and other articles, the property of John Ensor. - Six months imprisonment to hard labour.

Leicester Mercury - Aug 13th 1842

Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions Aug 6th
William Smith of Coleorton charged with stealing a great coat, the property of W. Sherwin, senior, Esq., of Coleorton.

Leicester Mercury - Aug 13th 1842

Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions Aug 6th
Samuel Hester, of Leicester, inspector of "weights & measures", summoned John Wardle of Coleorton for having in his possession - beams, scales & weights, not according to the standard. The case was very bad. Wardle's scales and beams wanted 5 ounces to balance. Fined £5 and costs.

Leicester Mercury - August 27th 1842

Coleorton - On the 12th inst. A pony about 12 or 13 hands high was left at the house of Mr. Stathern, of the Old George Inn (formerly Rose and Crown), Coleorton, by a man about five feet six inches high, who had the appearance of a tailor and said he came from the neighbourhood of Birmingham.

Leicester Chronicle - Oct 22nd 1842

At The Crown Court, Leicester - Michaelmas County Sessions

William Smith, alias Lewis Potter (17), was found guilty of stealing on the 1st August last, at Coleorton, a coat, the property of William Sherwin whose house the prisoner went a - begging - the coat being missed immediately after his departure. Prisoner was subject to fits, and, as the deputy chairman pointed out to the Jury, not in a sane state of mind - A previous conviction had been proved against him, he was sentenced to six months hard labour (charged in the earlier Leicester Mercury - Aug 13th 1842 article).

Leicester Journal - January 6th 1843

William Stacey was charged with stealing a wooden bench at Coleorton, the property of Sir George Beaumont, on the 30th of August last. - Guilty, two months imprisonment in the County Gaol.

Leicester Journal - January 6th 1843

Conservative Manifestation - 1843

The celebration of the sixth anniversary of the Coleorton Loyal Operative Conservative Society was held on Tuesday Dec 22nd at The Angel Inn, Coleorton. An excellent dinner was served up on the occasion, consisting of good old English cheer, which did credit to the Host and Hostess, Mr. and Mrs. Stretton. The room was decorated with banners and festoons of laurel and evergreens, with large rosettes of blue ribbon. Mr. Thomas Hill, of Coleorton, was unanimously called to the chair, which situation he filled with great credit to himself, and satisfaction to the company. The following healths were proposed and drank with great enthusiasm:- The Queen, Prince Albert, Queen Dowager combined with the rest of the Royal family, Army and Navy, Lord Lieutenant of the County, The Right Hon Earl Howe, The Marquis of Hastings and success to fox-hunting, Our glorious constitution in Church and State, The Duke of Wellington and the House of Lords, The members of the County, The Magistrates of the County, Sir George Crewe, Bart, Sir George H. W. Beaumont, Bart, William Sherwin senior, Esq. - a friend to the poor and a staunch supporter of Conservative principles, The Rev. F. Merewether, William Sherwin, jun Esq., Colonel Keef and the Leicestershire Yeomanary. A variety of other toasts were proposed and drunk with due honours, and corresponding enthusiasm, interspersed with many a due song from the company, the toast and song being the order of the evening. The meeting was a happy one, and worthy of the glorious cause that first occasioned it. The company separated expressing their highest gratification, which was not a little enhanced by the unanimous and friendly feeling which prevailed throughout the day.

Leicester Mercury - July 20th 1844

Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions, Saturday July 13th.

Sarah Buckley of Coleorton was charged by Mary Bacon, of the same place, with an assault. The case being proved, and defendant being an old offender, she was fined £1 and costs, and in default of immediate payment, one months imprisonment.

Leicester Chronicle - September 14th 1844

Died - On the 4th inst at Coleorton, after a short illness, aged 52, Mr. Edward Butt Knight. (*Edward Butt Knight was land agent for Sir G. H. W. Beaumont, 8th Bart, from 1827 to 1844, the year in which he died. The 8th Baronet inherited the estate in 1827 and died in 1845).*)

Leicester Chronicle - January 1st 1847

Deaths - On the 25th ult., at Coleorton in his seventy third year, Mr. Thomas Gilbert - He served the office of constable, assessor and collector of taxes, an overseer of the poor, for twenty five years with fidelity and punctuality.

Leicester Journal - December 17th 1847

The following refers to 1st Lieutenant William Lockyer Merewether, who was the son of Henry Alworth Merewether, brother of the Rev. F. Merewether, of Coleorton who features in a later article from the Leicester Journal dated Friday July 29th 1864.

THE ARMY

(From the Standard of Thursday the 9th)

To give a prominent place to the following document is not merely the discharge of a debt of gratitude to the gallant young gentleman who is the subject of it, but to the service and the country generally, it is in this way newspapers can be most useful to the country. One can imagine how, in early youth, Nelson or Wellington would have been delighted to know that his daring exploits, in however narrower a range, must through the press become known to all his countrymen. Well we shall do our part to make as many Nelson's and Wellington's as we can; and we think we begin auspiciously with the hero of 22 years old, of whom the following "Order" speaks:-

(Copy)

GENERAL ORDERS

BY THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

"Head quarters, Poona, Oct. 30, 1847".

1st. Lieut. Merewether, second in command of the 1st Scinde Irregular Horse, has, with 132 men of that corps, executed a brilliant exploit. He routed and totally defeated a body of 700 freebooters, belonging to the Boogie tribe of Beloochees, on the 1st instant, who, notwithstanding quarter was repeatedly offered to them, obstinately refused the boon and provoked their own destruction.

The coolness and military science this officer exemplified in taking up his position; the promptness with which he wheeled his men into line, and the gallantry with which he instantly attacked his numerous enemy, merited the Commander in Chief's warm approbation, which he thus publicly offered to Lieut. Merewether and the men of the Scinde Horse who participated with him on this occasion.

The Scinde Horse, on every service which they have been employed, have conducted themselves in the most gallant manner, and to Captain Jacob, who commands, and has

brought them to this state of perfection, the Commander in Chief offers his deed of praise or approbation, and begs that officer will accept the high opinion his Excellency entertains of his distinguished merit.

Supplementary information - The "Scinde Irregular Horse" or Scinde Horse" was a part of the cavalry regiment of the British Indian Army which was formed in 1838 and was active in various forms until 1947. A good deal has been written about this regiment for those who wish to carry out further research.

Leicester Chronicle - September 15th 1850

Remarkable phenomenon.

On Friday morning last, as a party of workmen were employed at the Coleorton colliery, getting coal in the stall of the pit, which is one hundred and thirty yards deep, they came upon a live toad, which was enclosed in the middle of a bed of coal. He was brought out of the pit by the workmen, who prize him very much. How long he has reigned alone in his glory it is hard to say, but to use the phrase of a workman, they fancied he had been there since "Adam" was a gentleman.

Leicester Mercury - November 2nd 1850

Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions (before W. Abney / T. Mowbray, Esqr's, and the Rev. J. M. Merewether).

John Storer v John Waterfield and Capener - This was a complaint brought by John Storer, against the Stewards of a sick club held at Coleorton. Complainant became a member of the club in 1819 and had paid a shilling a month until the last three months. He had offered to pay his shilling a month, every club night, during the last three months, but they refused to receive it, and told him he was no longer a member of the club. They professed to exclude him because he got "fresh" at "Whitsuntide". He did not deny that he "might have been fresh at the time", but he had been lame, and in the house a long time, and a little drink took effect on him. Mr. Jackson, solicitor, for the defence, elicited from complainant that on Whit-Monday last he was very lame, and on that account was receiving relief from funds at the club. He walked from his house to the place where the club was held, on that day, and thence from the club to the church and back, making about 2 miles more, with exception of about 200 yards, which he rode. He dined with the members, after coming from church, and after dinner walked out with the members and with the band.

During the time they were at the house he "totted out the ale", and made himself very useful in handing it around. He stayed at the public house till around 10 o'clock at night, and then went home. In reply to Mr. Echalaz, complainant said he had a certificate from the surgeon of the club, as to his lameness, before he received relief from the funds. Mr. Jackson contended that the complainant was defrauding the club by receiving relief at the time when he could do what he admitted he did on that day. The bench considered that as he attended the church that day in accordance with the rules of the club, there was not sufficient grounds for exclusion, and they therefore reinstated him, and recommended him not to be "totter out" again when we was lame.

Leicester Mercury - January 11th 1851

Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions January 4th.

John Richards of Thringstone appeared to answer the charge of assaulting Thomas Statham, and Hannah, his wife, at Coleorton on the 26th December last. It appeared that the complainant kept a public house at Coleorton, and on the day in question there was a club party at the house, and also a dance. The defendant and others came in about 11 p.m., and the complainant stopped the tap. A confusion ensued and he had a difficulty to get rid of the company. The door was held against him, and the defendant rushed in and struck him violently, and his wife also. On the part of the defendant, it was proved that there were two rival companies fiddling and dancing, and at half-past twelve a row commenced between them, and Statham struck defendant with a stick. *Case dismissed.*

Leicester Mercury - May 17th 1851

Population of the beautiful village of Coleorton decreased from 601 in 1841 to 549 in 1851. In the same village, there are nine persons whose united ages give a total of 759 or an average of 84½ years, besides 24 persons between 70 and 80. So putting this and that together, the logical enumerator has come to the conclusion, that Coleorton is a very healthy place, and that the longevity of the inhabitants is the cause of the decrease of the population???

Leicester Chronicle - July 10th 1852

Destructive Thunderstorm

.....The greatest amount of injury however was done at Coleorton. Here the hail fell very profusely, some of the stones measuring at least two inches in circumference. Several windows of farm-houses were broken and in the gardens surrounding the Hall, the flower beds (which are always kept with great care, but which were if possible, in a better state than usual on account of the marriage of Miss Beaumont being fixed for the next day) were literally destroyed, and the walks in some places practically washed away. In the hot house, the damage was more serious still, upwards of eight hundred panes of glass being broken, and a large quantity of Peaches, Melons, &c., injured.

The Era, London - October 24th 1852

The Married v The Singles of the Coleorton Club

There is generally a stiff contest for supremacy somewhere in the course of the season between the Benedictine community and that which prefers to live in a state of single blessedness. The most remarkable of late was that with the members of the above club on Wednesday. At starting, the single men seemed favoured with a cheering prospect, for their first two wickets were not lost until three dozen runs were scored. Whether the young men were less "plucky" than usual or not we don't pretend to say, but certain it is that their timbers rapidly bowed to the levelling influence of Sir George Beaumont and his brave companion, Mr. Deane. The latter gentleman performed prodigies with the bat, and with the aid of two or three others enlisted on his side, brought up a score of one above a hundred.

So far the Benedicts had the laugh: the small second score of the singles also gave them further confidence, seeing that they had but twenty-five to get to win. The match, which appeared to be very one sided, now began to grow exceedingly interesting, for the wickets fell with unexpectedly low numbers appended to what would be the defender's name. Mr. W. Beaumont was in good bowling condition and Bennett in better. Nine wickets were lost until the necessary runs were obtained. Gough's last stroke was sufficient to affect a conquest for the father's of families just as the sun was hiding his face behind the mountain. It is hardly possible to speak of the hilarity which followed at the social board upon recounting the various incidents connected with this narrow squeak. The score affixed will supply particulars not as yet alluded to:-

THE SINGLE.			
First Innings.		Second Innings.	
W. B. Beaumont, Esq., b Deane	18	b Sir G. Beaumont	14
H. Bennett, c Marlow, b Beaumont	16	c Deane, b Beaumont	8
T. Denston, run out	1	run out	6
W. Beakin, b Deane	4	b Beaumont	1
C. Merewether	4	b Deane	9
Sours, b Beaumont	5	b Beaumont	8
R. Bennett, not out	6	run out	0
Butler, b Beaumont	3	not out	6
Hackett, b ditto	0	b Deane	1
Marlow, c Heygate, b Deane	0	c and b Beaumont	8
Higgins, b Deane	0	b Deane	4
Byes 1, 1 b 1, w 6	8	Leg byes 1, w 3	4
Total	67	Total	58
THE MARRIED.			
First Innings.		Second Innings.	
Sir G. Beaumont, b W. Beaumont	8	c T. Denston, b H. Bennett	0
Percival, c and b H. Bennett	0	b w, b Beaumont	1
G. O. Deane, Esq., b Beaumont	35	b H. Bennett	5
W. Heygate, b ditto	14	b w, b Bennett	6
Walker, c Hackett, b Beaumont	6	b Bennett	0
Gough, b Bennett	0	not out	6
W. Marlow, c Merewether, b Beaumont	12	c Merewether, b Bennett	0
Waterfield, b Bennett	0	b Bennett	0
Hatton, b Beaumont	3	b ditto	2
Oulton, b Bennett	3	c Denston, b Bennett	0
A. Denston, not out	0	not out	0
		Byes 2, 1 b 2, w 1	5
Total	101	Total	25

Leicester Journal - July 7th 1854

"Anniversary meeting of the Coleorton Association of Church Choirs, and Re-Opening of Coleorton Church on Tuesday July 4th 1854."

The following is a synopsis only of the above article -

The Coleorton Association of Church Choirs originated two years ago and had its source in the laudable desire to improve and elevate the church music which has, during the last few years, arisen in the Church of England. Its principle founder, we believe, was the Reverend H. Bennett, of Whitwick. It has since been taken under the patronage of the neighbouring clergy and gentry, who have rightly judged that one way at least of improving the influence

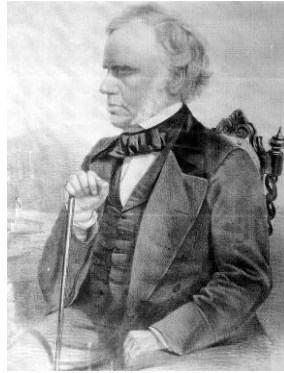
they possess to the good of those around them was to diffuse and cultivate a taste for genuine church music, especially among the poorer classes of the population. Such effects are beneficial alike to the cause of religion and amelioration. For that the choral services of our churches, generally speaking, up to a very recent date were anything but excellent, and calculated to excite no feeling less than devotion, we presume no argument is required to prove; and that the cultivation of good music, both sacred and secular, is among the most efficient means to civilise and humanise the masses of our population, is now universally admitted. We regard it therefore as highly fitting, that the clergy, whose office obliges them to seek both the honour of religion and the welfare of their fellow men, should take the lead in movements of this kind. The success which has attended the efforts made in the vicinity of Coleorton is most remarkable. At present, we believe the association includes seven choirs - namely those of Coleorton, Whitwick, Normanton, Swepstone, Ibstock, Long Whatton and St. George's, Swannington. The choirs are composed almost exclusively of working classes in the strictest sense of the term, and whether we consider the materials of which they have been formed, or the difficulties in a district like that under consideration exist in the way of practice and improvement, we must regard the progress made as wonderful, and that it must be highly satisfactory to the benevolent individuals who have done so much to promote it, we can have no doubt.

The first anniversary meeting was held last year in Whitwick. This year the anniversary was most appropriately conjoined with the re-opening of Coleorton Church, which has lately been restored, partly in the decorated and partly in the perpendicular style, under the directions of Mr. H. Stevens of Derby, principally we understand, at the expense of Sir Geo Beaumont. We have not been able to learn the precise cost, but it will probably very considerably exceed £1,000. The edifice is now one of which the Parish may well be proud. It is fitted with open seats instead of pews, and every arrangement which could secure the becoming conduct of divine worship and the comfort of the worshippers, appears to have been made. A very neat organ (a Double C), built by Mr. H. Bryceson, of Tottenham-Court-Road, London has been placed in the chancel, also, we understand, at Sir George Beaumont's expense.

The morning service commenced at half-past eleven. The church was crowded with a numerous and highly respected assemblage. We were pleased to observe, however, that the poor were not excluded, either by their own indifference to the service, or by the want of room for their accommodation, but attended in considerable numbers, and manifested great interest. The associated choirs numbered seventy persons, chiefly of course, young men and boys. The organ was not opened during divine service, as we understood, from the apprehension that singers not being accustomed to it would be more hindered than helped by its accompaniment. With due deference, however, to the gentlemen by whom the arrangements were made, we cannot avoid expressing a belief that its use would have been very advantageous, inasmuch as it would have prevented a want of confidence which was very perceptible, in some portions of the service especially. If we might adventure a remark or two, by way of criticism, it would be on the character of some one or two of the selections, which appeared to us rather too difficult, especially in the absence of an instrument. However, the whole went off exceedingly well, we were particularly struck with the correct and distinct enunciation of the words, which, were not of easy attainment, particularly in a rural district.

During the morning service the prayers were read by the Rev. F. Merewether; the first lesson by the Rev. T. Helmore; the second lesson by the Rev. H. Bennett; the communion service by the Rev. Dr. Wordsworth, Canon of Westminster, assisted by the Rev. - Jordan; Mr. Merewether read the offertory; the sermon was preached by the Rev. Canon Wordsworth (a close relative of William Wordsworth the Poet).

At the conclusion of the service, Mr. Edward Mammatt of Ashby de la Zouch, played some voluntaries with great effect.



Supplementary information - *Edward Mammatt was the son of Edward and Eliza Mammatt of Ashby and he was blind from childhood. He played the organ at St.Helen's Church, Ashby from the age of 13 and wrote organ and choral music which is still available today. He lived in Rawdon Terrace, Ashby.*

After the service a large proportion of the congregation now retired to a spacious and commodious marquee erected in the grounds attached to the Hall, where an excellent luncheon was awaiting them. Through the kindness of Sir George Beaumont, the whole of the choristers sat down with the company, and appeared to enjoy themselves very highly, the juveniles especially. The number present at the table, including the choirs, was about two hundred.

At the conclusion of the luncheon, Sir G. H. Beaumont rose to give the first toast of the day. A number of toasts and speeches followed (*far too numerous to list*). The President gave "the preacher of the day - Dr. Wordsworth", which was received with much applause.

The Rev. G. R. Portal, of London, gave "the ladies" which was coupled with the name of Lady Beaumont. The Rev speaker pointed out in the course of an eloquent speech, **the important services which females can render to the ministers of religion.**

The company left the tent to spend an hour wandering over the beautiful grounds of the mansion. At half-past five the bells were chiming for evening service and at six o'clock the church was again filled with a very numerous congregation.

The collection at the offertory in the morning and in the evening at the door amounted to £46 19s 10d. The services were concluded by a quarter before eight o'clock.

Amongst the numerous clergy, ladies and gentlemen present and recorded at the services and dining were E. Fisher Esq., E. Fisher Junior Esq., and **Mr and Mrs. Sherwin** of Coleorton. (*This would have been William Sherwin junior and his wife. He formed a solicitor's partnership with the aforementioned Edward Fisher senior.*)

Leicester Chronicle - Feb 24th 1855

"The Old Engine Inn, Coleorton" (see "A history of Coleorton and the Locality" by Samuel T Stewart for information on this Inn)

Superintendent Lockington said the house was fully licensed. The population of Coleorton was 783 - one license to every 156 persons - and, in witness's opinion, not only was the license not required, but the house was structurally unsuitable. No opposition was offered in this case, and the magistrates refused the license. Clearly the Inn was re-opened at some future time as we know it had a landlord in 1901.

Leicester Chronicle - February 9th 1856



Coleorton Fishpond and bridge

Coleorton - As a number of boys were last Saturday amusing themselves upon the ice, upon a pond belonging to Sir G. H. Beaumont, a lad about twelve years old broke in, where the water was more than six feet deep; He supported himself by holding on about three quarters of an hour, his brother having thrown him a rope. The poor fellow cried out most piteously, but the bystanders on the bank, durst not venture to approach him. A loud cry of distress was raised by the spectators, which was fortunately heard by a man residing in the village, named James Walker, who was going to the Ashby Market, and was half a mile off, who immediately ran towards the spot, and on reaching it, he seized a rope, and without hesitation went towards the boy; but although he had the precaution to crawl upon the ice, it broke when he was within three or four yards, and the poor little fellow had lost his hold, and gone down twice. His gallant deliverer swam towards him, and seized him as he held up his bleeding hands, which were lacerated by the ice, and succeeded in conveying him towards the land, where he was loudly cheered. The boy was in a state of unconsciousness, and Walker gently laid him upon the ground, and inflated his lungs with air, by blowing down his throat. The poor little sufferer was immediately conveyed to the house of his father. Mr. John Davenport, relieving officer of the district, and Mr. Orton, surgeon, being speedily in attendance, animation was quickly restored. It is hoped that the noble self devotion of Mr. Walker, who saved the child's life at the imminent risk of his own, will be both rewarded and remembered. He is a travelling hawker, of good character, and has a young wife and family dependant on his exertions.

Leicester Chronicle - August 2nd 1856

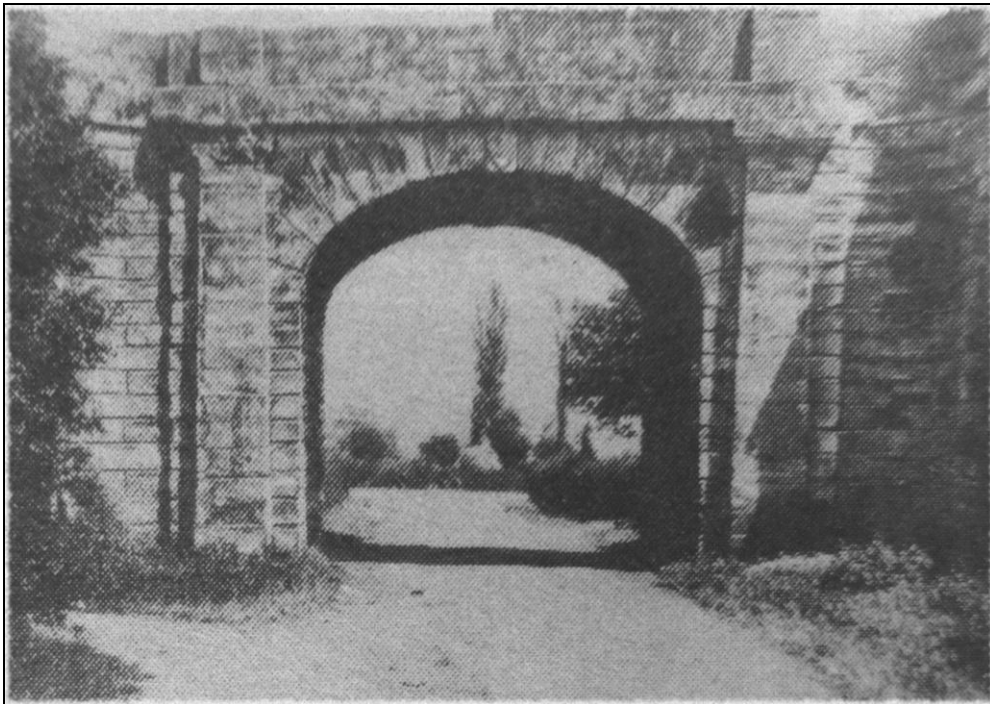
Extraordinary cure

A man named Thomas Watson, residing at Coleorton, who was long acutely suffering from that painful disease chronic rheumatism, was a short time since, conveyed in a cart upon a bed, to the saline baths at Ashby, the water of which is so justly celebrated as an effacious remedy. The result was almost miraculous; for after he had bathed four times, the patient was able to walk back to Coleorton, about three miles distant, and on Saturday last, he actually carried his two crutches through the Market Street at Ashby, on his shoulder. As a grateful and convincing proof of the benefit he has so unexpectedly received.....

Leicester Chronicle - June 21st 1856

Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions June 14th before Rev. J. M. Echalaz and J. S. Crosland Esq.

John Richards was charged with assaulting Stephen Willis at Coleorton. Plaintiff was driving away some cows that were trespassing on the railway, of which he is the authorised overlooker, when the defendant came up and struck him several times, stuck his nails into the complainant's face, and held him, kicking him at the same time. - Convicted and fined 2s 6d, and 13s expenses or 14 days imprisonment.



Coleorton Railway Bridge on Aqueduct Lane

St. John's Chapel



On June 24th 1856, the commisioners authorised Coleorton Parish to procure a new burial ground and to make a rate for the amount of purchase money. At a vestry meeting on May 9th 1856, it was announced that Sir George Beaumont was willing to sell for the sum of £17 7s., a piece of close of land called Coal Pit Close containing 13 acres 1rood and 31 perches which was given as equivalent to 1,200 square yards (see later map). It was agreed that the said purchase money be defrayed by a church rate or church rates to be levied in the parish. Also, the estimated cost of enclosure of the new ground was estimated at £120 7s., plus a sum of £45 estimated for concecration fees and land expenses. This also to be defrayed by a further increase in church rates. It was agreed that the church wardens be empowered to apply to Her Majesties Commisioners for building new churches, for their assistance in carrying the above mentioned objects into affect. It was further resolved that the sum of £600 be borrowed for the new burial ground and the expenses incidental thereunto, on the security of the bond to be executed by the following censure. And occupiers, and such others as may be disposed to join in it as follows - Benjamin Walker, Robert Bonnet, William Wardle, Joseph Right Faux, John Ayre, William Walker and Peter Heward. A highway rate of 5d in the pound was granted to the surveyors. Also a church rate of 3d in the pound for the current expenses of the year.

At a meeting on July 24th 1856. - Present at that meeting were the Rev, F, Merewether (in the chair), Mr. Richard Wardle (overseer), John Ayre (surveyor), Peter Heward, Benjamin

Walker (guardian) and William Walker (churchwarden). It was decided to put out for tender in the Leicester Journal, Leicester Advertiser, Nottingham Review, and Derby Mercury for the building of a chapel and cemetery wall. At the same meeting it was decided that a 10d church rate be applied for the expenses expressed in the aforementioned resolutions. Please note the following advertisement in the Leicester Journal.

Leicester Journal - August 8th 1856 (Advertisement)

COLEORTON CEMETERY TO CONTRACTORS

Persons desirous of contracting for the erection of a cemetery chapel and wall at Coleorton are desired to forward estimates to Mr. Peter Heward of Coleorton, on or before Wednesday, 13th August next, where plans and specifications may be seen.

The stone, sand and wood for roof, will be found gratis, but no part of the labour or carriage of any of the materials.

The cemetery committee do not pledge themselves to accept the lowest or any tender.

A meeting was convened on August 15th 1856. In addition to the previous meeting Mr. J. Hatchett and Mr. E Fisher (solicitor), and Mr R. Bonnet (surveyor) attended. It was agreed that Mr. John Elliot's tender for the cemetery wall, Bell and Row work for doors amounting to £282-5s.- 0d should be accepted. Also Mr. Rowland Walker's tender for the woodwork amounting to £28-10s.-0d., be also accepted. Also that the sum of £300 be borrowed upon a bond of the principal tatepayers, to be repaid by annual instalments of £50 per autumn per annum, and that Mr. Edward Fisher (Solicitor), be requested to procure the same upon the above terms

Supplementary information - The following was recorded by the Rev. F. Merewether, Rector of the Parish of Coleorton:-

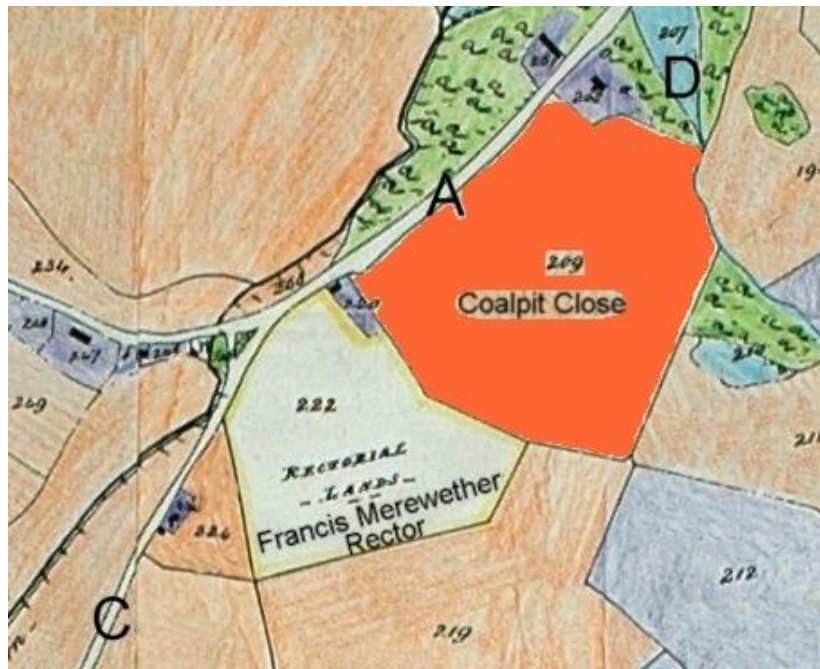
The corner stone of the chapel was laid with attendant ceremonies by Sir George Beaumont, Bart, owner of the Parish and patron of the church on Tuesday October 21st 1856 in the twentieth year of our gracious Queen Victoria. The inscription "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord" was deposited with two silver florins dated 1856 in a glass bottle under the corner stone.

Leicester Journal - September 4th 1857

CONSECRATION OF NEW CEMETERY AT COLEORTON

On Thursday last, the 27th (Aug) ult., this cemetery was consecrated by the Lord Bishop of the Diocese. At three o'clock the churchwarden and others met the bishop and clergy at the Parish Church, where the evening service was read by the Rev. F. Merewether, the rector,

assisted by the Rev. Mr. Alderson, and others. After the petition for consecration being presented to the bishop, and a suitable hymn had been sung, the clergy and parishioners proceeded to the cemetery, which lies on the south side, adjoining to the turnpike-road leading from Ashby de la Zouch to Loughborough, and within a field adjoining the rectory (bear in mind that Coleorton Viscount Beaumont's Church of England School had not been built at that time), where they met the bishop and immediately proceeded round the ground, the appointed Psalms being recited. At the chapel, the consecration service was read by the bishop in a most impressive manner. The sentence of consecration was then read by the chancellor, and by him ordered to be enrolled and preserved among the manuscripts of the registry. The communion service and epistles were then read, after which the 90th Psalm was sung by the Coleorton Church Choir, and the bishop pronounced the Benediction, which ended the ceremony. The chapel is of the "Decorated" period, and is very neatly and substantially built; all the windows and dressings are of freestone, as are also the faces of the internal walls, and the other parts are of granite. The ground is enclosed with a very strong stone wall. The ground, stone, and timber were the gift of Sir G. H. Beaumont, Bart. The builders, to whom much credit is due, are Mr. Elliot, of Ashby, and Mr. Walker, formerly of Coleorton; the former doing the masonry, and the latter the woodwork. The drawings were furnished by Sir G. H. Beaumont and Mr. Heward. The day was all that could be wished, and the arrangements were admirably managed by the churchwardens, Messrs. W. Walker and J. Beckworth. Among the company present were, the Revs. F. Merewether, O. Davys, - Alderson, M. Vavasour, J. Denton, H. Wood, - Gardner; Sir G. H. and Lady Beaumont, Joseph Benson, Esq., Miss Merewether, Mrs. Merewether, the Misses Way, Mrs. Wood (Whitwick), Mr. Ayre, Mr. Faux, Mrs. and Mr. Bonnet, Mrs. and Mr. Heward, Mr. Elliot, Mr. Davenport, &c.



1842 Tithe Map

A = Ashby Rd, C = To Farm Town, D = Fishpond

Leicester Chronicle - March 28th 1857

Ashby de la Zouch petty Sessions March 21st

John Bradford, Collier, of Coleorton, was charged with stealing wood, value 6d, the property of "The Pegg's Green Colliery Company". The accused was bringing away four pieces of wood, at near midnight, on the 12th inst., and was seen by P.C. Earp who stopped him and enquired where it had come from; the prisoner replied that the master allowed the men to take wood away occasionally. The officer then charged him with stealing it, took him into custody, and removed him to the lock-up at Ashby. Bail was given for his appearance, and when brought before the bench on the 21st, he stated that he was not aware of doing anything wrong in taking the wood away. - Mr. Kidger, the overlooker at the pit, deposed that such a taking away of property belonging to the colliery company was not allowed. **Convicted and sentenced to fourteen days imprisonment with hard labour.**

The Leicestershire Mercury - Saturday, July 11th 1857

Coleorton Fatal Accident - On Monday last, Mr. Gregory, Coroner, held an inquest at Coleorton on the body of John Toone deceased, a boy ten years old, and the only son of Mr. John Toone, butcher of Swannington. Jesse Beckise, Hawker, deposed - on Friday afternoon I was assisting Mr. Thomas Hatchett in carrying hay and was in his stack yard about 3 o'clock. Three horses were put to the wagon in the adjoining fold yard. To fetch another from the field, deceased was standing by at that time, and his uncle William Toone, a miner, was to go with the horses. After the horses were tackled to, the deceased took hold of the halter of the leading horse. When they got about fifty yards down the field, I heard a noise as if the horses were running away, and on looking saw deceased on the ground under the wagon, and William Toone having hold of the shaft horse, which he was trying to stop. A gear of the middle horse had become unhooked on the one side, and the horse was trotting and prancing in and out. I saw the off hind wheel go over the deceased somewhere about the top of his shoulder. I ran to him, picked him up, and found him bleeding very bad from both ears and mouth. He appeared to have been killed instantaneously. A man named Francis Dolman who was in the wagon, told me that deceased kept clicking from his mouth to the horse he was leading, although William Toone told him to leave then alone, as they were going fast enough. The horses then started on a trot, and the accident happened, the fore horse having thrown deceased down. - William Toone corroborated this evidence, and further said that the deceased, though a small boy of his age, was a very bold and daring lad. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death.

Leicester Journal - October 9th 1857

Prince Albert's Own. - Captain Sir George Howland Beaumont's troop of the Leicestershire Yeomanry Cavalry, assembled at Coleorton Hall on Monday, and after drill, sat down, to the number of nearly seventy, to a most sumptuous dinner, after which a very pleasant evening was spent.

Leicester Chronicle - February 27th 1858

Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions Saturday February 20th (before W. W. Abney and George Moore, Esq's.

William Bird, collier of Coleorton, was charged by Rosa Burrows, of Coalville, aged 18, with being the father of her illegitimate son, born on the 20th November. Much excitement was caused by this case, in consequence of the punative father of this child being the complainant's uncle, and upwards of 20 years her senior. She had been an inmate of his family and had been seduced by him when about 15 years old. The females were all ordered to leave the court, and the magistrates after a long consultation, decided that the defendant should pay 2s. a week from the date of order, towards the maintenance of the child, the highest amount for one in his station of life.

Leicester Journal - July 30th 1858

Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions July 24th

Joseph Else, Green-Grocer, residing at Coleorton, was summoned by Mr. John Platts, inspector of weights and measures for the division of Ashby de la Zouch, for having light weights in his shop.- Defendant was convicted and fined 20s, including costs, in default 14 days imprisonment.

William Fairbrother, flour seller of Lount, was charged by Mr. Platts with having an unjust beam and scales in his possession. - Defendant was convicted and fined 30s. including costs, in default 14 days imprisonment.

Leicester Mercury - January 29th 1859

Coleorton - On Monday evening, January 17th, Mr. Tugby, "Spar Manufacturer", Coleorton, gave his usual treat to his workmen of a good supper.

Supplementary Information - In the book entitled "A History of Coleorton and the Locality" by Samuel T Stewart, there is a large section dedicated to Spar (or bauble) Manufacturing, in which John Tugby is mentioned. In 1851, John Tugby, 59, and born in Coleorton, was employing five men in his Spar manufacturing business at Peggs Green. His business was adjacent to the "New Inn" where he was recorded as landlord in 1843 and 1846.



A bauble made in Coleorton

The Nottinghamshire Guardian - January 5th 1860

Ashby de la Zouch - Fatal Accident

On Monday last, three youths aged about eighteen years each, left their homes at Whitwick and went to Ashby, where they got into company, and had some drink. They managed to purchase a gun for 7s. 6d. and a pint of ale, and after buying powder, shot, and percussion caps, proceeded homewards. The gun was loaded at Coleorton, a distance of three miles from Ashby, when a dispute arose as to who should fire the first shot. It was then about half past six o'clock. A scuffle ensued, in which the gun was accidentally discharged, and, sad to relate, the head of one of the youths, named Harrison, being literally blown off. A portion of the skull was found at a distance of twenty yards. The body was removed to the Coleorton Cemetery, to await the coroner's inquest, and the two other youths were taken into custody. The young men were all colliers.

Leicester Advertiser - February 18th 1860

County Public Office. - Leaving the Yeomanry.

William Walker of Coleorton, was charged with having left the yeomanry without sending in a formal resignation, whereby he had rendered himself liable to a fine of £10. Captain Jackson appeared in support of the charge.

Leicester Mercury - July 14th 1860

William White (alias Cookie) and William Jeays (alias Touch), both of Whitwick charged with being found at night with several other persons in a field in the Parish of Coleorton, armed with sticks and stones, for the purpose of taking game, on the night of June 29th. Mr. Smith prosecuted and called Edward Radford, who stated that he was a gamekeeper in the employ of Sir George Beaumont, Bart. On the night of Friday, the 29th ult, about half past 11 o'clock, he was on duty in the Parish of Coleorton, in company with Orchard, Pearson and Cooper, who were assistant gamekeepers. They were by the side of the coppice. Pearson was standing and the rest were sitting. A dog ran something past, and from what Pearson said, he got up and stood by him, and heard the cattle in an adjoining field galloping about alarmed. He directed his men to follow him down the field, and when he got to the hedge, he looked over the fence, and saw three men run away from some nets which were set by the side of the hedge. I got over the fence, and then saw two other men running. They ran across the field and joined a larger body of men. The land on which the nets and men were was in the occupation of Mr. James and Mr. Joseph Sharp, both tenants of Sir George. When he got nearer to the body of men, he saw from ten to twelve of them. Got within about fifteen yards, when I turned to Orchard and asked him if all his men were up. He then heard one of the poachers call out, "go into them lads", and immediately large stones were thrown in volleys at them. I was struck on the breast with a stone which made me stagger backwards two or three yards. I recovered myself and ran amongst them, when they beat me very much about the shoulders and arms. They then knocked my hat off, and beat me on the head with stones in their hands. I was completely covered in blood, and stunned, after I came to myself I found they were gone. I saw White fighting with Pearson. White had got two sticks in his hands. Pearson knocked him into the ditch, and as he was getting out I got hold of him, and after a very severe struggle he gave up. He had six cuts on his head

besides sundry bruising on his body; he had his dog with him muzzled. The dog was found at daybreak with its throat cut and dying. I saw Jeay's in custody of Orchard after the affray was over. I had to be assisted home. When we got home I took a net from White, about eighty yards in length, and also a quantity of pegs. I have been confined to my house since. There was a quantity of rabbits where they were. The stones were large boulders and brick ends. - the assistant keepers, Orchard, Pearson, and Cooper were called and corroborated. - P. C. Moore produced a quantity of large bludgeons and stones that he found upon the ground the next morning, 360 yards of netting was also taken. - After the usual caution, prisoners were committed to take their trial at the next assizes at Leicester.

Leicester Chronicle - October 13th 1860

Caution to those who don't masticate their food.

A few evenings ago a remarkable circumstance occurred at Mr. John Waterfield's, Beaumont Arms, Coleorton, upon the event of the last cricket match being played upon the ground (a new pitch was established in the paddock). After the game, the players and friends retired to take dinner, at which one of the company, who, from his manner of mastication, evidently belonged to the "duck" species, as he never appeared to chew his cud, but swallowed it wholesale. He got a "bolus" (mouthful ??) that was master of him; but he attempted to gorge it in his usual style, when it stuck in his throat, and for some time his case began to seem hopeless - till one of his pals, as a last resource, struck him on the throat with what he termed his "auctioneer" and set the bolus at liberty. He then thrust his hand into his mouth and took it out, to the great delight of all present, who had begun to think his case deplorable. It would be well if for the future, as he is without teeth, to apply to some respectable dentist, and be furnished with a set before he again ventures to get through another supper.

The Dublin Builder - January 15th 1861

Excavating Tunnels - Mr. Gilbert, Coleorton, has invented an apparatus to excavate sewers, tunnels &c., and at the same time to allow the building of the required number of rings of brickwork without the aid of timber to prevent the surface above from collapsing.....

Leicester Chronicle - February 23rd 1861

Death - On the 9th inst, suddenly at his residence, Hall Farm, Coleorton, Mr. Benjamin Walker, coal owner, aged 75. Much respected.

Leicester Journal - January 17th 1862.

A glance at Coleorton in winter



St. Mary's Church, Coleorton

The rural villages of England generally look cheerless at this season of the year, but Coleorton is generally an exception. In addition to the taste readable here of the painter and the poet of yore, the passer by is pleased with the thought that the present baronet is not regardless of the improvement of his estate, and that the ladies connected with the hall and church show a taste not inferior it is presumed, in a decorative point of view, to those illustrious persons whose praised ears have of course been so long since deaf. The church here is at all times pretty, but at Christmas time it has of late been particularly so owing to the admirable taste shown in the distribution of the evergreens and holly berries usually seen more or less in English churches at this time of year, the taste now shown is certainly first class, and especially the letters "glory be to God in the highest", which are composed of variegated holly leaves and fixed on a white ground. The reading desk looks particularly pretty, and reflects credit on Mr. Henderson (*see the later article on Montgomery Henderson - highly esteemed gardener at Coleorton hall*).

Coventry Herald, - August 8th 1862

The Coleorton Burglary.

Joseph Stockley and James Mathews pleaded guilty to the charge of burglary at the house of the Rev. Francis Merewether of Coleorton, on the night of the 7th of May, and stealing a £10 note, a large quantity of gold and silver, a gold guard, a ring and other articles. Stockley also pleaded guilty, as did Thomas Foxhall, to a charge of the like offence at the house of the Rev. George Belcher at Heather, on the night of the 13th of May. Stockley was sentenced to seven years penal servitude, and Mathews and Foxhall, who had both been previously convicted, to ten years penal servitude each.

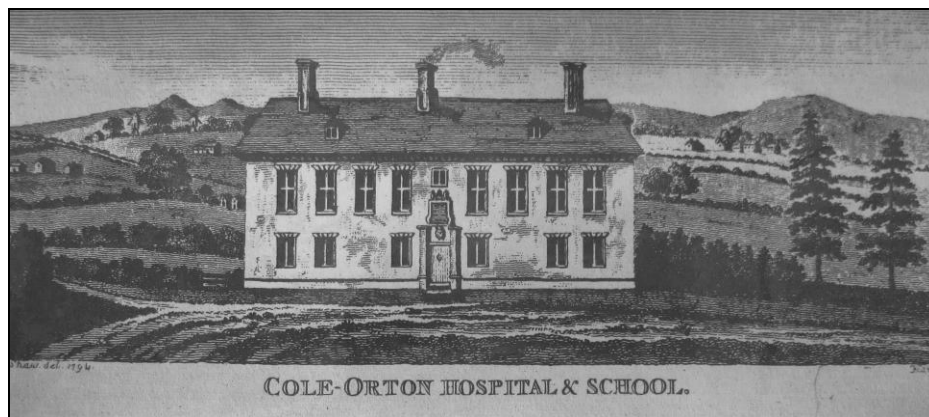
Leicester Chronicle - December 20th 1862.

Ashby de la Zouch County Court, Thursday December 11th.

Wm. Stacey v James Walker - This was an assault case. It appears that a number of collier lads are in a habit of going to different chapel doors in Coleorton on Sunday evenings, during the service, shouting and using the most obscene language, to the great annoyance of the congregations. On the 25th of October last, there was a disturbance of the same kind going forward in front of the Methodist chapel; Walker, who held some office in the chapel, went out to endeavour to make them go away or get their names, as the authorities were determined to put a stop to the nuisance, and if not peaceable to give them into custody. When Walker went out to remonstrate, the lad Lacey pulled off his cap and wanted to fight. Walker took hold of him by the collar, intending to take him to the constable, and in the scuffle his coat was torn, and for the damage done to his coat he now sued. His honour remarked that such proceedings in front of any place of worship or meeting house was illegal, and the parties were liable to be severely punished; Walker used no more violence than was necessary, and the coat was torn by the lads endeavour to get away. The action was no credit to his father, who, if he did not take his son to a place of worship should keep him at home and not allow him to be about the streets to the great annoyance of other people - Non suited

Derby Mercury - January 21st 1863

Coleorton School - At the annual distribution of prizes at this school, the children thought the indefatigable exertions of Miss Merewether, gave a great treat in the exhibition of a large and fine Christmas tree, on which were hung nearly 150 prizes, and which was lit by nearly as many wax tapers. The prizes were afterwards distributed to the scholars by Miss Merewether. They consisted of books, work boxes, dress and pinafore pieces, knives, comforters, and also every other useful or ornamental toy that could be thought of. It is needless to say that all were highly delighted, and gave three hearty cheers for Miss Merewether. (Below is an engraving of the school referred to which is described in detail in the book entitled "A history of Coleorton and the Locality" by Samuel T Stewart).

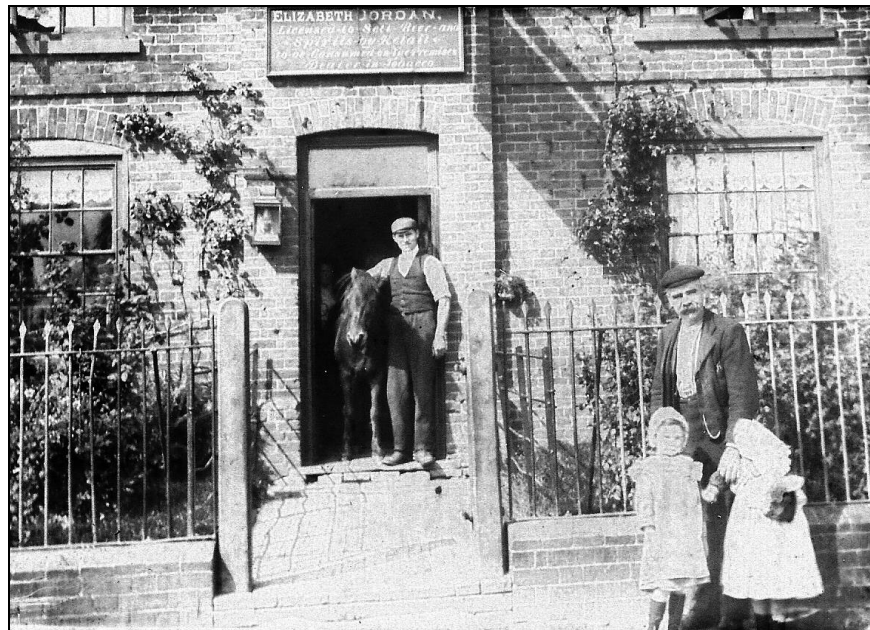


The original Hospital & School built in 1707 (engraving dated 1796)

Leicester Journal - February 6th 1863

Ashby Petty Sessions

Luke White charged Charles Gresley with assaulting him at Coleorton on the 17th inst. It appears that the plaintiff with defendants and others, all being colliers and working together, went to the "George Inn" to divide their money. Complainant asked the landlady for a piece of bread and cheese, which he had no sooner received than defendant attempted to take it away. A scuffle ensued, in which the complainant lost the greater part of his bread and cheese. He said he should fetch a policeman, and defendant then gave him a thrashing. - Fine £1 including costs, or seven days imprisonment.



The George Inn (formerly "Rose & Crown")

**Celebrations for the marriage of
the Prince of Wales - March 10th 1863**

The parishioners here were provident enough to make such arrangements as would ensure them against failure, and the result was, that the day was a perfect success in every respect. At a vestry meeting called about ten days before, it was resolved that the 10th of March should be kept appropriately, and a sum of £40 was collected in the parish and neighbourhood for that purpose. The following gentlemen were appointed as a committee to carry out the festivities:- Sir G. H. Beaumont, Bart, and Mr. Beckworth (Church wardens), Messrs. J. Bonnet, Heward, Lewis, W. Walker, and R. Wardle and we may state that to the unceasing labours of these gentlemen the success of the day's proceedings is mainly attributable. The day was ushered in by 8 degrees of frost, a dense fog, and a N.E. wind - a sufficient combination to have damped the ardour of most people, but not that of the loyal inhabitants of Coleorton. The warm hearts of those assembled, united to the power of old Sol, soon made an impression on the fog, and after one o'clock the day was fine and bright. At 7. a.m., the church bells rang out a merry peel, and at half-past ten the office of morning prayer was said in the Church, the choir singing the Canticles and Keble's beautiful Wedding Hymn. At noon the hall battery of eight guns fired a royal salute at intervals of one minute between each gun. About the same hour the main parishioners, with the men working on the Coleorton estate, walked in procession from the Beaumont Arms Inn, preceded by the school-children, the parish band and the members of the committee, past the rectory and school (*this would have been the old hospital and school*), and so by the paddock to the dinner tent, which was erected near the cricket-ground. Here Messrs. Waterford, Birkin and Shaw were ready for them, and upwards of 200 men sat down to a substantial dinner of roast beef and plum pudding, with a quart of ale to each man. At the conclusion of the repast, Sir G. Beaumont proposed "The Queen", and "Long Life and Happiness to the Prince and Princess of Wales", both of which toasts were responded to with three times three. Mr. R. Bonnet then gave "Sir George and Lady Beaumont", and Mr. Faux, "Mr. Beaumont", adding that, curiously enough, today happened to be his birthday. These toasts were enthusiastically received, and were replied to by Sir G. Beaumont. The men then left the table and were succeeded by about 400 women and children, who sat down to tea, bread and butter, and plum cake, the ladies of the parish most kindly undertaking the management of this division. Meanwhile the band was not idle, but enlivened the proceedings with lively music. The company then amused themselves with various games &c., till the setting sun warned them to depart. After this, at 6. p.m., the members of the committee, with the principal farmers and their friends, sat down to an excellent dinner at the Beaumont Arms Inn, provided by host Waterfield. Sir George Beaumont presided, and amongst the company present we noticed the Rev. F. Merewether, Messrs. J. Ayre, Faux, Bennett, J. Radford, J. Knight, J. Walker, F. Walker, Sharpe, Heward, J. Bonnett, Lewis, R. Wardle, Beckwith, W. Walker, &c., &c. Mr. R. Bonnett occupied the vice-chair. The company then separated, and proceeded to the Harborough Hill, one of the most commanding elevations in the county, where a large bonfire was lighted at about 9 p.m., and a display of fireworks was provided.

The bonfire was surmounted by nine tar barrels, and on the ascent of the first rocket, the battery again fired a royal salute from the opposite hill. This terminated the days proceedings, and all separated after cheers for the Queen, the Prince and the committee. It was a day which no inhabitant of Coleorton will forget, and we may add that the arrangements were perfect, and everything passed off without the slightest contretemps.

Derby Mercury - October 14th 1863

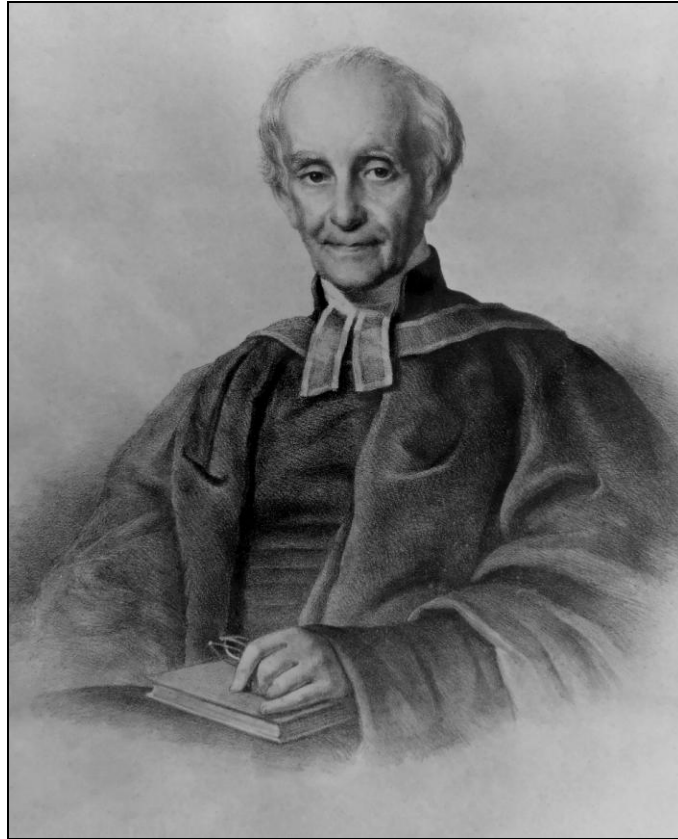
Earthquake - About half past 3 o'clock, on Tuesday morning, many persons were awoken by the beds being shaken in a violent manner, and doors, windows, &c., chattering. It lasted but a short time.

Leicester Mercury - March 19th 1864

Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions March 12th.

Inspector Ward charged J. Waterfield of the Beaumont Arms, Coleorton with allowing gambling in his house, to wit, domino playing. P.C. Smith proved the case.

The Rev. Francis Merewether.



THE REV. FRANCIS MEREWETHER
RECTOR OF COLEORTON & VICAR OF WHITWICK
b. 1784 - d. July 21st 1864

The Leicester Journal - Friday July 29th 1864

Obituary -

It is our painful duty to record the death of one of the oldest and most respected incumbents in this county, The Rev. Francis Merewether, rector of Coleorton and vicar of Whitwick. Mr. Merewether was educated, first at Reading under Dr. Valpy, then under Dr. Heath at Eton. He graduated at Christ Church, Oxford, but residing near Cambridge, he became an M.A. of St. John's College in that University. He enjoyed the intimacy of many celebrated men, amongst whom was William Wordsworth, and the poet's distinguished friend Sir George Beaumont, 7th Bart, of Coleorton Hall, by whom he was presented to the rectory of that parish in the year 1816. In 1818 the Crown appointed him vicar of the adjoining parish of Whitwick. Mr. Merewether was in his 81st year, and had held his preferments for nearly fifty years. The period in which he entered upon his incumbencies was marked by a revival of interest in all that concerned the church of this nation. The building of churches, the foundation of schools for the poor, and the erection of parsonages, were beginning to be taken in hand. The parish of Whitwick, too, was one in which the discovery and workings

of coal mines began about this time to bring about a large increase of population. It was fortunate that at such a time, in such a neighbourhood, a person like Mr. Merewether should have been called upon to minister. He had only a few years before establishing the first National school in Suffolk, in a parish of which he was then vicar, and it was not long before he set himself vigorously to similar works in his new sphere of labour. With the assistance of the then Sir George and Lady Beaumont, always his kind friends and hearty supporters, he first provided schools and then a church and parsonage at St. George's, Thringstone, separated, as a district, from Whitwick, and subsequently in another district of the same parish - Coalville - he erected a school, church, and parsonage. At Whitwick itself, National and Infant Schools were established, and of late these having been found inadequate to the wants of the parish, new schools have been built a second time, this second building having been in great measure due to the zealous exertions of The Rev. H. Wood, Mr. Merewether's curate.. The parish church of Whitwick which, when Mr. Merewether became incumbent, was in a state then too common throughout our land and has been in the course of his time completely restored, and the enlargement of the Parish Church worthy of it's beautiful site. St. Andrew's day, 1862 witnessed the completion of another work under the auspices of the aged vicar. Our readers may remember the account of the consecration of St. Andrew's, Thringstone, in an outlying part of Whitwick, where for some time service had been regularly carried on by one of Mr. Merewether's curates in a school room licensed for that purpose. The simple and ecclesiastical building known as St. Andrew's Church, Thringstone, remains as a fitting memorial of the venerable vicar of Whitwick, and he was to be the last engaged in putting the finishing stroke to his work there, by raising a fund for a parsonage to be erected upon a most beautiful site already secured for that purpose. The present admirable arrangement of the interior of Cole Orton Church is another good work in which he zealously co-operated with his valued and attached friend, the present Sir George Beaumont, and they who have attended any of the interesting church meetings held in that church, are sensible how well our church ritual is there represented in its genuine beauty and simplicity. These works more especially concerned his own parish, where he faithfully and zealously discharged the sacred duties of a clergyman in a manner appreciated by all among whom he ministered. During the whole period of his incumbency, there has been no interruption to his labours, and on the Sunday previous to his death he preached in aid of the Leicester Infirmary with his usual vigorous warmth and affectionate earnestness, on the text, "Heal the Sick", a sermon which will long remain in the memory of all who heard it. In the diocese and neighbourhood his activity in all that concerned religion was conspicuous. He is well known as the author of letters and pamphlets on various church questions of the day. Our church societies ever found him a hearty and effective supporter. The Leicester anniversary meeting of the Christian Knowledge and the Gospel Propagation Societies was originated by him. If a district committee were to be established or maintained, he was ever foremost to lend his aid. It may here be mentioned in proof of his active interest in the welfare of the county, and of the readiness with which he threw himself into any measures for its good, that he was one of the founders of the first Leicestershire Agricultural Society, which was followed by a number of similar institutions throughout the land. And he was especially earnest in furthering that intercourse among Churchmen, lay and clerical, which tends so much to strengthen our church by promoting good will and good understanding among its members. For such a task, he was indeed, eminently fitted. Firm in purpose, decided in opinion, resolute in acting up to his view of duty, he was of so genial and

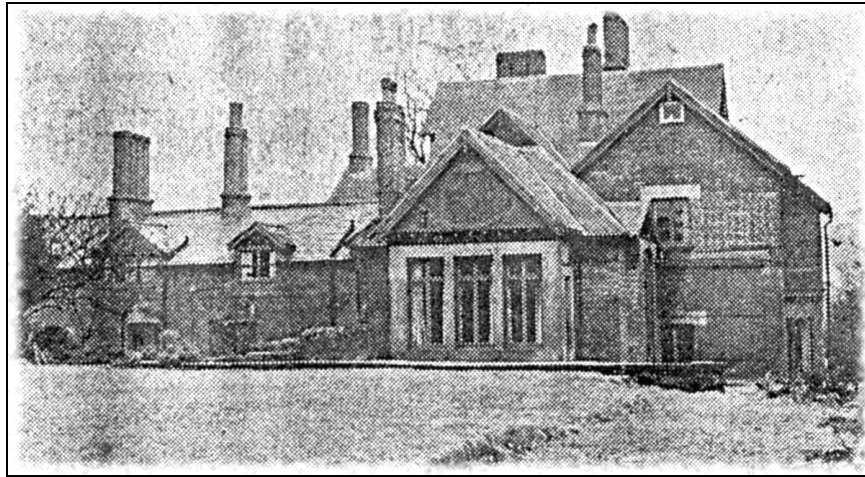
kindly a disposition, that to know him was to love and revere him. His genuine simplicity, his cheerful piety, his thorough unselfishness, and his unaffected humility, exhibited the Christian character in its most beautiful aspect; and he retained to the very last a freshness of thought and buoyancy of spirit seldom seen in persons of his advanced age. His illness was but for a few days. On Sunday, July 17th, he went through his ordinary duties, on Monday he was somewhat unwell, on Wednesday night he died, retaining perfect consciousness to the last, closing without pain a life of uninterrupted usefulness, and leaving to his relatives and friends no cause of regret save that of separation from one so loved and revered, and of the loss of those services which, by God's grace, he so faithfully rendered to his church and country.

His elder brother, Mr. Serjeant Merewether, did not survive him more than a few hours, having expired at Castlefield, Wilts on Thursday, July the 21st, in the 83rd year of his age. He was an extremely well qualified man and was a Q.C., and was for 15 years the Townclerk of the Corporation of London. The Rev. Francis Merewether also had another brother Mr. Charles George who was also a Q.C., and was appointed Recorder of Leicester in 1868.



The tombs of the Rev. Francis Merewether and
Lewis Merewether his nephew (died July 1st 1837 aged 13)
In St. Mary's Churchyard, Coleorton.

An earlier article under "[Leicester Chronicle - July 7th 1837](#)" gives the sad details of how Lewis Merewether died.



Coleorton Rectory mainly financed by the Rev, Francis Merewether and constructed by John Gadsby of Coleorton in 1816.

See earlier map appended to St. John's Chapel article for location.

Leicester Journal - August 5th 1864

THE REV. FRANCIS MEREWETHER DECEASED

Notice - All persons having claims or demands against the estate of the Rev. Francis Merewether, late of Coleorton Rectory, in the County of Leicester, who died on the 21st day of July, 1864, are requested to send particulars thereof to us, or to Mrs. Merewether, at the Rectory, Coleorton

Dated this 3rd day of August, 1864.

Dewes and Son

Solicitors, Ashby de la Zouch

Leicester Journal - December 2nd 1864

The Rectory, Coleorton

MR. CHUBB

Is favoured with instructions from the executors of the late Rev. F. Merewether

TO SELL BY AUCTION

On Monday and Tuesday, the 5th and 6th days of December, 1864, on the premises, the Rectory, Coleorton

The dining, drawing, and bed-room furniture, Piano, Glass, China, Kitchen requisites, &c., &c. Capital Clarence Carriage, elegant Phaeton, Double and single harness, saddles and bridles, cow in milk, garden and other tools, and various other effects.

Sale to commence each day at 11 o'clock prompt

Supplementary information - The last incumbent at the rectory was the Rev. Sheppard in 1972 who married the author and his wife at St. Mary's Church in 1970.

Leicester Journal - August 5th 1864

THE BANKRUPTCY ACT 1861

Henry Beck of Swannington, in the County of Leicester, and previously of Coleorton, in the said County, Schoolmaster, Organist, and Professor of Music, having been adjudged bankrupt in the County Court of Leicestershire, at Ashby de la Zouch, on the 30th day of July, 1864, is hereby requested to surrender himself to Charles Saunders Dewes, a Registrar of the County Court of Leicestershire, holden at Ashby de la Zouch, at the first meeting of creditors to be held on the 15th day of August, 1864, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon precisely, at the office of the Registrar, in Ashby de la Zouch.

William Pettit Dewes is the Solicitor acting in the bankruptcy.

At the meeting the Registrar will receive the proofs of the debts of the creditors, and the creditors may choose an assignee or assignees of the bankrupt's estate and effects.

All persons having in their possession any of the effects of the said bankrupt, must deliver them to the Registrar, and all debts due to the bankrupt must be paid to the Registrar.

Leicester Chronicle - October 29th 1864

Maria Bailey charged Michael Richards with assaulting her at Coleorton, on the 6th Inst. The case arose about a "Well", which prosecutor had locked up, and defendant's wife wanting some water, prosecutor refused to let her have the key, when defendant went to break the lock, and prosecutor, in resisting with a poker, was struck. - two witnesses were called to support prosecutor's statement, and two for the defence. - Fined 6d. and £1 5s. expenses. *More information can be found on "Wells" in "A History of Coleorton and the Locality" by Samuel T Stewart. This was a familiar story amongst neighbours who had shared wells.*

Leicester Journal - 1867

Coleorton Mutual Improvement Association

On the evening of Feb 5th 1867, the first entertainment in connection with this society was given in the "Office Room", Coleorton Moor (*this was thought to be the school room attached to the Baptist Chapel on the Rowlands*), and we can but congratulate the promoters of it on the attendant success, for, on threading a dense crowd assembled at the doors, we found entering the room (with a previously procured ticket), that it was crammed, and many were left standing for want of sitting room, and who enjoyed that privilege throughout the evening. The want of a good room is surely felt in the Parish on these occasions. However, new schools are in the course of erection, and before another winter, such accommodation will be there provided as to meet any contingent requirement. We are afraid to say that many went from the doors for want of room. *The reporter will have been referring to the new "Viscount Beaumont Church of England School", which was opened in 1867.* The association has for its President Sir George H Beaumont. Bart. The worthy Rector of Coleorton is Chairman with Mr. Geo Brown the Schoolmaster, as Hon Sec. *This is the first time the author has come across Mr. George Brown who would have been a teacher at the original "Coleorton Hospital and School" built in 1794.* With such zealous and indefatigable advocates, it must flourish, and we heartily wish it the success it deserves. An able committee is also formed, which will give it the necessary *vis a tergo*. The evening

commenced with the choral "Ring out the Bells", given by the Coleorton Church Choir. Next in order (*apropos of the recent disastrous loss in our mines*) was a paper by Sir G. H. Beaumont Bart., on "Explosions in Collieries", which was well written, the matter admirably condensed, very well read, and had the peculiar excellence of not being too long. The Rev W. B. Beaumont gave "The Oiled Feather", which took immensely with the audience, this tale, rather too long, requires a little pruning. It contains a moral from which everyone may take a lesson, and is very suitable to such occasions. Lady Beaumont and Mis Chittenden then played the overture to "Gulielmi (William) Tell" in a very effective manner. It was well received, as was evident by the long continued applause as they rose from the piano. Mr. P. Heward now read an instructive paper on "The Druids" which received its due merit. Mr. Woodruffe of Ashby, next sang "Beautiful Isle of the Sea" with his accustomed good taste, which always brings an encore, and which he substituted "My Pretty Jane". Mr. Brown then followed with a paper on the manners and customs of "John Chinaman" which caused much amusement, and, *apropos of his vocation*, gave an idea how "The Pigtail Pedagogue" instructs "The Young Idea". Mr. H. Radford then recited from memory "Lochinvar". "Free and Easy" by Mr. Brown, obtained an encore in the shape of "Paddle my own Canoe". Now for the long paper by C. G. Merewether Esq., on "The House of Parliament", it was very amusing and hinted how very particular those drawings of petitions for the house should be in phraseology, and the amount of matter they attach their signatures to, considering the great attention that is paid to them on presentation. They might be sent up in "Woodin's Carpet-Bag" well secured, with instructions "not to be opened" - A carol followed, and for a wind up The National Anthem was sung, which was heartily joined in by the audience, and thus ended this most successful evening. Lady Beaumont kindly undertook to play the accompaniments on this occasion, which she executed in her usual effective manner, than which to say more would be superfluous. A vote of thanks to her Ladyship was moved by G. W. Lewis Esq., and seconded by the audience *en masse*, in the form of a well - merited round of applause.

Leicester Journal - June 7th 1867

William Insley of Whitwick, and Isaac Wood of "Hoo Ash" were charged under the poaching prevention act with having used a gun on the morning of the 28th of May at Coleorton for the purpose of taking game. - P.C. Cheshire said about four o'clock on the morning in question he saw the two defendants in Pasture Lane at Coleorton. He saw that they had something in their pockets resembling a gun. As soon as they perceived him they ran away, and he went after them, and with the assistance of two gamekeepers overtook them, and on searching them found the gun produced. - Samuel Ford said about four o'clock on the morning in question, he saw the two defendants in Pasture Lane. They had a gun with them, and he saw them go under a hedge. In a few minutes he heard a gun go off, and then smoke came from the direction of the defendants. He then went towards them, and on getting into the lane, he saw them running away, and the police officer after them - fined £2. 2s. each and costs, and the gun to be destroyed.

Leicester Chronicle - February 15th 1868

Fire - On Saturday last, the quiet village of Coleorton was alarmed by a cry of "Fire". It appears that Mr. Alfred Toone of Coleorton, after his daily toil as a collier, spends his leisure hours in "turning" &c., and for that purpose has erected a lathe, driven by a small steam engine, in an out-house adjoining his dwelling house. The building is a thatched one, and the engine chimney, being only a few inches above the roof, the sparks from it, or the heat of it, ignited the thatch. Happily, assistance was quickly obtained, or the consequence might have been very serious. Water, being close at hand, plenty was soon thrown on the burning mass by the villagers, and the progress of the fire was stopped, after burning down the out houses, wood, and part of the dwelling house of Mr. Toone.

Supplementary information - It was quite normal for colliers to engage in other activities to subsidise their poor income from their work in the coal mines. The turning of "Baubles" was very popular and the author thinks this is what Mr. Toone would have been involved in. This industry is covered in detail in his book entitled "A History of Coleorton and the Locality". Alfred is given as Alpheus in the 1861/71 census and in the latter he was 37 years old with 8 children, the youngest being aged one.

Leicester Chronicle - February 29th 1868

Ashby Petty Sessions - Saturday, February 22nd

William Kidger, Butcher of Peggs Green, charged William Knight, his servant, with stealing 30s., his property, on the 12th October last. It appeared that on the above day, Mr. Kidger sent defendant to pay a bill to Mr. Eagle, a shopkeeper of Coleorton. Giving him the 30s., he, however, returned, and said that Mr. Eagle was not at home. He afterwards absconded his employer, taking the money with him. - Defendant admitted the offence, and said he had spent the money. He was sentence to two months hard labour.

Leicester Journal - May 22nd 1868 (see following report also)

Ashby Petty Sessions May 16th

John (*George* ?) King of Ashby, Chimney Sweeper, was charged with allowing Samuel Monfill (*Moorfield*?), who was under the age of twenty one years, to enter a flue at Coleorton Hall, for the purpose of cleaning it, on the 28th April. - Mr. Haxby of Leicester appeared for the prosecution and Mr. Dewes for the defence. - Samuel Monfill said he lived at Burton, and was in his 17th year. He worked for Mr. Dolman at Burton. He went with the defendant's son to Ashby, and the next morning, about half past three o'clock, the defendant called him up and said he must go with him to Coleorton Hall and sweep some chimneys. They went but took no machine with them. On arriving at the Hall, a bricklayer took up two or three stones which covered the flue, and defendant told witness he must go in and fetch the soot out, and he would take it from him. He, witness, went into the flue and swept it. When he had finished they went home, but before he had entered the flue he had swept three chimneys at the hall. It was an underground flue. In answer to Mr. Dewes, witness said the flue was a very awkward one to sweep, but he heard nothing said about trap doors of the chimneys which he swept, one was straight, but one of them could not have been swept with a machine. - Mr. Dewes admitted that the boy entered the flue, but not for the purpose of

sweeping it; he merely went in to ascertain the proper places to put the trap door. He therefore hoped the magistrate would deal leniently with the defendant. - A letter was read from Sir George Beaumont, stating that the flue in question was a most difficult one to sweep with a machine, and before putting in soot doors, it was necessary for someone to enter it for the purpose of finding out the proper places to put them in. - Fined £1. 19s. 6d., including costs.

Leicester Chronicle - May 23rd 1868

Inspector Ward charged George King, chimney sweep, of Ashby with an offence against the "Climbing Prevention Act", at Coleorton, on the 22nd ult. - Mr. Haxby, solicitor from the society for the prevention of climbing boys at Leicester, conducted the prosecution. - Samuel Moorfield said I live at Burton, and on Sunday the 21st ult., came with another youth to Ashby, and remained all night at defendants. On Monday morning, King called me up at about four o'clock and told me I must go to Coleorton Hall, to sweep some chimneys. I, defendant, and another then went to Coleorton Hall. There was a bricklayer in the round hall when I got there. He took three stones up in the flue, and King ordered me to go up, and he would take the soot from me, and he did so. I swept the chimneys altogether. I went back to King's house about seven o'clock, and then returned to Burton. - Defendant was fined £1, and 19s. 6d. costs.

The Leicester Chronicle and Leicestershire Mercury United - June 13th 1868

Charity Concert

On Tuesday evening a concert was given in Lord Beaumont's endowed School at this place (*this was the old "Hospital and School"*), in aid of the "Leicester Infirmary", at which a numerous audience was present, including many persons from Ashby and the surrounding neighbourhood. The programme was a very attractive one. Lady Beaumont presided at the piano-forte. The violinists were Messrs. H. Dennis, George Orchard, W. Rowlett, - Poole, and W. S. Bithrey. Mrs. Hall presided at the harpsichord and guitar, and Mr. George Brown (master at the school) officiated as the conductor. The vocalists were Miss Snelson, Miss Tugby, Mr. George Barker and Messrs. Woodroffe, Timms, Briggs, Gibson, J. Cock, G. Orchard and W. S. Bithrey. The pupils of the Ashby and Coleorton schools, assisted by the Coleorton Church Choir, also sang several part songs very creditably. The entertainment altogether gave the greatest satisfaction as was evident by the repeated encores which were elicited in the course of the evening. We have not heard the amount realized towards the funds of the institution in and of which the concert was given, but we have no doubt the sum will be creditable to the public spirit of the place and commensurate with the object it sort to attain.

Leicester Chronicle - 1869

Coleorton accident - A sad accident occurred to a boy on Monday afternoon, four years old, the son of William Ward, a miner, of Coleorton. It appears that the little fellow had just returned to school from dinner, and with several others of his school fellows was swinging on the iron gate of the pallsading round the school house. He was standing on the

end of the gate, which swinging to, caught his fingers against the post, with such violence as to completely cut them off, the ends falling to the ground. Another of the child's fingers was so terribly lacerated, that it is thought amputation must take place. Dr. Hatchitt of Ravenstone, immediately attended the child and we understand that the little sufferer is going on favourably.



Leicester Chronicle - April 24th 1869

Sarah Glover and Elizabeth Smallwood were charged with stealing three quarters of a hundredweight of coal, the property of William Worswick, Esq., at Coleorton, on Sunday morning, the 11th inst. J. Beresford said he was engine man at the colliery on Sunday morning, the 11th inst. About half past one o'clock in the morning saw defendants who were about ten yards from the coal heap. Saw Sarah Glover with a piece of coal under her arm. Told her to take it back, but she refused. Said to her, "Sal, you will hear of this another day". Prisoners were close together. P.C. Cheshire afterwards came up. - P.C. Cheshire said he was on duty about one o'clock, a.m. and hearing a talking in the yard went up. Went into the colliery yard and saw the engine man, and from information went to prisoners. Smallwood ran away. Found a piece of coal about thirty yards from the colliery. Went after Smallwood, but she had not got home. Apprehended her about half past four in the morning. She said she was in the yard but did not take any coal. - Mr. Lewes, the manager, said he had no wish to press charges against the girl Smallwood. - Glover was sentenced to twenty one days hard labour, and Smallwood was discharged.

Leicester Chronicle - April 1st 1871

Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions - March 25th, before Sir Miles Cave, Bart. Samuel Brooks, labourer, Coleorton, was charged with having at Swannington, on the 22nd inst, feloniously killed and slayed one John Dilley. From the evidence of Mrs. Iron, it appeared that on the afternoon in question the prisoner was the driver of two carts, and stopped to watch her husband at work in the slaughterhouse; while doing so the horse went on, and after having gone some 60 yards, the wheel of the hindermost cart caught against a perambulator and killed the deceased who was about two years and a half old. The wheel of the cart went over the perambulator and killed the deceased. Two little girls and another child on seeing the cart coming pulled it as much out of the way as they possibly could. Prisoner was remanded until Saturday 3rd April. Bail was applied for and granted, the

prisoner being bound over in £50, and his father, G. Brookes in the same sum for his appearance.

Leicester Chronicle - July 27th 1872

Ashby Petty Sessions July 20th

Mathew Horner of Whitwick, and W. Toone of Coleorton, colliers, were charged with having absented themselves from Messrs Worswick's colliery at Swannington. - Toone appeared to plead guilty, and stated as an excuse that he had only left to go mowing, and intended to return when he had finished. - Mr. Dewes appeared on behalf of the colliery owners, and stated that great inconvenience and loss were occasioned to the proprietors on account of the defendant being absent. - Fined £2 2s., and costs, or one months gaol.

The Grantham Journal - September 27th 1873

Another serious poaching affray in Leicestershire

On Saturday, before the Ashby de la Zouch bench of magistrates (Mr. H. E. Smith in the chair), Thomas Kirby and George Hermey, colliers, living in the neighbourhood, were charged with night poaching. Being armed with bludgeons on the estate of Ser George Beaumont, Bart., at Coleorton, on the night of Sunday 4th inst. It appeared that the head gamekeeper, William Phuler, was with three of his men watching at the Big Biral? Coppice, Coleorton, when about nine o'clock they saw twelve men with dogs in the same field, when as soon as Phuler and his men showed themselves, some of the poachers nearest to them called to their comrades, "Here the.....are, go into them", upon which all the men got together, and a terrific affray ensued for about ten minutes, sticks and flails being freely used on both sides. The keepers, however, were fully prepared, and "struck" three of what they term "indentifying lights", a species of firework "for identifying poachers on a dark night", and which illuminated a whole field, the poachers who live in the district, being clearly identified. The gamekeepers although very roughly handled, succeeded in causing the poachers to beat a retreat, leaving one of their comrades a prisoner, and on the ground a large number of net pegs, nets, large sticks, and several of their caps. The night dogs were inhumanely handled, one being cut and stabbed in five places, one of which caused its bowel to protrude. Another was cut across the throat, and but for the muzzle, which was also cut through, thus set the animal's mouth at liberty, the wound must have proved fatal; whilst a third, was beaten senseless for some time, also had its muzzle cut through. The prisoners were committed for trial at the assizes, and removed at once to the Leicester Gaol. In the meantime, warrants have been issued for the apprehension of a large number of the other poachers, whose names are well known but who have absconded.

Derbyshire Times and Chesterfield Herald - October 23rd 1875

Guilford Police Court, London.

Simeon Stacey, a butcher from Coleorton, near Ashby de la Zouch, Leicestershire, was summoned by Mr. Wylde, one of the meat inspectors of the "London Central Meat Market" for sending to the market for sale as human food, four quarters of beef which were unfit for the food of man. The defendant admitted that he was the owner of the beef. Mr. Bayliss stated that the cow had belonged to Mr. Cheatle, a farmer in the defendant's

neighbourhood, and he sold it to the defendant for £2. It had been suffering from an internal disease for some months, and after the defendant bought it he killed and dressed it, and sent it to London for the purpose of sale for human food, instead of selling it for cat's meat in his own neighbourhood. The defendant said that he did not know it was bad. - Alderman Finnis sentenced him to one month's imprisonment without the option of a fine.

Buckinghamshire Herald - September 23rd 1876

Harvest Festival

On Thursday week the annual harvest thanksgiving festival took place. The day commenced with the celebration of the Holy Communion in the Parish church, at half past nine o' clock, and at four o' clock about 500 persons enjoyed an excellent tea, after which they were addressed by the Vicar, Rev. C. L. Alexander, and the Rev. C. H. Travers, Rector of Purley, formerly Vicar of the Parish for eleven years. Then they adjourned to the vicarage grounds, where the prizes to the amount of £16 were distributed by Mrs. Beaumont, Cole-Orton Rectory (Leicestershire), to the successful exhibitors at the show on Tuesday. At seven o' clock the clergy, preceded by the choir, walked in procession to the church, singing the hymn "come, ye thankful people come". The sacred building was full to overflowing by a most attentive orderly congregation; and after a hearty service, an able and practical sermon was preached by the Rev. W. B. Beaumont, Rector of Coleorton and Rural Dean. The collection, which was made on behalf of the Bucks, Infirmary amounted to £6. 12. 9. The decorations were remarkably good. The pulpit was encircled with a beautiful wreath of white roses, ferns and corn, interspersed with scarlet geraniums, while the alter supported a very handsome arrangement of vegetables, fruits and flowers, which with the extra lights, presents a most charming appearance. The thanks of the public are due to Messr's. Dalton, Windsor, Woodman and Brazier, who kindly acted as judges; to Messr's. Biggs and Harris, of Cublington, who, with their usual generosity, lent their rick cloth; and to Messr's. Palmer, Cooper, Willies, Bates, Hedges, and Towfield, members of the committee who worked with untiring energy and goodwill for nearly four days, and to whose exertions the success of the whole may be fairly attributed.

Leicester Chronicle - February 17th 1877

Deaths - On the 3rd inst, at Coleorton Pottery, Thomas Wilson aged 72.

For a complete history of Coleorton Pottery, see the book entitled "Coleorton Pottery" 1835-1938" by Samuel T Stewart.

Leicester Chronicle - June 2nd 1877

Treat to the Workpeople - The workmen and women in the employ of Messrs Wilson Bros, Coleorton Pottery, were entertained to dinner at "The Ferrers Arms" on Whit Tuesday. The dinner to which about 40 sat down, was presided over by Mr. W. Wilson and a sumptuous repast was heartily partaken of. After dinner, the usual loyal and other toasts were drunk, and the toast, "our employer", was responded to by Mr. Wilson, who spoke of their recent acquirement of the business, and of the satisfaction it gave him to notice the cordial feeling existing between them as employers and work people. The company spent a

most enjoyable evening. The wives of the married men were also entertained to an excellent tea. All expressed their satisfaction of the generous treatment they had received at the hands of their employers.

Leicester Chronicle - June 2nd 1877

Lodge Anniversary - An impressive and successful lodge demonstration came off on Whit Tuesday. The brothers of "The Royal Beaumont Lodge, No. 1920, M.U.", celebrated their anniversary at host Charville's Beaumont Arms, and had in use the beautiful regalia of the order. Assembling at the Lodge House, the brethren proceeded to the parish church, where a suitable sermon was given by the Rev. W. B. Beaumont, and the advice there cannot readily be forgotten. After service, the brothers visited Sir George H. Beaumont at Coleorton Hall, the rectory, Mr. Faux of Fram Town, the The Kings Arms and The Queen's Head Inn, and on arriving at their spacious room at the Beaumont Arms, a sumptuous dinner was awaiting them, which was doubly enjoyed. The rector presided, faced by Bro. Thomas Lord. The board of "Directors of the Order" was given and responded to by G. P. M. Mills. Sir George and Lady Beaumont were received with musical honours, also, "The Rector" and "Mrs. Beaumont", with many friendly expressions from the brotherhood. The "Officers of the Lodge" was then given, and responded to by P. P. G. M. Peters - songs and speeches and recitations followed.

Leicester Chronicle - September 15th 1877

Lodge Anniversary - The "Templar of Friendship" Lodge (ancient order of Druids) held their annual meeting on wake Tuesday, at the "Queens Head Inn". After an appropriate sermon by the Rev. W. Beaumont, a procession was formed, which wound its way to the hall, the residence of Sir G. H. Beaumont, 9th Bart. On returning to the Queens Head, the members sat down to an excellent repast provided by the worthy host. Dr. Hatchett was called to the chair, and had for his vis-à-vis Mr. Horne, M.N.A. Druid. The usual Royal and patriotic toasts were given from the chair. The health of Sir George Beaumont, and also that of the Rector and Mrs. Beaumont were enthusiastically drunk. Votes of thanks were given to the chairman, surgeons and others.

Leicester Chronicle - September 28th 1878

Leicester Infirmary - Hospital Saturday Collections

Work people employed by Coleorton Pottery - £1 7s 10d.

Leicester Daily Mercury - Sept 8th 1879

Coleorton Wakes

The weather during the past week having been beautifully fine, the wake has been kept with much spirit. The various clubs met at their club houses (*presumably tents*) and dined together (*presumably in a Marquee*). "The Ancient Druids", headed by "The Sheepshed (*former name for Shepshed*) Brass Band", proceeded through the village to the Parish church, where an excellent sermon was preached by the Rev. W. Beaumont, Rural Dean. On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, there were cricket matches between the Coleorton Club,

The Forest Rock Cricket Club (Whitwick), Melbourne and the Ashby de la Zouch second eleven. The first match was won by the Forest Rock Team; the other two by Coleorton. At Mr. Fewkes of "The Angel Inn", the village matrons and pretty maids partook of their annual tea, and enjoyed themselves right heartily. The best of order has been kept throughout the week by P. C. Hancock.



The Coleorton Beaumont Cricket Team 1897

Derby Daily Telegraph - September 9th 1879

William Preston of Coleorton, Blacksmith; John Toone, of Swannington, Butcher; Charles Jackson of Coleorton, Grocer and Thomas Rouse of Swannington, Blacksmith, were all charged by James Brewitt, the inspector of weights and measures, with having weights and steelyards in their possession which were unjust. - Fined 10s. 6d. each and costs.

Samuel Mackett, of Coleorton, Shopkeeper, who did not appear, was find £1. 1s. and costs for having in his possession nine weights which were not verified and stamped by the inspector.

Leicester Chronicle - February 21st 1880

Coursing - On Wednesday, the annual coursing, kindly given by Sir George Beaumont, Bart, of Coleorton Hall, to his tenants, came off at Coleorton. There were large parties from Ashby, Burton, Derby, Melbourne, Coleorton, Griffydam and Whitwick. The hares were abundant, and some splendid coursing was the result. Many of the greyhounds were fine specimens of their class. In the evening a supper took place at Mr. Charville's - "The Beaumont Arms". The health of Sir George and Lady Beaumont was drunk with musical honours and three times three, to which Mr. Phuler, the head gamekeeper responded in a neat speech.

Leicester Chronicle - September 4th 1880

The Wake - The wake this year was ushered in by one of the heaviest thunderstorms remembered by the oldest inhabitants. Happily we have not yet heard of any damage with the one exception of a valuable game fowl, the property of Mr. Thomas Peters, which was killed in the pen by lightening. On Monday, at Mr. James Peters, the "Queens Head Inn", there was a well conducted party. The attraction was a fine selection of music. Miss Peters presided at the pianoforte, and her efforts to please were greatly appreciated. On Tuesday, Mr. Porter, distributed soup, &c., to those whose means precluded them from participating in the good things of the festive season, at Mr. Charvill's "Beaumont Arms Inn". There was a display of shows &c., on The Green. There was also a shooting gallery and photographic establishment. The "George Inn" - a hostelry famed from the grand old coaching days - fully maintained its ancient character. This old road side Inn is one of the prettiest in Leicestershire. The garden adjoining is aglow with sweet and beautiful roses, and the stately and venerable elm tree in front, is the admiration of all who gaze upon its fine and lofty proportions.

Leicester Chronicle - December 4th 1880

Football - A match was played on the Coleorton ground on Saturday, between Coleorton F.B.C. and Whitwick (Charnwood) F.B.C., ending in an easy victory for the home team, they winning by four goals to none. On the part of Coleorton, S. Robinson played exceedingly well, obtaining two goals. J. Fowke also made a grand kick; getting a goal from a kick right from the centre of play. M. Ball also kicked well and obtained a goal. Whitwick appeared to have no chance whatsoever with their opponents. After the play, both sides adjourned to the Beaumont Arms Inn, and passed a very enjoyable evening.

Leicester Chronicle - October 15th 1881

Baptist Chapel Coleorton - On Sunday last, anniversary services were held in the above place of worship, when sermons were preached afternoon and evening by Thomas Harrison of Woodville, collections were made in aid of chapel funds. **Supplementary information** - The chapel was actually in Swannington parish at this time. See part 3 of this book regarding the history of the Swannington / Coleorton Baptists.

Derby Mercury - March 8th 1882

Cattle Removal - Simeon Stacey, of Coleorton, Leicestershire, was summoned for driving seven cows from the County of Derby into the borough of Chellaston on the 21st of February without a license. He was fined £1 and costs 10s 6d.

Leicester Chronicle - March 18th 1882

Baptist Chapel Coleorton - The "Blue Ribbon Movement" has reached Coleorton. The first meeting was held in the Baptist Chapel on Wednesday when Mr. J. Varley of Leicester and others advocated "total abstinence" (*from alcohol*). 57 names were enrolled.

Supplementary information - The chapel was actually in Swannington parish at this time. See part 3 of this book regarding the history of the Swannington / Coleorton Baptists.

Leicester Chronicle - April 9th 1887

Cricket - On the recommendation of Mr. William Bottomore, of Sheepshed, Mr. Thomas Williams, of Coleorton Beaumont Cricket Club has obtained an engagement as professional cricketer to the Derby School for the coming season.

The Leicester Chronicle and Leicester Mercury - Saturday July 16th 1887.

Teachers Pic-Nic

The members of the Ashby and District Branch of the N.U.E.T. had their annual picnics on Saturday last in the grounds of Coleorton Hall by kind permission of Sir George Beaumont. A number of friends were invited, and a pleasant day was spent amid the beautiful surroundings of Coleorton Hall. Tea was served in the "National School" where Mr. Charville (Landlord of the Beaumont Arms) provided a repast, at which the Rev. W. B. Beaumont presided. Mr. Briggs, the master of the Coleorton National School, was assiduous in attending to the amusement of the company after tea, and singing and dancing were indulged in until it was time to return. The thanks of the picnickers were gratefully given to Sir George Beaumont for his kindness in presiding, and for throwing the Hall grounds open, and Mr. Briggs for his genial conduct as host. Miss Hodgkins, head-mistress of the girls national school, Ashby, and secretary of the association, proved herself an excellent organiser, and the arrangements of the committee who were appointed to attend to the affairs were perfect.

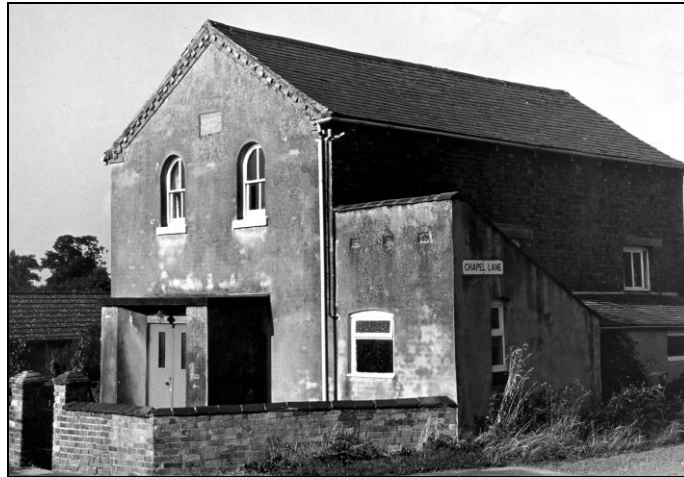
Derby Daily Telegraph - May 7th 1889.

A farmer heavily fined. - On Saturday, at the Ashby de la Zouch Police Court, Charles Edward Preston, a farmer and blacksmith of Coleorton, for being disorderly and refusing to quit licensed premises at Pegg's Green, near Swannington on 6th April was fined 2 guineas and costs, £1. 19s., or fourteen days in jail. (*see a "A History of Coleorton and the locality" by Samuel T Stewart for more information on the Prestons*).

The Leicester Daily Mercury - Saturday, September 20th 1890

Coleorton Harvest Thanksgiving

A service was held in the "Primitive Methodist Chapel" on Sunday last, when the sermons were preached in the afternoon and evening by Mr. Harry Bradford, of Oakthorpe. There was a large congregation at both services. The chapel was tastefully decorated with fruits and vegetables, and the appropriate mottoes which hung on the wall were highly suitable for the occasion. A collection at each service was taken up on behalf of the chapel funds.



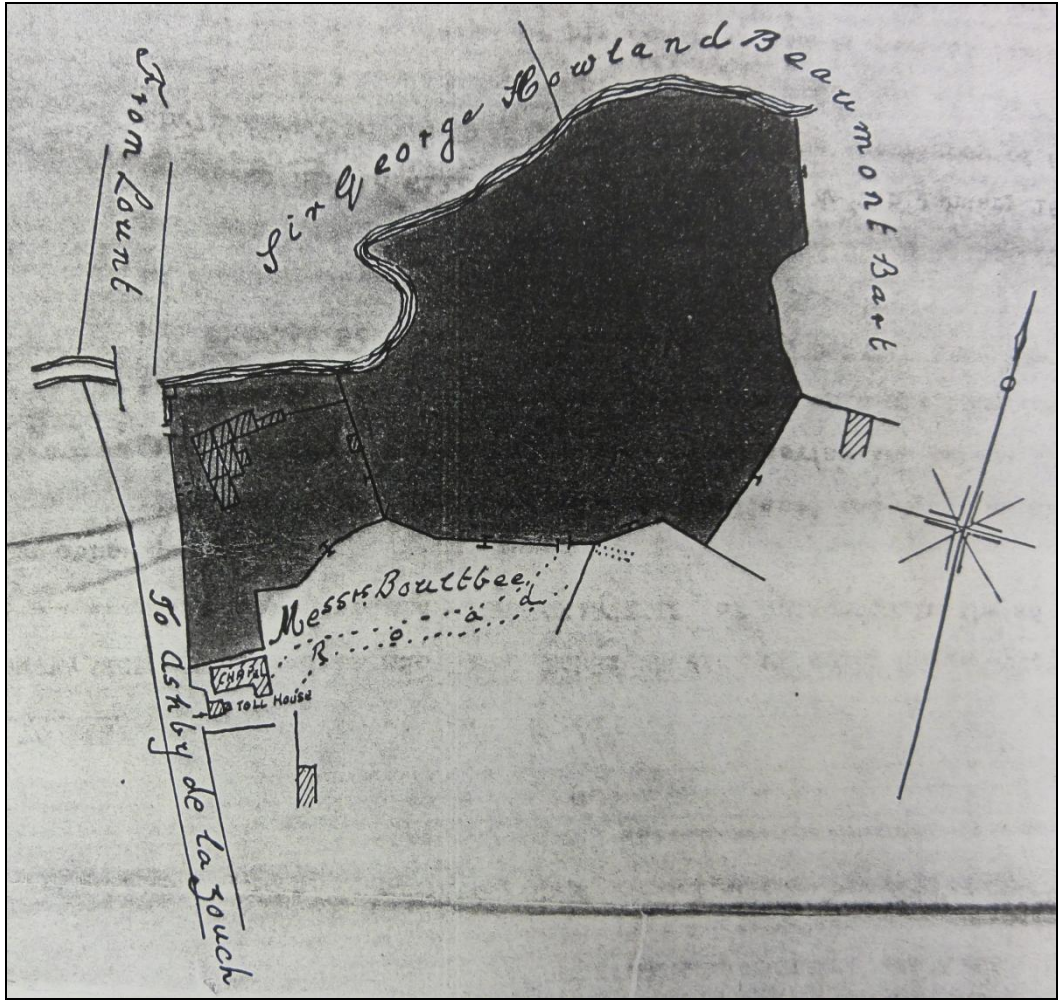
Coleorton Primitive Methodist Chapel 1839-1901

Supplementary information - The local Primitive Methodists paid £5 for the plot of land on which the chapel was built in 1839. The building itself was financed by a loan guaranteed by - Thomas Lowe of Worthington (a sawyer); William Cooper of Newbold (a cordwainer); George Crabtree of Newbold (carpenter) and Joseph Walker of Worthington (Yeoman). It was necessary to build it cheek-by-jowl to a dilapidated barn which the owner refused to have demolished until it finally collapsed.

Sir George Howland Willoughby Beaumont, 9th Baronet, (1828-1882) who was lord of the manor from 1845 to 1882, would not allow non-conformist churches to be built within the parish of Coleorton. It was therefore located in this position, because at that time, it was within the parish of Thringstone, and the area was known as "Rotten Row".

At some time, an extension was built on the side of the main building which was referred to as the "Copper House" (Kitchen?). This was erected on the site of the old "Lankerdown Chain Toll House", where for many years Mr. Platts was the keeper.

We have only recently come into possession of the old map shown below, which actually shows the location of the toll-house. The old chapel has now been converted into residential accommodation, and although the main body of the building has been retained, the kitchen area has been demolished.



A more detailed history of the old and new Coleorton Primitive Methodist Chapels are included in the book entitled "Methodism and Social History in Coleorton and the Locality" by Samuel T Stewart.

Leicester Chronicle - February 28th 1891

Obstructing Highway - Thomas Powdrill, Higgler, Breedon-on-the-Hill, was summoned for obstructing the highway at Coleorton on the 7th inst., by leaving his horse and cart on the road for thirty five minutes. - P.C. Cox proved the case. - Defendant said he went into a public house to get some victuals, and he had not been in ten minutes when the officer came in and told him he should report him. Was very hard if a man could not leave his horse and cart for a few minutes to get something to eat. - Fined 10s 6d. and costs, in default fourteen days (*Gaal*).

The Leicester Chronicle and Mercury - Saturday May 16th 1891

Coleorton Primitive Methodism.

The Sunday School and Anniversary services were held on Sunday at "The Primitive Methodist Chapel". The sermons were preached by Mr. F. Mantle of Ashby, and there were crowded congregations, despite the inclemency of the weather. The collections realized £9. 4s. 4½d. and were considered very satisfactory.

Leicester Chronicle - September 5th 1891

Coleorton The Wakes - Coleorton Village, two and a half miles east of Ashby, is celebrating its annual wake or feast this week. Cricket plays an important part in this week's fixtures, and sundry amusements are provided in the heart of the village. The wake and its upholders find many friends from the surrounding hamlets, whom the villagers receive with open heartedness. Unfortunately, Monday, in which the feast opened, was very inclement, rain falling in torrents almost all of the afternoon. The usual dinner took place on Thursday, at the "Angel Inn", and on that evening there were probably few short of two thousand persons enjoying the fun incident to an English wake. The shows, steam horses &c., were located as in other years near the "Beaumont Arms", and they were largely patronised. Very good conduct was observed by the villagers and visitors. It was long after 11 o'clock before Coleorton returned to its normal quietude, and the round of pleasures was resumed the next morning. Work is tabooed by the miners and others for the week, which is recognised as the holiday of the year.

Leicester Chronicle - October 10th 1891

Hanged to an apple tree - Jno. Robinson, collier of Coleorton, was found hanging in an apple tree near his house on Saturday morning, and David Gardener reported the circumstances to P.C. Fox of Coleorton, who acquainted superintendent Holloway of Ashby. Mr. H. Deane, the coroner, was informed of the occurrence at an inquest in Ashby on Saturday morning, but arrangements could not be made to hold the inquest that day. Deceased rose at 4.30 a.m. and told his wife he was going to have something to eat, as he was hungry. Later his son came downstairs, and upon drawing up the blind saw the deceased hanging in the tree. He had been ill about six months, and had recently been in very low spirits.

Leicester Chronicle - June 25th 1892

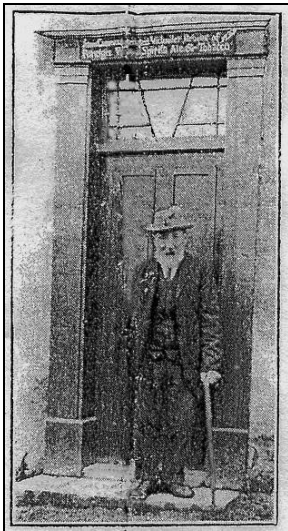
On their way from Ashby, a Liberal Party meeting was held in the school room attached to the Baptist Chapel at Coleorton led by Mr. McClaren of Leicester. From there they went to the Wesleyan Reform Chapel at Griffydam.

Leicester Chronicle - July 16th 1892

Thomas Bird, aged 14, Coleorton, who was recently ordered to receive nine strokes of the birch rod for house breaking, was charged with stealing two brass safety valves, valued at 2s 0d the property of etc.....*clearly a good birching didn't work in this instance!!*

Leicester Chronicle - October 29th 1894

Coleorton - Marriage of Miss. A. R. Charvill at St. Mary's Church on Wednesday afternoon, the nuptials were celebrated of Miss Annie Rebecca Charvill, eldest daughter of Mr. John Charville, of the Beaumont Arms Hotel and Mr. Edwin Cuthbert of Coleorton.....



Mr John Charville outside the Beaumont Arms

Leicester Chronicle - November 10th 1894

Ravenstone - A match was played on Saturday between the Ravenstone Rising Star and Coleorton Albion, on the latter's ground (*thought to be in the paddock at that time*). Ravenstone played up well during the first half, and scored two goals, with the wind against them, but later Coleorton equalised, the match ending two goals each.

Derby Mercury - November 21st 1894

Coleorton Cricket Club Supper - The annual supper in connection with the Coleorton Beaumont Cricket Club was held on Saturday at the Beaumont Arms Hotel, when about fifty persons sat down to a sumptuous repast, prepared with their customary excellence by Mr &

Mrs. Charville. After the cloth was drawn, Mr. A. M. Cuthbert was elected chairman, the vice chair being occupied by Mr. Wheatley (Swannington). - After a brief statement relative to the past season's record had been rendered by the secretary, the following toast list was proceeded with.....songs were interspersed with the speeches, the principal vocalists being Messr's W. Briggs, Joseph Brooks, E. Cuthbert, S. Dean, G. J. Fowkes, George Haywood, Joseph Hill, T. Wheatley, J. Williams, senior, and Jeffrey Williams, each item being received with considerable applause. An interesting little ceremony and one which lent an additional attraction to the evening's enjoyment, was the presentation by Mr. George Percival (one of the vice-presidents) of a silk umbrella, subscribed by members of the cricket club, to Mr. E. Cuthbert (honorary secretary) in connection with his recent marriage with Miss. Charville. - Mr. Cuthbert suitably acknowledged the present, and in doing so mentioned that although he was afraid that he would, in the future, be debarred from taking an active part in the doings of the club, yet he hoped that all the members would co-operate in maintaining the high reputation which the club has held for neary half a century. The results of the season of 1894 are very satisfactory, as will be seen from the sub-joining figures:- Total Matches played 24, won 11, lost 5, drawn 7, and 1 tie.

Leicester Chronicle - June 29th 1895

Ashby Petty Sessions - Saturday - Before Mr. George Moore and the Rev. Canon Beaumont.

John Elverstone, collier, Coleorton, was summoned for neglecting to send his child to school at Coleorton, and was fined 5s. including costs or seven days gaol.

Leicester Chronicle - February 1st 1896

The Quorn Hounds



The meet yesterday was at Coleorton Hall, in beautiful hunting weather. There were present: The Countess of Loudon, Lord Lonsdale, The Misses Donisthorpe, Captain Townsend (Netherseal), Captain Charrington, Messrs J. Denton, W. E. Stevenson, H. Joyce, T. Oakey, Earp (Staunton), W. A. Musson, Barrs (Odstone) and W. German (Packington). The hounds found a fox in "Coleorton Gorse", and after a good run killed near Lount Wood. Subsequently, there were some pretty and exciting runs. *I am sure the fox didn't feel that way!!*

Leicester Chronicle - Sept 5th 1896

Ashby Petty Sessions

Discharging a catapult - John Fern, a collier, Coleorton, was summoned for discharging a stone from a catapult at Coleorton. - P.C. Saunders stated the case, and said he had received many complaints of youths killing fowls, etc. - Fined 10s. 6d. and costs 10s. 6d. The chairman observed that the full penalty would be enforced for the next offence. The bench was determined to put an end to the nuisance - The honourable Paulyn Hastings said that they shot at horses to.

Derby Mercury - September 15th 1897

"Tear coat at Coleorton Wakes" - George Martin and Fred Martin, colliers, were charged with being drunk and disorderly at Coleorton. Sergeant Derby said both defendants were very disorderly and wanted to fight, and strike at Police Constable Adcock. Next day George came to him and said he was sorry for what had happened, and said that he had been having some of that "Tear Coat" (laughter). - The Chairman: What is that? - Sergeant Derby: At the public house sir, I have never had it myself, but it makes them fairly mad as soon as they get out of the house, although they might be alright inside. - Defendants were found 2s. 6d and 10s costs each, the chairman adding that the bench thought it a disgraceful thing that publicans should sell such stuff.

Supplementary information - There was much drinking in the Beaumont Arms, of which Mr. Charville was the landlord, during the wakes. There was considerable custom for a mixture of ale and port wine - known throughout the district as "Charville's Tear Coat". The reaction of any, who were reckless enough to consume a modicum of this stimulant, was beyond prophecy. Fighting at the Beaumont Arms was a regular occurrence and became even more intense on "Wake Monday". The Coalville Times recorded one memorable bout between Jack Richards and a travelling showman who had a steel hook as a replacement for a hand which had been amputated, from which Jack received some ugly slashes.

Grantham Journal - September 18th 1897

Baptist Chapel Anniversary - On Sunday, September 12th, The Rev. G. Kendrick of Coleorton, preached two excellent sermons in the above place of worship. On Monday, the anniversary tea meeting was held, when upwards of ninety people attended, the trays (food?) being given. A public meeting followed, when interesting addresses were delivered, the pastor (Rev. J. B. Field) presiding. Financially the results of the anniversary were

satisfactory. **Supplementary information** - See part 3 of this book regarding the history of the Swannington / Coleorton Baptists.

Leicester Chronicle - August 13th 1898

Coleorton - This place has not escaped the violence of the late storms, many trees, and some of very large dimensions, have either been torn up by the roots or broken off. One Elm tree of nearly three hundred feet???, fell upon the "brew houses" near the hall, and did considerable damage to the roof. A poor man, in the employ of Mr. Wardle, had his leg broke while assisting to remove one of the wind fallings on the estate here. Fortunately the worthy baronet of Coleorton escaped injury in his transition from a plank fixed over the large fish pond, over which he was walking, and from which, he was hurriedly transferred several feet towards the bottom of the pond.

Grantham Journal - October 22nd 1898

Quorn Hounds - Coleorton was the fixture on Saturday, several foxes being found in the coverts named after the tryst. Hounds chased one smartly round the wood, and finally forced him away to Lount Wood. There was plenty of covert work to follow, for the pack stuck well to their fox, and eventually ran him back to the Coleorton Woods, and killed him soon after. There was good show of foxes here, and hounds were able to run nicely in the open. Tally - Ho.

Derby Mercury - December 7th 1898 (Advertisement)

Sale

Valuable freehold fully licensed public house, known as "The Engine Inn" and out buildings attached thereto. Two fields of valuable old pasture land adjoining, together with two pieces of garden ground in the occupation of Mr. Leeson, and containing 6 acres 3 roods 22 poles, or thereabouts.

Supplementary information - This was actually "The old Engine Inn", which was situated in Elverston's Yard off Stoney Lane, Coleorton, and is referred to in "A History of Coleorton and the Locality" by Samuel T Stewart. It was thought to have got its name from the Atmospheric Fire Engine installed in one of Boulton's coal mines in a field at the end of the yard. The Inn is thought to have finally closed c.1928. It is now known as "Willow Cottage". Below is a photograph taken in 1988, which still shows the old ironwork which supported the sign on the end of the house. William Ward mentioned as the landlord of the Blacksmiths Arms in the next article was a former landlord at The Old Engine Inn.



Leicester Chronicle - December 16th 1899

Ashby County Court

In debt for beer - Jno. Smith, collier, Coleorton, was sued by William Ward, innkeeper (*Blacksmith Arms*), Coleorton, for £2 1s 5d for beer and tobacco. - Defendant said he had not had all the beer down on the bill, and he was loudly discussing the matter with Mr. Ward, when the registrar interposed, and found for half the amount claimed. See a "*History of Coleorton and the Locality*" for more details of the *Blacksmith's Arms*.

The Nottingham Evening Post - Tuesday, July 23rd 1901

The drowning of a child at Coleorton

Mr. H. Deane, coroner for north Leicestershire, last evening held an enquiry at "The Beaumont Arms", Coleorton, as to the drowning of Joseph Wright Fairbrother. - The mother of the child, Sarah. E. Fairbrother, stated that he was seven years old. On Saturday afternoon the child went out to play with others, and witness saw him near the fishpond at 5 o'clock. - Sarah Ann Fairbrother, 11 years old, sister, said the deceased undressed and went into the pond with other children. He walked about and the water came up to his head, and he suddenly sank. Witness called out to him, but he was unable to answer, although he came to the surface again. Witness became frightened and ran home to her mother. - Abraham Willet, coal miner, deposed to finding the body, about six or seven yards from the bank, and where there was depth of four feet of water. - The jury returned a verdict of "accidentally drowned whilst bathing".

Nottingham Evening Post - April 8th 1903

Death from burns at Coleorton

Mr. Deane, Loughborough district coroner, held an inquest last night at the "Blacksmiths Arms", Coleorton, touching the death of Bertram B. Ward, aged one year and eleven months, son of William Ward, collier. - The evidence showed that the child was left at home by the mother on Friday last, in the charge of a relative. In the absence of the latter, upstairs, deceased accidentally caught his clothes on fire and died on the 6th inst., from his injuries. - Dr. Burkitt, of Whitwick, who was called in, said there were extensive burns on the child's neck and arms. Witness was of opinion that death ensued from shock following the burns, and the jury returned a verdict accordingly.

Leicester Chronicle - May 29th 1909

Coleorton

There was an interesting and picturesque observance of the occasion here. The school children assembled in their school playground, where Lady Beaumont brought a number of visitors including General Craster, Lieut. George Beaumont (Kings Royal Rifles), the honourable Mrs Macnaughten, Lady Morton, Miss Morton, The Misses Smith and the Rev. Harold Robinson, Rector of Coleorton. On their arrival, the children, under the direction of Mr. H. M. Cuthbert, sang the National Anthem and the Union Jack was hoisted on the flagstaff. After several patriotic songs, "The Desford Industrial School Band" played the procession around the village to the church, where a short service was held. The

processionists assembled again in the grounds of Coleorton Hall, whence they marched to the school where tea was provided by Lady Beaumont, and the rest of the afternoon was spent in games, some fire balloons being sent up at night.



Children under the headship of Mr. H. M. Cuthbert in 1905

Burton, Ashby & Coalville Guardian - December 17th 1910

The Gables Asylum - Private Asylum Patient's Death

The deputy coroner (Mr. Webb) of Loughborough conducted an enquiry at "The Beaumont Arms", Coleorton on Monday evening, touching the death of Mary Bolns, wife of Alfred Bolns, a gentleman of Bournemouth. The deceased it was stated, was a mental patient of "The Gables", Coleorton, occupied by Miss A. L. Walker. On Friday night, the deceased on being asked to go to bed, threw herself down and sustained a fracture of the left arm. She died the next day. Mr. Logan of Ashby de la Zouch gave evidence, and the jury returned a verdict of death from shock, due to injury. The deceased was 78 years of age and had been a patient at "The Gables" for 10 years.

Supplementary information - "The Gables" is now a private house and is located in the south-east corner of Coleorton cross roads. It was owned and occupied for a short period by Sir George Beaumont 11th Baronet and his wife between 1923-1926 after their marriage whilst the Abel Smiths were still leasing Coleorton Hall.

Leicester Chronicle - March 27th 1915

The Stone Throwing Craze - Coleorton

William Platts, Jessie Croson, Thomas Cadwallander-all pit boys; Bertie Platts - garden boy; James Platts, Jessie Croson, and Mary Platts - Parents, were summoned at Ashby on Saturday, for committing wilful damage to an Ash Tree to the amount of 1s. 6d., the property of Sir G. H. Beaumont at Coleorton on the 7th of March - the Platts pleaded guilty, - Mr Jesson (*presumably of Fisher Jesson solicitors*), who appeared to prosecute, said that Sir George had no wish that a conviction should be recorded against such youths as these, but there was an opinion in Coleorton and district that they should not spend their Sunday afternoons in maliciously damaging other people's property, the form of an amusement consisting of throwing stones at buildings or trees from pure love and mischief, or it might be damaging fencing. He did not wish to press the case, and he hoped it would be a warning to defendants and others. - P.C. Collins said he saw the defendants taking stones from the side of the road which had been placed there for "Steam Rolling", and throwing at tins placed on the fence. - Supt. Lockton said he had instructions to to take proceedings by the County Council against the defendants, but he learned of Mr. Jesson's intention, and did not proceed. - The chaiman warned the defendants who were ordered to pay the damage and 5s. each costs.

Nottingham Evening Post - August 23rd 1924

Mr. Leeds (*known as Billy*), of Southend-on-Sea, succeeds as headmaster of the Coleorton Church School, Mr. H. M. Cuthbert, whose teaching career extends over about 43 years. Mr. Cuthbert has been a Sunday School teacher for 50 years, and chorister and choir master for 56 years.



Mr. "Billy" Leeds

Supplementary information - Billy Leeds is on record as training Sir George Beaumont's (11th Baronet), dogs when the latter had an involvement with "Coalville Dog Racing Track". Further details are given in the feature on the life of the 11th Baronet later in the book.

Nottingham Evening Post - September 2nd 1924

Mr and Mrs Fairbrother of Coleorton, who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary during the weekend, have eight children still living out of eleven, forty one grand children, and ten great grand children.

Cornishman, Cornwall, England - October 14th 1925

Fifty four years continuous work in a coal mine is the record of Mr Joseph Pargeter, of Coleorton, Leicestershire, who has worked for the last forty years in Coleorton Colliery (presumably the *Bug and Wink*), where he is still employed. He is well known in the public life of the district, having been a member of the Ashby de la Zouch, Board of Guardians, rural district, and other public bodies.



Coleorton Primitive Methodist Sunday School Choir - 1928
Joe Pargeter is standing at the RH side

William and John Berkin

The following interesting death notice appeared in the Nottingham Evening Post. Research into William Berkin and his son John's past life revealed some fascinating information on these gentlemen whose roots were established in Coleorton and Swannington. The following five pages provide a surprisingly detailed insight into the pioneering lives of these two important gentlemen in our local history, which starts under the sub-heading John Berkin.

William's Father was Thomas Birkin who married Sarah Tugby. They had four sons including William and three daughters. They were obviously an extremely talented and well educated family. One of the sons became chief of police in London and another became a hotel owner in London.

Nottingham Evening Post - December 12th 1927

News has been received of the death of Mr. William Berkin, aged 101, at Montana, U.S.A. Mr. Berkin was a Leicestershire man, having been born at Coleorton on June 26th 1826. He was one of the pioneers of Montana, and had an adventurous career.

house of Jordan, Marsh & Company, where he remained three years, gaining first hand experience in the dry goods line, which served him well after locating at Fargo, Dakota Territory. After three years of dry goods experience there he embarked in the business for himself at St. Cloud, Minnesota. In 1889 he sold his interests there and came to Butte, Montana, in July of the same year coming to Anaconda. Here for two years he was in the employ of the firm of Mahan & Lindsley in the real estate and insurance business, then was an employe of the First National Bank of Anaconda, which later became the banking house of Hoge, Daley & Company. He remained with this institution in various capacities for nine years, when he embarked in the real estate and insurance line on his own account at Anaconda. During his entire previous business career Mr. Wellcome had been associated with business houses of the highest possible standing and his standards of business integrity are firmly grounded. Upon the same sound foundation he has built up his own business, which has expanded into one of the largest enterprises of its kind in this section of the state. In 1914 he incorporated as the Wellcome-Durston Company, of which Mr. Wellcome is president and manager and H. H. Durston is vice president, secretary and treasurer. The company occupies a suite in the Daley Bank annex, No. 110 East Park Avenue. The company handles city real estate and farm loans in Deer Lodge and surrounding counties. A general insurance business is done, and this feature of the business is one of great importance. The firm at one time owned much ranch property but has disposed of it to a large extent, but has heavy investments in city realty.

At Anaconda, in 1895, Mr. Wellcome was united in marriage to Miss Katherine Evans, a daughter of Morgan and Ann Evans, both of whom are deceased. Mr. Evans came to this neighborhood as a pioneer in 1862, driving from Logan, Utah, his team of a horse and cow hitched to a wagon. He homesteaded 160 acres in Deer Lodge Valley, which he subsequently increased to 640 acres. Both he and his wife were born in Wales. Mrs. Wellcome is a graduate of Deer Lodge College, Deer Lodge, Montana. Mr. and Mrs. Wellcome have one son, George P., who was born October 21, 1910. Mr. Wellcome owns his beautiful modern residence, No. 700 Hickory Street, Anaconda.

In addition to business interests already noted, Mr. Wellcome is president of the Anaconda Coal Company, of which H. H. Durston is vice president, and this firm does the largest coal business in Anaconda. As a staunch republican Mr. Wellcome has been somewhat active in party councils, believing good citizenship demands expression in the assumption of political responsibility. He has served four terms on the City Council and has also been school trustee and on many advisory committees. During the great war he was deeply and patriotically interested and was appointed by Governor Stewart a member of the Council of Defense. He was unremitting in his efforts to make the various war measures successful, and was careful and judicious as one of the trustees of the War Chest Fund. Fraternally he is identified with the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, belonging to Anaconda Lodge No. 239, and is a member also of the Anaconda, the Anaconda Country and the Rotary clubs.

JOHN BERKIN. The name of Berkin is connected with the pioneer history of Butte and Montana so intimately that it is but proper that an extended notice of the men bearing it appear in a work of this high class. No history of the region would

be complete without an account of the work accomplished by John Berkin, mine superintendent and business man, and his father, William Berkin, who has attained to a venerable age and is the second oldest living pioneer of Montana.

John Berkin was born at Swannington, Leicestershire, England, on April 11, 1860, a son of William Berkin, also born in Leicestershire, the date of his birth being June 14, 1826. He is a son of Thomas Berkin, born in Leicestershire, England, where he spent his long and useful life, and where he died at the advanced age of ninety-three years. During all of his active years he was engaged in farming, and he spent practically all of his life in Leicestershire. A conservative in politics and a Calvinist in religion, he was one of the most conscientious of men, stern, but rigidly upright. He married Sarah Tugby, who was born in Leicestershire, England, and died there at the age of eighty-eight years. Their children were as follows: John, who owned and operated a hotel at London, England, died in that city at the age of seventy-six years; Sarah, who died in Leicestershire, England, at the age of seventy-two years; Thomas, who was chief of police in London, England, where he died at the age of sixty-eight years; Matilda, who died in Leicestershire, England, at the age of sixty-five years; Fannie, who died at Helena, Montana, in 1908, married John Hull, a farmer who died at Boulder, Montana, came with her husband to Montana in the late '80s; William, who is mentioned below; and Jesse, who was a miner, died at Rossland, British Columbia, Canada.

William Berkin attended the schools of his native place, and then served an apprenticeship of seven years to the machinist trade at Glasgow, Scotland, completing it by the time he reached his majority. He then returned to Leicestershire and took the contract for erecting the pumping works at the Calcutta coal mines, and his work was so satisfactory that the company which owned these mines sent him into Derbyshire to put up hoisting and pumping machinery at a town called Clay Cross. Returning to Glasgow, William Berkin had charge of the installation of an engine in the steamship "John Bell," and when this work was completed went on its initial trip as second engineer to Montreal, Canada. Upon his return to England he was employed in the machine shop on the docks at Battersea, London. While there he branched out and became a deep sea diver for the London Dock Company, keeping old lock gates in repair.

William Berkin made another change, removing to Jersey, one of the Channel Islands, and spent some time there as a diver on the construction work of a breakwater. His services were next secured by the French government and he was employed as a diver in putting in an addition to a battery at Cherbourg, France. Once more he returned to England and made two trips out of Southampton, England, to Alexandria, Egypt. Subsequent to that William Berkin was employed in the shops of the Semudas Ship Building Yards at London, England, and while he was there the "Great Eastern" was built in an adjoining ship yard. He helped to put in the engines in the pleasure yacht of Prince Constantine of Russia, and delivered this boat at Odessa, Russia.

Going back to Scotland, William Berkin went from there to Canada in 1859 and began working for the Grand Trunk Railroad as a locomotive engineer. Later he visited Niagara Falls, New York, and Portland, Maine, and still later went to Saint John's and Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Canada, to inspect some mines. It was during 1860 that he made a short stay at Chicago, Illinois, and from there went on south to St. Louis, Missouri, where he secured employment as a locomotive engineer

for the Belleville Railroad, and later was promoted to be master mechanic at the Illinois Town round-house.

The year 1863 marked the arrival of William Berkin into Montana, and for some years his experiences read as an early-day romance. The story of his expedition along the Musselshell River to try and find a better road from Virginia City to the head of navigation of the Missouri River is one of the romances of the early days of Montana. Mr. Berkin is admitted to have endured more hardships, braved more dangers and had more exciting experiences than any of the other pioneers.

William Berkin came out to Fort Benton, Montana, in 1863 for the American Fur Company, a subsidiary of the Hudson Bay Company, and was commissioned to sell a stock of mining tools and supplies which was then in storage at Fort Benson. He hired a negro and a French guide and started his pack train for Virginia City in 1864.

When he arrived there he successfully disposed of the stock, pick handles bringing \$3 each; axe handles, \$3; gold pans, \$5; long-handled shovels, \$5; tobacco, \$8.50 per pound; white flour at \$1 per pound, and other merchandise sold at proportionately high prices. His was the first pack train to make the trip from Fort Benton to Virginia City.

The second trip was made with a bull train of twenty-one teams yoked ten and twenty animals to the wagon. The merchandise which was carried by this train had been brought to Fort Benton by the American Fur Company by boat from St. Louis, Missouri.

About this time Mr. Berkin conceived the idea of finding a better road from Virginia City to Fort Benton by following the Musselshell River. He determined to build a new road, if it could be done cheaply enough, and organized an outfit to blaze the trail. The story of that expedition, as related by Mr. Berkin, is as follows:

"I left Boulder, Jefferson county, February 20, 1865, taking eight hired men and three volunteers. We were equipped with saddle horses, one wagon, five yoke of oxen and supplies for the trip, including rifles and ammunition, one twelve-pound howitzer cannon, two cases of howitzer ammunition and two cases of grapeshot.

"The route was from Boulder by way of Crow Creek, crossing the Missouri River at about where Toston is now. From there we went up Gracing Creek to the summit, where we found heavy snowdrifts. We had to go over steep mountains and often were compelled to let the wagon and cannon down the hillsides with heavy ropes.

"We went on to White Sulphur Springs and over the trail to where Martinsdale is now located. There were no white men in this country. From there we went to a creek about six miles from Martinsdale. It is now called Daisy Dean Creek. Next we reached Haymaker Creek, where we had our first scrap with the Indians.

"We made our camp on March 1. One of the men reported to me that one of the cattle was missing. As it had snowed a little during the night we were enabled to follow the tracks of the Indians who had driven the steer away from the herd. I picked out six of the men and followed the tracks, coming upon the war party in a deep coulee.

"They had not seen us yet, but in the excitement one of my men accidentally discharged his rifle just at the moment I was in the act of firing a shot with my arm through my bridle rein. The bullet from his gun shot my horse through the jaw and the animal pulled me down when he fell. Shooting commenced immediately. I noticed one of the men

standing beside me flinch and I asked, 'Are you hit?' He replied that he was and I told him to keep on shooting as long as he could.

"When the scrap was over we looked him over and found that the bullet had gone through his buckskin shirt and burned a red mark on his ribs, it having been a glancing shot. There were nine Indians in the party and we got four of them down in the coulee. They made hurried exits for the 'Happy hunting grounds.' The others fled up the hill on the other side.

"One of my men, Elmer McLaughlin by name, and myself, crossed the coulee and found on the prairie an Indian lying face down in the snow. McLaughlin was going to shoot him to make sure that he wouldn't recover, but I told him to save his ammunition as we were going after the others who were wounded and were escaping.

"We left our horses and took after them on foot. We soon overtook and disposed of them. When we returned to where we left the horses the Indian who had been lying in the snow supposedly dead had gotten up and escaped with McLaughlin's horse.

"I took my horse and followed him about three miles. I could see blood in the snow occasionally and after awhile I came across his old flint-lock gun which he had discarded. I knew then that he was about gone and just before I caught up with him he fell from the horse. He put up his hands, saying, 'kaka nopin,' which means 'hold on, white man.'

"We left camp next morning and went along the Musselshell valley toward the east end of the Snowy Mountains. We came to a creek which flowed from the Snowies and there made camp. There were some buffalo there and one of the men asked me to let him have a horse that he might try to kill one of them for meat. He did not return in the evening, and I sent two men out to look for him. They found his horse with the saddle still on, and a short distance away the man was found lying in the snow, dead.

"We buried him on this creek and called it 'Careless Creek,' because we surmised that this man's horse had fallen with him and that his gun had discharged itself with the fall, killing him. When the government surveys were made this creek was called 'Careless Creek' in their report.

"We moved from here around the east end of the Snowy Mountains and crossed a creek now known as Flat Willow, and went down another called 'Crooked Creek.' On account of the men being snow-blind, I had to leave all but two, eight miles from Crooked Creek. These two men and myself made it to the mouth of the Musselshell, where it empties into the Missouri River. The river was breaking up and there was a series of immense ice gorges which made it a grand sight.

"We went back to get the rest of the men and prepared to start on our return trip. We made camp on the banks of a small creek which is a tributary to Flat Willow Creek. Here in the night we were again attacked by the Indians, a large band of what we supposed were Blackfeet Indians. We had to crawl down the creek, fighting as best we could until daylight.

"Here we lost another man. After the Indians had been driven off we went back to camp and found that they had killed all of our cattle. They had also taken all of our horses but three, which they had somehow overlooked. They had rendered the wagon useless by knocking out the spokes in the wheels and had sawed the axle of the gun carriage and spiked the gun.

"All of our cooking utensils had been destroyed and our provisions stolen. We made our way with difficulty back to Boulder and a short time later I took one man, saddle horse and pack horses, and brought back the cannon, which was made of brass and weighed about 180 pounds. This was returned to the company and was taken down the river by steamboat to St. Louis.

"The rest of the articles, two cases of grape shot, two cases of shells, a grindstone, log chains and much other stuff we cached under the bank of a tributary of Flat Willow. This cache was discovered a short time ago by my son, T. A. Berkin, and other people living near the place on Flat Willow."

The contents of this cache was later presented to the State Historical Society and placed on display at Helena as one of the mementoes of the pioneer days of Montana.

William Berkin was the man who shipped the first copper ore from Butte, some years after the above related experience, having located the Mountain Chief Mine, from which he took out several tons of ore and shipped it from Butte to Boulder, building a road for this purpose. From Boulder this ore was hauled to Corrinne by bull teams which Mr. Berkin was then operating for the American Fur Company. Shipment was made by railroad from Corrinne to the Atlantic Coast, and by steamship to a point in Wales, where the nearest smelter was located. Mr. Berkin has still in his possession a copy of the bill of lading which he received from the railroad company, and other papers in the deal. This ore was smelted in Wales and Mr. Berkin netted a nice profit from the transaction notwithstanding the heavy transportation charges.

Mr. Berkin built the road from Fort Benton to Virginia City for John J. Roe & Company of St. Louis, Missouri, and continued to freight for this company from 1864 until 1867, between the two points named. From 1867 until 1871 he was engaged in placer mining in Jefferson County, and then began quartz mining in the same county and located some of the first claims in Butte, and operated in and out of what is now Butte from 1866.

The Mountain Chief Mine above referred to as located by him was the second patented claim in the Butte District, and in it he had as a partner Nicholas Wall, of St. Louis, the date of the registration of their patent being June 16, 1868, and they also secured a millsite for the mine, which they owned until 1870. From then on William Berkin has followed placer and quartz mining, and in spite of his advanced age is still engaged in this line of business. As his family record shows, he comes of a long-lived race, and he has not learned that there is such a word as "retire" in the dictionary. He has always been an active supporter of the democratic party. During 1865 and 1866 he rendered an effective public service as deputy United States marshal; he was commissioner of Meagher County from 1886 until 1892; and commissioner at Lewiston when Fergus County was organized, and held that office for two terms of four years each. Mr. Berkin was a member of the first Territorial Legislature of Montana, being elected at Bannock in 1864. For many years a Mason, he belongs to Helena Lodge No. 3, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons.

In 1850 William Berkin was married in Leicestershire, England, to Miss Jane Hall, born at Swanington, Leicestershire, England, in 1835. She died at Anaconda, Montana, in 1899, having borne her husband the following children: Fannie, who married

Kenneth McKinzie, foreman of the foundry of the Washoe Reduction Works at Anaconda, Montana; a daughter who died when four years old; John, whose name heads this review; William, who was a rancher, died at Livingston, Park County, Montana, aged twenty-eight years; Thomas A. is game warden for the district of Flat Willow, Fergus County, Montana, and deputy game warden for the State of Montana; Sarah, who married John Allen, watchman of the Orphan Girl Mine at Butte; Eliza, who died at Boston, Massachusetts, married W. R. Allen, ex-lieutenant governor of Montana, but now a resident of Boston, although he has large mining interests in the Elkhorn mining district of Montana and is building a railroad up the Big Hole River, having promoted these large interests, and a sketch of him appears elsewhere in this work; and Hattie, who married Daniel Kirkpatrick, manager of a chain of stores for the Huerfano Trading Company, resides at Alamosa, Colorado.

John Berkin was brought to Fort Benton when only six years old by his mother and oldest sister, who traveled first to St. Louis, Missouri, and thence to Montana, where they joined his father. After a short stay at Fort Benton the family moved to Alder Gulch, and still later to Boulder, Montana. All of his educational training was received at Jefferson City, Montana, and he left school when he was sixteen years old, and for six years was engaged in placer mining in Jefferson County. He then went in for quartz mining in Jefferson, Madison and other counties of Montana until 1878. He carried the mail from Butte to Boulder, making the trips on horseback, and continued at this for over a year, when in 1880 he was appointed deputy sheriff of Fergus County and discharged the duties of that dangerous position until 1882, when he returned to Boulder, and that same year came back to Butte, where ever since he has been connected with mining interests.

Beginning as an underground miner, Mr. Berkin has gained a thorough and intimate knowledge of mining in all its phases and has been an extensive lessor for himself at Butte and in Madison County for several years. In 1915 he became connected with the Anaconda Copper Mining Company as foreman of the Nettie Mine, and in 1916 was made superintendent of the Bonanza and Orphan Girl mines, both properties of that company. The Orphan Girl Mine is located one-half mile west of the Butte School of Mines, and produces silver and zinc.

Like his father a strong believer in the principles enunciated by the democratic party, Mr. Berkin represented Jefferson County in the Seventh Session of the State Assembly as the successful candidate of his party, and was sent to the Eleventh Session of the same body from Silver Bow County on the same ticket. During the labor trouble in 1914 he was appointed sheriff of Silver Bow County at the time when the candidate elected to that office was recalled from office by the people. It was during this period that the Industrial Workers of the World blew up the Miners Union Hall and other buildings and openly defied law and order. It took courage of no ordinary character and a strong personality to bring order out of the chaos then reigning, but Mr. Berkin succeeded in restoring everything to normal conditions, thereby winning his own place in the history of his own times and the gratitude and respect of his fellow citizens.

During the World war Mr. Berkin was very active in assisting in all of the war work and supporting the policies of the administration, and was exceedingly generous in his own contributions to the Liberty Loans and other drives. He also was ex-

tremely, helpful in assisting in suppressing all disloyalty and punishing sedition against the Government. He is a Mason, and also belongs to Butte Lodge No. 240, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and the Silver Bow Club, and is active in all.

In addition to his other interests Mr. Berkin owns stock in an irrigation project known as the Fergus County Land & Irrigation Company at Flat Willow, Fergus County, Montana, and also in the Little Missouri Irrigation Company in Fallon County, Montana. He is president of the Motor Car Distributing Company of Butte, and in 1907 bought a ranch on the Smith River in Meagher County, and operated it until he sold it to the Story & Work Sheep Company at Bozeman. Mr. Berkin maintains his residence at the Thornton Hotel.

In conjunction with his father's experiences with the Indians it is interesting to learn of his own with the red man. He was reared in a neighborhood occupied by the Nez-Perce Indians and knew their chief, Joseph, so well that he lived among them and learned to speak their language, and became acquainted with other tribes. Mr. Berkin arrived at the battle ground on the Big Hole two days after the massacre of Captain Logan, who was killed outright, and General Gibbons, who was wounded and afterwards died from the effects, and the command in 1877, and assisted in taking care of the wounded and getting them back to Helena, a distance of nearly 200 miles. During 1880 and 1881, although yet a very young man, he was active in suppressing the depredations of horse thieves in what were then Fergus and Meagher counties, and he also participated in several skirmishes with the Indians during the earlier days.

Mr. Berkin has the following children: Nellie, who was graduated from the Boulder High School, married W. G. Whetstone, assistant manager of the Butte Motor Car Distributing Company; Hazel, who was graduated from the Butte High School, married M. R. Hanley, a real-estate operator of Lewiston, Montana; and Isabelle, popularly known as "Mike," who was injured in an automobile accident on September 18, 1919, while on the way from Great Falls to Lewiston, and died on September 22d. She was educated as a violinist at Butte, and was a pupil of Professor Shaddock of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She began playing in public when only eight years of age, and her remarkable talent soon developed to a point that marked her as a true artist. At the age of eighteen years she began her professional career and was starred as "The Girl from Butte." For several years she was on the Orpheum Circuit and had thousands of admirers in Montana and throughout the United States. When she was married to H. W. Berry, she retired from the stage and she and her husband were residents of Butte, Montana. Her death was a distinct blow to many all over the country, as well as to her immediate family and wide circle of personal friends, for she had endeared herself to them all as well as awakened admiration for her talent.

Both John Berkin and his venerable father are men of a remarkable type. Rugged, fearless and upright, they have gone straight ahead doing what they felt to be their duty regardless of personal risk or adverse criticism. Coming into a wild region they had the ability and willingness to take advantage of the opportunities of a newly opened territory, but, while they achieved a material success, they never prospered at the expense of the community, but at all times placed it under obligation to them for their services in behalf of law and order whenever it was necessary. Without such men as these Montana would never have become

the great commonwealth it is today, and consequently the record of their lives is an important part of its history.

C. W. ROBISON. About a year after getting his law diploma from the Chicago Law School Mr. Robison came to Montana and located at Dillon, where for nearly twenty years he has enjoyed a constantly increasing prestige as an able and hard-working attorney.

He was born at Winterset, Iowa, January 22, 1875, and some of his family were among the first pioneers of that state. The Robisons were colonial settlers in Massachusetts. The grandfather, Spencer Robison, was born in Indiana in 1802 and was one of the first men to break the prairie sod and bring the land of Delaware County, Iowa, into productiveness. He spent his active career as a farmer and died at Winterset, Iowa, in 1870. His wife was a native of Indiana and also died at Winterset. Four of their children are still living: James, a retired farmer at Manchester, Iowa; Joseph, a farmer in Delaware County; Jennie, wife of Ham Lee of Kalispell, Montana; and W. S. Robison.

W. S. Robison, father of the Dillon lawyer, was born in Delaware county, Iowa, in 1853, and lived there to the age of nineteen, when he removed to Winterset. He lived at Des Moines until 1917, since which year his home has been in Omaha, Nebraska. He is a republican and a member of the Masonic fraternity. He married at Winterset Sarah Guye, who was born in Madison County, Iowa, in 1854. Her father, George Guye, was born in Virginia in 1824 and is still living at Winterset, Iowa, at the venerable age of ninety-five. He and his father and his brother James were the first white men to take up land and settle in Madison County, Iowa. George Guye married a Miss Button, a native of Ohio, who died in Madison County, Iowa. The Guyes are of English ancestry and were early settlers in Virginia. C. W. Robison is the oldest of his father's four children. His brother Charles died in Madison County, Iowa, at the age of three, and his sister Grace died at Dexter, Iowa, aged twenty-six. His only living sister is Frances, who makes her home with her parents at Omaha.

C. W. Robison attended public school at Winterset, graduated in 1891 from the Dexter Normal College at Dexter, Iowa, and took his regular college course in Drake University at Des Moines. He received the degree Bachelor of Oratory from that institution in 1897. Mr. Robison spent one year in the office of Senator A. B. Cummins at Des Moines, and thus came in touch with one of the ablest lawyers and one of the now senior statesmen of the country. Mr. Robison received his LL. B. degree from the Chicago Law School in 1899 and the following year came to Dillon and began his professional career. He served as county attorney during 1903-04, but for the most part has given all his time to his growing private practice. His offices are in the Telephone Building. Mr. Robison is a very prominent member of the Improved Order of Red Men. He belongs to Bannack Tribe, is Great Sachem of the State of Montana, is present Great Keeper of Wampum and for twelve years represented the order in the National Convention.

I. D. O'DONNELL. In August, 1919, the Country Gentleman of Philadelphia, published under the title "The Best Farmer in Montana," a long article concerning I. D. O'Donnell of Billings. Editorially the paper said: "Thoughtful readers have doubtless learned the Country Gentleman's idea of a 'best farmer' from the series of articles under that title.



John Burton

Nottingham Evening Post - August 4th 1928

As a token of esteem and appreciation of her work as district nurse for 22 years, the people of Coleorton and Swannington presented nurse Kinnell with a wallet containing £45 in treasury notes.

Newspaper details not known - Good Friday 1932



Two families were rendered homeless by a fire which destroyed two 500 year old thatched cottages at Coleorton, near Coalville on Good Friday. Sir George and Lady Beaumont of Coleorton Hall, with Major-General Sir Edward Northey, of Epsom, parents of Lady Beaumont, who are staying at Coleorton Hall, and their son, Mr. Edward Northey, assisted the villagers in fighting the flames and salvaging the furniture. The occupants escaped injury, but only the walls of the cottages remain. Mr. Edward Northey pluckily climbed on the burning roof and played on the flames with a fire extinguisher before the arrival of the firemen. The cottages, two of the prettiest in the county, have often been the subject of artists' brushes, and have been photographed times without number. Situated a few hundred yards from the ancient church, they were occupied by Mr. and Mrs. James Yates and five children, and Mr. and Mrs. Horace Bird and their only child. Mr. Yates was attending service at the Coleorton Church when the fire broke out and was called home to find his home blazing. Mr. Yates and Mr. Bird are both employed at New Lount Colliery. When the Swadlincote Fire Brigade arrived, the cottages were a mass of flames, and it was realised they were doomed. The homeless families were accommodated by relatives and friends in the village and two of the Yates's children were cared for by the Dowager Lady Beaumont at her home at Swannington. The fire was caused by a spark from the chimney alighting on the dry thatched roof. It was due to the efforts of residents of the village that the whole of the furniture and effects of both houses were saved.

Cont'd over page



The above photograph taken some time before the fire occurred in 1932 showing the thatched roof which subsequently caught fire. On the right at the top of the road are the Coleorton Alms Houses.

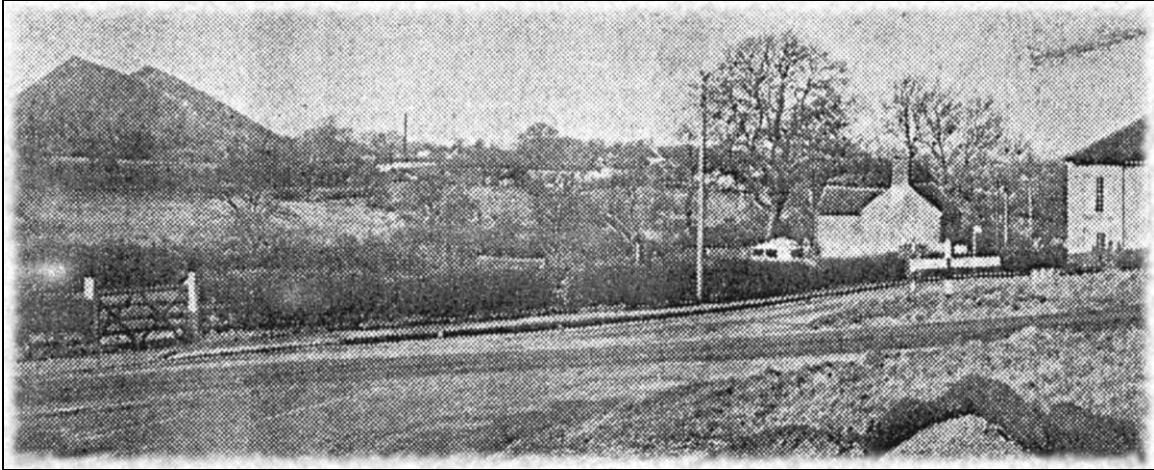
Nottingham Evening Post - August 30th 1949

Conducted services from "Dodgems"

Conducting evening services from an amusement fair in the village, the Rector of Coleorton Rev. E. A. Eager stood on the "Dodgem Cars Machine" while he preached to a congregation of about 400, including the fair ground attendants. The fair was lit up as the congregation sang hymns unaccompanied. -

Supplementary information - The village fair at this time was held in the field diagonally across from where the Beaumont Arms stood on the Fish Pond side of the cross-roads. See the following photograph - it was just off picture to the left. The author remembers spending many happy hours there and people from all over the locality came.

Old Local Landmarks



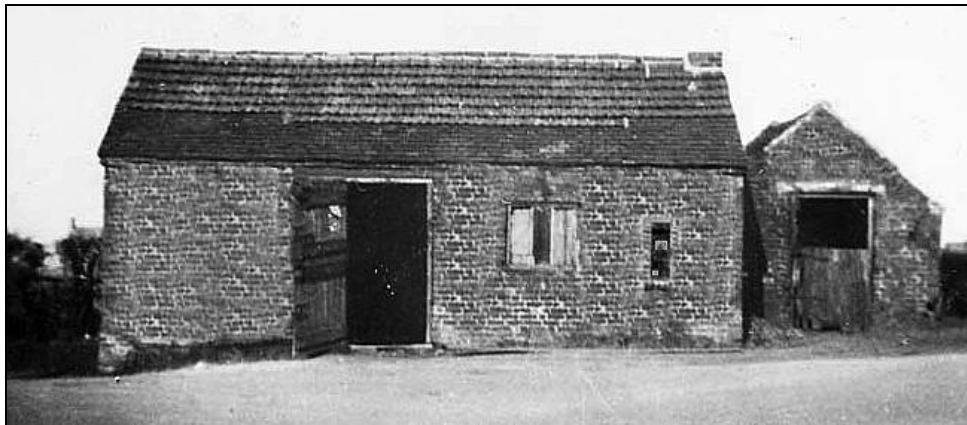
The old Coleorton cross-roads c.1970

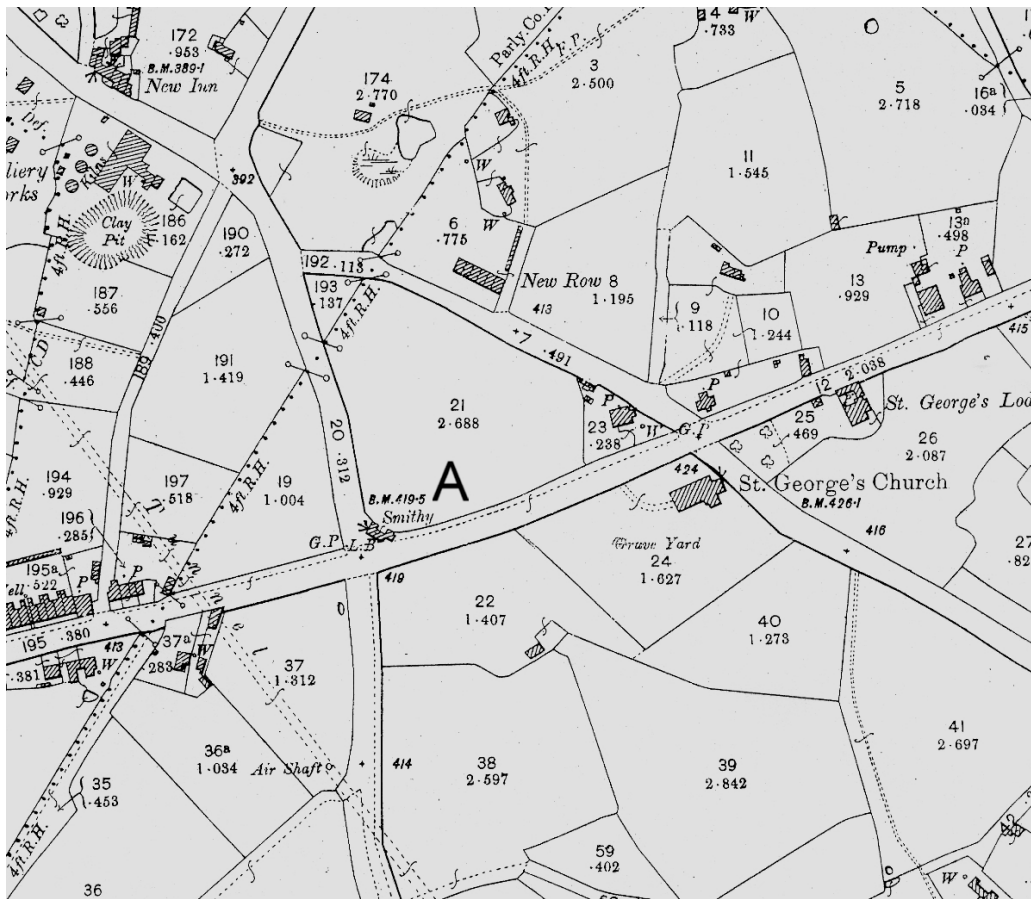
This photograph has historical significance in that it contains a number of features that are not there anymore now.

The New Lount Colliery spoil heaps in the distance were a local landmark, on which villagers spent many hours illegally coal-picking. These were levelled and planted with trees by Leicestershire County Council c.1975. People who lived in the local area at that time, recalled that during World War Two, there was concern that they would alert German aircraft as there was always a large fire-glow from them due to the residue of coal combusting.

At the extreme right of the picture is the Beaumont Arms, another historical landmark which is not there any more, and has been replaced with yet more houses. Of course the whole scene has changed geographically, because of the Coleorton by-pass.

"The Blacksmith's Shop" - Pegg's Green





1903 O/S map. Location of "The Blacksmith's Shop" marked A

This following is based around an interview given by Edgar Mee which was published in the "Coalville Times" in 1951

The "Blacksmith's Shop", which was situated on the eastern corner of Swannington Island (known as Peggy Island when the author was a youngster), was a landmark known by everyone in the community. You even told the midland red bus driver on the C76 for example, that you were getting off at the "Blacksmith's Shop" when you purchased your bus ticket. The author is not sure whether its location should be referred to as Swannington or Peggy's Green, but the locals used the latter.

Reputedly built in the 1700's, it served the districts around for a couple of centuries until it was demolished for a road widening scheme, and a new shop was built. In the 1950's, and for many years before, Mr. Edgar Mee, who was born in 1891, was the blacksmith, and rightly proud of the shop and its traditions; he can be seen at work in the above photograph. The Mee family, including Edgar, his father Joseph and grandfather Joseph were all blacksmiths and were thought to have operated the business for around 100 years. Edgar's grandfather, who was born in Breedon, apparently came from Griffydam to take over the shop, after, so it was said, the previous owner had been "transported" (this term of punishment explained

earlier in the book) for stealing iron. Edgar's younger brother Joe apparently worked at Lount pit as a blacksmith, so it was clearly in the blood.

Mr. Mee explained that his ancestor's did things in exactly the way he was doing in 1950, and he expected that the need for shoeing of horses would continue and outlive his own ability to provide that service. One of the main changes Mr. Mee had experienced over his ancestors was the arrival of electricity. There wasn't any need to employ a man to work the furnace bellows or do the striking as this was automated with the bellows being replaced by an electric blower. Acetylene welding etc had arrived by this time, but the actual method of shoeing of horses has changed little. Some of the shoes were then purchased ready made, but some were still made completely from bar iron.



Edgar Mee at work in his Smithy

In earlier days, before the arrival of farm machinery such as tractors which replaced horses, there was sufficient work to have a blacksmith in nearly every village, and they could be found in Worthington, Coleorton, Newbold, Swannington, Thringstone and Belton for example. Many of these closed down due to the introduction of farm machinery and the closure of local coal mines which also provided work. The gradual closure of all of these left Mr. Mee as the only surviving blacksmith in the area, which enabled him to continue in business.

Things are not what they used to be Mr. Mee explained, as he remembered when there was often a row of horses from the cross-roads to the shop waiting to be shod, and moreover the lighting of fires outside when the iron "hooping" of cart wheels need to be carried out. The hoops were heated in the fire to make them expand before fitting to the wheels. These were then quenched in water to cause contraction of the iron hoops, thereby providing a tight fit.

There was a lot of work to do on the Coleorton Beaumont estate which necessitated him travelling to different farms to carry out the work on site. He recalled that in his

grandfather's day a horse could be completely shod for 2s 4d. In 1950, the price was between 12s. and 16s. and was according to the size of the horse; clearly a cart horse would be more expensive.

Mr. Mee explained that there was clearly an art in the job, and without the careful handling of the horse it was quite easy to get kicked. He said that "his life long contact with horses bred in a love for them, and he and his family had kept as many as three or four horses at a time, for the sheer pleasure their possession gave them".

Apparently, the 1914-18 War was a rushed period at the shop. Mechanisation of farms was in its early stages, and the clip clop of hooves on the roads was not such an unusual sound as it became in 1950. Indeed, Mr. Mee well remembered rushing out of the shop to see the first cars pass by, never dreaming that they would in time, oust the horse-drawn traffic from the roads. The vicinity of the "Blacksmith's Shop" has undergone changes, too. Mr. Mee remembered St. George's Church during the incumbencies of Mr. Bailey and Mr. Pearson and he recalled "Kirby's Windmill", which used to stand in the field opposite the Blacksmith's Shop. The corn windmill is shown below on the 1884 O/S map, but had disappeared by the time the 1903 map was issued.

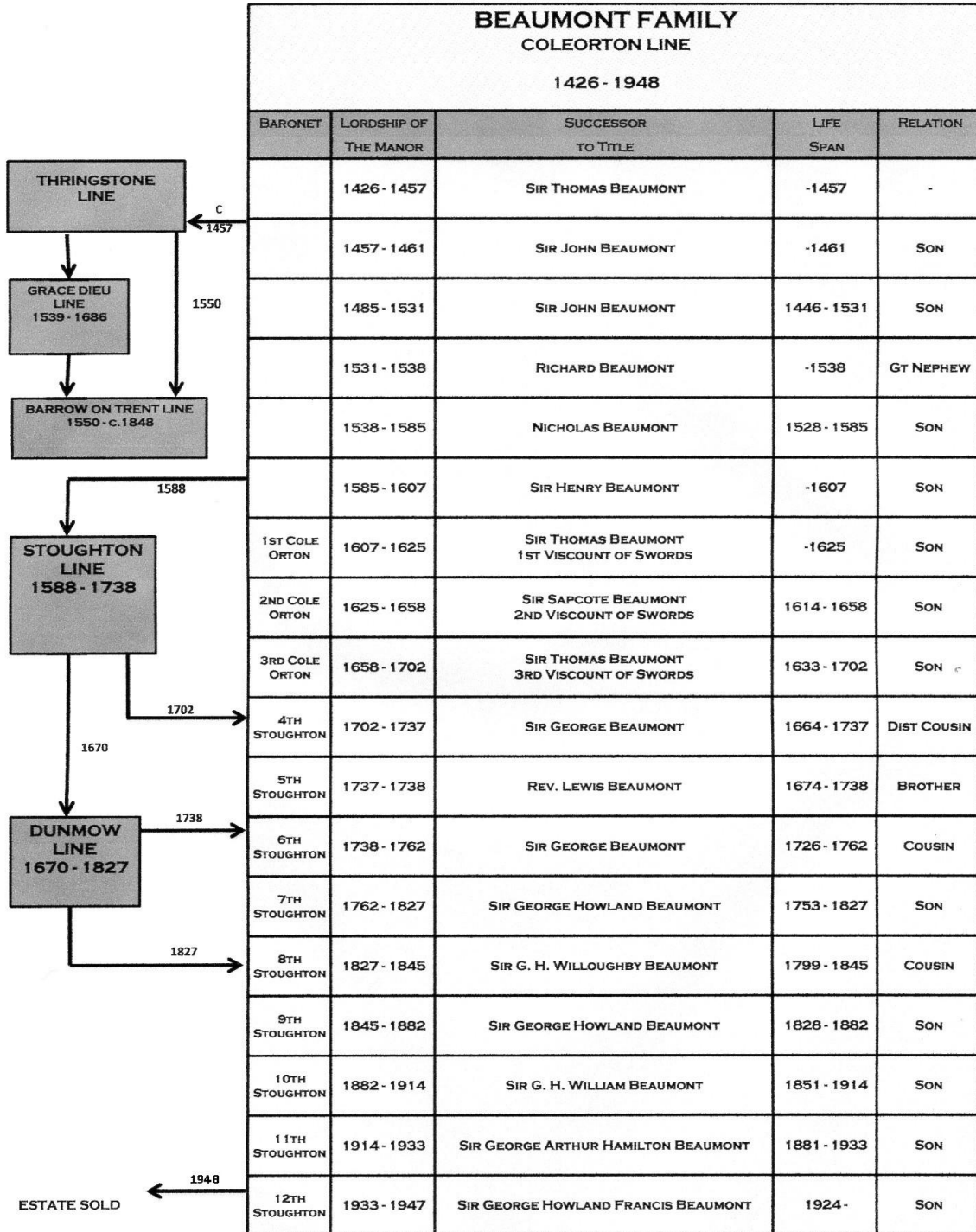


Corn Windmill marked A (1884)

Houses were few and far between at that time. The demolition of his old shop was made necessary by the vast increase in fast moving traffic, and its dangerous proximity to the corner, necessitating the eventual building of a traffic island, but it destroyed an old-world atmosphere which had become a meeting place for all and sundry. Its structure served as a shelter from wind and rain whilst men chatted and regaled each other with well worn tales. The new building filled Mr. Mee's business requirements admirably, but the friendliness and familiarity of its predecessor was gone.

Part 2

The Coleorton Beaumonts



Sir George Howland Francis Beaumont, 12th Baronet, died March 26th 2011

The move to Coleorton by Sir George Howland Beaumont, 7th Baronet and his wife Lady Margaret

Leicester Journal - July 9th 1802

A few days ago, Sir George Beaumont and his Lady visited Coleorton after an absence of eleven years, on which occasion an entertainment was ordered for the poor workmen of every description - Mr. Bailey, the agent (*colliery*) and eight landlords provided the bountiful repast, which consisted of 46 large plum puddings, and one plain one - three feet long and 18 inches wide, cooked under a fat sheep roasted whole by which were added, a hundredweight of beef, and upwards of 350 gallons of ale. The day concluded with much conviviality, and to the credit of the party, with the greatest decorum and propriety.

This visit to Coleorton by Sir George Howland Beaumont, 7th Baronet and his wife Lady Margaret was probably the first time the majority of his tenants learned that it was the intention of Sir George and Lady Margaret to move to Coleorton. What follows gives an insight into how the present Coleorton Hall came to be built and replaced the existing manor house on the same site which resulted in the re-establishment of the Beaumonts at Coleorton for another 125 years.

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 9th Baronet (1882), after which the hall was leased when the 10th Baronet abandoned his wife. The 11th 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 19th century Beaumont archive had been lost prior to 1948. The bulk 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. However, many years of diligent research by various people interested in Coleorton history and the Beaumonts has revealed sufficient information to furnish the reader with a good understanding of the history over a long period of time.

The design and construction of the present Coleorton Hall from 1804 - 1808 plus details of garden landscaping

At the start of this section, it is worth reminding the reader of the events leading up to Sir George Howland Beaumont, 7th Baronet's move to Coleorton from his Dunmow, Essex estate.

A detailed record of the development of the village of Coleorton from the Domesday survey in 1085 up to 1948 is included in both chart and text form in the author's last book entitled "A History of Coal Mining in Coleorton & the Local Area". Therefore, reference can be made to that book for the period prior to where we commence this story.

By the end of the 16th century, Overtone Manor (part of what eventually became Coleorton) had grown to more than 1400 acres, of which only 100 acres was woodland. Productive land was divided into 400 acres of arable land, 600 acres of pasture and around 300 acres of waste land. This manor had twenty substantial dwelling houses, all with gardens and crofts, which would have housed the working population of the manorial estate.

The will of Richard Beaumont, who died in 1538, lists the inventory of particular rooms in his manor house. The rooms included are:-

Two bedrooms - the Red Chamber and the Green Chamber, one of which was over the hall. The parlour and the kitchen are also referred to. This would suggest a modest manor house, which had at least five main rooms, which at the time of the will were either empty or were occupied by other members of the family. Manor houses of the Tudor period vary significantly from very large and elaborate properties, to much more modest properties depending on the wealth held by the lord of the manor. The main sources of wealth in the Coleorton area were coal and agriculture, and there is evidence that during the 16th century, significant development and progress was taking place in local coal mining. The Beaumonts, who were lords of the manor at this time, would have benefited, either directly or indirectly from these developments, although it appears that Richard Beaumont had not devoted his attention to developing coal mining on his land. It was Richard's son Nicholas who really started to develop the potential of the Coleorton coal fields. Nicholas Beaumont's son and heir, Sir Henry Beaumont was lord of the manor from 1585 to 1607 and in an inquisition of his estate, on his death in 1607, the manor house described is significantly grander than the house described in 1573, suggesting either a re-build, or significant additions had taken place between these two dates. The 1607 hall is described as being of stud and plaster, and rough cast brick construction. The house included a "best dining chamber, rooms under the hall, bed chambers and dressing rooms, cellars and sollers (lofts?)" (with probably other rooms on an upper floor). Outside there was an inner courtyard with a communal well, with houses on the east and west sides enclosed "towards the street with a stone wall". Old farm buildings ran down towards the highway, next to the manse was a two story stable, and next to that a barn with its own yard. Also associated with the main building were the brewhouse,

dairyhouse, cornchamber, and malt house. New building work had been going on, since reference is made to "the new building of freestone". Adjacent to the manor buildings were the closes, or enclosed fields, called Netherfield, Cawbeck and the Carre, each with coalmines in them. Coalmines were also mentioned in Gelsmoor and Outwoods.

The manor prospered under Sir Henry's son, Sir Thomas Beaumont, who was lord of the manor of Coleorton from 1607 to 1625. The Beaumont family had been intricately involved with the coal industry in Leicestershire and the neighbouring counties of Nottinghamshire and Warwickshire, with the coal mines in Coleorton being a significant proportion of the coal mined in the area. John Nichols History of Leicester refers to Sir Thomas Beaumont inhabiting a "beautiful and stately mansion house", which would have been expected of one who was a Member of Parliament for Leicestershire, High Sheriff of Leicestershire, and in 1620 had been created Viscount Beaumont of Swords in the Irish peerage. It is reasonable to assume that Sir Thomas would have inherited a substantial property.

When Sir Thomas died in 1625, the title and manor passed to his son, Sir Sapcote Beaumont who was loyal to King Charles I. It is reported that during the Civil Wars, Sir Sapcote fortified the manor house at Coleorton and it was established as a Royalist garrison. Unfortunately for Sir Sapcote, the manor house was taken by the Parliamentary forces in 1644 and utilised by the Earl of Stamford and Lord Grey of Groby as the Parliamentary Headquarters for the area. There were frequent skirmishes between the Parliamentary forces at Coleorton and the Royalist forces at Ashby Castle, some two miles away. Heavy ordnance was held at Coleorton and was primarily used to fire cannon balls at Ashby Castle. It is said that when the Cromwellian armourers ran out of ammunition they stripped the lead from St. Mary's church roof to make cannon-balls. Following the Kings successful taking of Leicester, he commanded Lord Loughborough (Henry Hastings), to burn down Coleorton Hall as retribution for the considerable harassment the garrison had inflicted against Ashby Castle. This command must have been only half heartedly carried out as the manor house was later reoccupied by the Parliamentary forces after they retook Leicester in 1645.

In 1658, Sir Thomas Beaumont succeeded his father, and it appears that at this point in time he was residing in Whitwick, it would therefore seem likely that the manor house at Coleorton was not used by the Beaumonts following the Civil Wars; almost certainly as a result of the damage the Civil Wars had inflicted. However, when Sir Thomas Beaumont died in 1702 he was living in Coleorton, so it is reasonable to assume that he had either rebuilt, or repaired, the manor house at Coleorton. There are no records of the house Sir Thomas was residing in at his death, but pictures of what was left of it nearly one hundred years later indicate that it was on a scale of the house that was destroyed during the Civil Wars.

The historian John Nichols records at the end of the 18th century that the Beaumont family had occupied the estate at Coleorton since 1531 (not called Coleorton at that time), but that Viscount Sir Thomas was the last Beaumont to reside in Coleorton. He had died without issue in 1702 and the estate passed to a distant cousin, Sir George Beaumont, the 4th Baronet of Stoughton, Leicestershire. The estate passed from him to his brother, the Reverend Sir Lewis Beaumont, the 5th Baronet and then in 1738 to his cousin Sir George

Beaumont of Dunmow, Essex, the 6th Baronet of Stoughton, and all within the space of 36 years. The new lords of the manor did not reside in Coleorton, but leased the estate and manor house to various tenants, apparently taking little interest in their Coleorton heritage for approximately 100 years. Under the successive tenants the old house deteriorated and was clearly of little significance at the end of the 18th century. Nichols refers to the old house as "there is still remaining a stone turret of the old building at the east corner of the present house, which gives no idea of former magnificence, but the rest, though strong and in stone, is more plain and modern". It is likely that "the stone turret of the old building" refers to the fortifications that were added by Sir Sapcote Beaumont, and it appears that Sir Thomas Beaumont had rebuilt the house in stone.

So, we have seen that the existing manor-house on the site at the time of Sir George Howland Beaumont's return to Coleorton had been neglected, as no Beaumont had lived in it since the death of the 3rd Viscount, Sir Thomas Beaumont of Coleorton in 1702. The estate had therefore been left in the hands of agents to manage. The manor-house was thought to have been re-built by Sir Thomas Beaumont 3rd Viscount of Swords between 1683 and 1702, and he was living in it when he died. The present hall is at least the third that has stood on the high ground alongside St. Mary's Church, looking across the valley in which lies Coleorton village, over to the rugged grandeur of Charnwood Forest.

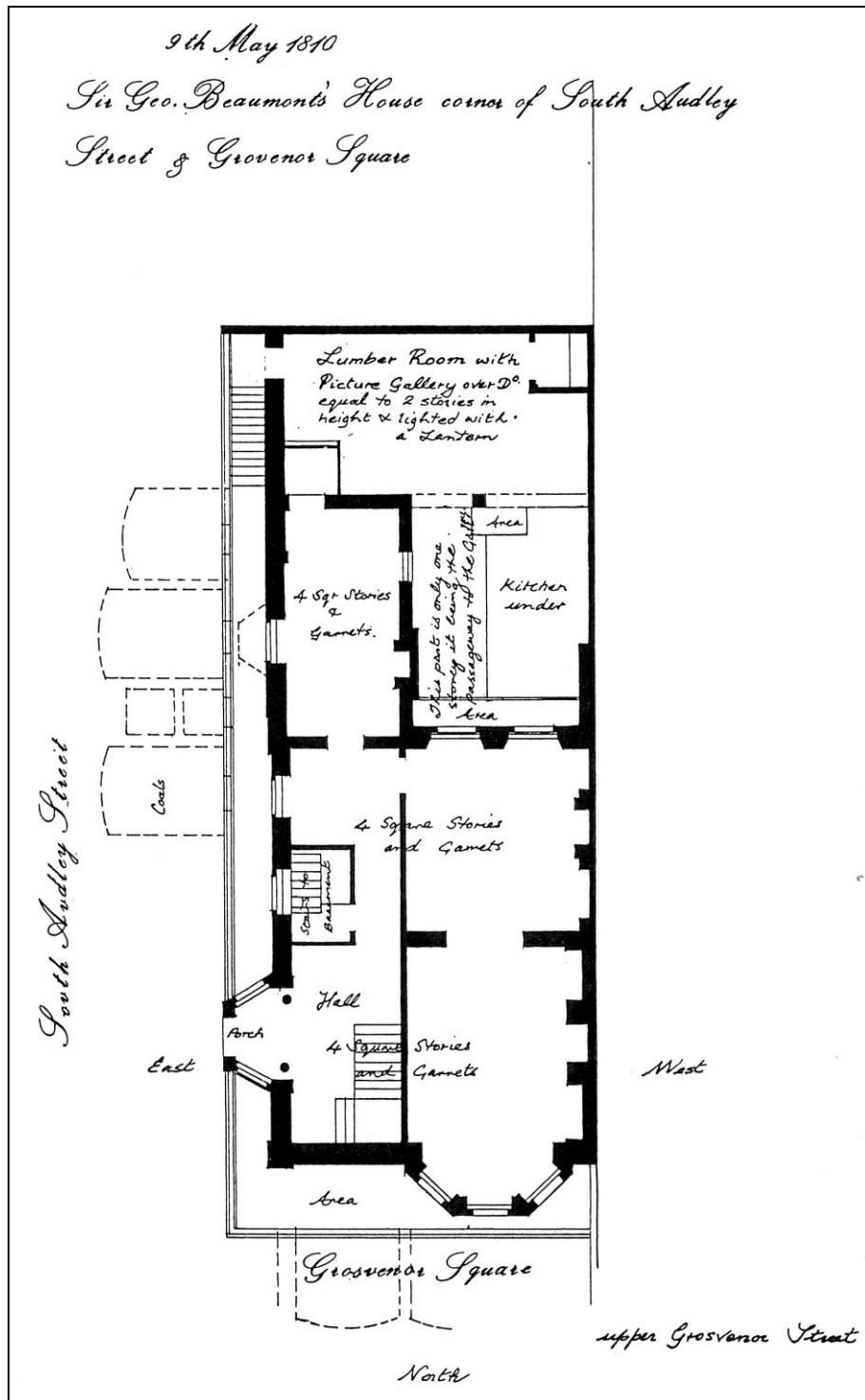
Sir George Beaumont, 6th Baronet, had strengthened his ties to his Dunmow, Essex roots, by marrying into a respected established local family, the Howlands of Stonehall. His bride Rachel was the youngest of the eight children of Mr. Charles Howland of Stonehall. Two years after their marriage, Rachel presented her husband with an heir, who took his father's name and that of her own family, namely Sir George Howland Beaumont, 7th Baronet. His father Sir George died in 1762, leaving behind his nine year old son as heir.

Beaumont was educated at Eton College, which he entered at the young age of eleven where his talent for painting was recognised, and he was tutored in the art of drawing and painting by the landscape painter Alexander Cozens. At New College, Oxford he matriculated on May 4th 1772. He was a member of the "Malchair Circuit" at Oxford and played in Oldfield Bowles amateur theatre at North Aston.

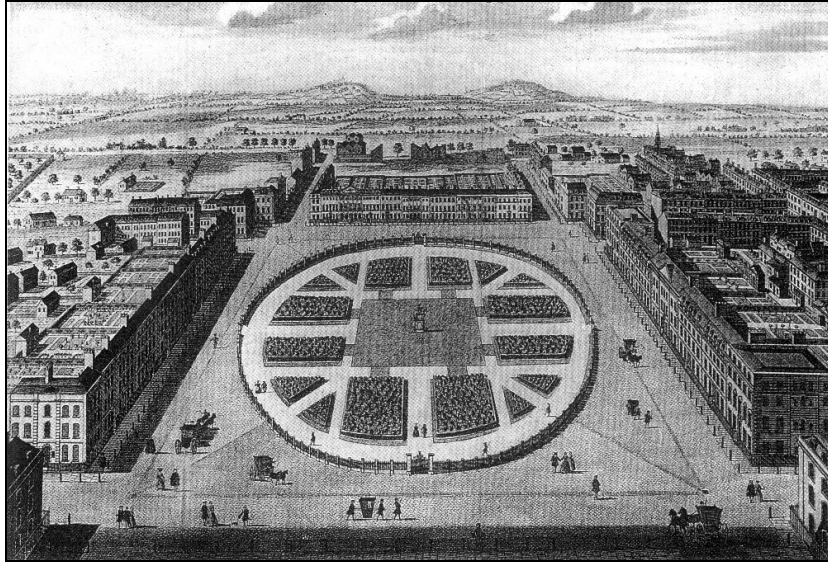
Sir George married Margaret Willes (1756-1829) of Astrop Manor in 1778, whom he had met at a theatrical production at North Aston. She was the daughter and heiress of John Willes of Astrop M.P. By this time, Sir George had developed into a well known and respected amateur landscape painter, resulting in him belatedly going on the "Grand Tour" in 1781 for three years, together with his wife and fellow artist and friend Thomas Hearne. The Grand Tour was seen as something which properly completed a gentleman's education.

In 1785, Lady Margaret had inherited the lease of 34 Grosvenor Square, which provided the Beaumont's with an alternative to the more mundane property of Dunmow and enabled them to develop a more diverse social circle of talented and influential friends. A picture gallery was added to the house in 1792 to accommodate their growing art collection, and following some criticism of his earlier works, such as a "View of Keswick", 1799, he became a regular exhibitor at the Royal Academy up till 1825. He eventually became accepted as the leading

amateur painter of the day. The "National Gallery", founded in 1826, owes its foundations to the 7th Baronet, and as he was not a rich man by any means, his collection of paintings, many of which were given to the Nation is even more impressive.



Sir George and Lady Margaret's London House which shows the picture gallery added in 1792

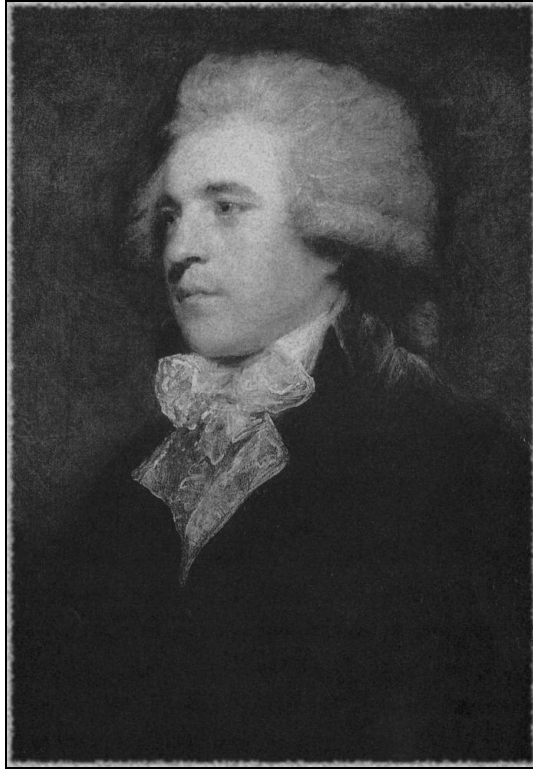


An engraving by Sutton Nichols c.1731. of Grovenor Square.
The Beaumont's house is shown in the bottom LH corner

We should not under estimate the role Lady Margaret played in the 7th Baronet's life, as she too had her influence on contemporary England as well as being his wife and helpmate. Henry Crabb Robinson, a diarist of her day, wrote of her - "She is a gentlewoman of great sweetness and dignity. I should think among the most interesting persons in the country". It is on record that she was described by Mary Hartley to William Gilpin (landscape painter) as "a young woman with some genius and a prodigious eagerness for knowledge and information" who "was always learning something" but "not neglect of her toilet" (*general body care*).



Lady Margaret Beaumont by Joshua Reynolds 1780



Sir George Howland Beaumont, 7th Baronet,
by Joshua Reynolds 1778

In 1790, Sir George was elected to Parliament as a Tory member representing Bere Alston in Devon, but by 1796 he had left Parliament, in order to pursue his love of poetry and fine arts.

In the late 1700's, Sir George still thought of himself as the squire of Dunmow, more than of Coleorton, however, about this time, several things combined to turn his thoughts towards his Leicestershire property. To begin with, he had just discovered the justice of his earlier suspicions about his agent at Coleorton. The Boulbbees had lived comfortably for many years on the profits of their dishonest stewardship, residing in his master's house and working his master's coal mines. In 1798, Sir George brought a successful Chancery lawsuit against the son, Joseph Boulbee junior, and successor of his late steward Joseph Boulbee senior, who had been systematically swindling him during his management of Beaumont's coal mines in Coleorton and the locality, which were leased from Sir George. The whole matter was not finally settled until 1805 and as part of the settlement Sir George received compensation of £15,000.

The existing Coleorton Hall (manor house) prior to rebuilding



Pen and grey wash drawing of Coleorton Hall by Sir G.H. Beaumont, 7th Baronet & dated c.1782



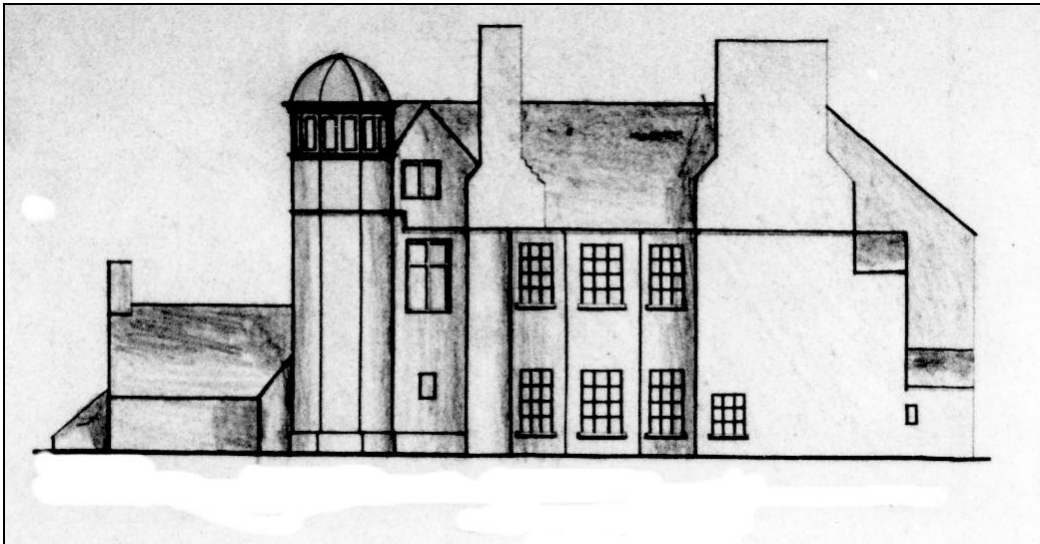
A water colour of the hall by Sir G. H. Beaumont possibly painted around the same time as the drawing above.

The previous drawings of the west facing front of the manor house by Sir George Howland Beaumont, 7th Baronet, paints a great picture of what it was like in 1782. It is presumed that when Sir George was visiting Coleorton to do these various pieces of artwork, prior to the new "Hall Farm" being built, he stayed at "The Bell Inn", a staging post on the Ashby-de-la-Zouch to Loughborough turnpike half a mile from the hall and on the west side of Coleorton fishpond. This was owned by him and demolished in the 1820's. The pen and grey wash drawing shown below by Sir George, includes additional farm buildings to the north west of the hall. The reader should note the steps on the outside of the farm out-buildings next to the tree on the left hand side of the picture. These steps actually went up to the grainery, and are defined on the 1803 plan by John Mathews shown later. The steps are quite an important feature, as they help to prove the accuracy of both the drawing and the plan. Subsequent to Sir George's 1795 drawing, and prior to 1803, a large enclosed walled service and farm courtyard adjacent to and west of the hall including the kitchen garden, was developed. This also included a row of farm buildings, adjacent to, and north of St. Mary's Church, in addition to those shown in Sir George's drawing. An extract from the 1802 survey plan is shown later with a key appended defining the various buildings. One can assume therefore, that the Beaumonts had authorised / carried out these additions to the original manor house after 1782, possibly in preparation for their return to Coleorton with the expectations that the a new extended hall would be built on the same site.

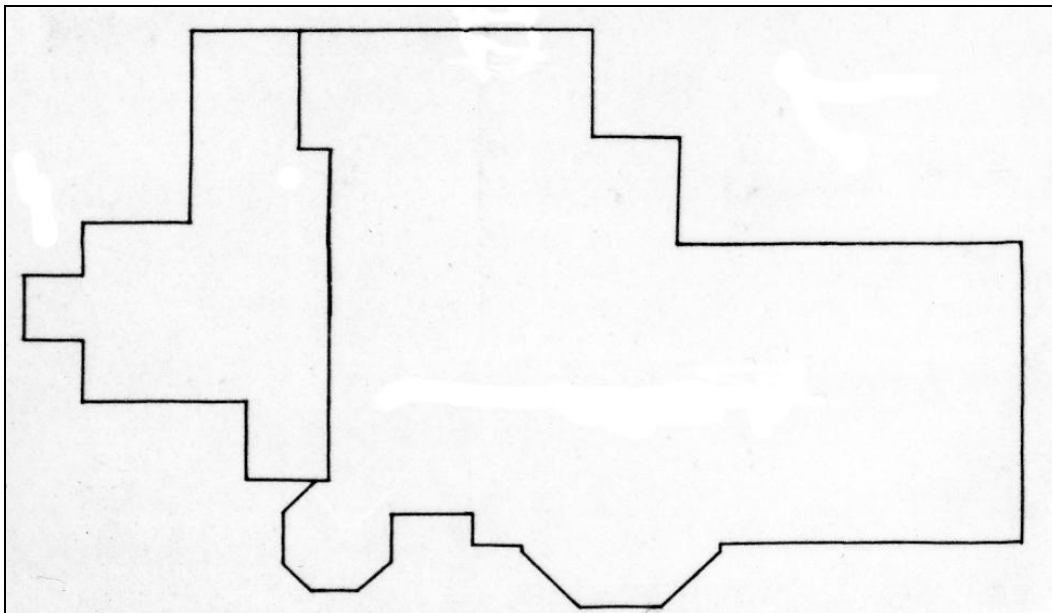


A pen and grey wash drawing by Sir G. H. Beaumont , 7th Bart.
Estimated date 1795 - west elevation.

These views are taken from plans drawn by John Mathews a surveyor of Ashby de la Zouch for Sir George in January 1803 of the manor house, exactly as it was at that time, and as shown in the previous paintings / drawings of the manor house by Sir George.



West Facing Front



West Facing Front

Overall length = Approx 90 feet (27 m)
Overall Depth = Approx 52 feet (16m)

In a letter from John Hodgkinson (Sir George's land agent at the time) sent from Coleorton to George Dance, the eventual architect of the new Coleorton Hall, plans and elevations of the old manor house which gave a detailed picture of the layout were included. These were the plans drawn by John Mathews of Ashby. The letter reads as follows:-

Dear Sir,

Herewith you receive the plan of the premises at Coleorton, and as the east wall of the kitchen is very bad I expect you will be inclined to take that room down and to make the south and east fronts anew.

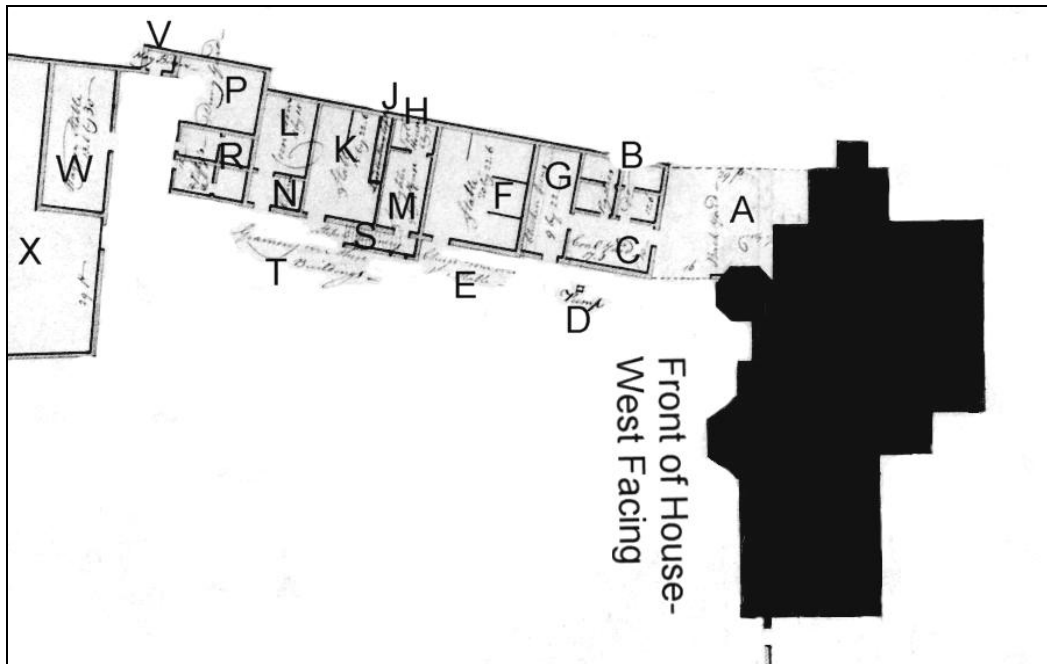
Here is a stone which will work to anything at an easy expense as you will see by the annexed prices.

I have ordered the Back Bank To be opened from which the stone of the church was got - the bricks you have seen, but I think you had better, if you can make it convenient, to see the whole again, if Sir George determines to use it.

I am,
Yr most obt servant
J. Hodgkinson

This house, which was of course much smaller than the current Coleorton Hall included the following rooms:-

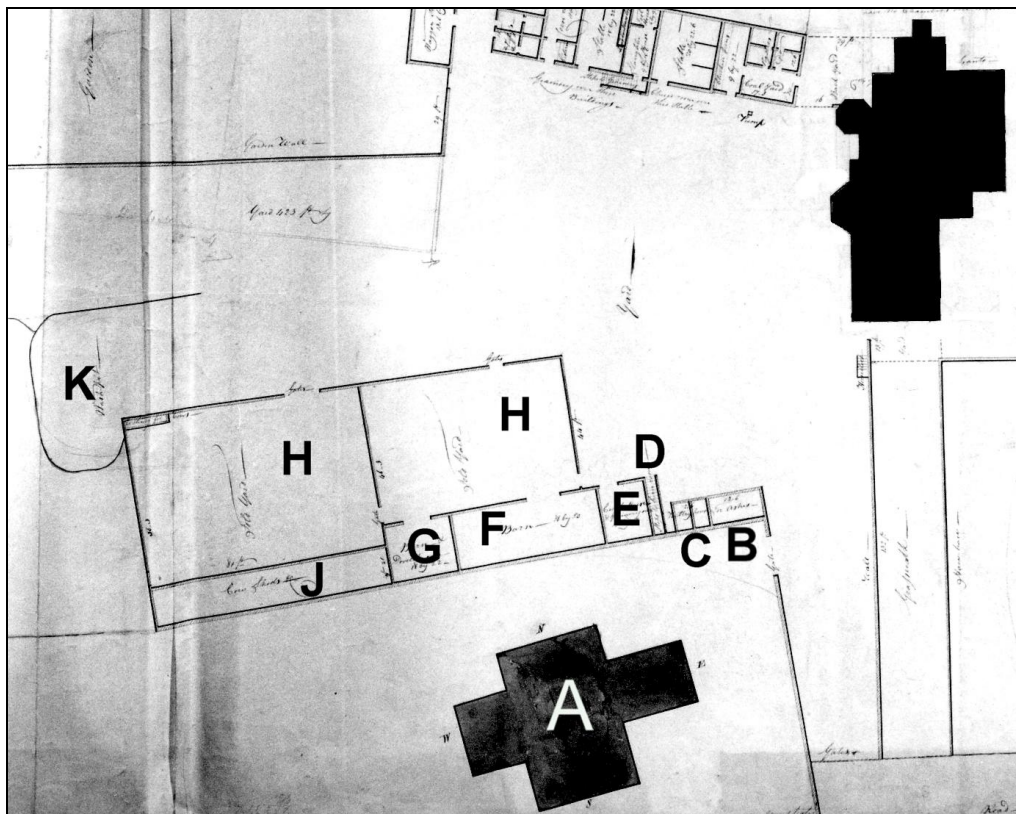
A kitchen in the south west corner, a bow parlour in the centre of the west front and a series of utility rooms including a back parlour on the east front. The main bed chambers were on the first floor and the servant's quarters on the second floor. The stone turret apparently housed a bathroom. There was also a back kitchen and a dairy annexed on the north front, but this was a single storey part of the house. The outbuildings indicate that the property was a self contained unit, with a courtyard surrounded by poultry houses, barns - one which had a dovecote over - and cow sheds on the church side, with stable, pig sties and a slaughter house on the orchard side, which was referred to as "The Greenacres" side. Barns for the farm wagons, the rickyard and wash pit, gardens and hot house completed the layout on the west side. The orchard was external and to the north of the farm buildings shown on the following plan.



The above is based on the survey plans drawn by John Mathews in December 1802 and shows the out-buildings adjacent to the northern end of the house as it was then. The steps to the grainery marked S can clearly be related to the earlier drawing by Sir George Beaumont.

Key

A	Back Yard	S	Steps to Grainery
B	Pigsties	T	Grainery over these buildings
C	Coal Yard	V	Hay Barn
D	Pump	W	Wagon Stable
E	Cheese Room over stables		
X	Kitchen Garden (this was the location of the first Kitchen Garden)		
F	Stables		
G	Chicken Pens		
H	Cool Room		
J	? Hay Loft		
K	Stable		
L	Corn Room		
M	Slaughter House		
N	Cistern		
P	Dung Yard		
R	Pigsties		

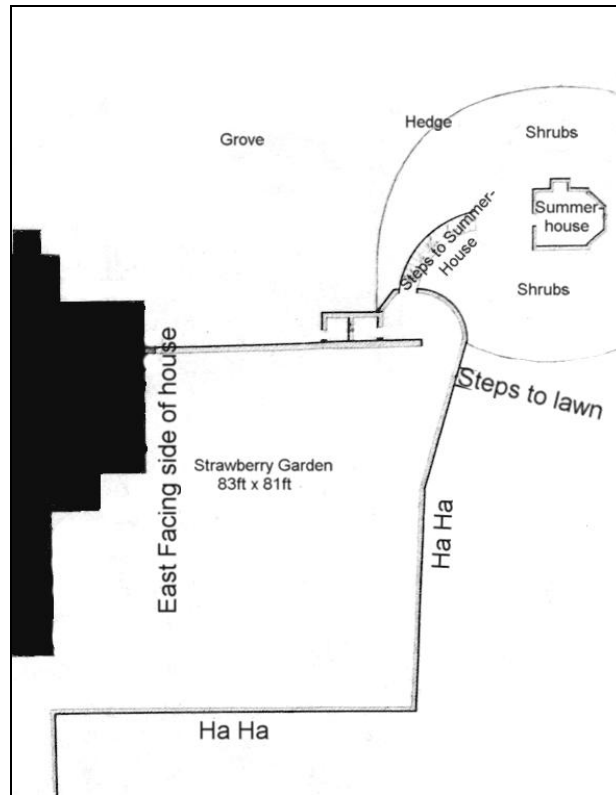


The above is based on the plan drawn by John Mathews in 1802/3.

It shows the rest of the courtyard and the farm out-buildings adjacent to St. Mary's Church.

Key

- A St. Mary's Church
- B Building for ashes
- C Hay house
- D Steps to barn rooms
- E Coach house and grainery
- F Barn - 18 feet x 50 feet
- G Barn with dovecote over
- H Fold yards
- J Cow sheds
- K Wash pit



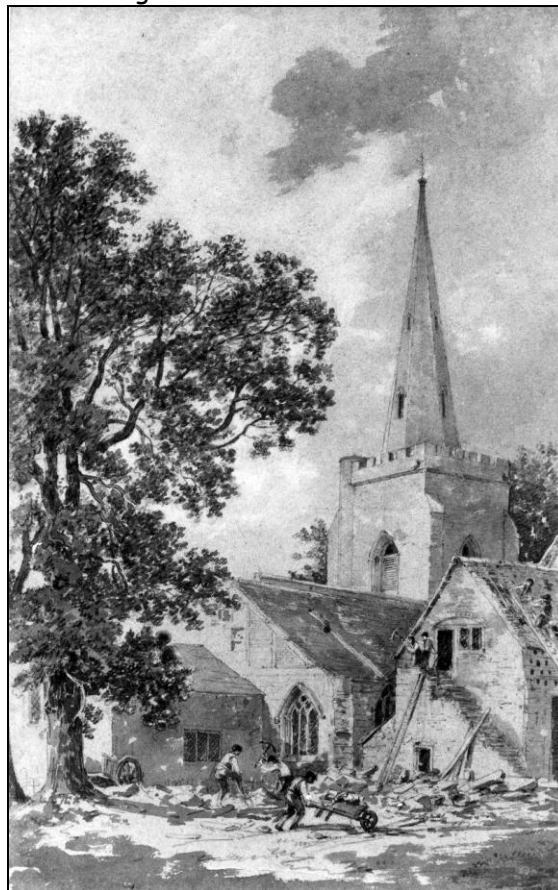
Based again on the 1802 survey plan by John Mathews, the above shows the original strawberry garden on the east side of the existing property which was surrounded by a Ha-Ha on the south and east sides. To the north east was a raised summer house, surrounded by a hedge and shrubs and reached via steps. It over-looked a lawned area.

The following pictures of St. Mary's Church have been included in order to try and provide an added dimension to the relationship between the farm buildings next to the church on John Mathew's 1802 plan. What is clear from the 1794 engraving below, and Sir George's 1812 painting which follows on, is that the church was significantly structurally altered between these dates. Later changes were carried out in 1821 when the parish records show that the spire had been rebuilt and the tower repaired. In 1851 the church was thoroughly restored when the north aisle was also extended. On John Mathews 1802 plan, the farm buildings are shown further away from the church than is shown in Sir George Howland Beaumont's 1812 drawing, where they are right up to the church. The author is of the view that the church drawn in by John Mathews is either not a true representation and it had been extended closer to the farm buildings, or the perspective of the 1812 drawing is deceiving. The steps to the barn room marked D on the John Mathews plan, also appear to be the steps shown on Sir George's 1812 painting, and the buildings for the hay house and the ashes house marked B and C had probably already been knocked down.

In order to truly establish the relationship between the farm buildings and the church and even the extent of the whole enclosed courtyard, some archaeological work would need to be carried out.



An engraving of St. Mary's Church from the south east, by S. Shaw Feb 1794 which shows what is thought to be farm buildings to the north of the church.

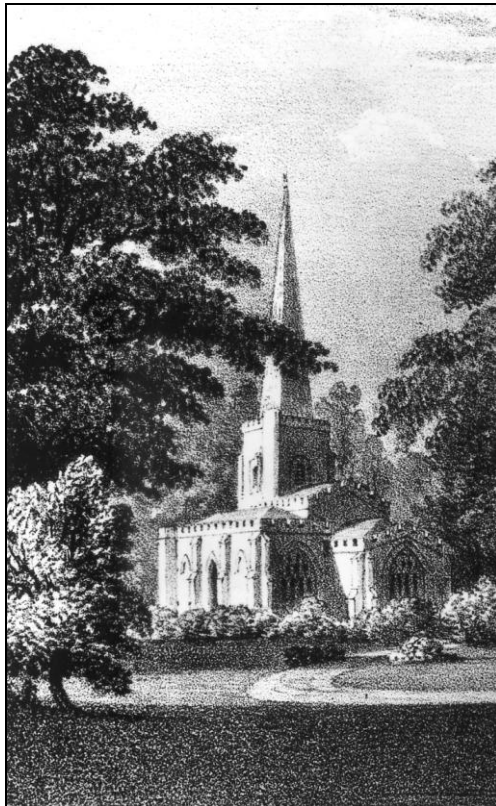


North east elevation

This pen and grey wash drawing by Sir G. H. Beaumont 7th Baronet and dated 1812 shows the demolishing of farm buildings adjacent to the church. The church roof also appears to be under repair. In 1821, the parish records show that the spire had been rebuilt and the tower repaired.



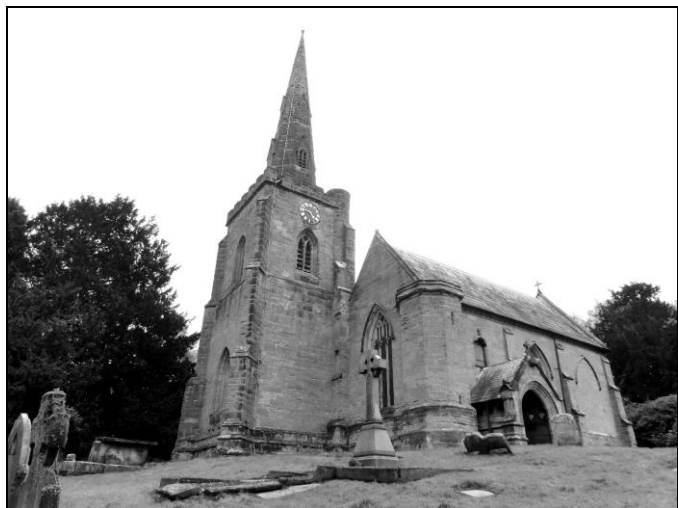
A pencil and grey wash drawing of St. Mary's Church by H.W. Burgess. Thought to be c.1852. In 1852, two new windows were put in the west side of the church for the first anniversary of the 9th Baronet's wedding and the baptism of his son and heir (*Leicester Mercury* - June 7th 1851). This appears to have been the start of the complete restoration of the church, when the north aisle was also extended.



The above an engraving of St. Mary's church thought to have been done some time after the church had been completely restored in 1855.



Northern (top) and southern elevations of St. Mary's Church in 2015.



South west elevation - 2015

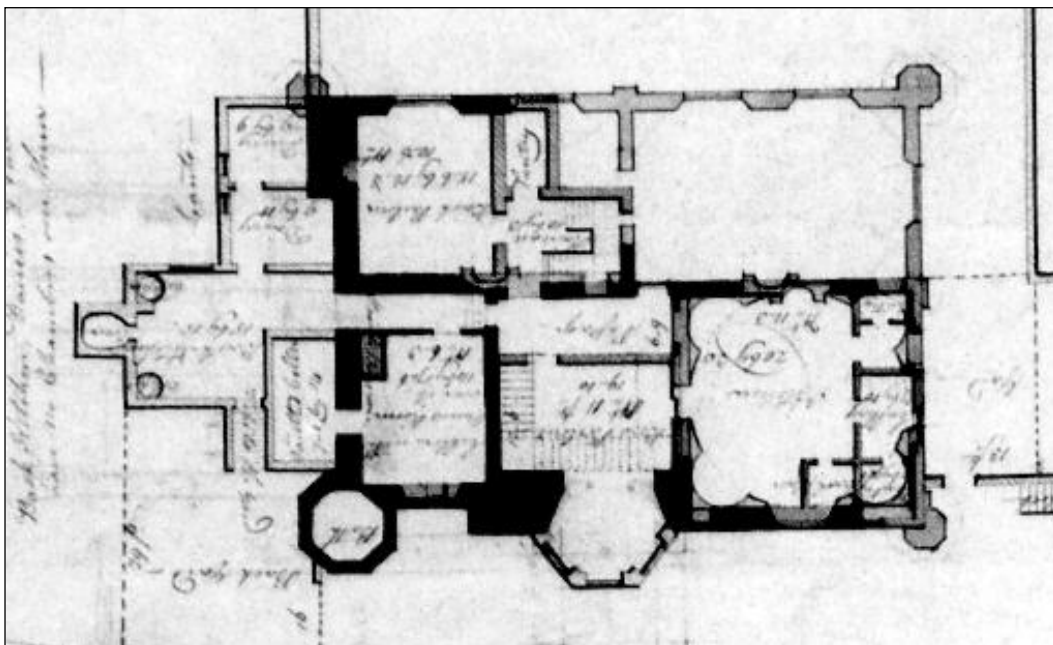
The designing and building of the new Coleorton Hall

The author has attempted to simplify the extremely complex background history to the building of the new Coleorton Hall in an attempt to make it more understandable and interesting to the general reader.

George Dance the Younger (1st April 1741- 14th January 1825), was the fifth and youngest son of the architect George Dance the Elder. He had known Sir George Howland Beaumont, 7th Baronet, for twenty years or so and was eventually, after much conjecture with numerous other advisers including Uvedale Price, invited to design a new house for Sir George and Lady Margaret in the summer of 1802 when he was sixty-one, which was to be situated on the same site as the old one.

Described by C. R. Cockerell as "the most complete poet-architect of his day", George Dance the Younger stands out as one of the pioneers of his profession. John Soane, his pupil and friend, saw him as "one of the most accomplished architects of the English school" and praised "the great fertility of invention" that infused his work (from *Architecture Unshackled: George Dance the Younger 1741-1825.....an exhibition at John Soane's Museum*).

At first, it was intended to incorporate the old house into the new Coleorton Hall, but this didn't materialise. An old friend of Sir George's of some twenty years, Uvedale Price, was invited to advise on the design of the new house. According to Joseph Farington's Diary, 11th July 1802, Dance had already been consulted as to the possibilities of restoring the old house or building a new one to the tune of £8,000. Dance originally proposed to incorporate the old walls of the existing manor house and the first designs were prepared in early 1803.



West facing front of house.

The preceding plan, based on the John Mathews survey plan of the existing manor house, shows the modifications to the original house proposed by George Dance Esq, R.A., in 1803, at the time when it was originally intended to incorporate the old house in the new design. The major structural change proposed, was the addition of the room in the top right hand corner, to make a rectangular building. Dance appears to have just over-layed his design on the original Mathews plan. Various people such as Uvedale Price, William Mitford, Farington, Wordsworth, Coleridge etc., etc., were involved in an advisory capacity. There was also a recommendation from Lord Mulgrave for the employment of another architect, William Atkinson. Beaumont considered all options and clearly found it difficult to make a choice. By June 1804, he had almost decided on the addition of rooms to the old house, but a month later changed his mind, much to the consternation of Uvedale Price who wanted him to retain it. This developed over a period of time into quite a complex situation, such that at one point, George Dance confided in Farington on July 19th 1804 - "That he would rejoice to give £200 to have nothing more to do with it".

In August, Dance was once again summoned to Coleorton where he learned that a decision had been reached for a new house to be built on the site of the old one, and before Dance returned to his office, the foundation stone had been laid for the new "Coleorton Hall". George Dance Esq, R.A. remained as the architect, eventually designing a two storey mansion on Gothic lines.

There is a book, entitled -"Uvedale Price (1747 -1829) Decoding the Picturesque" by C. Watkins & Ben Cowell which was first published in 2012. In chapter 5, sub-heading "Picturesque Design - Aspects of Coleorton", the complexities in arriving at an acceptable design is covered extremely well. If the readers wish to learn more of the complex situation leading up to the final decision on the design of the new hall, then the author recommends that it would be advisable to refer directly to this book.

The first stone of the new house was laid on the 21st day of August 1804 (see the following photograph of the George Dance memorial stone). The house was completed in 1807, and first inhabited by Sir George and Lady Margaret in August 1808. Part of the reputed £100,000 legacy left to Sir George by his uncle George Howland of Stonehall, was used for the re-building. George Dance surmised that they spent some £15,000 on the re-build with a further £5,000 on the furniture.

The following synopsis of the design of Coleorton Hall is taken from Dorothy Strouds book "George Dance Architect 1741-1825", and the author suggests that the reader makes reference to this book if further information is required:-

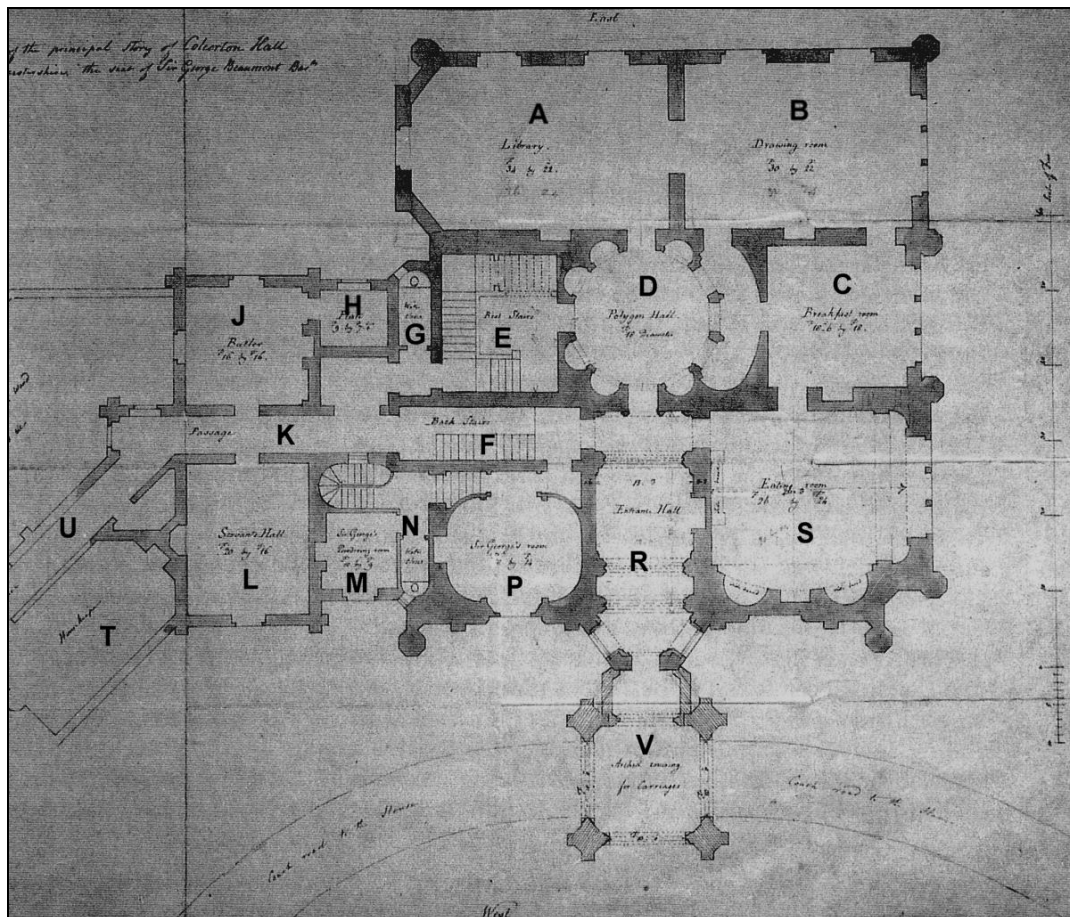
The design chosen for the house which was to rise during the next two years was a remarkable example of Dance's eclectic approach to architecture, and illustrated clearly those principles which he had held for many years, but had an opportunity to express succinctly during an after-dinner discussion at the Beaumonts' London home at which Farington was a fellow-guest.

Fortunately Beaumont shared his views, and the architecture of Coleorton Hall became "unshackled" to present a variety of elements assembled in a consciously picturesque manner, and making full use of the lofty site, the well-wooded background

(improved with the advice of Uvedale Price), and the spire of the nearby church. The entrance front of the house strikes a gothic note with its windows recessed in pointed arches on either side of a central projecting bay. Flanking this façade are pairs of slender turrets which rise above the roof line to terminate in fanciful caps, which give them an oriental touch reminiscent of Dance's Guildhall façade built sixteen years earlier. The main entrance to the house is by a buttressed *porte-cochere*. Gothic gives way to Tudor in the south and east fronts.

From the *porte cochere* a vestibule leads to the polygonal hall where twelve pointed arches surround an open well rising through the full height of the house. At first floor level there is a gallery with brass and iron ornament railing. The gallery is in turn ringed by arched windows filled with stained glass, while above is a flat ceiling panel which eventually took the place of a small vault proposed in one of Dance's drawings.

The principle staircase accommodated in a well to the north of the hall (E) is remarkable for its stark character, emphasised by the solid balustrade to the stairs. The same restraint is noticeable in the principal rooms where the intention was to distract as little as possible from Sir George's outstanding collection of paintings, moved from his London house to hang at Coleorton until he offered them in 1822/3 as a nucleus for the founding of the National Gallery.



West facing front of house -
First floor plan by George Dance as it was built.

A	Library	M	Sir George's Drawing room
B	Drawing Room	N	WC
C	Breakfast room	P	Sir George's room
D	Polygon Hall	R	Entrance hall
E	Best Stairs	S	Dining / Eating room
F	Back Stairs	T	House Keeper's
G	WC	U	Passage to kitchen
H	Plate	V	Porte-Cochere (carriage porch)
J	Butler		
K	Passage		
L	Servant's hall		

The ground floor plan of Coleorton Hall shown on the previous page is as it was completed in 1808 (Sir John Soane's Museum, London). The 1938 plan shown later includes the details of the rooms which were added over a later period.

The Memorial to George Dance Esq., R.A. Architect

Sir George and Lady Margaret finally moved into their new house on the 12th day of August 1808.

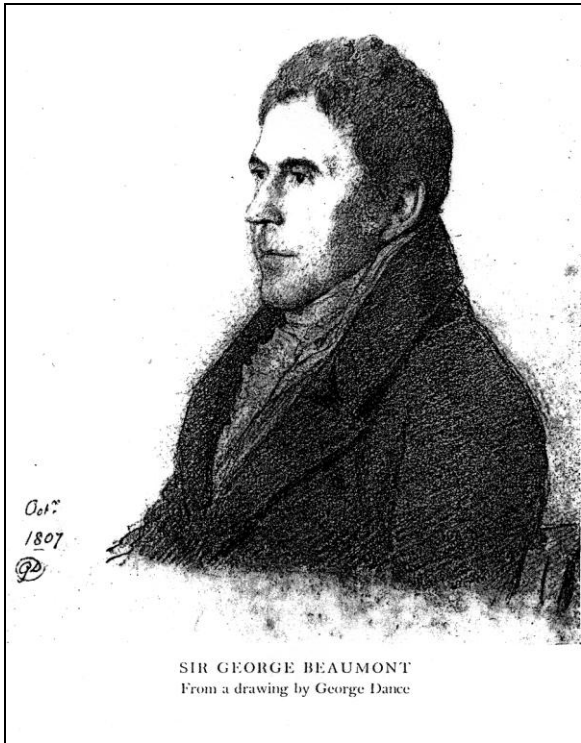
The following was recorded in Joseph Farington's diary on May 30th 1808:-
Dance called having returned from Cole Orton yesterday. He said that he went down in the Telegraph and by travelling all night his legs were swelled "like Mill post". He also suffered from sleeping in the house which was newly painted one night. He was seized with vomiting, such an effect it had upon his stomach. He said, Sir George ought not to go into it till August, but Lady Beaumont persists for end of June or July.



This memorial plaque was originally set on the inner side of the porch parapet, but was re-sited externally.



George Dance was an accomplished artist,
particularly in the field of portraiture

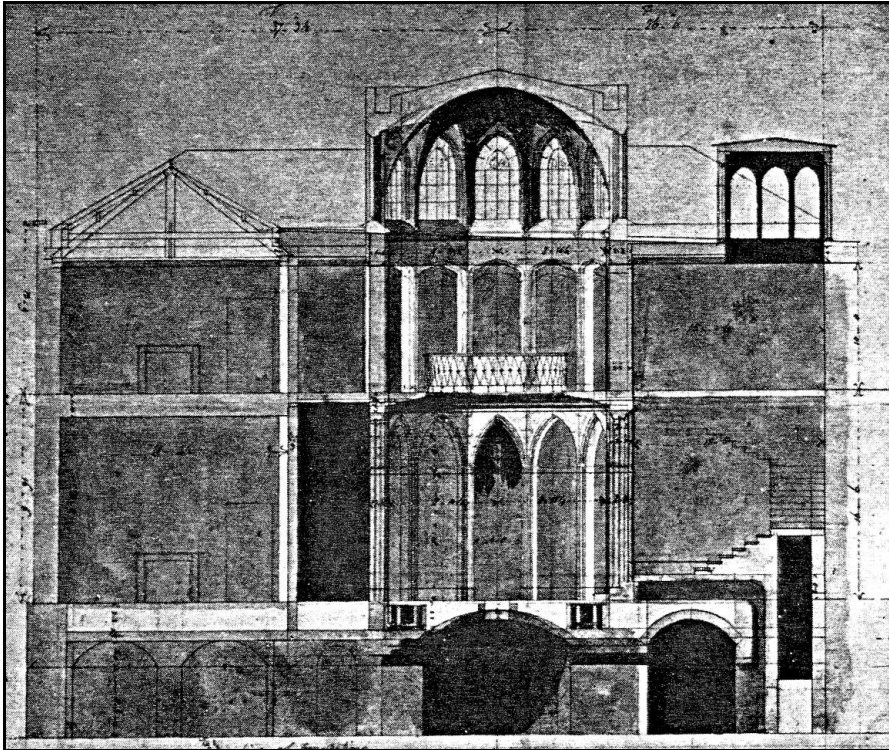


Sir George Howland Beaumont, 7th Bart, 1753-1827
Drawn and signed by George Dance in 1807,



George Dance self portrait 1814.

The Polygonal Hall



A drawing by George Dance showing a section through the hall from east to west including the central polygonal hall - 1804



The polygonal Hall gallery and ceiling c.1960

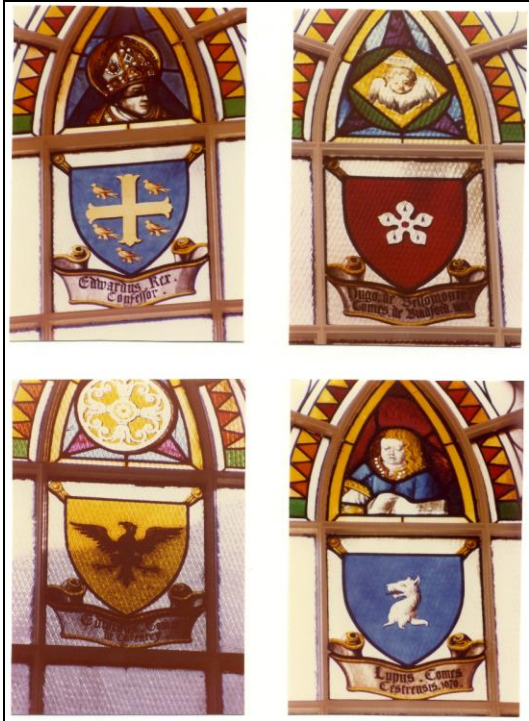


A modern photograph of the Polygonal Hall ceiling

This photograph portrays how the lighting of the complex central polygonal hall changes by the hour as the sun moves around the twelve Gothic arched openings



Gallery 1960
 (note cast copy of "Tondo" on far wall)



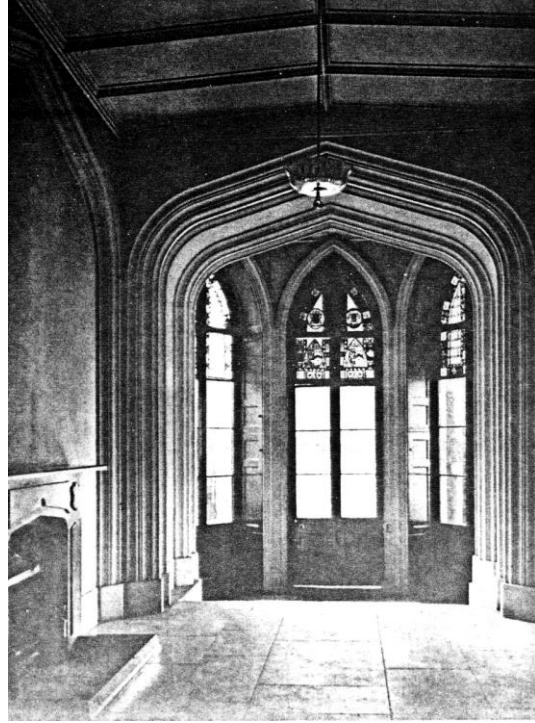
Leaded lights in top windows



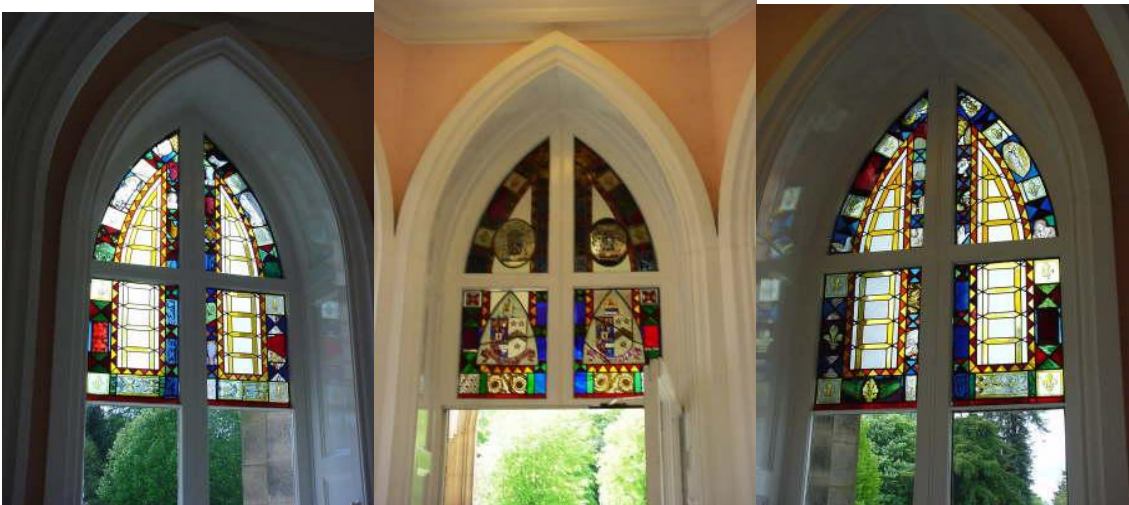
Leaded lights in top windows



Staircase 1960



The entrance vestibule -
3.15m x 2.72m



Close up of vestibule windows



The above photograph shows the unfinished "Taddei Tondo" by Michaelangelo (c.1504/5). During a visit to Italy in 1821 this was purchased by Sir George Howland Beaumont, 7th Baronet, and after being initially hung in his London residence for a time he gave it to the nation and it now hangs in the Royal Academy. It is approx 42 inches in diameter and between 3.0 to 8.0 inches deep and carved in Carrara Marble

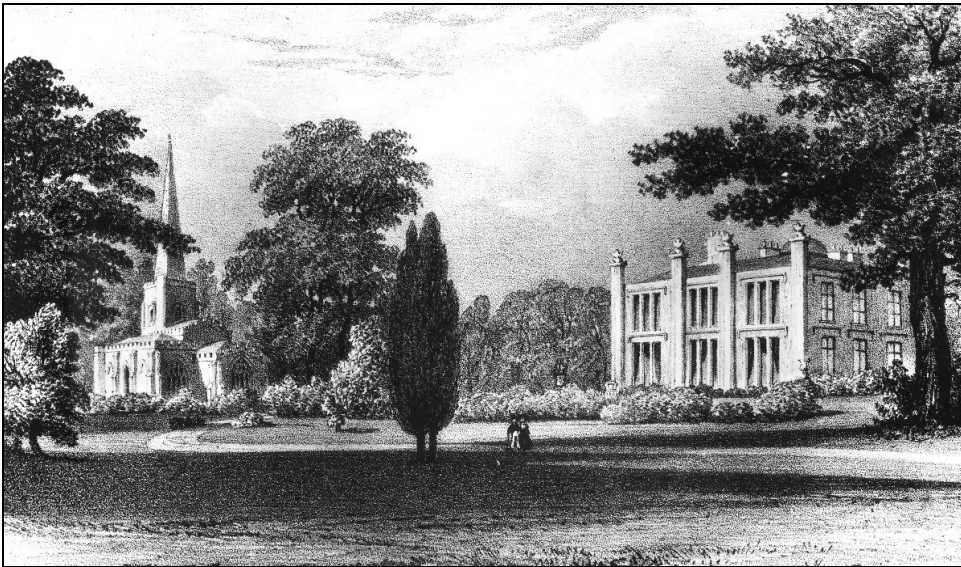


A cast copy of the "Taddei Tondo" is shown in the earlier photograph of the polygonal hall gallery



South West Elevation

Coleorton Hall drawn by J.P. Neale c.1809 and engraved by J.Scott.



South East Elevation

An old engraving of Coleorton Hall and St. Mary's Church with the hall still as George Dance had designed it from this south easterly aspect (date c.1855).

Perhaps the most striking external features of the rebuilt Coleorton Hall are the tall, slender octagonal "turrets" rising above the roof to decorate the skyline. The turret caps are described by Stroud as "flattened cones, ringed with anthemion cresting, and topped with finials similarly decorated" that give an oriental touch reminiscent of Dance's Guildhall façade of sixteen years earlier.

Following the building of the new hall, the gardens surrounding it needed to be landscaped, bearing in mind that the area was surrounded by a number of coal mines at that time, and clearly the Beaumonts would have been keen to have them hidden from view. The formal gardens extended to some 50 acres. The landscape gardener in charge of the work was James Cranston (d. 1835) of King's Acre (Hertfordshire), recommended to the Beaumonts in May 1803 by Uvedale Price. Price and the Beaumonts had many literary, theatrical and artistic interests in common and they often met up in London, with Price staying at their house as he didn't have his own property in London. Beaumont had been elected to the "Society of Dilettanti" (a society of noblemen and scholars) in 1784, and one of his fellow members was Uvedale Price. It is known that Uvedale Price advised on the 'picturesque' treatment of the Hall and its grounds, and correspondence of 1802 and later (Pierpont Morgan Library) indicates that Price may actually have overseen work here. It seems possible that the woodland walks, and perhaps the similarly stone-edged ones through the woodland around Wordsworth's "Winter Garden" (see following feature on the Winter Garden) were Price's main contribution (examples of original pathways appear later in the book).

As part of the landscaping around the hall, a new pond was constructed, which became commonly known as "Church Pool", and apparently Uvedale Price had some input into this also. A bridge was built to span the pool at some time, possibly in the early 1800's, and this carried the entrance drive from the main Ashby road to the front of the hall. Below is a picture of the bridge spanning the pool, which is recorded as being painted by Sir George Beaumont in 1825.



The Bridge, Coleorton Hall - 1825
By Sir George Howland Beaumont, 7th Baronet.



This photograph of the grade II listed single-span ashlar stone bridge, taken in 2015, traversed the pool known as "Church Pool" (marked F on the following tithe map), and carried the sweeping gravelled entrance drive to the hall. This can be compared to the painting by Sir George Beaumont shown on the previous page. Neither the bridge nor the entrance drive which passed over it is now in use as this was replaced by another entrance drive to the west as described later. The grassy hollow in front of the bridge shows where the pool was, but it was much deeper than this of course, however, it still holds water as was the case when this photograph was taken. The pool stretched either side of the bridge.



2015



Winter of 1957

The Garden Pool and original stone edged gravelled pathways



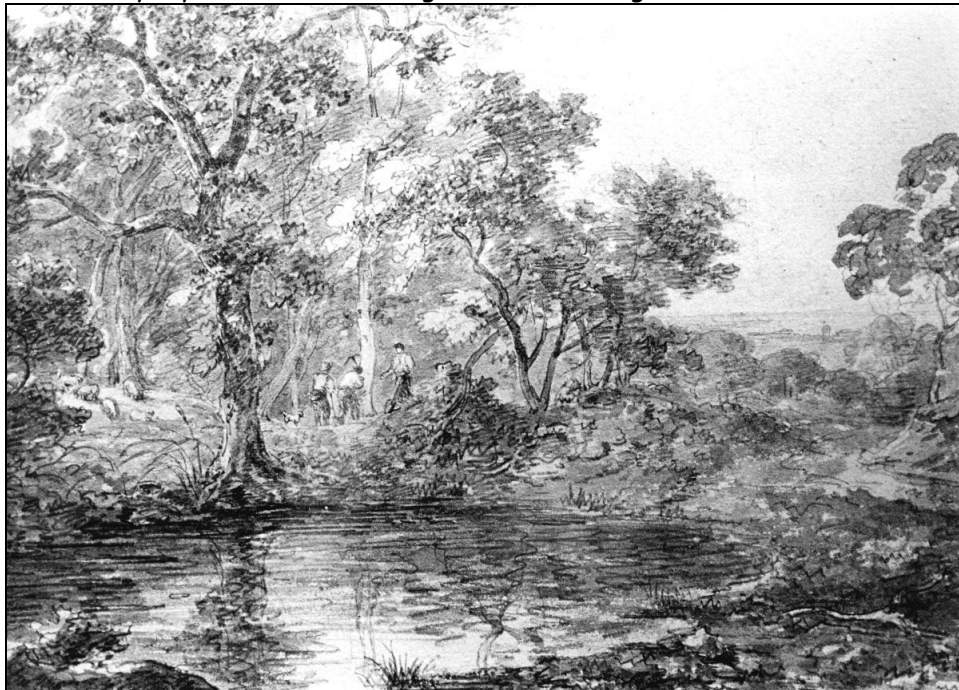
The photographs on the previous page, taken in spring 2015, shows what we will refer to as the garden pool. It is adjacent to and south west of what was the former Robert Chaplin kitchen garden, and is marked J on the 1842 Tithe Map shown later. The flat area was thought to have been created to provide the Beaumonts' with what at that time would have been a secluded bathing and picnic spot, as the surrounding area would have been heavily wooded at that time.

The original stone steps leading down to the pool remain, but appear to have been capped with modern slabs at some time. They can be seen clearly in the centre of the bottom photograph rising up from the flat area.

The lower photograph also shows in the foreground, a good example of the stone edged gravelled footpaths which formed part of the woodland walks around the hall grounds, some of which are depicted in red on the 1888 O/S map shown later.

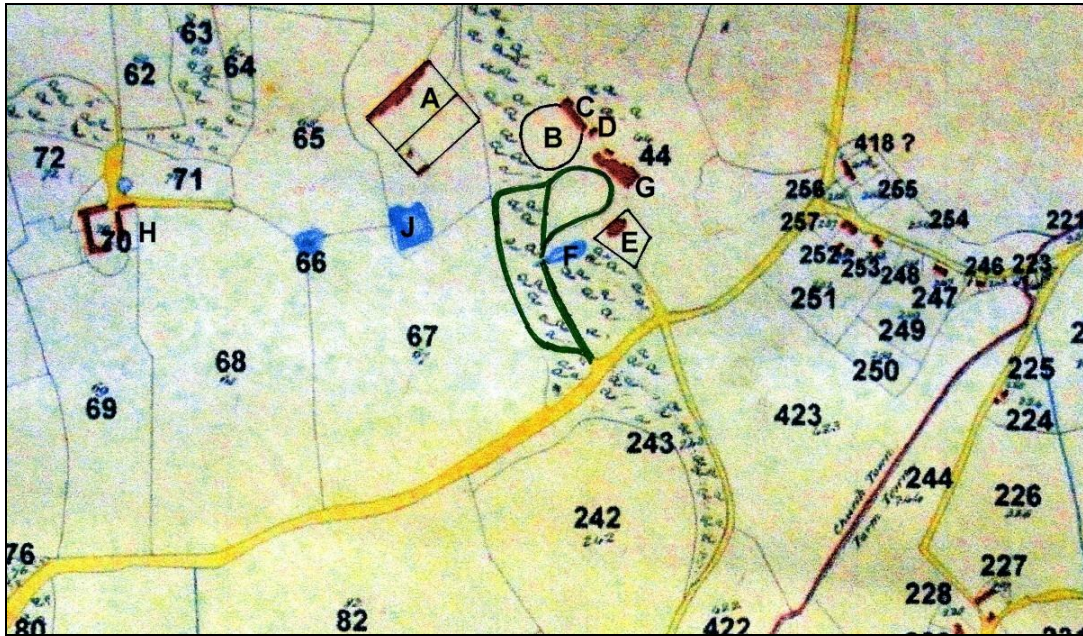
"The Grove"

"The Grove" was originally a densely wooded area which was referred to in 18th century Parish Records. It circled the old Coleorton Hall from its boundary with "Canterbury Park" in the NE in an anticlockwise arc to the SW, up to the west side of the churchyard where there is an ancient rookery. It extended for approximately 350m north of the hall, and is clearly defined on the following 1888 O/S map. The author has recently walked the area which now benefits from thinning out of trees and re-planted areas, which lets in the light and affords magnificent views northwards and eastwards. There is still evidence of stone edged pathways as shown in the previous photographs around the garden pool and Uvedale Price's possible involvement with the layout of these has already been discussed. The Grove develops into a lobe shaped projection at the northern end, and this was evidently retained by stone terraced walls. The hall's own "Hame Farm" was built in this area to the north east of the kitchen garden in the mid 1800's, and the buildings can be seen on the enlarged 1888 O/S map. The farm house was demolished in 1953 by the N.C.B. due to subsidence. There is a suggestion that the area was developed as a quarry at some earlier time and subsequently became a quarry garden. Towards the northern end of the grove, a fountain is depicted on the map, and it is possible this was associated with the garden pool shown in the picture below, but this is only conjecture of course. The picture below, entitled "The Grove" was drawn by Sir George Howland Beaumont, 7th Baronet in 1804. There currently exists a large hollow in the ground in the area of the projecting lobe, and it is likely that this was once the pool shown in the drawing below. It clearly shows men at work together with extensive views (to the north?), and the perspective suggests the ground falls away to the right. As construction of the new hall started in 1804, then landscaping of the gardens would have also been underway, by the time Sir George did his drawing.



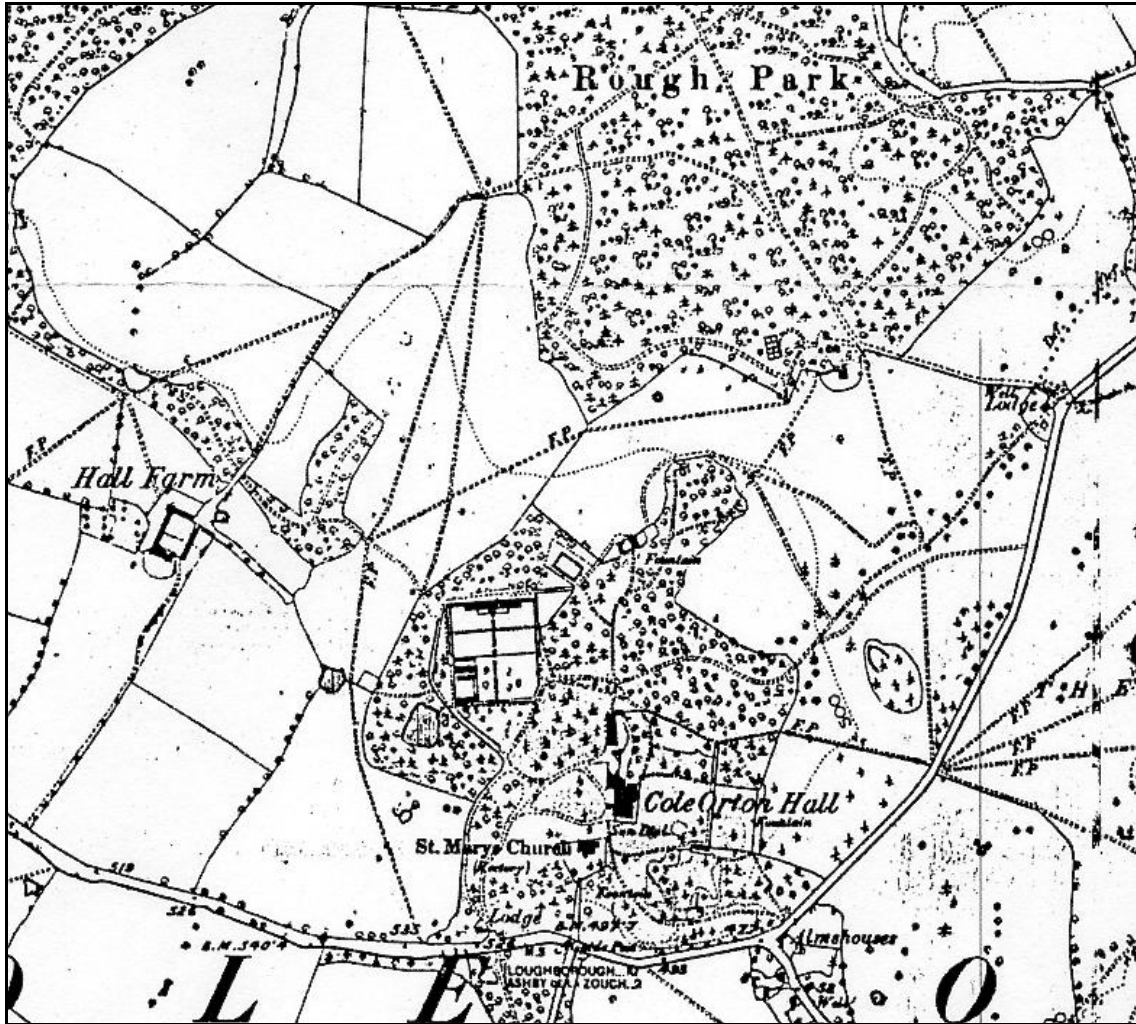
"The Grove" 1804 - pencil and grey wash drawing
by Sir George Howland Beaumont, 7th Baronet

The following extract from the 1842 Coleorton Tithe Map has been added at this stage in order to provide the reader with a clearer geographical understanding of certain features described elsewhere in the book.



The old entrance drive from Ashby Road is coloured green, and passes over the bridge which spanned "Church Pool" marked F. It also shows the area of Robert Chaplin's new kitchen garden marked A. Coleorton Hall is marked G, and Hall Farm is marked H. The latter was accessed by a track from the main Ashby Road between the fields numbered 68 and 69 (shown on the following 1888 O/S map). St. Mary's Church is marked E, Chaplin's Stable Block is marked C. The Brewhouse /Coachman's Cottage is marked D. The area B was the site of the kitchen garden prior to Chaplin's new kitchen garden marked A being built. It later became the pinetum and then in the 1900's, tennis courts were built on the site. J marks the location of the garden pool shown earlier.

The 1842 Tithe Map of Coleorton is useful in that it loosely portrays the stone bridge and drive crossing the pool, but it is thought that by then it had fallen out of use as a change to the road system around the hall had taken place. The map is however inaccurate in respect of the geographical orientation of the various features described. The 1888 O/S map on the following page does however show them correctly. It is included to give an appreciation of the approach driveway to the hall, and pathways etc around the hall / grounds and St. Mary's Parish church. These as far as the author is aware, were not significantly changed until after the NCB purchased the hall and grounds in 1948 and "The Cedars" private house was then built in 1959 on part of the original site of "Wordsworth's Winter Garden". Certain paths around the original winter garden area are still in evidence and photographs are included within the following section on "The Winter Garden".



1888 O/S Map - Surveyed in 1881

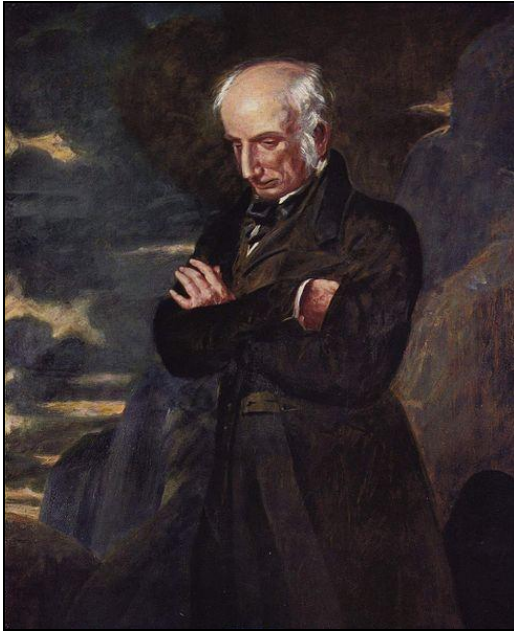


Supplementary information - Please refer to the preceding 1888 O/S map.

The area to the east of the Rempstone Road, traditionally known as "The Paddock" in the 19th and 20th centuries, and used for grazing stock in those times, was part of what was once the ancient "Coleorton Common" which in the 18th century would have been an industrial landscape of coal mines and its associated machinery with the remains of a medieval fishpond to the NE of the current Coleorton Fishpond which was established at the beginning of the 19th century probably as part of the re-landscaping of the grounds for the newly built Coleorton Hall referred to earlier. It was likely to have been first created to provide fish for the table at the hall, and as the reader will see later in the book, ice was brought from there to the ice house in the grounds of the hall. There is a dedicated article on the fishpond in the book entitled "A History of Coleorton and the Locality" by Samuel T Stewart. This industrial landscape in this area would have been cleaned up to improve the views from the new hall no doubt. Apparently, the old Coleorton Common was recognised as an important horse trading centre in the 17th century, which from earlier newspaper articles seems to have been a tradition maintained to some degree in later years. This area has sometimes been referred to as "Parkland", which is not strictly true. The only Parkland referred to in 19th century records was Rough Park and smaller areas such as Canterbury Park (please see the article on "Canterbury Lodge for details).

The area of "Rough Park" was the site of one of the two ancient medieval deer parks in Coleorton and is historically important. The Rough Park area is the more historically interesting and contained 15th century coal mines which were excavated and destroyed by the nearby open cast mining operations between 1985 and 1993. This is covered in detail in "A History of Coal Mining in Coleorton & the Local Area" by Samuel T Stewart. Rough Park also included the road built by Sir George Beaumont in the 1830's to avoid the crippling turnpike tolls after he unsuccessfully tried to get them reduced.

Wordsworth's Winter Garden



William Wordsworth
(b. April 7th 1770 d. April 23rd 1850)
By Benjamin Robert Haydon 1842



Sir George Howland Beaumont
7th Baronet (1753-1827)
By Sir Thomas Lawrence

In 1806, Sir George Beaumont and Lady Margaret decided to invite William Wordsworth to design a "Winter Garden" at Coleorton Hall.

Sir George Howland Beaumont, 7th Baronet, was a generous and discerning patron of the arts, and developed a remarkable relationship with poets and artists of his day including William Wordsworth, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Robert Southey, David Wilkie, Sir Walter Scott, Percy Bysshe Shelley, Thomas Hearne, John Constable, Joshua Reynolds, Lord Byron, Benjamin Robert Haydon, Dr. Johnson and Sir Humphrey Davy (of the Davy Safety Lamp fame) etc.. However, it is his relationship with William Wordsworth, to which this section is mainly dedicated. According to the "Memorials of Coleorton by Professor William Knight", Beaumont was credited with knowing Coleridge before meeting Wordsworth and was one of the first to appreciate the genius of these two men. He was aware that they had formerly lived close to each other in "Somersetshire" and had engaged in writing together "The Lyrical Ballads in Concert".

Sir George had visited the Lake District on several occasions before he got to know its poets, in fact, in the year he was married, he spent part of the summer in Keswick. In 1803, he stayed at Greta Hall when Coleridge was residing there. Sir George first entered Wordsworth's life in that same year. When Beaumont first met Coleridge, he, as many others had, came under the spell of his conversation. Coleridge told Sir George that he regretted not living closer to Wordsworth. This prompted Sir George to make the impulsive

gift of a property named Applethwaite, near Keswick, to Wordsworth where he could live and be closer to Coleridge, with a view to enabling them to stimulate each other's poetical minds. Unfortunately, Beaumont's wishes did not plan out, and due to various severe domestic problems that Coleridge had in his life, he left Cumberland for the continent, thereby leaving Wordsworth and his family to live on at Dove Cottage, Grasmere. Beaumont and Wordsworth continued to develop a mutual respect for each others talents and work, which culminated in a close friendship being established. The gift of the property prompted Wordsworth to write a Sonnet in 1804 as follows:-

BEAUMONT! It was thy wish that I should rear
A seemly Cottage in this sunny Dell,
On favoured ground, thy gift, where I might dwell
In neighborhood with One to me most dear,
That undivided we from year to year
Might work in our high calling a brighter hope
To which our fancies, mingling, gave free scope
Till checked by some necessities severe.
And should these slacken, honoured BEAUMONT! Still,
Even then we may perhaps in vain implore
Leave of our fate thy wishes to fulfil.
Whether this boon be granted us or not,
Old Skiddaw will look down upon the Spot
With pride, The muses love it evermore

Shortly after writing this sonnet, the poet was almost heartbroken at the loss of his brother John, who went down in his ship the East Indiaman, "Abergavenny", off the shambles in 1805. It was reported in "The Morning Post - February 8th 1805", that William Wordsworth's brother Captain John Wordsworth was a man of remarkably mild manners; and of so cool a temperament was his disposition, that he used to be known amongst his ship-mates by the title of "The Philosopher". As the ship was going down, the first mate told the captain she would sink in a moment - the captain replied, "It cannot be prevented - God's will be done". He was seen for the last time clinging to the ropes. Mr. Gilpin, one of the mates, went down from the top to endeavour to save him but in vain.

Total lives lost 300 - Saved 120

In the "Salisbury and Winchester Journal - March 25th 1805", it was reported - "that the body of the unfortunate John Wordsworth, Esq., late Captain of the Abergavenny - India Man, was taken up on the beach, near Weymouth, on Wednesday last and was interred on Thursday at the parish church of Wyke-Regis".

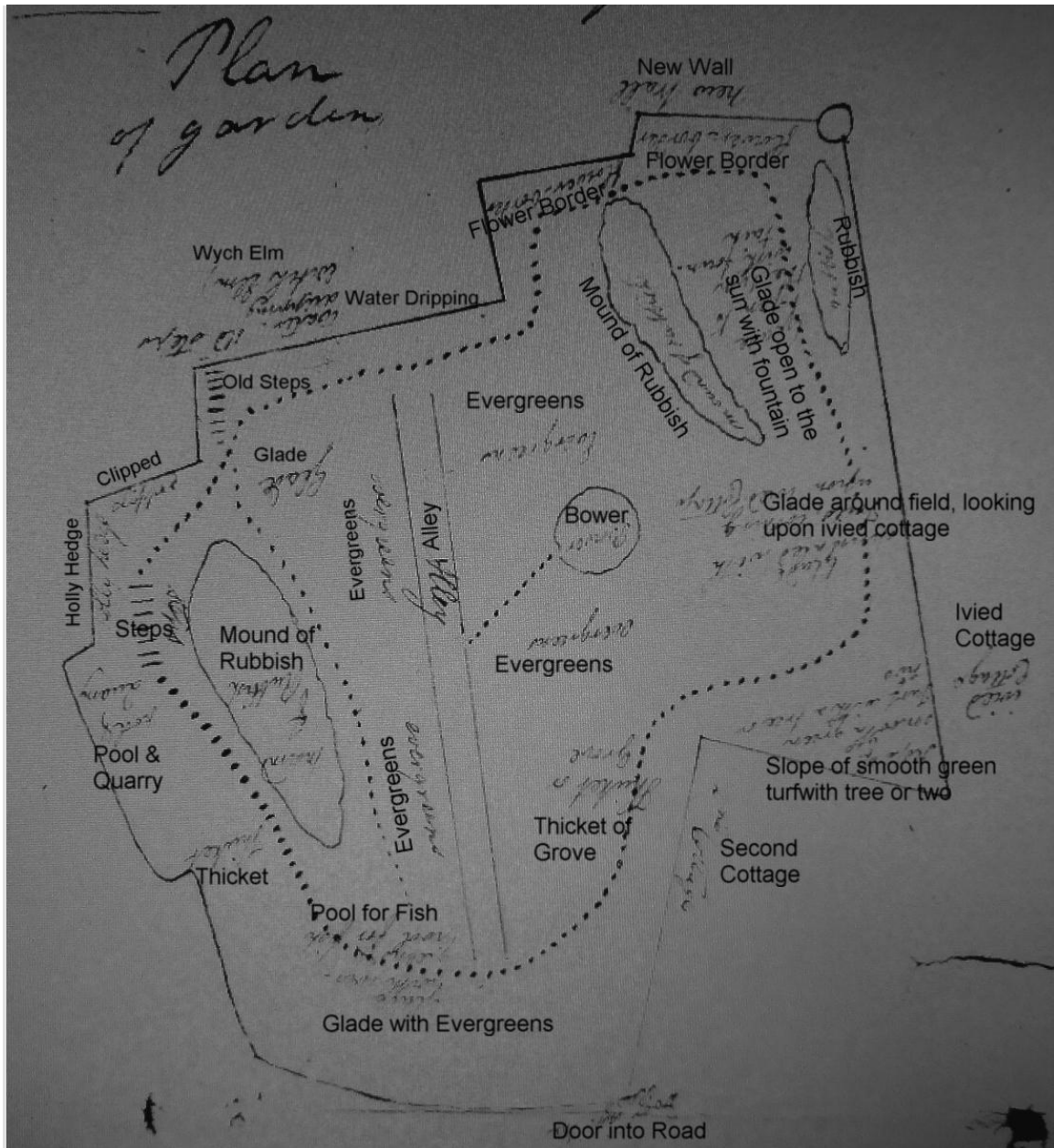
At this time, there came into Wordsworth's life Sir George Beaumont, one of a family long distinguished for art and culture, a man of high breeding, of a most unselfish disposition, a painter of no mean merit, and a connoisseur. His friendship formed a most valuable link in Wordsworth's life, and lovers of "the poet of nature and humanity" owe a deep debt of gratitude to the kind and generous patron of Wordsworth. It must be remembered that when Sir George first met Wordsworth he was in his fiftieth year, whilst Wordsworth was sixteen years his junior.

Sir George had started to take more interest in his collieries at Coleorton, as a result of his concerns about the activities of his agent Boulton, and was spending more time in the locality. At this time, Wordsworth's family had grown to six, and due to Coleridge's domestic problems they were expecting him to come and reside with them also. Clearly, "Dove Cottage" was not large enough to house so many people, and they desperately needed to find alternative larger accommodation before winter arrived. Beaumont generously offered Wordsworth the use of Hall Farm, which was also his own temporary residence whilst Coleorton Hall was being re-built, and which stood to the west of the hall. The Wordsworth's gratefully accepted the offer, and arrived at Hall Farm in October 1806. Besides William, his wife Mary and family, his sister Dorothy and his wife's sister Sarah Hutchinson joined them. The Beaumonts spent the winter at their residence in London, so the timing was perfect. This combination of circumstances was the catalyst which led to William and Dorothy, his sister, helping to design the "Winter Garden" at Coleorton Hall for Sir George Beaumont at his request.

On the next page is a copy of William Wordsworth's initial proposed plan of a "Winter Garden" at Coleorton Hall. The gardens were planned and planted by the poet, partly in an old stone quarry. However, the author gets the impression from letters sent by Lady Beaumont that the initial idea to use the old stone quarry came from her. Clearly Lady Beaumont had some garden design accumen as she was responsible for the design of the Flower Garden which features later. The plan for the Winter Garden was included in a letter from Dorothy Wordsworth sent to Lady Beaumont at their London winter residence on December 23rd 1806. Apparently, Wordsworth's designs matured in 1806/7 and were adopted for the "Winter Garden" at this time, but were probably somewhat different from the original plan. Wordsworth took on the entire job when he was deeply immersed in his poems, and both his sister Dorothy and Coleridge (see later text re his arrival at Hall Farm) had a hand in it. During the winter, spring and autumn of 1807, Wordsworth threw himself enthusiastically into the task. He reportedly visited the workmen twice a day, passing over the site, usually accompanied by Dorothy or Coleridge.

As an example of how close Wordsworth and the Beaumonts' became, Sir George, in his will, left Wordsworth the sum of £100 a year for life, to cover the expenses of a yearly holiday ("Coleorton and the Beaumonts" by Rev. Eveleigh Eager). Wordsworth also became Godfather to the Rev. William Beresford Beaumont, M.A., younger son of Sir George Howland William Beaumont, 8th Baronet. Lady Margaret Beaumont, the 7th Baronet's wife was Godmother to Wordsworth's daughter Dora. When Wordsworth published his first book of collected works in 1815, he dedicated the volume to Sir George Beaumont. In his Epistle Dedicatory, written at Rydal Mount, he refers to the fact that "some of the pieces were composed under the shade of your own groves, upon the classical ground of Coleorton", under the inspiration of past Beaumont poets.

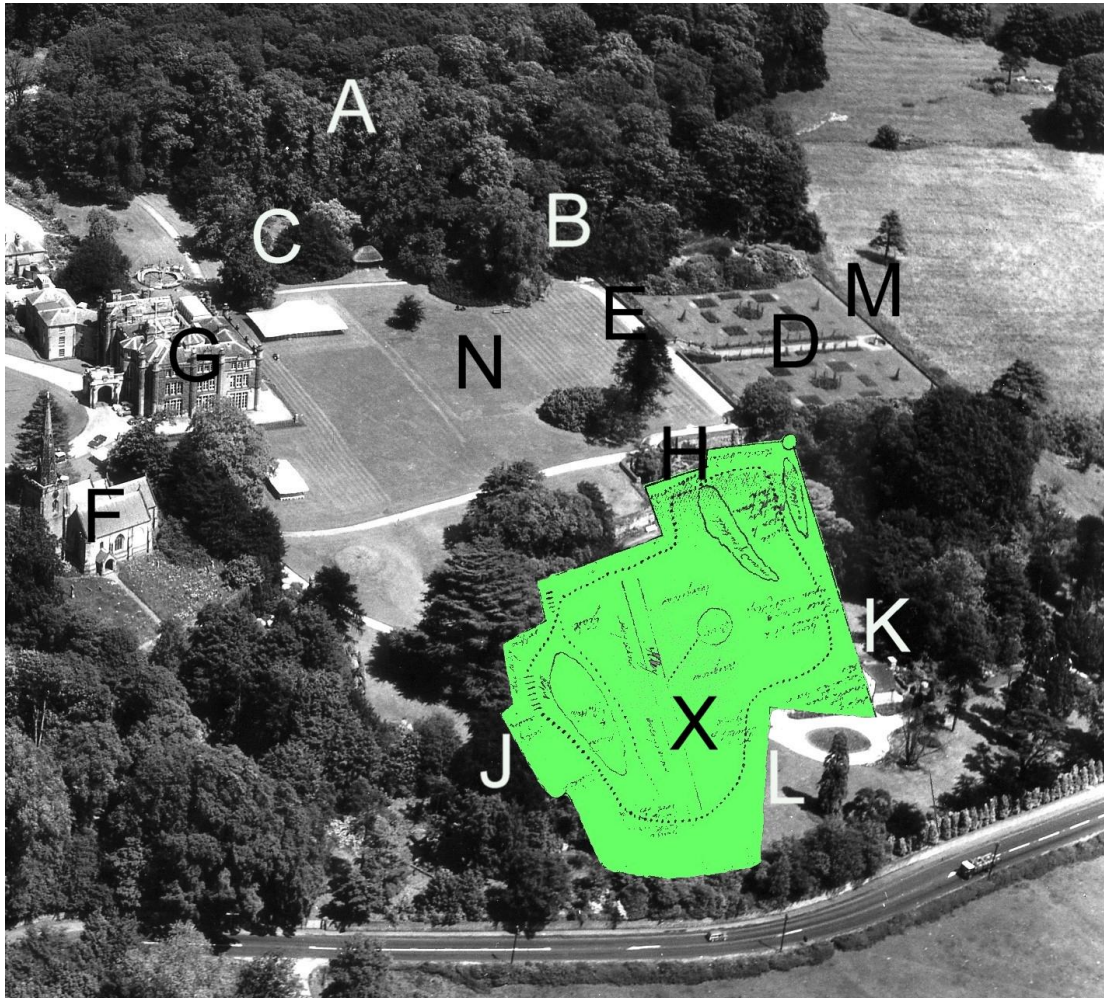
NORTH



Wordsworth's original plan for the "Winter Garden"

Translations of Wordsworth's notes on the plan have been added by the Author. The dotted lines are the walkway proposed by Wordsworth for Lady Beaumont to follow. This plan and the original of the following letter are included on "The Morgan Library & Museum" website and therefore the copyright is owned by them. The plan however, was included in Professor William Knight's Memorials of Coleorton, and can be found in numerous other locations and books. The area of the Winter Garden comprises about 1 acre.

The aerial photograph below has been included at this point to provide the reader with an idea of the approximate location of Wordsworth's Winter Garden and its relation to Coleorton Hall and St. Mary's Church prior to the Coleorton bypass being constructed. Various other features which are the subject of later articles have been added and a key is provided below.



- A The lime walk and the engraved Joshua Reynolds Memorial (this is shown on the 1888 O/S map shown earlier)
- B The Engraved Memorial to Francis Beaumont
- C The Wilson Stone Memorial
- D The Flower / Rose Garden
- E The East Terrace Walk
- F St. Mary's Church
- G Coleorton Hall

- H The New Wall
- J Engrave Memorial to the planting of the Cedar Tree of Lebanon
- K Possible location of the Ivied Cottage
- L Possible location of the Second Cottage
- M Walled Ha Ha
- N Possible second terrace area

There follows a transcription of the page of the letter from Dorothy Wordsworth to Lady Beaumont dated December 23rd 1806, in which the map of the proposed layout of the "Winter Garden" shown earlier was inserted. -



Samuel Taylor Coleridge with his son Hartley aged 10, at the time he would have been visiting Hall Farm with his father as described below.

.....Coleridge and his son Hartley arrived on Sunday afternoon. My dear Lady Beaumont, the pleasure of welcoming to your house mingled with our joy, and I think I never was more happy in my life than when we had him an hour by the fire-side; for his looks were much more like his own old self and though we only talked of common things and of our friends, we perceived that he was contented in his mind and had settled his affairs at home to his satisfaction. He has been tolerably well and cheerful ever since and has begun with his books. Hartley poor boy! Is very happy and looks uncommonly well, but we are afraid of the hooping cough; for there is no doubt that the cough which our young ones have is the hooping cough. Thomas is better than when I wrote on Saturday. I long to know your opinion and Sir George's of my brother's plans of the "Winter Garden". Coleridge is much delighted with it and only has doubts about the fountain; and he thinks that it is probable that an intermingling of birch trees somewhere, on account of the richness of the colour of the naked twigs in winter might be an advantage. I may add also from myself that we have often stood for half an hour together at Grasmere on a still morning to look at the rain or hoar frost drops glittering in sunshine upon the birch twigs and the purple colour and the sparkling drops produce a most enchanting effect.....

Coleridge travelled to Malta in 1804 where he was appointed secretary to the Governor of Malta for a period. He apparently became homesick and lonely whilst in Malta and had become addicted to opium. On his return to Greta Hall he decided to leave his wife, and the opportunity arose for him to join the Wordsworths' at Hall Farm, as described above.

According to Arthur Mee's "Leicestershire", Wordsworth, on the evening of 7th January recited to the family circle the part of the "prelude" that tells intimately of the growth of

his own mind. Coleridge was deeply distressed as he contrasted the steady growth of Wordsworth's powers with the diminution of his own, due to his excesses. Sleepless he sat up all night writing his own tribute to Wordsworth - "Friend of the muse! O Teacher! God's great gift to me!". Inspired as he was by a spark that flew from the genius of Wordsworth and the proximity of his friend, something of Coleridge's lost genius returned to him, as he pictured his host among the immortals. "With steadfast eye I viewed thee in the choir of ever-enduring men. The truly great have all one age". Never again did Coleridge write any lines that had any claim to greatness.

There follows extracts from an undated unaddressed letter sent by William Wordsworth to Lady Beaumont which is thought to have accompanied the above letter. It refers to the garden design in conjunction with the earlier plan. William did not like penning letters and particularly very lengthy ones of this nature it seems:-

My Dear Lady Beaumont,

From the most northerly point of his plan adjacent to the "new wall", shown in the following photographs, Wordsworth describes his ideas to Lady Beaumont by following the outer path of the Winter Garden and then the inner path (shown as a dotted line on the plan) in a clock-wise direction. The following is only a synopsis of what appears in the letter:-

There's penmanship for you! I shall not be able to keep it up to the end in this style, notwithstanding I have the advantage of writing with one of your little pens with which Miss Hutchinson has just furnished me. - - I have a long work to go through; but first let me tell you that I was highly gratified by your Letter, and I consider the request that I would undertake the laying out your Winter Garden as a great honour; you kindly desire me not to write, but I cannot enter upon my office till I have had your opinion on my intended plan, and solicited the improvements which your taste and invention, and those of Sir George may suggest.

Before I explain my ideas I must entreat your patience; I promise you I will be as brief as may be but meaning to be minute, I fear I shall be tiresome. First then, to begin with the boundary line. Suppose ourselves standing upon the Terrace above the new built Wall; that, of course, would be open, and we should look down from it upon the Garden; and winding round by the left Bank, I would plant upon the top of it, in the field, a Line of ever-green shrubs, intermingled with Cypress, to take the place of the existing hedge: and, behind these, a Row of Firs such as were likely to grow to the most majestic height: and this kind of fence, leaving visible such parts of the cottages as would have the best effect (I mean the beautiful one with Ivy, and the other which is of a very picturesque form but very shabby surface). I would continue all round the Garden, so as to give it the greatest appearance of depth, shelter, and seclusion possible. This is essential to the feeling of the place, with which indeed I ought to have begun: and that is of a spot which winter cannot touch, which would present no images of chillness, decay or desolation, when the face of nature everywhere else is cold, decayed and desolate.....

Having now done with the double evergreen fence, we will begin again with the Wall, with its Recesses, Buttresses, and Tower, I very much admire. It should be covered with ivy, and pyracanthus or any other plants that bear scarlet berries.....

From the wall going round by the left, the first thing we meet is a mound of rubbish

which should be planted; then before we reach the Ivied Cottage, we come to a perpendicular bank or scar, this should be planted along the top with ivy, periwinkle, and other beautiful and evergreen trailing plants, which should hang down and leave the earth visible in various places (*this bank appears to be the sand stone rock face shown in a later photograph and where the Scott seat was hewn out of the rock*).....

Coming to the second cottage, this if not entirely taken away, should be repaired.....and planted with ivy. This second cottage is certainly not necessary, and if it were not here nobody would wish for it; but its irregular and picturesque form, its tall chimneys in particular, plead strongly with me for it being retained..... Therefore do let it stand.

Wordsworth then describes his ideas for a rather ugly corner of the site adjacent to the worked out quarry and then moves on as follows.

Between this unsightly corner (where I would have the holly hedge) and the new stone wall, and this space would be diversified first by the steps which now descend into the garden, and next, and most beautifully would be so by a conception which I have of bringing the water, which I am told may be done without much expense, and letting it trickle down the bank about the roots of the Witch Elm, so as if not to make a waterfall (there might not be enough for that) at least a dripping of water, round which might gather and flourish some of those vivid mosses and water plants, a refreshing and beautiful sight in the dead time of the year, and which when cased in ice form one of the most enchanting appearances that are peculiar to winter.....

We will begin with the wall once more. This as the most artificial, ought to be the most splendid and ornamental part of the garden; and here I would have betwixt the path and the wall, a border edged with Boxwood to receive the earliest and latest flowers, within and close to the edging of Boxwood I would first plant a row of crocus, these would succeed each other. Close under the wall I would have a row or fringe of white lillies, and in front of this another of daffodils.....

The path of which I have been speaking should wind round the garden, mostly near the boundary line, which would in general be seen, or felt, as has been described, but not always; for in some places particularly near the high road it would be kept out of sight.....

We have done with the circumference, now for the interior, which I would diversify in the following manner. And to begin as before with the wall: this fronts nearly south: and a considerable space before it ought to be open to the sun, forming a glade enclosed on the north side by the wall.....

The next compartment (if you look at the plan you will understand me) is to be a glade unelaborate and simple, surrounded with evergreens, and a few scattered in the middle. N. B. The former glade is to be entirely open with a fountain; and of this second glade so much of the ivied cottage as could be shewn with effect would be the presiding image. No border or garden here, but wild-flowers to be scattered everywhere. Then (still looking at the plan) we come to a dark thicket or grove, the path winding through it, under the second cottage; then the path crosses the outlet where the door leads into the high road, which door, ought to be entirely concealed, and led to under a thick arch of evergreens.

Proceeding with the path, we cross the end of a long alley of which I shall speak after-wards, we are then brought to a small glade or open space, belted round with

evergreens, quite unvaried and secluded. In this little glade should be a bason of water inhabited by two gold or silver fish.....

From this glade, the path leads on through a few yards of dark thicket, and we come to the little quarry, and this (adopting an idea of yours which I had from Mr. Craig, and which pleases me much) I should fill with a pool of water that would reflect beautifully the rocks of the scar with their hanging plants, the evergreens upon the top, and shooting deeper than all, the naked spire of the church.....

You would appear to be shut up within this bottom, till turning with the path round a rocky projection of the mound of rubbish you are fronted by a flight of steps, not before visible, which will be made to bring you out of the quarry close under the clipped holly hedge spoken of before. Here you open into a large glade, one side formed by the trees on the mound of rubbish, the other by the holly hedge, and still further by those other steps near the Witch Elm Cottage (*this was taken down as requested by Lady Beaumont*), which now lead down into the garden; these steps not visible until you come at them, and still further on by the principal object in the glade, the waterfall, for so I will call it, from the root of the Witch Elm. Having passed through this glade, you go on a few steps through a thicket, and before you come to the newly built wall you cross the end of the alley spoken of before. The alley to be quite straight, the ground to be perfectly level shaded with evergreens.....

Out of this alley towards the middle of it, on the left side, should be a small blind path leading to a bower.....

I have chalked out (see the plan) along the foot of one of the ridges of rubbish; these intermediate plantations when they get up, will entirely break any unpleasening formality which the alley and bower, or any other parts of the garden might otherwise give to it when looked at from above. If you add to these features, or passages, a seat in some sunny spot, or perhaps a small shed or alcove, you have introduced as much variety within the compass of an acre as my fancy is capable of suggesting. I had some thoughts that it might be possible to scoop out of the sandy rock a small cell or cavern on the stormy side of the quarry but the rock there is not continuous or firm enough. That part of the rock on which the decayed cottage stands as it is much firmer might perhaps admit of something of this kind with good effect.....

A word before I conclude. I have only given the garden two settled inhabitants, the pair of fishes in the pool; but, in the early spring, bees, much more attended to in the stillness of that season, would murmur round the flowers and blossoms, and all the winter long it would be enlivened by birds which would resort thither for covert. We never pass in our evening walk the cluster of holly bushes, under one of which Mr. Craig has placed my seat, but we unsettle a number of small birds which have taken shelter there for the night.....

As to the thickets under the the forest trees in the walks about the hall, I have pressed Mr. Craig, and his wishes are good; but lately he has seemed fully occupied: and, to speak the truth, as he has very cheerfully given up the Winter Garden to my control, I do not like to meddle much with the other; it looks like taking the whole of the interlectual part from him, which would dispirit him, and be unjust and impolite, as he has a good taste, and seems a truly respectable man.....

My dear Lady Beaumont, I have now written you the longest letter I ever wrote in my life, heaven forbid that I should often draw so largely upon the patience of my friends. Farewell! And may this and all our (*rest of sentence and signatures cut away*).

Below are comments taken from a letter dated February 3rd 1807 from Wordsworth to Lady Beaumont regarding objections to part of his garden design by Lord Redesdale which involved an over-arched alley of evergreens:-

"His objection to an over-arched walk of evergreens, except for summer, at first appears well founded, but there is an oversight in it. In summer, you may have a shade of deciduous trees or plants, but what are you to do in April or March, and sometimes even in February, when the heat and glare of the sun are often oppressive, notwithstanding the general cloudiness of our climate"?

In a letter Dorothy Wordsworth wrote to Lady Beaumont, she stated that she was of the opinion that Mr. Craig, thought to be the head gardener, "may be inwardly petted" with the job of designing the garden taken out of his hands. Ominously, Mr. Craig "gives no opinion whatever about Williams plans", but she comments that as he and Wordsworth went off together to a Nottingham nursery to buy plants, the situation seems to have been amicably handled.

During the laying out and planting of the winter garden, Wordsworth dedicated the following poem to Lady Beaumont:-

Lady! the songs of spring were in the grove
While I was shaping beds for winter flowers;
While I was planting green unfading bowers,
And shrubs to hang upon the warm alcove
And sheltering wall; and still a fancy wove
The dream to Nature's blended powers
I gave this paradise for winter hours -
A labyrinth, lady, which your feet shall rove,
Yes, when the sun of life more feebly shines,
Becoming thoughts, I trust of, solemn gloom
Or of high gladness you shall hither bring,
And these perennial bowers and murmuring Pines
Be gracious as the music and the bloom
And all the mighty ravishment of spring.

The following is an extract from "Gossip of the Garden" journal 1858 -
.....Leaving the flower garden with reluctance, we pass through a small iron gate and along a pleasant walk bordered by evergreens, to the Winter Garden, a spot bringing to our remembrance many of those great men whose names are as household words amongst us. The Winter Garden was designed by Wordsworth, the late poet laureate, and every tree was planted by his own hands. - They are all evergreen, calculated to bear the English climate, and bordered with early spring flowers. Here, hewn in the solid rock, is a rude seat, also the work of Wordsworth, and in that rustic spot, Sir Walter Scott wrote part of Ivanhoe. Through the Winter Garden we pass to a grotto reminding us, by its wild solitude

and graceful luxuriance, of the hermit's cells of old; we linger not here, however, save to give one last glance at the ruined ivy-covered cottage, once part of the village of Cole-Orton, which, with the old woman who lived in it, formed the subject of one of Sir David Wilkie's paintings (*questionable, see the following feature on Sir David Wilkie*). Turning through a low stone arch we come to a wide lawn, and here also we find conifers flourishing in profusion. On the left hand is a sloping bank, ascending which we gain a view, not so extensive indeed as the one from the terrace before named, but one which shows the picturesque village of Cole-Orton to great advantage. The grounds are bounded on this side by a stone wall, completely hidden however by a border of evergreens, and in front are masses of Rhododendrons, Azaleas, Kalmias, and other American plants. Following the gravel walk which leads by the side of the lawn, we come to a stone with an inscription from the pen of Wordsworth, the Cedar of Lebanon beside it having been planted by him in conjunction with Sir George Beaumont, the eminent amateur painter.....From the edge of a plantation adjoining the pleasure grounds, we have another fine view. In the distance may be seen the Peak of Derbyshire, Gotham, where the wise men hedged in the Cuckoo, and nearer home Grace Dieu, Belton and many other villages too numerous to name. The flower garden at Cole-Orton having so much excited our admiration, we solicited from Mr. Henderson, the names of the principal plants used in making the display, and by his kindness are enabled to subjoin a list of them for the benefit of the readers of *Gossip of the Garden*.....

The following is an extract from "The Journal of Horticulture and Cottage Gardeners" - 1875. It gives an insight into what was left of the Winter Garden some 65 years after its completion:-

....."The "Labyrinth" has gone, and the "winter flowers" are overgrown by the "green unfading bowers", save a few old spring herbaceous plants and bulbs which fringe the shrubby beds; but the "perennial Pines" are vigorous, almost majestic, and are living memorials of the poet's love and labours. The garden, which was known as "Wordsworth's Garden", is charmingly diversified in character. It contains a romantic dell, bounded on one side by rugged rocks, overshadowed by a gigantic Wych Elm (shown on the earlier map), whose gaunt arms stretch over immense space, and its twisted tortuous roots leap over the sides of the rock, affixing themselves in the crevices below. At the base are ferns revelling in wild luxuriance. Wending our way under the "unfading bowers" we come to still more Ivy-clad rocks of venerable aspect, and near them a fine marble vase from Pompeii. We pass on - the very atmosphere redolent of romance and poetry - and here is the Grotto, just such a place as one might fancy "where rural fays and fairies dwell", and here we find the niche in the rock. (*see later photographs of the grotto*). Near to this hermit-like retreat we pause to glance at the ruins of an Ivy-covered cottage (shown on the earlier map), reached by an ascent of rude steps. This once formed part of the village of Coleorton, and was the scene of David Wilkie's famous painting of "An Old Woman Knitting" (*questionable - see the later feature on Sir David Wilkie*). The old ruin is quite ornamental, and is in admirable keeping with the wild solitude of this part of the grounds. Passing through a stone arch, we come to an ornamental lawn.....

A representation of some of the key features of the Winter Garden using photographs from the late 20th century

It is quite clear that Wordsworth's final design for the garden was somewhat different from his original plan, but not dramatically so. Now, after over two hundred years, little remains, but we are fortunate to be able to bring some of it to life with these photographs and his poetry, coupled with a little imagination. Little remains of Wordsworth's garden now and the centre is occupied by a private modern residence with landscaped gardens. However, the following photographs, the Wordsworth plan, and the marked up aerial view shown at the beginning at least establishes the site of Wordsworth's Winter Garden.



4m high retaining wall viewed from the Winter Garden area in 1984, with the Hall in the background.

The wall which was referred to as the "new wall" and partly designed by George Dance for Lady Margaret Beaumont c.1806, is shown on Wordsworth's plan at the northerly end. A terrace runs along the back of the wall which provided a view over the Winter Gardens, which is shown in the following photographs. Prior to the wall being built, the ground sloped down towards the quarry where Wordsworth created the Winter Garden.



Aerial view of 4m high north retaining wall



Aerial view showing north wall in relation to hall and church

THE SUNKEN GARDEN AND FISH POOL



There is a sunken garden and fish pool to the extreme right in the above photograph, and a close up view of this is shown below. This is now within the landscaped gardens of "The Cedars" residence



Eastern edge of the former "Winter Gardens" with
The ornamental fish / lily pool constructed c.1980.

The old "Sunken Garden" at Coleorton Hall with its fish pool at the bottom is worthy of recording, as it was created nearly 90 years ago by a gentleman whose family played an important part in the more recent history of Coleorton, although it was recorded in the Leicester Evening Mercury (8th July 1955)..... *that the Capenor's name occurs in the*

parish records as far as they go back to the early 1600s and it is believed generally that the Capenors' came over from France with the Beaumonts. The author has not been able to find any records to substantiate the latter.

It was actually situated in a corner of the former "Winter Garden" designed by Wordsworth but later encompassed within the grounds of the "Cedar Residence" built when the N.C.B. purchased the hall in 1948 as its East Midlands Headquarters. The location of the Sunken Garden is shown just above the trees on the LH side of the aerial photograph below.



Once again, the newspapers have come to the rescue by providing some background information on the creation of the "Sunken garden and Fish Pool" in addition to the Capenor' family:-

Transcribed from the Burton Observer & Chronicle - Thurs 20th May 1965

Mr & Mrs Joseph Capenor of "High Dene", Gelsmoor, Coleorton will be celebrating their golden wedding on Saturday. For many years, Mr. Capenor was on the gardening staff at Coleorton Hall, when it was the family seat of the Beaumont's, and he continued in this occupation when it was taken over by the N.C.B. until his retirement some years ago.

On Saturday, with other visitors, Mr & Mrs Capenor were looking round the beautiful gardens, and then made a sentimental journey to the "Sunken Garden" in the area of the grounds which was landscaped by the poet William Wordsworth.

Mr. Capenor told me how the lovely little garden came to be created. The cavity had been excavated on the instruction of Sir George Beaumont for the construction of a swimming pool. Then Sir George went on holiday, and his death occurred whilst he was away.

Following his death, Lady Beaumont did not wish to proceed with the swimming pool scheme, so Mr. Capenor suggested that the hole should be converted into a sunken garden, and he spent many months perfecting it.

That the work was well done can be seen from the photograph on the following page which shows him standing with his wife, Mrs. Gertrude Capenor on the edge of the pool in the garden. With Mr & Mrs. Capenor when they went to the garden was their son Bill (inset) who followed in his father's footsteps on the gardening staff at the hall.



Mr & Mrs Joseph Capenor - 1965



Bill Capenor - 1965

The Beaumonts referred to in the newspaper article was Sir George Arthur Hamilton Beaumont, 11th Baronet of Stoughton and his wife Lady Renee Muriel.



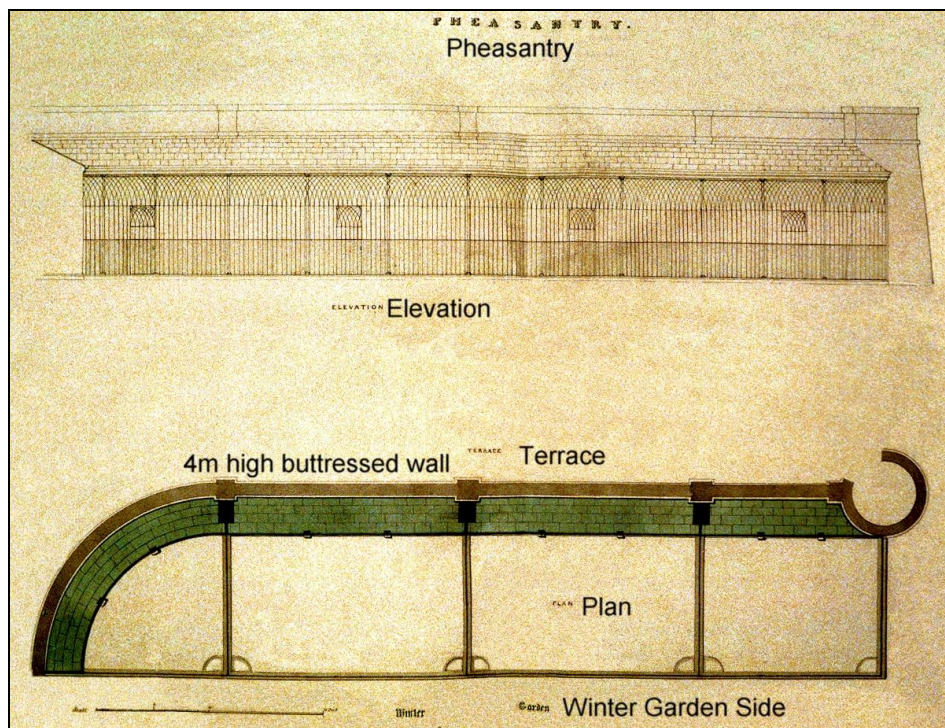
Eastern end of the 4m high retaining wall with a viewing "Pulpit" at the end.
This is shown on Wordsworth's plan at the north east corner. This photograph was taken after repairs to the wall were carried out in 1986.



"The Pulpit"



This photograph shows the area that the "Pheasantry" below fitted into.



Robert Chaplin's plan of the Pheasantry dated 1831. This was built onto the inside of the wall shown above and was commissioned by the 8th Baronet's wife Lady Mary Anne Beaumont.

In 1841, it was recorded by Noyes that during a visit to the gardens he saw the above aviary and made the following comment - ".....which took up room that could not be spared, shuts out of view the ornamental masonry of the high terrace wall, and is altogether out of character with this place"



A modern view from what was once Wordsworth's Winter Garden in a southerly direction, showing the seat hewn out of the sandstone by Wordsworth, with the help of Mary and Dorothy. This is the seat where Sir Walter Scott reportedly wrote part of "Ivanhoe".



According to an article in the *Journal of "Horticulture and Cottage Gardener"* - 1875, the following poignant poem by Wordsworth, was inscribed on a tablet close by the grotto (the use of the word grotto is thought by the author to be incorrect and should be referring to Wordsworth's or Scott's Seat) :-

Oft is the medal faithful to its trust
When temples, columns, towers, are laid in dust;
And 'tis a common ordinance of fate
That things obscure and small outlive the great;
Hence, when you mansion and the flowery trim
Of this fair garden, and its alleys dim,
And all its stately trees, are passed away,
This little Niche, unconscious of decay,
Perchance may still survive. And be it known
That it was scooped within the living stone, -
Not by the sluggish and ungrateful pains
Of labour plodding for the daily gains,
But by an industry that wrought in love;
With help from female hands, that proudly strove
To aid the work, what time these walks and bowers
Were shaped to cheer dark winter's lonely hours.

On the death of Sir George Howland Beaumont, 7th Baronet, on February 7th 1827, Sir Walter Scott added the following comments in his diary on February 14th:-

' Sir George Beaumont 's dead ; by far the most sensible and pleasing man I ever knew, kind, too, in his nature, and generous — gentle in society, and of those mild manners which tend to soften the causticity of the general London tone of persiflage and personal satire. As an amateur painter he was of the very highest distinction; and though I know nothing of the matter yet I should hold him a perfect critic in paintings for he always made his criticisms intelligible and used no slang. I am very sorry — as much as it is in my nature to be — for one whom I could see but seldom.'
(Lockart's Life of Scott, vol. ix., p.89-90)

At the end of the outcrop of rocks in the preceding photographs is thought to be the chimney & remains of the "Second Cottage" which is shown on the east side of Wordsworth's Winter Garden plan. From the way Wordsworth describes the second cottage with its tall chimney, and pleads for its retention and repair, and to be subsequently covered in Ivy, the author feels that it is more likely to be the second cottage and not "Ivy Cottage", however, this has to be left open to conjecture.



An alternative view of what is thought to be the derelict remains of "Second Cottage" .

The photograph below taken in 1986 is thought to be of the derelict remains of what was known as "Ivied Cottage" which is shown on the east side of Wordsworth's Winter Garden plan. The remains of the gravelled path edged with stones suggest that this was possibly part of the walk around the winter garden as they were a feature of all the paths around the hall grounds. The building also portrays the contrast of red brick and ivy which Wordsworth described. It is now thought that this was the site of the original rectory near to St. Mary's Church. Again this is open to conjecture.



There are references made to the fact that before and after Sir George's death (7th Baronet) in 1827, Lady Margaret Beaumont carried out clearance work in the Winter Gardens, although she only survived him by little more than two years. The following paragraph seems to confirm this.

Following a visit to Derbyshire, Wordsworth called at Coleorton Hall, and in a letter to his sister Dorothy on November 8th 1830 he wrote....."The changes at Coleorton will in time prove decisive improvements - at present parts are cold and bare. Sir George (8th Baronet) took me round - when I sat down near Lady B's grotto near to the fountain (see next page), I was suddenly overcome and could not speak for tears. Wordsworth rode on to Cambridge, and of this journey he noted - "Thirty seven miles I did ride in one day, and through the worst of storms; and what was my resource? Writing verses to the memory of my departed friend, Sir George Beaumont, whose house I had left the day before".



The lined grotto above which is grade II listed is on the west side of the garden and just above the intended fish pool shown on the following page. The 2001 Coleorton Hall Conservation Appraisal report by N.W.L.D.C. describes the grotto having shell work by Dorothy Wordsworth and a floor with "Star of David" pattern.

....."Through the Winter Garden we pass to a grotto reminding us, by its wild solitude and graceful luxuriance, of the hermit's cells of old". A comment taken from "Gossip of the Garden" Volume 111. June 1858.

We cannot be sure exactly when this grotto was created, as no specific references are made to it by Wordsworth when he is describing the walk around the Winter Garden to Lady Beaumont. It is reached by steps and looks directly down onto the fountain / fish pool shown on the next page. It is interesting that Wordsworth, in his later 1830 visit refers to it as Lady Beaumont's grotto, suggesting that it was originally of her design / making.



Area in front of the *Grotto* prior to fish pool re-construction below



Reconstruction of what was originally intended as a fish pool and situated at the base of the steps leading up to the first of the engraved memorials featured in the following two pages. The fountain / fish pool, which is 5m in diameter, is depicted on the Wordsworth design drawing shown earlier. A small fountain was placed in the centre at some time prior to 1830. Photograph was taken c.1980. It is grade II listed. The urn on a short pillar situated close by the grotto and pool, is supposedly from Pompeii, but there is no actual proof of this?

The Engraved Memorials

There were three memorials engraved with poems written by Wordsworth for Sir George Beaumont -

- The first commemorating the planting of a cedar tree by the poet and his host - Sir George Howland Beaumont, 7th Baronet. This tree was a "Cedar of Lebanon".
- The second in honour of the renaissance playwright dramatist and poet Sir Francis Beaumont.
- The third in memory of Sir Joshua Reynolds.

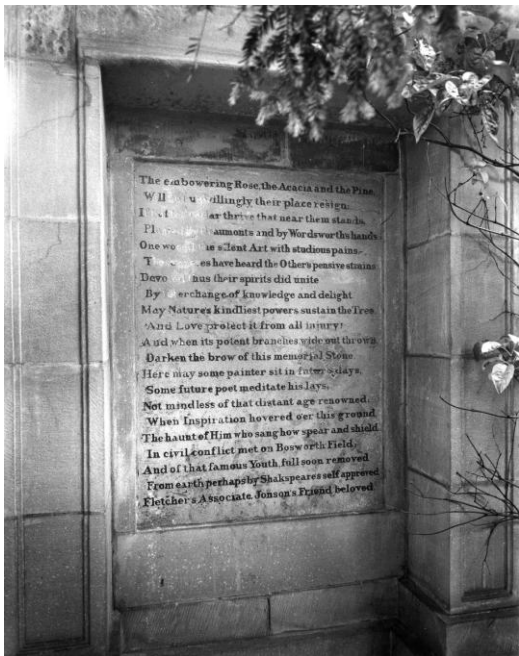
The memorial commemorating the planting of the cedar tree

Poem written in 1808 by Wordsworth to commemorate the planting of the cedar tree by himself and Beaumont.

The embowering rose, the acacia, and the pine,
Will not unwillingly their place resign;
If but the cedar thrives and near them stands,
Planted by Beaumont's and Wordsworths hands.
One wooed the silent Art with studious pains;
Those groves have heard the Other's pensive strains;
Devoted thus, their spirits did unite
By interchange of knowledge and delight.
May Nature's kindest powers sustain the tree,
And love protect it from all injury!
And when its potent branches, wide out-thrown,
Darken the brow of this memorial Stone,
Here may some painter sit in future days,
Some future Poet meditate his lays;
Not mindless of that distant age renowned
When inspiration hovered o'er this ground,
The haunt of him who sang how spear and shield
In civil conflict met on Bosworth-field;
And of that famous Youth, full soon removed
From earth, perhaps by Shakespeare's self approved,
Fletcher's Associate, Jonson's friend beloved.



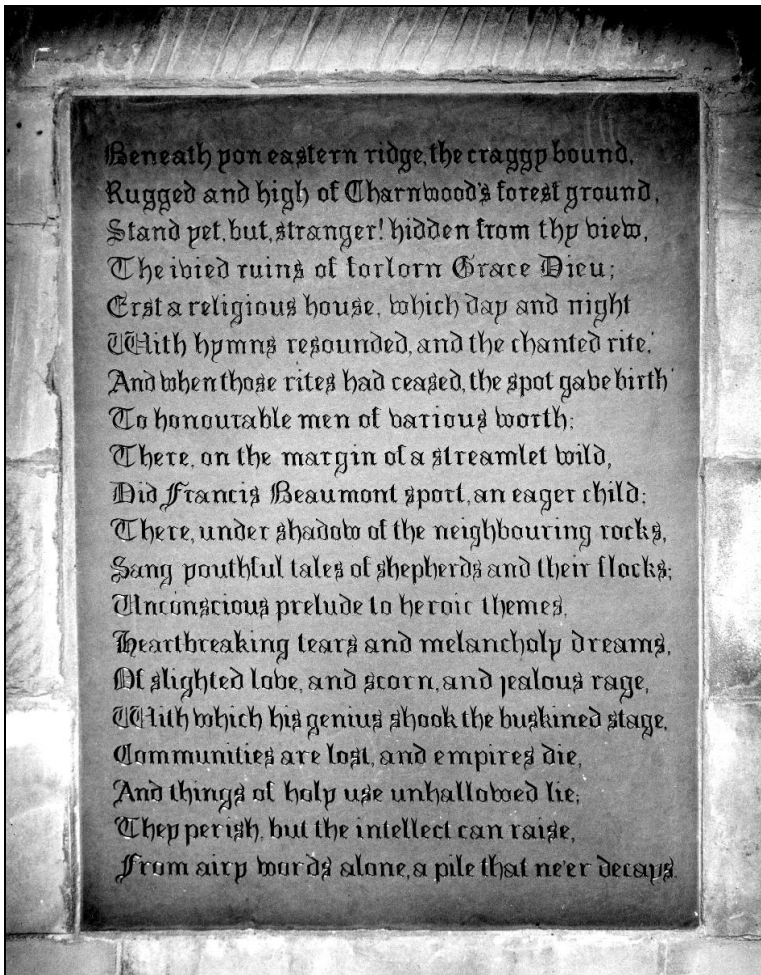
The lines of the poem on the previous page are engraved on this monument at the top of the steps, which lead up from the fish pool shown earlier. The steps were reportedly built by Wordsworth and Beaumont's gardener Mr. Craig.



The photograph on the right shows the stone edged gravelled path around the memorial which leads on from the steps shown above.

In Honour of Sir Francis Beaumont (1584-1616) of Gracedieu - Renaissance Playwright, Dramatist and Poet

Another of William Wordsworth's three inscription poems was sent in a letter to Lady Beaumont from Grasmere, Wednesday November 20th 1811, and carved onto a tablet as shown in the following photographs in memory of the dramatist and poet Francis Beaumont. Apparently, this inscribed slate tablet is a copy of the original which was made following damage by a falling tree in 1976, which necessitated part of the memorial including the pilasters to be rebuilt. The original plaque was restored and is mounted on the north wall of the main entrance to the hall.



Beneath yon eastern ridge, the craggy bound,
Rugged and high, of Charnwood's forest ground,
Stand yet, but stranger! Hidden from thy view,
The ivied ruins of forlorn GRACE DIEU.
Erst a religious House, which day and night,
With hymns resounded and the chanted rite;
And when those rites had ceased, the Spot gave birth
To honourable men of various worth;

There, on the margin of a streamlet wild,
 Did Francis Beaumont sport, an eager child;
 There, under shadow of the neighbouring rocks,
 Sang youthful tales of shepherds and their flocks;
 Unconscious prelude to heroic themes,
 Heart-breaking tears, and melancholy dreams
 Of slighted love, and scorn, and jealous rage,
 With which his genius shook the buskined stage.
 Communities are lost, and Empires die,
 And things of holy use unhallowed lie;
 They perish; - but the intellect can raise,
 From airy words alone, a Pile that ne'er decays.

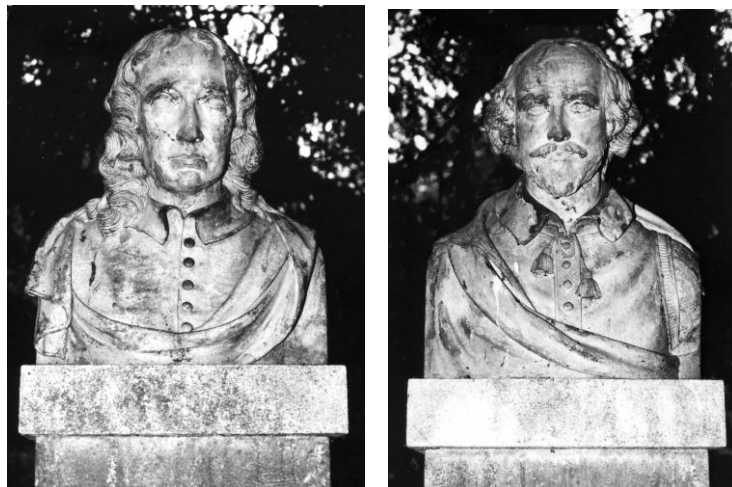


This photograph is of Sir George Howland William Beaumont, 10th Baronet, sitting on the steps which lead in a northerly direction, up to the memorial tablet in memory of the dramatist and poet Francis Beaumont. This Sir George was lord of the manor from 1882 to 1914. Photograph thought to be pre 1897. The 10th Baronet deserted his wife, Dame Lillie Ellen (Ellenor) c.1900 and went to France to live with his mistress, Mademoiselle Gabriel Louise Liegeard.

To the left, on a stone pier, is the coade stone bust of William Shakespeare. To the right, hidden by the bush, is a bust of Milton, again on a stone pier. These are reputedly dated 1817. This photograph can be compared with the old engraving of the flower garden which appears later. Apparently, the above photograph came from the family album, and was thought to be the only one to survive. The Coade Stone vase to the left of the photograph is not there anymore.



A photograph taken in the 1980's showing the memorial seat and tablet inscribed with Wordsworth's poem in memory of the dramatist and poet Francis Beaumont



The busts of Milton & Shakespeare



A more recent photograph of the the memorial to Francis Beaumont



Inscription - "To the Memory of Francis Beaumont"

A Memorial to Sir Joshua Reynolds

In the "Memorials of Coleorton" by Professor William Knight, he states the following in relation to Wordsworth, and the last of the three inscription poems:-

"Written in 1808 at the request of Sir George Beaumont, and in his name, for an urn, placed by him at the termination of a newly-planted avenue". He states that the urn was "set up" in 1807.

Ye lime-trees, ranged before this hallowed urn,
Shoot forth with lively power at Spring's return;
And be not slow a stately growth to rear
Of Pillars, branching off from year to year,
Till they have learned to form a darksome aisle;-
That may recall to mind that awful Pile
Where Reynolds, mid our countries noblest dead,
In the last sanctity of fame is laid.
There, though by right the excelling Painter sleep
Where death and glory a joint Sabbath keep,
Yet not the less his spirit would hold dear
Self-hidden praise, and Friendship's private tear;
Hence, on my patrimonial grounds, have I
Raised this frail tribute to his memory;
From youth a zealous follower of the Art
That he professed; attached to him in heart;
Admiring, loving, and with grief and pride
Feeling what England lost when Reynolds died.

There follows, modern photographs of the memorial to Sir Joshua Reynolds. It comprises a square funeral urn on a plinth and is inscribed with the above Wordsworth poem. Sir Joshua Reynolds had in fact died some twelve years before Sir George started re-building Coleorton Hall. Sir George had first come into contact with Joshua Reynolds in the late 1770's and had developed a great admiration for his talents. Even twenty years after his death, Beaumont erected the "Cenotaph" to his hero.

In 1823, during a five week visit to Coleorton Hall, John Constable drew sketches of the scene. He committed himself to making an oil painting of it 10 years later, and the original, entitled "The Cenotaph", is now held in the National Gallery. A copy of this is shown on the following page. When he painted it, Sir George Beaumont had been dead 6 years and Constable's beloved wife Maria was also dead. The terrible, tangible emotion of this painting is a larger grief than just that for Reynolds. An overview of John Constable's visit to Coleorton hall features later.



The Sir Joshua Reynolds Memorial



John Constable's 1833 painting "The Cenotaph", which was subsequently sold to Louis Philippe, the late King of the French for 650 guineas. It is now in the National Gallery. To the left and right are busts on plinths of Michelangelo and Raphael which he had introduced much nearer to the memorial than they were actually sited. He also introduced a stag into the picture.



The above photograph was taken in 1986 and can be related to John Constables painting entitled "The Cenotaph" shown on the previous page.

The avenue of lime trees approximately 50m long runs from east to west with the memorial to Sir Joshua Reynolds at the west end. The walk is pebble and brick decorated and expands at the east end into a pebbled circle approximately 10m in diameter. It is still in remarkably good condition. The walk is situated in the start of the woodland grove (described later) which runs north of the hall's upper lawn. It is behind the summer house and its approximate location is marked A on the aerial map shown earlier.



The busts of Raphael (top) and Michaelangelo

The visit of John Constable (1776-1837) to Coleorton Hall from October 21st to November 28th 1823

The author felt it important at this juncture to record the above visit, details of which are taken from "John Constable's Correspondence" edited by R. B. Beckett. The following extracts are mainly taken from letters to his wife Maria whilst he was staying with Sir George Beaumont, 7th Baronet and Lady Margaret.

Coleorton Hall. Octr 21, 1823

My very dear Love

I hasten to fulfil my promise to write to you on my arrival here - though Sir George and Lady Beaumont both wish me to defer it to another day, as he wants me in his painting room. But you are everything to me and everything I wish.

My journey was not an unpleasant one, though shut up in a coach from 6 in the evening till 12 at night, with only one other person - a decent sensible middle aged Lady - till we got to Leicester, where two more got into the coach to Ashby.

O dear this is a lovely place indeed and I only want you with me to make my visit quite compleat - such grounds - such trees - such distances - rock and water - all as it were can be done from the various windows of the house. The Church stands in the garden & all looks like fairy land.....

J.C

I am just returned from a walk - all around and about with Sir G. He is now painting, & I shall take my box, and do a little bit of rock or tree covered with moss.....

Coleorton Hall. Octr. 27. 1823

.....We find such occupation here that I can hardly say when I shall come back, whether this week or not till the next. Sir George and Lad Beaumont are so kind to me, that I feel quite at home.....

We are early here - and I am now writing before breakfast that when the boy goes to Ashby to post at ten, I may be ready.

We breakfast at half past 8, but today we began for the winter hour 9 - this habit is so delightfull that if you please we will adopt it, but I must say you are very good.

We do not quit the table immediately but chat a little about the pictures in the room, the breakfast room containing the Claudes (17th century French painter). We then go to the painting room, and Sir George most manfully like a real artist sets to work on anything he may fix upon - and me by his side. At two o'clock the horses are brought to the door - and Lady Beaumont hunts us both out.

So one of these fine days I had the opportunity of seeing the ruins at Ashby, the mountain streams and rocks at Griesdieu (*Gracedieu*), and an old convent there. Lord Ferrer's (*Staunton Harold*) - a grand but melancholy spot - I would think of the Lord Ferrers who was hanged for shooting his steward.

We then return to dinner. Do not sit long - hear the newspaper by Lady Beaumont (the Herald-let us take it in town) - then to the drawing room to meet the tea - then comes a great treat. I am furnished with some beautiful portfolios, of his own drawings or

otherwise, and Sir George reads a play, in a manner the most delightfull - far beyond and pronunciation I have ever heard - on Saturday evening it was "As you like it", and the Seven Ages I never so heard before.

Last evening (Sunday) he read a sermon and a good deal of Wordsworth's Excursion, it is beautifull but has some sad melancholy stories, and as I think only serve to harrow you up without a purpose - it is bad taste - but some of the descriptions of landscape are beautifull. They strongly wish me to get it.

Then about 9 the servant comes in with a little fruit and decanter of cold water and at eleven we go to bed - where I find a nice fire in my bedroom - and I make out about an hour longer, as I have everthing here, writing desk &c. This makes me grudge a moments sleep here.

I shall have much to say, & I am sure this visit will form one of the epochs of my life in (taste), industry, pride, and so on - & I will take care of myself and not let vulgar writers come and insult and intrude upon (me) as I have done, I will have a proper opinion of myself. A friend of ours, and R.A., is much laughed at here, and fully known - but we will talk of this matter alone.

This is a dreary morning, but I do not mind, I have so much that I want within - but I shall make a few sketches on the grounds, & I (have) done a little one from the window. Sir G. has kindly allowed me to make a study of a little Claude, a Grove - probably done on the spot.....

Yours ever affectionately
J. Constable

Coleorton Hall near Ashby de la Zouch
Novr. 5th 1823.

.....Sir G.B. paints a good deal - we work in the same room. He is vey entertaining - so full of delightfull stories about painting - & he laughs, sings, whistles & plays with his dog who is a surly fellow, but quite friends with me. This is the most punctual house that ever was - at 9 breakfast - no lunch - dinner four - tea seven - prayers 10 - bell always wrings as the clock is striking those hours.

Sir G. rides out about 2, fine or foul - rises at 7 - walks in the garden - the horses come under the window - he feeds the birds at breakfast - after dinner the newspaper is read out, & at 7 tea & then some book, or play read by Sir G.....

Nov 21.

.....Just as I am doubling this letter the clock is striking nine & the bell ringing for breakfast - nothing can exceed the punctuality of this place. I believe some great folks are coming here in December which Sir G. dreads as they interfere with his painting habits - for no artist can be more regular or fond of it.....

26 Novr. 1823.

Sir George is so very anxious that I shall not leave him for another day or two that I shall stay till Friday & be with you on Saturday morning, and have a quiet day together on Sunday. I have worked so hard that I really want a day or two & he will ride with me every day - & some company are coming here on Friday so that all things will suit.....

My second little copy of Claude is only done this morning & it is beautifull and all wet so that I could hardly bring it with me.

Nothing can exceed the kindness of all here and Sir G. we have been of mutual and great service to each other. No one unpleasant circumstance has happened whilst I have been with them six weeks on Tuesday since we met. O dear - it is sad - I long to see you & if you have any friends staying with you I beg you will dismiss them on my arrival

Yours

J. Constable.



A pencil drawing of the hall by John Constable made during his November 1823 visit. The original was sold at Bonhams, in London on July 14th 2013 for £67, 250.



An 1823 pencil & wash drawing by John Constable reportedly done in Southey's daughters albumn.

On the morning of his last day at Coleorton (if he left after all on the 28th November) Constable amused himself by strolling to the end of a grove where he had already noticed a monument erected by Beaumont to the memory of Sir Joshua Reynolds and there making two drawings (Victoria & Albert museum Nos 815 and 835), one of which he used many years later for his painting called "The Cenotaph", which was itself a tribute to the memory of his host. A copy of this is shown earlier.



A

B

C

- A - Self portrait 1799-1804 (original pencil and black chalk heightened with white and red chalk).
- B - By Daniel Maclise - pencil - c.1831.
- C - By Richard Lane after Charles Robert Leslie - Lithograph - 1825-1850.

The visit of Benjamin Robert Haydon (1786-1846) and David Wilkie (1785-1841) to Coleorton Hall in 1809.

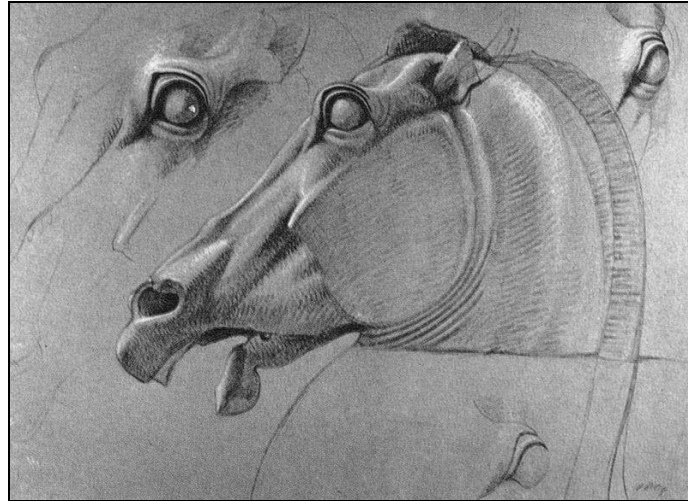
Taken from Professor William Knight's *Memoirs of Coleorton*

Benjamin Robert Haydon and David Wilkie (famous English and Scottish painters respectively) went on a visit to Coleorton in 1809, of which Haydon gives the following account: —

There had been a great deal of fun at Lord Mulgrave's about this visit. Sir George, like all men of fashion, had a way of saying pleasant things without the least meaning. He was always full of invitations to Coleorton, and when, he disapproved of my rocks in "Dentatus" (*painting finished in 1809*), he said, "There are some capital rocks at Coleorton which you and Wilkie must come down and study. I will write to you as soon as I get down." When, on his return to town, he again found fault with the rocks. Lord Mulgrave slyly said, "Haydon, what a pity it was you did not see those unfortunate rocks at Coleorton"; and when the picture was up, and Sir George tried to say anything in my defence, Lord Mulgrave would say, Ah, Sir George, it is all owing to those cursed rocks!" 'Sir George at last, quite ashamed of his wilful forgetfulness, wrote us both a most kind invitation while we were in Devonshire; and so, the moment we returned to town, off we set for Coleorton. We got to Ashby-de-la-Zouche at night, slept there, and the next day posted on to Coleorton. 'The house was a small seat, recently built by Dance in the Gothic style, very near a former house where Beaumont and Fletcher used to spend their summers. Sir George, I think, told us he was descended from the same family as the dramatist. 'Both he and Lady Beaumont received us very kindly, but I could not help thinking that it was more to avoid Lord Mulgrave's future quizzing than from any real pleasure in our company. As I was walking with him next day about the grounds, he said, "Now I hope you and Wilkie will stay a fortnight." . . . We passed a fortnight as delightfully as painters could. Sir George painted, and Lady Beaumont drew, and Wilkie and I made our respective studies for our own purposes. At lunch we assembled and chatted over what we had been doing, and at dinner we all brought down our respective sketches, and cut up each other in great goodhumour. 'We dined with the Claude and Rembrandt before us, breakfasted with the Rubens landscape, and did nothing morning, noon or night but think of painting, talk of paintings, dream of painting, and wake to paint again.

'We lingered on the stairs in going up to bed and studied the effect of candlelight upon each other, wondering how the shadows could be best got as clear as they looked. Sometimes Sir George made Wilkie stand with the light in a proper direction, and he and I studied the colour. Sometimes he held the candle himself, and made Wilkie join me; at another time he would say, "Stop where you are. Come here, Wilkie. Asphaltum thinly glazed over on a cool preparation I think would do it," and David and I would suggest something else. We then unwillingly separated for the night, and rose with the lark, to go at it again, all of us feeling as jealous as if we were artists struggling for fame. Wilkie and Sir George had the best of it, because, after all, rocks are inanimate; and seeing that I should be done up if I did not bring out something to sustain my dignity, I resolved on a study of a horse's head. Without

saying a word, by dinner next day I painted, full of life and fire, the head of a favourite horse of Sir George's, and bringing it in when the party assembled for dinner, I had the satisfaction of demolishing their little bits of study, for the size of life effectually done is sure to carry off the prize.



Haydon's Horses Head

'The next morning at breakfast I perceived that something was brewing in David's head, and I clearly saw that my championship would not be a sinecure. Away went David to his studies, I to my rocks. Sir George to his painting-room, and Lady Beaumont to her boudoir. Dinner was announced, and in stalked David Wilkie with an exquisite study of an old woman of the village, in his best style, so that the laurel was divided; but they all allowed that nothing could exceed the eye of my horse.

'One evening, I made Lady Beaumont's maid stand on the staircase with a light behind her, so as to cast a good shadow on the wall, and from her I painted an excellent study for Lady Macbeth. Our fortnight was now fast drawing to a close, and Sir George began to lament that when we had left him he should be compelled to attend to his coal-mines.

'In the gardens he had a bust of Wordsworth, and I think a memento of Wilson. Coleorton is a retired spot; I visited it in 1837, when at Leicester, and was touched to see it again after so many years. A group of sculpture had been added near the hall; my Macbeth (of which presently) was on the staircase. Jackson, Lord Mulgrave, Sir George and Lady Beaumont, were all dead, and I walked through the house in a melancholy stupor; angry to see the rooms, where once hung the site of our now national pictures, filled with modern works, and the two superb heads (by Sir Joshua) of Sir George and Lady Beaumont pushed high up to make way for some commonplace trash. Sir George said to us one day at dinner, "Wordsworth may perhaps walk in; if he does, I caution you both against his terrific democratic notions." This was in 1809 and considering the violence of his subsequent conservatism, it is a curious fact to recall.

The following is taken from "The life of Sir David Wilkie" by Allan Cunningham published in 1843 and taken from Wilkie's journal.

1809 August 14th - Reached Coleorton Hall at 11 o'clock: Dance who designed it, has acquitted himself well: we found it most spacious and magnificent. We were most kindly received by Sir George and Lady Beaumont. We entered first through a large portico into the lobby, which leads into a splendid hall lighted from the ceiling. Round the hall is a suite of rooms fitted up in the most elegant manner. The room above are chiefly bedrooms, while at the top of all is the painting room of Sir George himself. We next went round the cottages in the neighbourhood, some of which I intend to make studies of. The country around is picturesque and thickly wooded.....

15th - Went and began a sketch of an old cottage close to the house. Continued painting until 3, and was visited once or twice by Lady Beaumont, also by an old gardener, whom I found to be a Scotsman, and a rather intelligent person.....

16th - Put in today the sky to to the background of The Cottage.....

17th - Began to paint in the Winter-Gardens, and finished the sketch of the cottage.....

18th - Finished The Cottage sketch, and standing on the bank which overlooks the Winter Garden, I saw a distant landscape, broken by trees and cottages in the foreground, which seemed well calculated to accompany the sky which I had painted. When I had put it in, I took it into the house and compared it with Sir George's Rubens, and made such alterations as the study of that great master suggested. When we had dined, we took a walk to the farm-house, where we saw, besides some very fine trees, a pigeon house which I think will suit me exactly.

19th - Began to paint at 10 at The Gardener's Cottage, and continued till I finished the sketch which I began yesterday, though much interrupted by rain. In the evening I amused myself by looking, with Haydon, over Hogarth's prints, and Sir George read us Wordsworth's poem "The Thorn"

20th - In a walk all round the fields we saw a farm-house with a group of the most picturesque trees I ever beheld; nor did we fail to perceive that the farm-house itself was remarkably clean and neat. At the door of another house we found a draw well, with household utensils beside it, arranged in such a manner that, if time allows, I shall make a study of it. In the evening Sir George desired all the servants to come in, when Lady Beaumont read to us part of the church service, and Sir George read a sermon. I was highly gratified with this devotional duty, which I had never witnessed before in any part of England.

21st - Had a walk with Sir George and Lady Beaumont in the fields this evening: looked through the telescope at the moon, which shone uncommonly clear.....

22nd - Went and painted from the group of trees at the farm, and made a usefull sketch.

23rd - Went to paint the well at the house which I saw on the 20th. The woman of the house allowed me to sit within the door; she talked incessantly to me all day; she was such a dame as I should suppose the neat herd's wife was who scolded Alfred about burning her cakes. Yet, for all her roughness of manner, she showed me much kindness. A young woman came in with a very beautiful countenance and a young child at her breast, daughter-in-law to the old women. I succeeded in hitting off this little rustic scene to my satisfaction. When I returned, I found that Sir George had gone a great way in the picture he is painting for me. Sir George in the evening read us Addison's comedy of The Drummer.

24th - Painted for an hour before breakfast at the window of The Gardener's cottage.....

25th - Made some sketches of various scenes: finished that of the well; and introduced it as a background to a sketch of Mrs. Knight, with whom I had a bicker about religion, very violent, yet very civil.

26th - I began to paint, but as I was rubbing in the broken surface of a sandy road for the foreground, I was told that Lady Beaumont wished me to paint a gipsy-woman who was then in the house. I went at once: this woman seemed a singular character. I sketched in the head, and as her child lay sucking at the breast I put it in also, although it had nothing interesting in its appearance. I finished the sketch to my satisfaction, and for the first time tried the effects of yellow lake on the flesh, which even surpassed my expectations.....

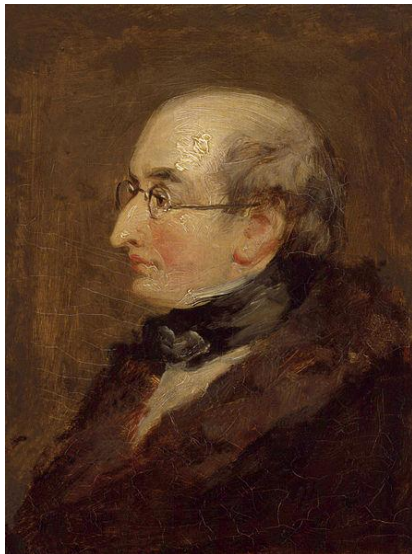
27th - Lady Beaumont requested me to read after breakfast Wordsworth's Preface to his poems.....I rode with Sir George to the distance of three miles, where we saw some rocks which Haydon has been painting; they are both massy and rugged. We had a beautiful view from this spot of Coleorton and the more distant country. On our way home we passed an old abbey in ruins (*Gracedieu*): the chief circumstance which renders it interesting is, that it is the birth-place of the celebrated Beaumont, who wrote in conjunction with Fletcher.....

Wilkie with his companion (*Benjamin Robert Haydon*) left Coleorton on the evening of the 27th of August. This visit was long held in remembrance. "The pleasure", says Sir George, "which your visit gave us will not soon pass from our minds, and I cannot but look forward with pleasure to the time you are to paint a picture here".

Supplementary information - Three years before his visit to Coleorton, Sir David Wilkie painted his famous picture, "The Blind Fiddler" for Sir George Beaumont who commissioned it in 1806, and it was completed by August 20th of that year. Sir George subsequently presented it to the National Gallery. Further information is included in the book entitled "The life of Sir David Wilkie" by Allan Cunningham published in 1843.



"The Blind Fiddler" by David Wilkie



Benjamin Robert Haydon



David Wilkie c.20 years old.

Both self portraits.

Further building development at Coleorton Hall

We should remember at this stage that Sr George Howland Beaumont, 7th Baronet had died in 1827 at the age of 65. His wife, Lady Margaret passed away on the 14th July 1829 in her 73rd year whilst still living at Coleorton Hall.

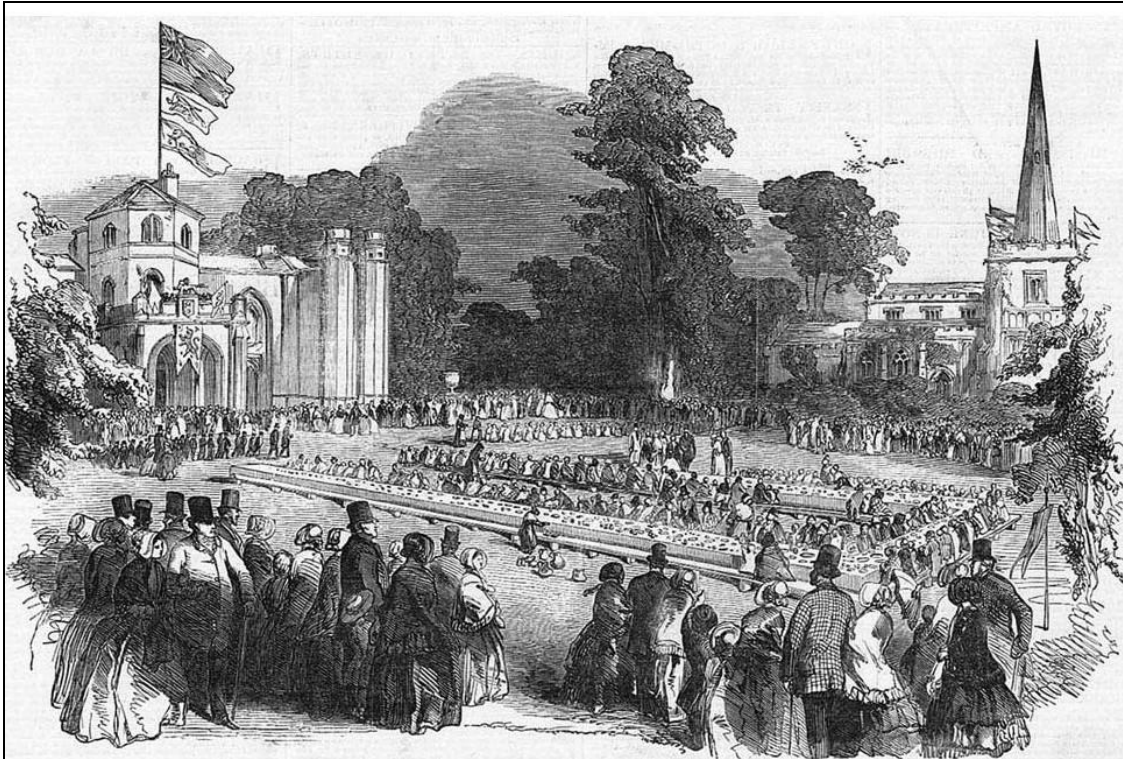
Robert Southey, the English Poet, who seems to have been a humble friend, more in character of a hanger-on wrote in 1833: "Sir George's death was not from any decay. His mother lived for some years beyond ninety, and his health had greatly improved during the latter years of his life. He was never better than when in this country a very few months before his death. The seizure was sudden: after breakfast, as he was at work upon his picture, he fainted: erysipelas presently showed itself upon the head, and soon proved fatal". (taken from "Coleorton and the Beaumonts" by Rev. A. Eveleigh Eagar).

The 8th Baronet, Sir George Howland Willoughby Beaumont inherited the Beaumont estate from his cousin the 7th Baronet, however, he was challenged as the rightful heir in the courts (see details in the first page of the feature entitled "Continuation of Newspaper Articles" which appears later) and this saga went on even after Lady Margaret's death in 1829. However, eventually the 8th Baronet was accepted as the rightful heir to the Baronetcy and the Beaumont estate. The 8th Baronet, formerly of the Buckland estate, Surrey was married in July 1827 to Mary Ann Howley, eldest daughter of the Bishop of London. She died on February 15th 1835 at Heyres, South of France. It is likely that Willoughby and Mary Anne would have made much of this residence between 1829 and 1835 when she died. They would have spent time with her parents at either Lambeth or Addington Palace where their first born son and heir was delivered on September 12th 1828. The 8th Baronet's 16 years at Coleorton were beset with domestic tragedy, estate problems and his own well documented building projects. Between the birth of his heir in 1828 and Mary Anne's death in 1835, six children had been born, only three of whom survived their mother. Ten years later the 8th Baronet was dead, himself having experienced indifferent health, and by which time estate expenditure was exceeding income. The three orphaned infants were taken into the care of their grandmother, Mary Howley. The eldest - Sir George Howland Beaumont completed his education at Winchester and returned to Coleorton Hall in 1850 to be married later that year. William Beresford Beaumont (featured later), the second surviving son, went into holy orders under the influence of his grandfather, the Archbishop Rev. William Howley, and graduated from Oxford in 1853, later becoming Rector of Coleorton in 1864. The youngest child Constance was brought up by her maternal grandmother with whom she lived till her marriage in 1852.

Following the re-building of Coleorton Hall by Sir George Howland Beaumont, 7th Bart, many additions and changes were made to the hall over the following fifty years, but it was Sir George Howland Beaumont, 9th Bart, who made the most significant improvements, and was responsible for the building as we saw it prior to being purchased by the N.C.B., in 1948 for £30,000. In 1860, Sir George commissioned the young architect Frederick Cockerell (1833-

1878) to enlarge the house. An additional storey was added to the main hall, with additional storeys also being added to the domestic living quarters.

Both the following print and oil painting give a good illustration of the hall and St. Mary's Church in 1849, just after Canterbury Lodge was built and when Sir George Howland Beaumont, 9th Baronet, had reached his majority. This was eleven years prior to Cockerell's commission to enlarge the hall which is discussed later.



The above print is described in an "Illustrated London Newspaper" dated October 1849 as follows - "Fete at Coleorton Hall to celebrate the majority of Sir George Howland Beaumont, 9th Baronet".



The above oil painting (artist unknown) was also done to celebrate the majority of the 9th Baronet during the fete at Coleorton Hall in 1849. This shows the church covered in ivy and there appears to be people standing around the top of the church tower.



South eastern Elevation of Coleorton Hall - c.1900

This shows the additional storey, picture gallery, dining room and conservatory, all subsequently added to the original George Dance design.

On the preceding 1938 plan, the red shaded area was that encompassed by the original hall as built in 1808. It is not clear how much of the building to the NW in the areas marked E was completed in 1808. The "Dairyhouse" marked D, was designed by Robert Chaplin c.1832, at the same time he designed the new kitchen garden, both of which feature later. It is quite likely that all of the buildings in the area marked E, including the flowers section, glazed area and yard didn't exist at that time. The picture gallery (A) was added to the house in 1851/2. The dining room (B), and the conservatory (C) were all later additions, with the dining room being added in the early 1870's. Another storey was added to the hall and domestic quarters by Frederick Cockerell in 1862 following his commission in 1860 to extend the hall. This changed the hall's proportion and scale but was not entirely unsympathetic. The octagonal turrets were heightened - their finials removed and re-used. The entrance front had two Jacobean gables and a bellcote added and that part of the service wing nearest to the house had two storeys added and was made more important with a gable and two turrets flanking a four-centred, three storey arched recess. The author is of the view that Cockerell was not responsible for the picture gallery or dining room.

Much has been written about the date at which the new picture gallery was added to Coleorton Hall, and a newspaper article has proved most of it to be incorrect. When the 9th Baronet inherited the estate in 1845 on the death of his father, he was only seventeen years of age and Edward Butt Knight the 8th Baronet's land agent of long standing had recently pre-deceased him. In consequence, the young Sir George was brought up by his grandmother in London.

The 9th Baronet was a keen artist, following in the footsteps' of his illustrious "ancestor", the 7th Baronet, and it is likely that one of his first indulgences after inheriting the hall and resolving his finances would have perhaps have been the construction of a new building to house the many paintings that had accumulated before and since the death of the 7th Baronet, which had now come into his possession.

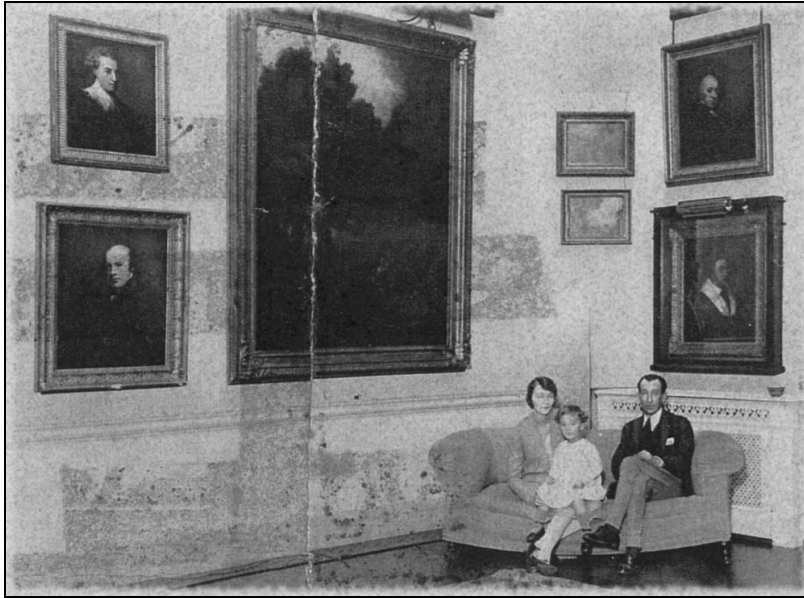
On the death of the 9th Baronet's father in 1845, the estate was undergoing fiscal problems (not resolved until the early 50's) and it hardly seemed likely that the trustees or guardian would commit the family to the expense of non-essential building work at that time. This surprisingly proved to be incorrect! There is a separate section later in the book dedicated to the Beaumont's financial problems which the reader should refer to at this point.

When the 9th Baronet achieved his majority and moved to Coleorton Hall, a great celebration took place in June 1851 to celebrate his first wedding anniversary and the baptism of his son and heir. This was a very grand affair which was reported on in the *Leicester Mercury* and the detailed article describing the party appears later in the book. In the article it mentions the following:-

In addition to the improvements to the grounds and church, a picture gallery has been added, built in Derbyshire stone, and the floor which was in polished oak came from the floor formerly used in the Exchange Building at Leicester which had been pulled down.

In July 1852 the following also appeared in the *Leicester Mercury* confirming pictures were being hung in the new gallery at that time:-

Mr. George Gregory, artist, of Ashby de la Zouch, died suddenly at Coleorton, on Tuesday evening. He had been employed by Sir George Beaumont for several weeks past in hanging pictures in the new picture gallery at the Hall, and he completed his task on Tuesday aft. In the evening, he went to the house of Mr. Peter Heward, under steward to Sir George Beaumont, and whilst looking at a picture there, had a fit of epilepsy. Mr. Willey, surgeon, was sent for, but Mr. Gregory died in a few minutes. An inquest was held on Wednesday, and the jury returned a verdict of "died by natural causes".



Photograph c. 1930 of Sir G. A. H. Beaumont, 11th Baronet, with his wife Lady Renee Muriel and daughter Eleanor Brienne in the Picture Gallery



Lady Renee Muriel Beaumont in the Library next to the Picture Gallery c.1930.

The following supplementary information was recorded by John Crocker:-
 As far as can be ascertained, there had been no major alterations to the Picture Gallery prior to December 1950 when it had no windows other than the original overhead lantern. When the new Picture Gallery was built, the c.1900 east facing timber / glass lean-to conservatory on the outside wall, with access into the 1873 Dining Room (see the 1938 plan shown earlier) wasn't there of course. Evidence of this structure which was demolished in 1951 can be seen in the stained façade stonework at the ridge line of the one-time conservatory which is broken by the new window lintels installed in 1952. The false (raised) "window" panels on the original façade can be seen on the c.1900 photograph below of the east elevation, above the conservatory. These were decorative architectural features to break up the monotony of the plain wall. Structural alterations to the Picture Gallery were carried out after 1951 which involved a new first floor, new ground floor and first floor windows in the east wall and partitioning on the ground floor. Due to rotting timbers and break up of the lead on the lantern light this was removed and a new pitched roof and gutters installed in 1979.



c.1900

The 1852 picture gallery is behind the conservatory which had access to the 1873 dining room on the right (see 1938 plan). Note the false window features in the Derbyshire stonework of the picture gallery above the conservatory. As can be seen in later photographs, these were replaced with modern windows during the period when the National Coal Board owned the hall. The conservatory was a late 19th century addition which helped to disguise the plain eastern façade of the picture gallery.

Top Lodge

Prior to the Coleorton bypass being constructed c.1992, the entrance drive to the hall was accessed from the old part of the Ashby Road via "Top Lodge", a single storey Tudor Gothic style building. A new approach was later constructed to the west of the old one which is entered off the new section of Ashby Road, after the by-pass was constructed. The lodge was originally built c.1812 and reportedly enlarged mid 19th century, and again mid 20th century. There follows an old photograph of the lodge taken in the early 1900's, plus other later photographs.



Top Lodge early 1900's



1960's



1960's



1960's



1982

Canterbury Lodge (Bottom Lodge)

Coleorton Hall's second lodge, officially named Canterbury Lodge, but known locally as Bottom Lodge is still situated on the Rempstone Road about 700m north east of the hall and can be seen on the 1888 O/S map. It was approached from the hall by a tree lined drive through an area known as Canterbury Park which was roughly the area west of the Rempstone Road and between The Lodge, the Grove, and Rough Park which is shown on the 1888 O/S map. When the hall was advertised for letting in 1890, this drive to the hall appeared to be still in use.

We know the lodge was first occupied in April 1849 as the hand written agreement reads as follows:-

"The undersigned Frederick Bowler acknowledge myself the occupier of the new lodge erected by Sir George Howland Beaumont on his Coleorton Estate and of the garden thereto on the terms that I shall quit the same at any time on receiving a months notice from the said Sir George Howland Beaumont or his agent so to do and during my occupation of the said premises I engage to consume thereon exclusively of the Smoile Coal.

Dated the seventh day of April 1849 - Frederick Bowler

Signed by Frederick Bowler

Witness by Peter Heward

The reverend William Howley, Archbishop of Canterbury, was the father of Mary Anne Beaumont, who was the wife of Sir George Howland Willoughby Beaumont, 8th Baronet. She died on the 11th February 1848 aged 81. It appears that Canterbury Lodge was built in commemoration of the Archbishop, probably by his wife Mrs. Howley who was running the Coleorton Estate at this time on behalf of the orphaned 9th, Baronet, Sir George Howland Beaumont who was under 21 years of age. It is possible that she may even have paid for it, as the Beaumonts were in financial difficulties at this time as discussed later in the book.



Canterbury Lodge (Bottom Lodge) - 2015

The Dining Room (Beaumont Room) Ceiling

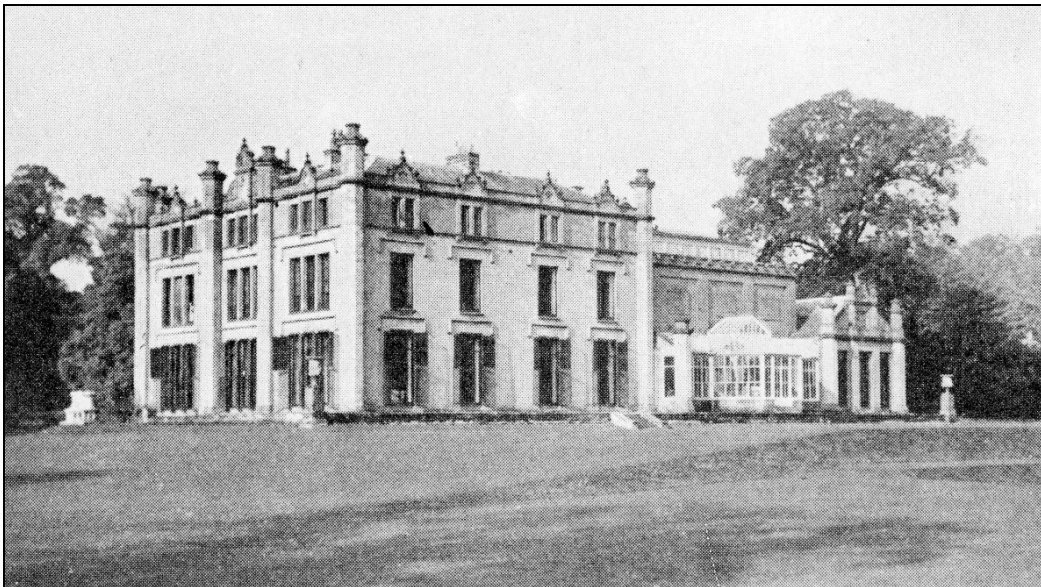
The more recently named Beaumont Room was depicted as the Dining Room on the 1938 plan shown earlier. An external photograph is shown on the next page. According to John Crocker's research material, the Dining Room (Beaumont Room) was completed in 1873 (inscribed on outside wall) and the ceiling finished and signed by the 9th Baronet in 1879.



The re-painted ceiling in the Dining Room (Beaumont Room)



Various close ups of panels



The Dining Room (Beaumont Room) is on the extreme right of this photograph

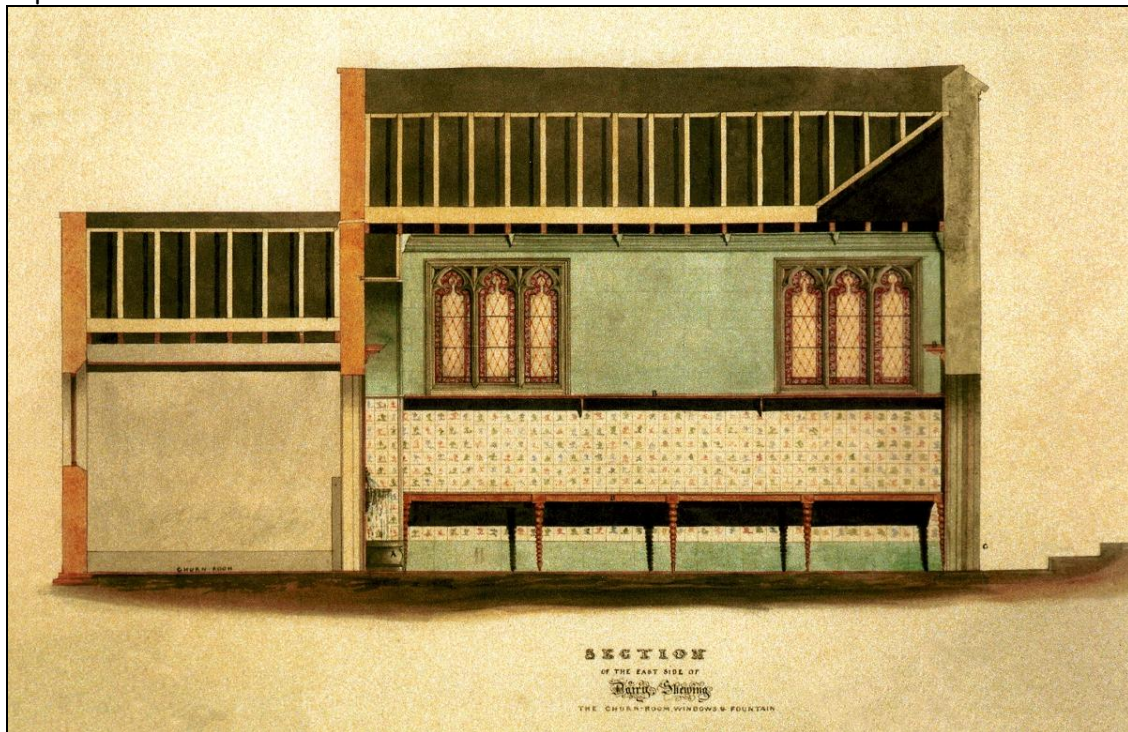
Robert Chaplin's (1774-1860) Architectural Contributions at Coleorton Hall

Extensive design and building work was carried out at the hall for the 7th and 8th Baronets by the architect Robert Chaplin, which was completed by the mid 1830's.

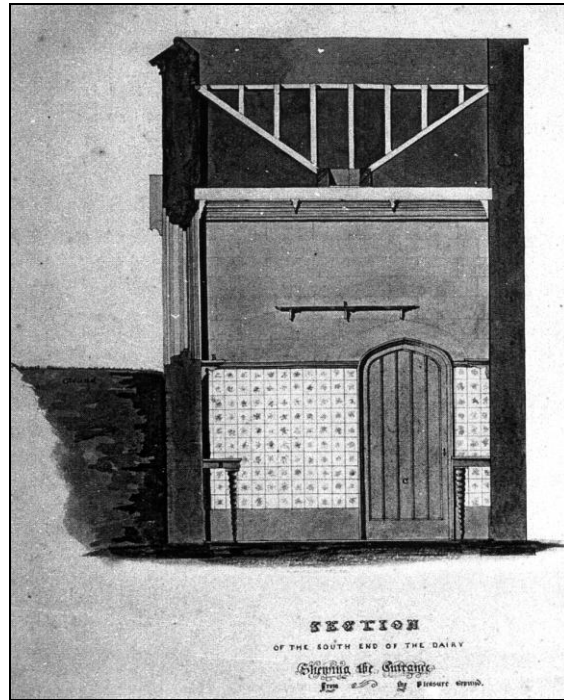
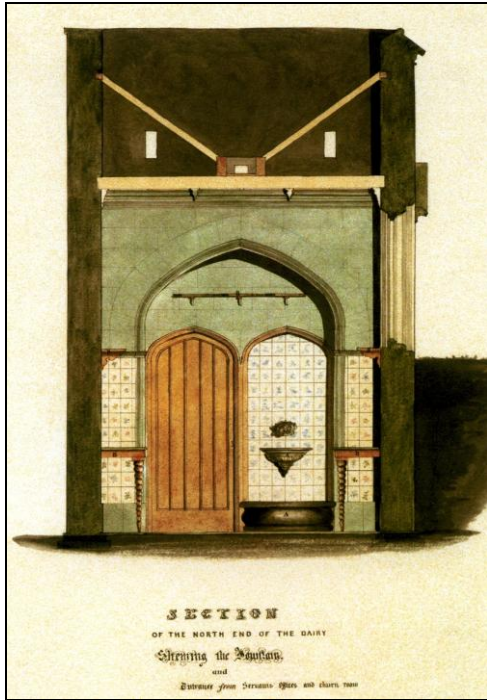
Robert Chaplin was born in Kenton, Devon. He apparently spent the earlier part of his career at Newton Abbot, before moving to Ashby de la Zouch c.1821 when his design for the "Ivanhoe Baths" was chosen. He lived in Rawdon Terrace and other buildings in Ashby which were attributed to him were the Hastings Hotel built in 1826 and renamed the Royal Hotel in 1841, Ivanhoe Terrace and the Manor House. He possibly had some involvement with the Railway Station also (ref "Leicestershire Architects 1700-185 by J. D. Bennet).

The Dairyhouse designed by Robert Chaplin c.1824.

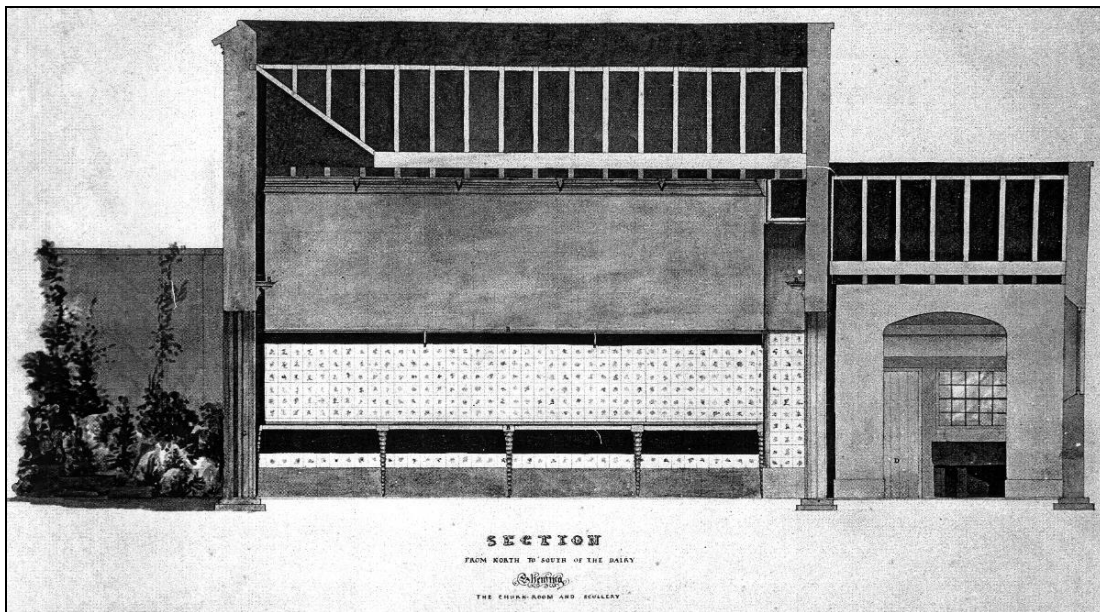
There has been little recorded about this historically important addition to Coleorton Hall which is shown on the earlier 1938 plan. Some of the external walls and the ornate windows have fortunately survived, although not listed as far as the author is aware. The inside of this ornate building however has been incorporated into an apartment, and again, as far as the author is aware, none of the internal features have survived !! An external photograph taken in 2015 follows, and can be compared with Robert Chaplin's plan, particularly with respect to the windows.



Section of the north east side of the dairyhouse showing
The churn-room on the left, windows and fountain.



On the left is a section of the North West facing end of the dairyhouse showing the fountain and entrance from the servant's offices and churn-room. On the right is a section of the south east end of the dairyhouse showing the entrance from the pleasure grounds which has now been bricked up. The steps down to this can be seen on the following 2015 photograph.



Longitudinal section through the dairyhouse showing the churn-room and scullery.

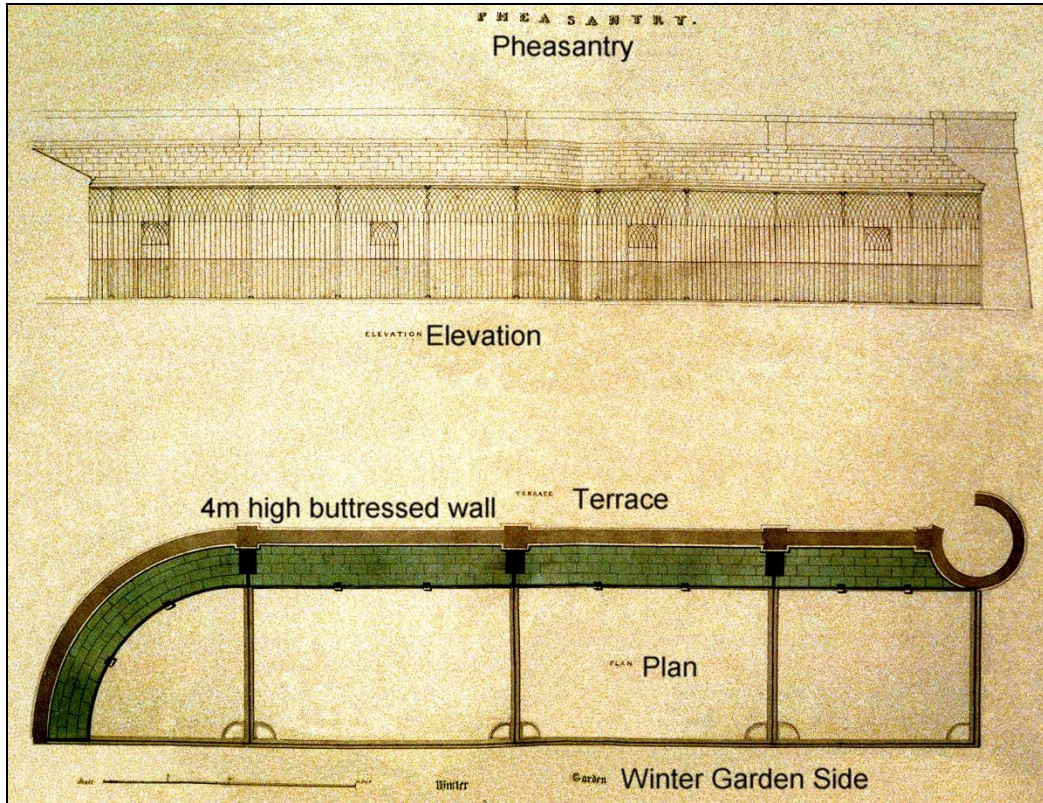


Photograph of the external north east elevation taken in 2015 showing the attractive windows.



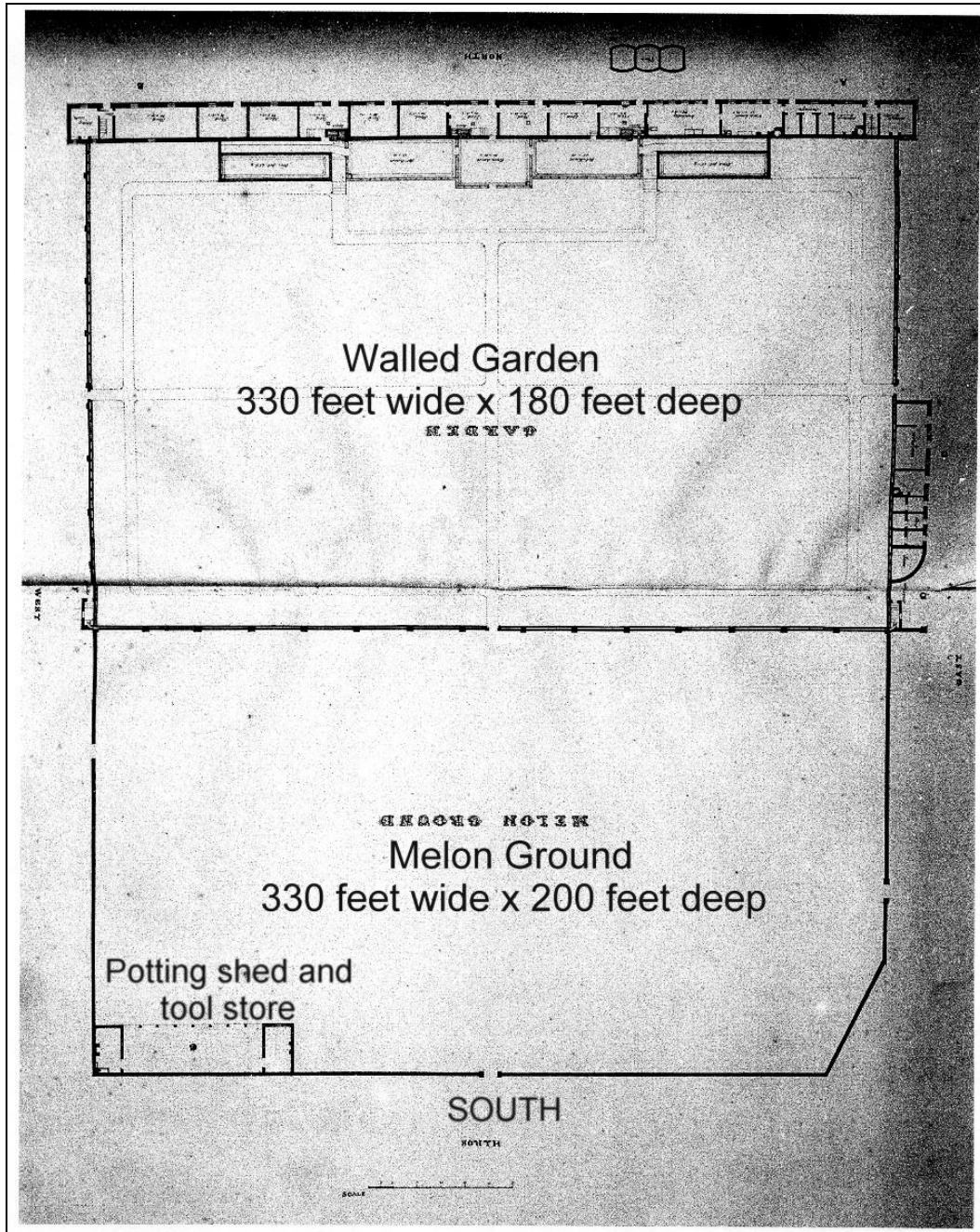
1997 view of churn room and scullery end of dairyhouse

Plan of "The Pheasantry" designed by
Robert Chaplin c.1831



Further details of "The Pheasantry" which was commissioned by Lady Mary Anne Beaumont wife of the 8th Baronet, are included in the earlier feature on Wordsworth's "Winter Garden"

The "New Kitchen Garden" Plans by Robert Chaplin - c.1830

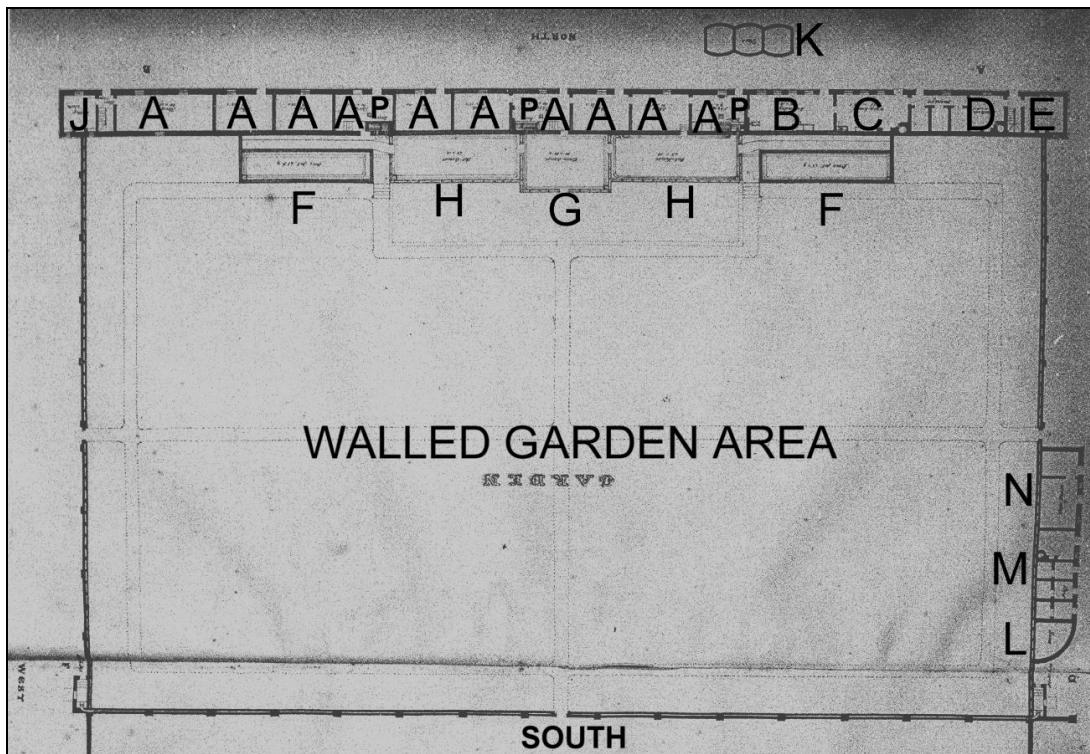


The above is a copy of the plan of the kitchen garden drawn by Robert Chaplin. The garden was sited some 250m north west of the hall. The walled part of the garden to the east, west and south was buttressed all around, and was twenty feet high. The south wall was actually of double construction with heating pipes running down the centre. There was a stoke hole at either end with steps down, which presumably contained a boiler to feed hot water to the pipes. There follows a view of the walled garden only area, marked up with a description of the various buildings that were constructed at the northern end of the

garden. The original Kitchen Garden was part of the large service and farm courtyard that existed at the end of the 18th century. A new garden was apparently made later to the west of the stable block, but this was later replaced by the garden in the preceding plans.

In a letter to Miss Wordsworth dated 18th July 1830, Lady Beaumont wrote....."Removal of the kitchen garden from the back of the stables (in the area of the tennis courts shown later) to a field beyond has given great lightness to the approach to the house", and in a letter to William Wordsworth on the 2nd July 1831, she wrote....."Hot houses, Kitchen garden etc are at length nearly completed.....double the sum we had hoped ...£8,000. £1,200 on actual manual labour using our own labourers. This must have been referring to the new garden based on Robert Chaplin's plans, which suggests they were drawn at the beginning of 1830 say. The letters would have been written by the 8th Baronnet's wife Lady Mary Ann Beaumont, as Lady Margaret wife of the 7th baronet had died prior to this date.

There is a record of Brick and Tile output from from Sir George Beaumont's Brickyard for the new Kitchen Garden continuing from May 1830 to February 1832, for drainage, Garden walls and buildings.



Key

- | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---------------------|
| A | Sheds (9). <u>Although termed as sheds, they were much more than this as described later.</u> | C | Wash-House |
| B | Laundry | E | Laundry-maids house |
| D | Kitchen | G | Green House |
| F | Pine Pit | | |

- H Hot House (2)
- J 1 up / 1 down gardener's house with stairs to bedroom (adjacent shed marked A used as seed and store room)
- K Tanks L Dung Store
- M Four pig-sties
- N Cow House (between the cow house and pig sties there is a toilet)
- P Boilers (3)

Although not shown on the above plans, an approximately 18 feet wide strip of garden supported by a 3 feet high wall ran externally down the east and west sides of the walled garden. These were for the gardener's house and the laundry house respectively.

The accounts for the hall gardens show that in 1834 James Cruikshank was the head gardener and his annual salary was £100. It is likely that he was appointed to establish and manage the new kitchen gardens. Montgomery Henderson replaced him in 1838 and he is featured in a dedicated article to him later in the book. Henderson started on £63 - 0s - 0d per annum, which in the following year, and thereafter, was raised to £84 - 0s - 0d. Although pineapples were one of Montgomery Henderson's specialities, it was noted in the accounts that James Cruikshank (former head gardener) was growing them prior to Henderson arriving. Below is a copy of the Coleorton Hall garden accounts for 1834 to 1836 which suggest the garden was being well managed financially. Edward B. Knight (Edward Butt Knight) is mentioned in the accounts, and he was the 8th Baronet's land agent from 1827 till 1844, the year in which he died.

								Dec	
1. Edward B. Knight in Account with Mr Cruickshank for Garden year ending 1835									
		£	s	d					
Cash for fruits sold per fruit Book	125	3	3	By the years salary from 1 st Jan 1835 to 1 st Jan 1836	100	0	0		
Cash recd of His Grace the A. of C. for fruit sold to Lambeth London.	42	12	4	By the years incidentals to same time per Mr Cruickshanks book	79	11	3		
Cash for Veg. sold per Vegetable Book	17	5	11	By balance due to Sir George Beaumont	33	10	1		
Cash for Plants sold per Plant Book	15	16	8						
Cash for Rags sold to May 16 th 1835	7	0	0						
Cash for Dairy Goods to June 6 th 1835	5	2	8						
	£	213	1	4					213-1-4
Settled the above % Edward B. Knight + James Cruickshank Jan 29 th 1836.									
2. Statement of the Garden Account at Coleorton Hall for the year April 16 th 1834 to March 31 st 1835									
1834					1834				
By cash of Sir George Beaumont for fruit sold to Lambeth London.	150	0	0	By payment to Mr Cruickshank for the month of April 1834	38	14	6		
17 th Cash of Mr Cruickshank for Plants sold on per his book.	14	4	2	May 1834	40	18	0		
1835				June	31	11	0		
--- Fruit sold	84	18	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	July	39	1	6		
--- Vegetables sold	47	10	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	August	31	11	0		
--- Plants sold	18	6		Sept.	30	3	0		
Balance	485	0	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	Oct.	34	9	6		
				Nov.	26	16	0		
				Dec.	32	17	6		
				1835	26	9	0		
				January	391	18	9 $\frac{1}{2}$		
				February	18	10	0		
				March	20	0	0		
				By purchase of a Horse for the Gardens, and by keep of same					
					£	792	10	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	
3. Statement of the Garden Account at Coleorton Hall for the year from March 31 st 1835 to April 1 st 1836									
June 27 th 1836. To cash of Sir Geo. H. to Beaumont for fruit sold to Lambeth, London for book					1835. By payment to Mr Cruickshank for the month of April 1835 per book				
To cash of Mr Cruickshank for plants sold	15	16	8	By Mr Matthew Snelson bill for Cart to the Gardens	10	3	1		
--- Fruit sold	125	3	3	Payment to Mr Cruickshank	40	9	6		
--- Vegetables sold	17	5	11	May 1835	33	0	0		
To Balance being the actual cost of the gardens for one year	583	10	7 $\frac{3}{4}$	June 1835	32	2	6		
				July 1835	20	0	0		
				By Mr Hood bill for Trees to Garden	40	1	0		
				Payment to Mr Cruickshank	33	0	6		
				August 1835	39	17	6		
				Sept 1835	29	19	0		
				Oct 1835	31	7	0		
				Nov 1835	116	8	3		
				Dec 1835	29	13	0		
				Jan 1836	31	19	6		
				Feb 1836	15	0	0		
				March 1836	20	0	0		
				By purchase of a Horse for Garden use	32	17	2		
				By keep of	2	10	0		
				Nov 30 th 1835: Messrs Marshall & Co. Derbyshire, Bill for Ironwork	17	12	0		
				Jan 16 th 1836 By Thos Haywood bill for reeds (seeds?) to Garden	100	0	0		
				Jan 27. Mr B. Walkers bill Gravel	4	9	4		
				Jan 29. By Mr Cruickshank - one years salary from 1 st Jan 1835 to 1 st Jan 1836	73	8	5 $\frac{3}{4}$		
				Feb 2 nd By T. Thorpe Whitesmith, bill for work to the Hall Gardens	£	784	8	9 $\frac{3}{4}$	
				By Mr Bradford bill for Glaziers work at the Hall Gardens.					

Coleorton Hall garden accounts 1834 - 1836

The following is part of an article which was featured in:-
"Gossip of the Garden" -Volume 111. June 1858

Cole-Orton Hall -

On entering the fruit and kitchen gardens, we were at once conducted through the vineries; these recalled to our mind the metropolitan horticultural shows, where for eighteen years Mr. Henderson, the head gardener, has been a successful exhibitor of grapes, pines, peaches &c., as well as the principal provincial exhibitions. In the early houses the fruit had all been cut with the exception of a few bunches of Muscat of Alexandria, which were large and fine, and had attained the rich amber colour this variety assumes when perfectly ripened. Passing through the greenhouse, a late vinery in which a fine crop was beginning to colour, the berries swelling freely, the foliage large and healthy, came next in order, and from the general appearance of the vines the fruit gave promise of the highest excellence when fully ripe. From this we move on to a pit, in which Mr. Henderson has grown annually some magnificent Black Hamburgh grapes, bunches large, berries finely swelled and of the richest black, (not even requiring another "dip"). Once or twice we have seen this beautiful fruit in perfection, but at the time of our visit last year (August) all had been cut. The vines however were in excellent condition, having stout, short-jointed, though roughly well-ripened wood, and although they had been forced for the last eighteen years, to have the grapes ripe in May, they seemed to have lost none of their vigour. The leaves were very large, leathery, thick and clean. The vines are planted inside, on a shallow border one foot deep, six and a half feet wide, formed of loam without any admixture whatever. It is impossible from the manner in which they were placed for the roots to escape, a proof that elaborate vine borders are not only unnecessary but hurtful. The border receives an occasional top-dressing, and is supplied with liquid manure two or three times during the season. In another division of the garden is a newly erected house in which the vines are planted in the same manner as before described. The pineries (pineapples) were next inspected, and found them well stocked with healthy robust plants, some of them swelling fine fruit. The smooth leaved Cayenne and Queen are favourite sorts here. There are other smaller pits and frames fully occupied, some with Melons, others with Achimenes, Gloxinias, &c. Of Gloxinias there were a large number of seedlings, the majority having large and highly coloured flowers of first-class excellence.

The following is an extract from an article written in "The
Journal of Horticulture and Cottage Gardener
December 23rd 1875

.....and now I will change the scene and theme, from groves passing onto grapes, and from pinuses to pines. The kitchen gardens are but a short distance from the pleasure grounds, and are approached through bowers of evergreens leading to an orchard, the borders by the side of the walk containing standard roses of unusual vigour, their strength being sustained by good soil, rich feeding, and very close pruning. The fruit trees in this orchard are some

of them old and scraggy, yet healthy, and yield good produce; but besides the fruit the misletoe growing on the apple trees invites attention.

Entering the walled garden, which is about two acres, the borders again being lined with roses - what a place for roses! - we see the vineries on the south wall, and could not resist the involuntary mental enquiry. Are these the structures which for a quarter of a century produced the grapes which won so many prizes and medals at the Royal Horticultural, Royal Botanic, and other Societies' shows? The houses are neither large, lengthy, nor lofty, but just such common-place erections as were placed in ordinary gardens half a century ago, and the vines are certainly as old-fashioned as the houses. Their gaunt stems rise from the ground, and their branches are trained "any way", one vine covering a roof and the shoots disposed according to the one governing condition that the foliage can have light. They are pruned, too, on "no principle", as some might call it, yet on the principle of selecting and cutting to the best eyes, let them be situated where they may. That is how, so far as regards training and pruning, Mr. Henderson has "swept the boards" on so many occasions by the splendid quality and superb finish of his grapes. It may be urged that this mode of culture is without "system", but rather should it be regarded as the fruit-producing and prize-winning system of which Mr. Henderson, with just and commendable pride, did what the veteran winner did not care to do - gave abundant proof by such a display of gold medals as have probably never been won by one man. Mr. Henderson showed, until he was tired of showing, and won until he was tired of winning, but he shows good grapes by his old "no system" mode of culture, and on the same old vines. His mantle has now fallen on Mr. Coleman who was one of his pupils - a worthy pupil of a worthy tutor.

But in worse than these old houses, or at least in a structure still more likely and uninviting, have the conquering grapes been produced. And now I am going to state something wonderful, almost incredible, yet true. At the end of the vineries is an old brick pit. It was once a pine pit heated by dung, the bottom being arched forming a chamber beneath in which to place manure. Thirty years ago Mr. Henderson converted this brick frame (for that is what it is) into a vinery by placing in it a little more than a foot of soil and planting with vines, the canes being trained near the glass. The pit is now heated by a water pipe (no bottom heat), the lights push up and down-there are twelve of them-and the bed in which the vines (seven) are planted is 7 feet wide. It is from this homely pit that the aristocratic grapes have come. And now for the marvel-this twelve light pit has produced grapes which have won prizes of the value of £300. Is this not an achievement unparalleled in the annals of grape culture? Eleven pounds of fruit to the square yard of glass is the annual produce of this pit. The canes are trained "any way", and pruned as before to the "best eyes". The wood is stout, and exceedingly short-jointed, and the foliage in October possesses the thick leathery texture of a fig. It is hardly necessary to say that these vines have been top-dressed and fed with the right food, and in the right quantity, and at the right time. On these vines I make only this short comment: they show conclusively what may be done with a small amount of soil if properly attended to, and that-I make no secret about it-were I essaying the production of grapes involving the least outlay in preparations and fuel I should "go in" for the pit culture a la Coleorton.

At the other end of the vineries is a corresponding pit, where peaches are successfully grown in the same way as are these remarkable vines.

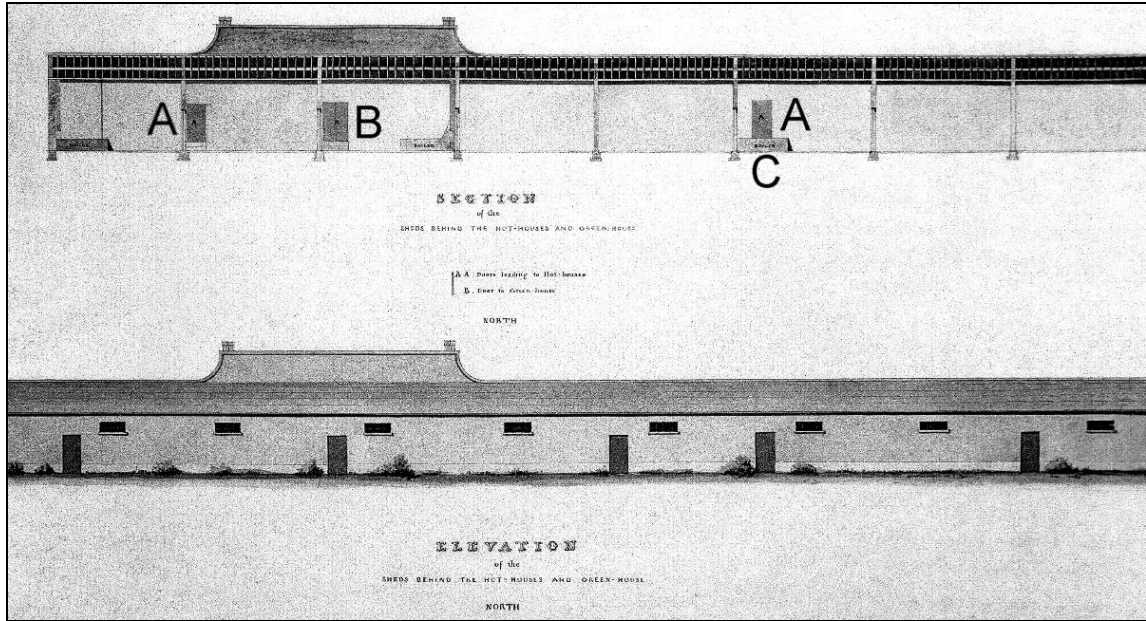
There is another short range of vineries planted with vines of more modern date, which were carrying excellent crops of highly finished fruit. The outside vine borders (and I

think all are outside save that of the pit) are heavily dressed with rich manure annually, and which is never removed. No fear of the roots leaving a rich feeding ground like that and darting into the subsoil. The surface is simply netted with them, and cannot be dug, and hence the short-jointed wood, leathery foliage, and finely finished fruit. It is just the old lesson over again, but how slow is the world at learning!

I have yet to note the pines. The notice needs only to be brief. They are grown in brick pits, the lights pushing up and down. There are four pits of twenty lights each. The plants are grown on the labour-and-fuel-saving-system. They are not potted. The suckers are planted one year, and they fruit the next, and such fruit! For instance, in October the fruit had been cut and the plants cleared out which had been inserted as suckers in the preceeding September. If an occasional plant fails to fruit the first season, its fruit Mr. Henderson says, never "plumps" so well as the yearlings, because the "steel has been taken out of the soil and the roots have lost their vigour". "If", says he, "you want the best pines in the shorstest time select big suckers" as long as your arm and plant them early in September, and within the twelve-month you will have more "eight pounders" than anything else. The condition of the plants justified that assertion. The pines are grown as cool as possible, two 3-inch pipes affording, I think, all the artificial heat; but then the pits are narrow and shallow, so that no more air is heated or cooled than is absolutely necessary. It is the most economical and effectual example of pine-growing, which after rather extensives travels, has come under my notice.

The garden walls are covered with well-trained and fruitful trees, many of them old, especially the peaches, which looked like octogenerians which had been cut down and made new again. They produce splendid crops of fruit, illustrating in a convincing manner the force of Mr. Luckhurst's advice of this mode of treatment.....

Sadly nothing exists of these historically important gardens
and a number of residential houses now stand on the site.

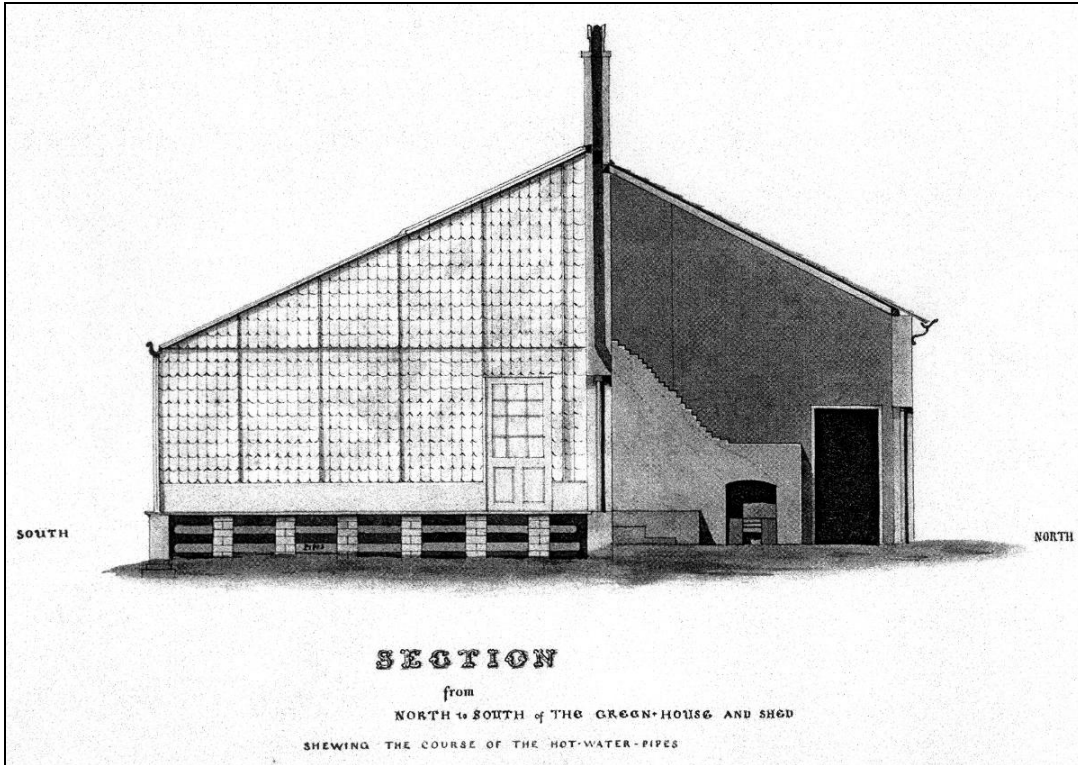


Top View

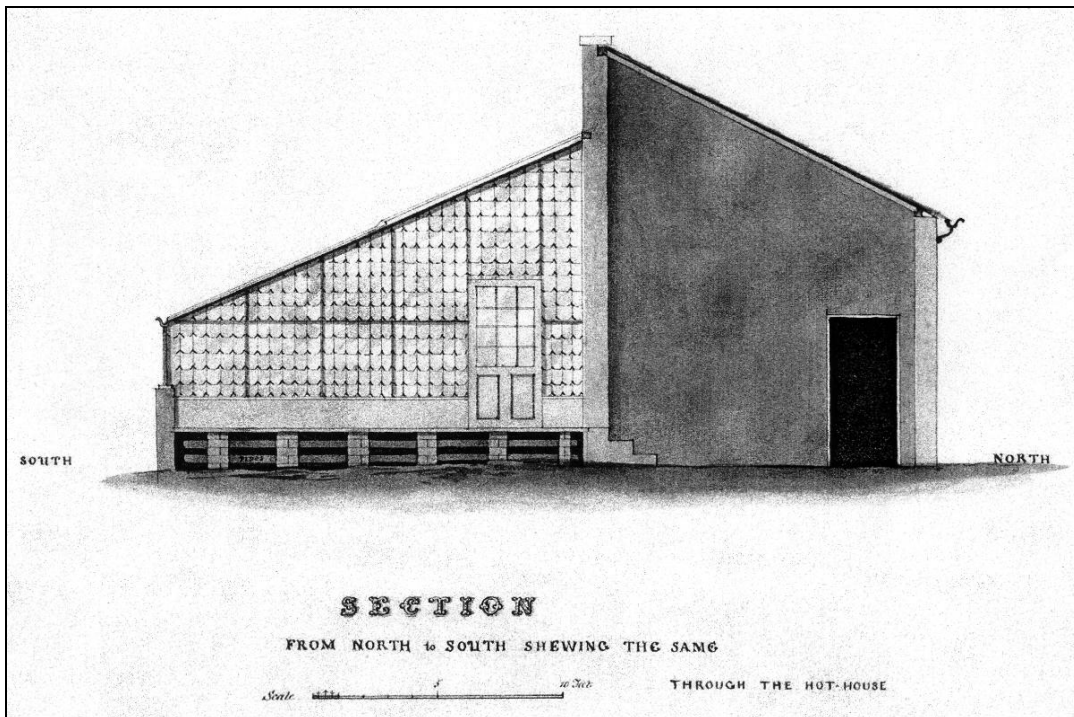
This is a longitudinal section through the "sheds" when viewed from the north showing access doors to the hot houses (two) and green house (one) marked A and B respectively. One of the three boilers shown on the earlier plan is marked C.

Bottom View

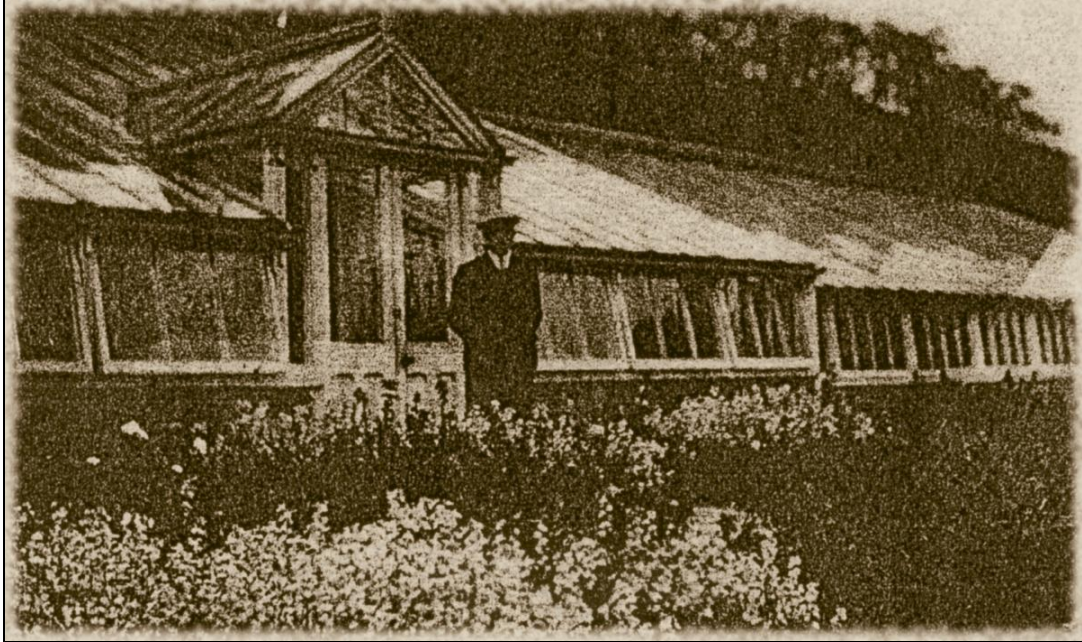
This is a similar view to the top one from the north but this time looking on the outside of the sheds which run behind the green house and hot houses.



North to south section through green-house and shed showing boiler and hot-water pipes



North to south section through hot-house and "shed"



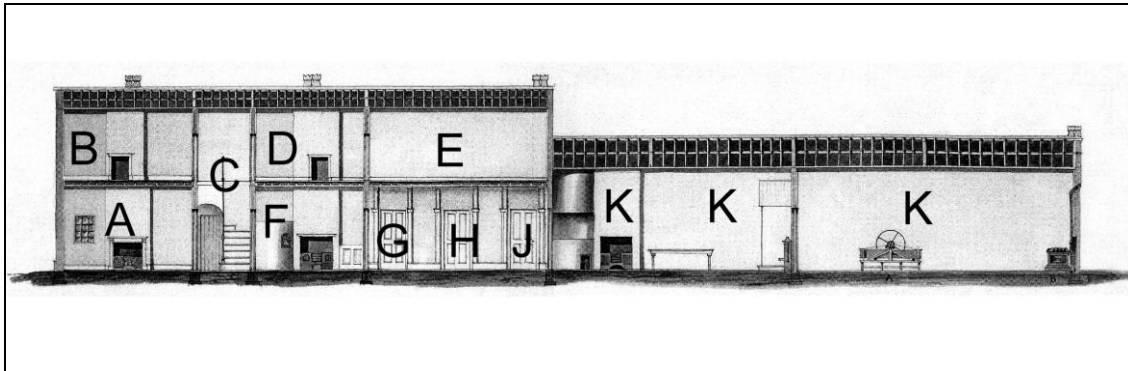
Early 1900's photograph of green house / hot houses

Leicester Chronicle - July 10th 1852

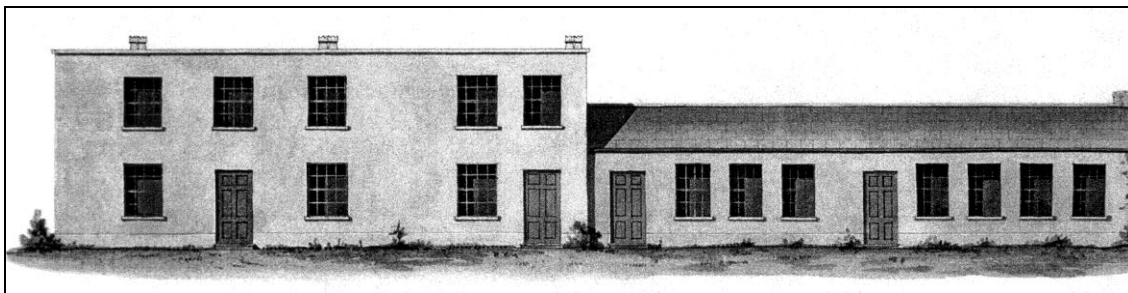
Destructive Thunderstorm

.....The greatest amount of injury however was done at Coleorton. Here the hail fell very profusely, some of the stones measuring at least two inches in circumference. Several windows of farm-houses were broken and in the gardens surrounding the hall, the flower beds (which are always kept with great care, but which were if possible, in a better state than usual on account of the marriage of Miss Beaumont being fixed for the next day) were literally destroyed, and the walks in some places practically washed away. In the hot house, the damage was more serious still, upwards of eight hundred panes of glass being broken, and a large quantity of Peaches, Melons, &c., injured.

The Laundry Maids House, Wash House and Laundry -
Coleorton Hall - completed c.1832



Front elevation of Laundry (north facing) - sectional view



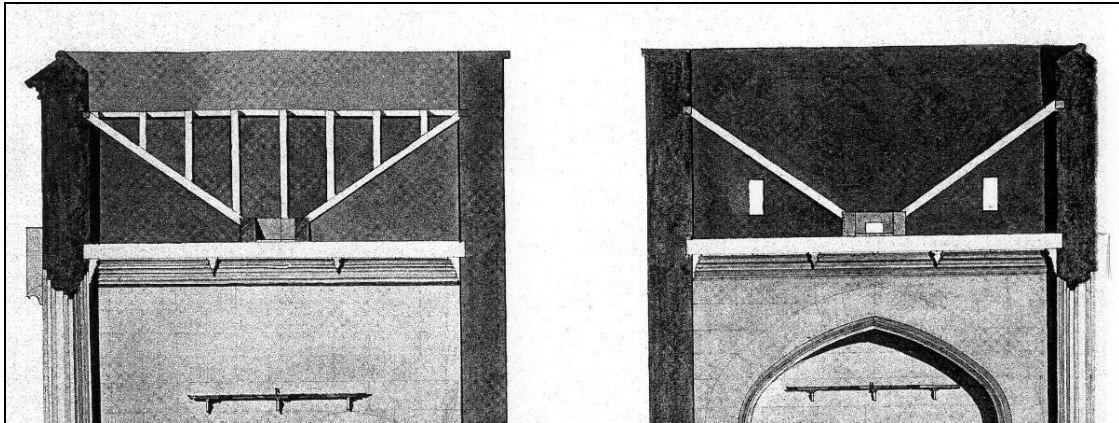
Front elevation of Laundry (north facing) - external view

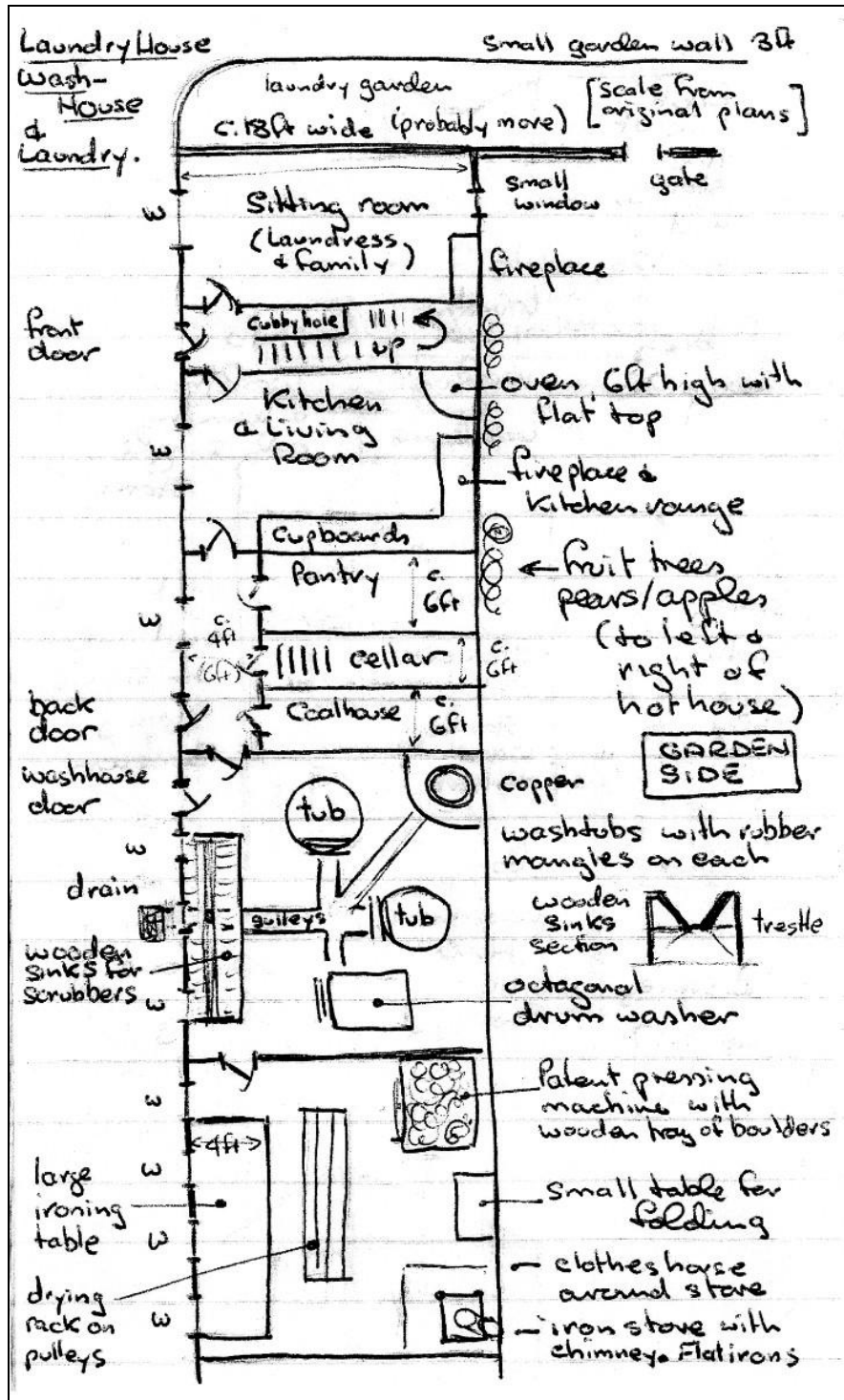
Please refer to the plan of the walled garden and key shown earlier which shows the location of the above

Key

- A Sitting Room for Laundress and family
- B Bedroom 1 (same size as 2)
- C Stairs to bedrooms
- D Bedroom 2 (same size as 1)
- E Large bedroom which accommodated 6 beds and lockers
- F Kitchen and living room with cupboards
- G Door to pantry (6 feet wide)
- H Door to steps down to cellar (6 feet wide)
- J Door to coal house (6 feet wide)
- K Wash house and laundry rooms (termed as sheds on the original plan)

The roofs over the bedrooms give the impression that they were flat. This was not the case. They were of a similar format to that Robert Chaplin employed in the design of the dairy roof shown earlier. Longitudinally they were an inverted pitch where the rain water ran into a central gully. The ends were an inverted gable. This principal is shown below in sections taken from dairy roof design.





The above schematic diagram was drawn by John Crocker. It shows the layout of the interior of the living accommodation, wash-house and laundry, which were taken from the original Chaplin plans. It can be related to the earlier Chaplin plans as the garden side is designated. Note the 18 feet wide laundry garden with 3 feet high wall which is not shown on the Chaplin plans of the garden.

1831

R. Chaplin Dr to A. Alexander
A Patent Mangle — 15-15-0
Package &c — 10-0

16-5-0
Carriage from London — 1-1-0

17-6-0

The Above Paid by
Rob. Chaplin

25
Carriage and Mangle —

£17.0.0

 1831

The above are the Robert Chaplin's receipts for the "Stone Box Mangle" used in the Coleorton Hall laundry. It was purchased from A. Alexander of London. Carriage was to a local canal wharf and thereafter by local carrier to site (charged extra). Date not given, but this item was shown in Chaplin's account to Sir George Beaumont for period 1830 & 1831. The laundry was completed in 1832.

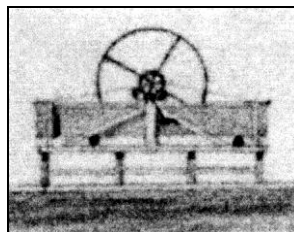
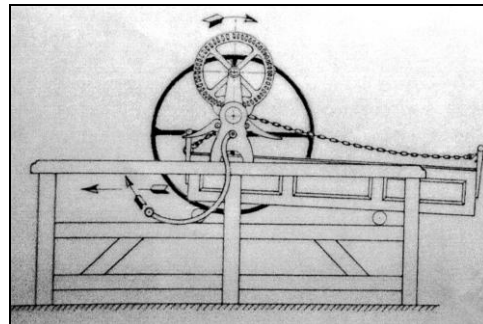
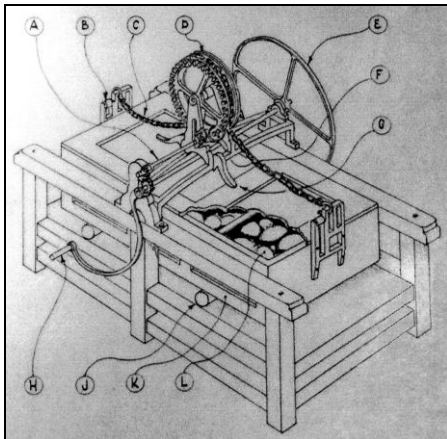
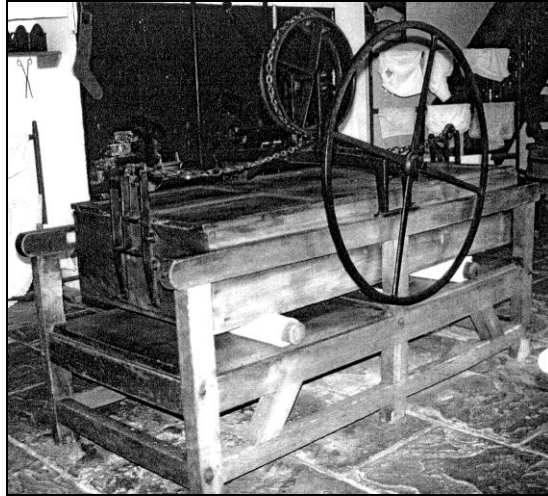
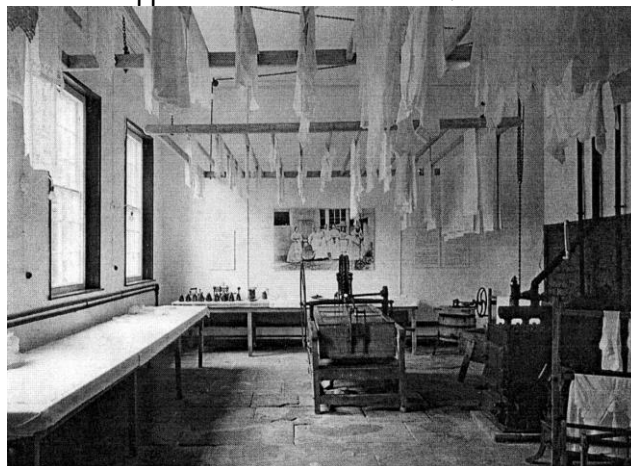


Illustration of Mangle enlarged from original plan shown earlier



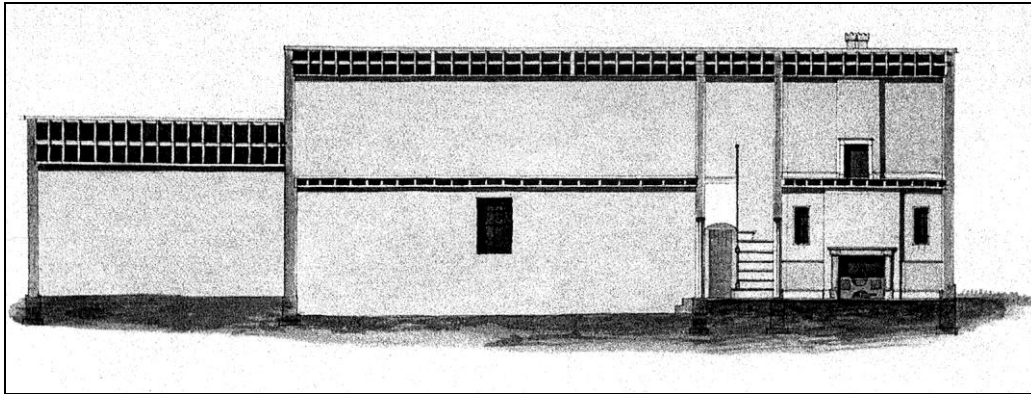
The above are a photograph and schematic drawings of the type of "Stone Box mangle" purchased by Robert Chaplin and used in the laundry at Coleorton Hall. The large box filled with stones provided pressure for the mangling of the sheets and table cloths wrapped around the rollers marked J. The handle E is rotated, and via a linkage system moves the box backwards and forwards. A mechanism allows the box to be lifted at either end to allow the rollers with the sheets wrapped around to be loaded.



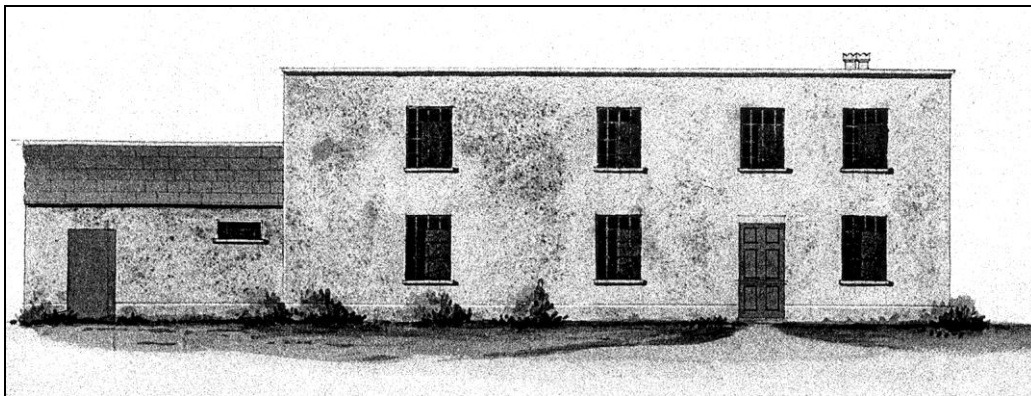
A typical laundry scene with the "Stone Box Mangle" in the centre.

Head Gardeners House- Coleorton Hall

(Three adjacent "sheds" (only one shown) were utilised for store room, seed room, boiler house mushroom house and gardener's bothy)



Front elevation (north facing) - sectional view

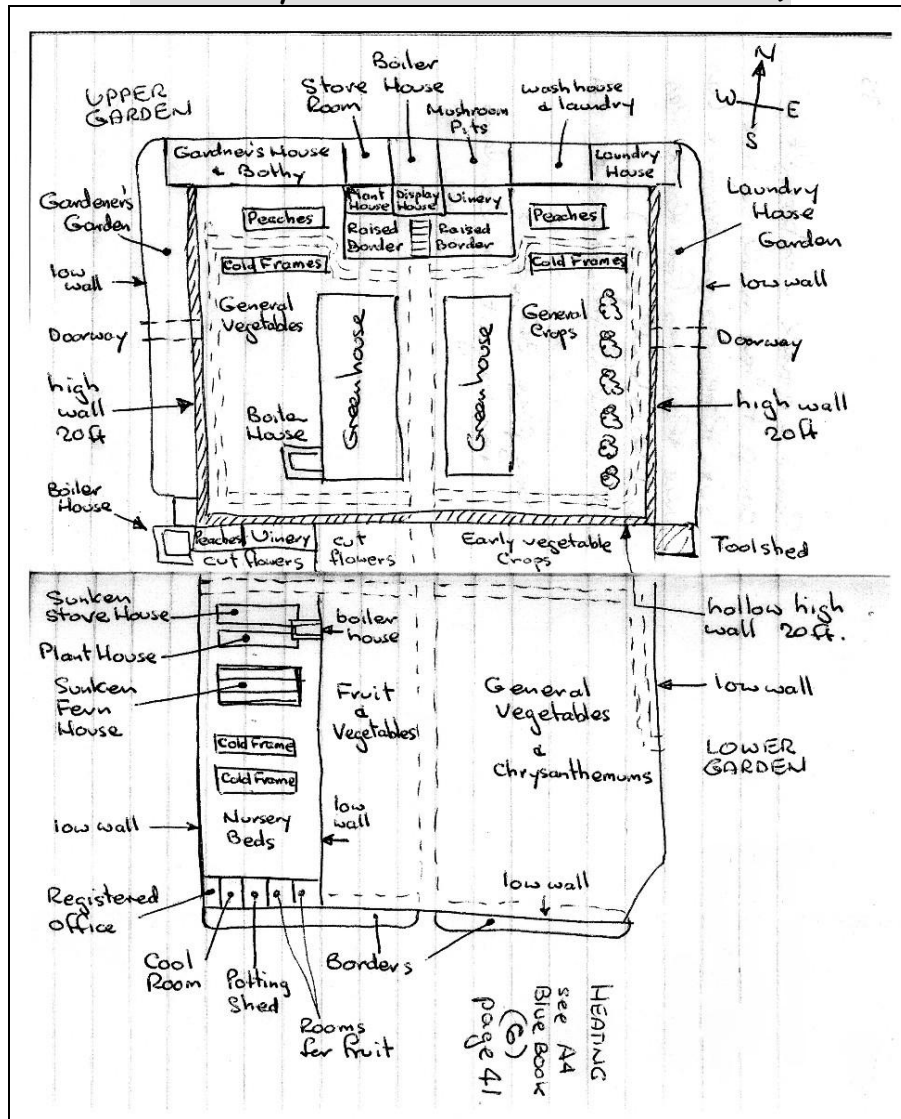


Front elevation (north facing) - external view

Please refer to the plan of the walled garden and key shown earlier which shows the location of the above

The roof construction of the head gardener's house was the same as for the Laundry Maid's House described previously. It is thought that the facilities in the gardener's house were sufficient to house gardening labourers, or lodgers if necessary.

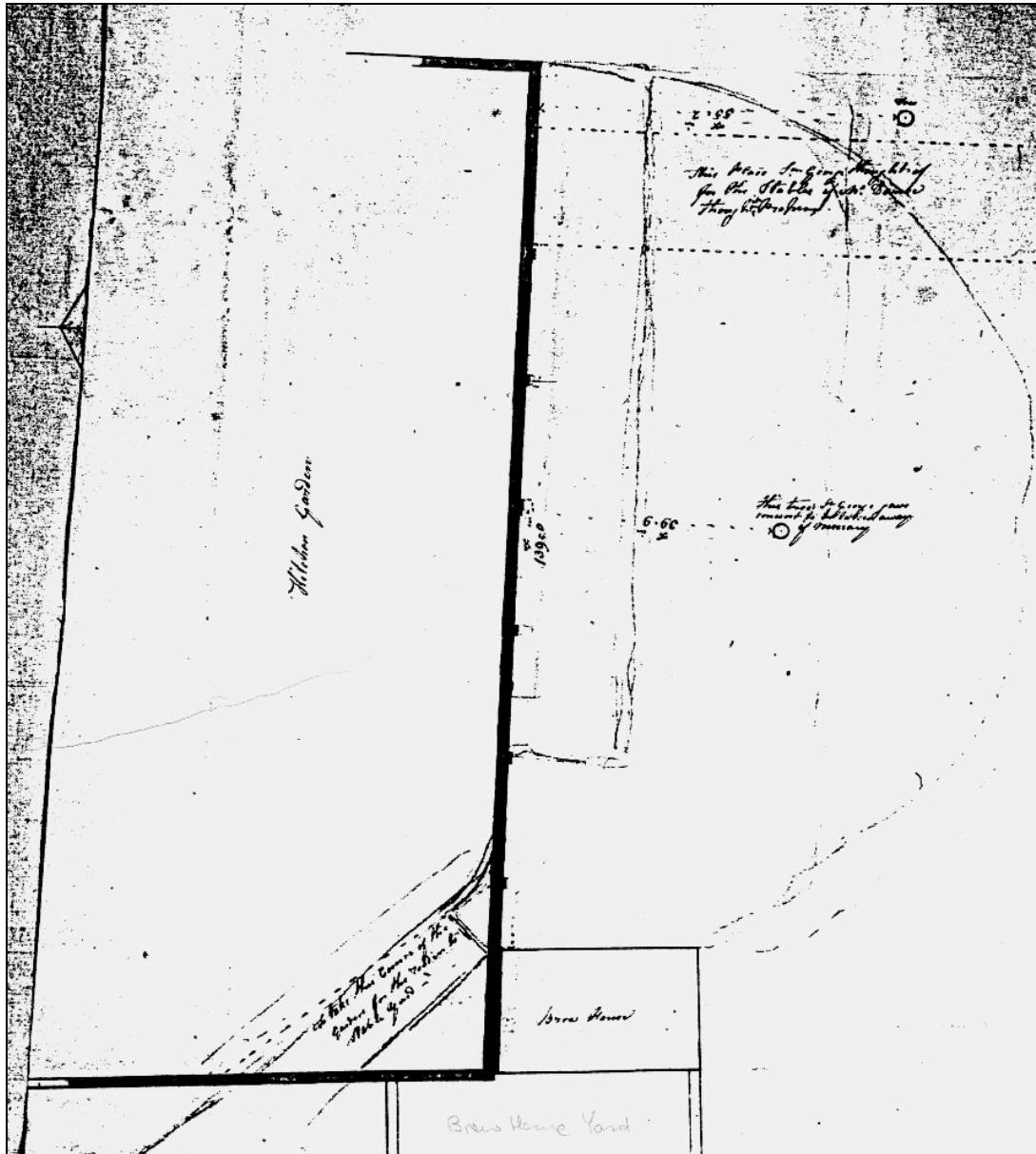
Coleorton Hall Kitchen Garden as they were during the period 1944 to 1953 (the 20 feet high garden walls were demolished c.1952 by the NCB due to subsidence)



The above schematic diagram drawn by John Crocker, is based on the memories of Mr. George Haynes of Ibstock which he described to John on the 17th October 2000.

Mr. Haynes commented that when the walls were broken due to subsidence, he was most surprised to see that they were hollow, and contained heating pipes to provide warmth for the trained fruit trees. When the 11th Baronet died in 1934, the shop at Coalville was closed (see later article on this under "The life of Sir George Arthur Hamilton Beaumont, 11th Baronet"). However, the garden business was carried on by Caldicott and Vic Wileman under the name of "Sir George Beaumont and Son". They took a commission on the produce sold on Coalville, Loughborough and Burton-on-Trent markets.

The Stables
Robert Chaplin - c.1832



The above is part of an old plan depicting the second Kitchen Garden and contains notes referring to stables. This Kitchen Garden is the one designated on the 1842 tithe map shown earlier, and was built just to the north of the new hall following its completion in 1808. After Sir George and Lady Margaret moved into the new hall in 1808, building work continued piecemeal. The old farm buildings and kitchen garden to the west of the new house were in the process of being demolished in order to open up the vista from the new hall and the family would have needed a new kitchen garden and stabling for the horses. This plan provides important information, in that for one thing, it shows the kitchen wall

built onto the end of the "Brewhouse" (a separate article on the brewhouse features later). This garden wall feature has survived and can be seen on the end of what was the brewhouse to the right in the 1997 photograph below. The plan also shows the brewhouse yard to the south of the brewhouse, which has also survived.



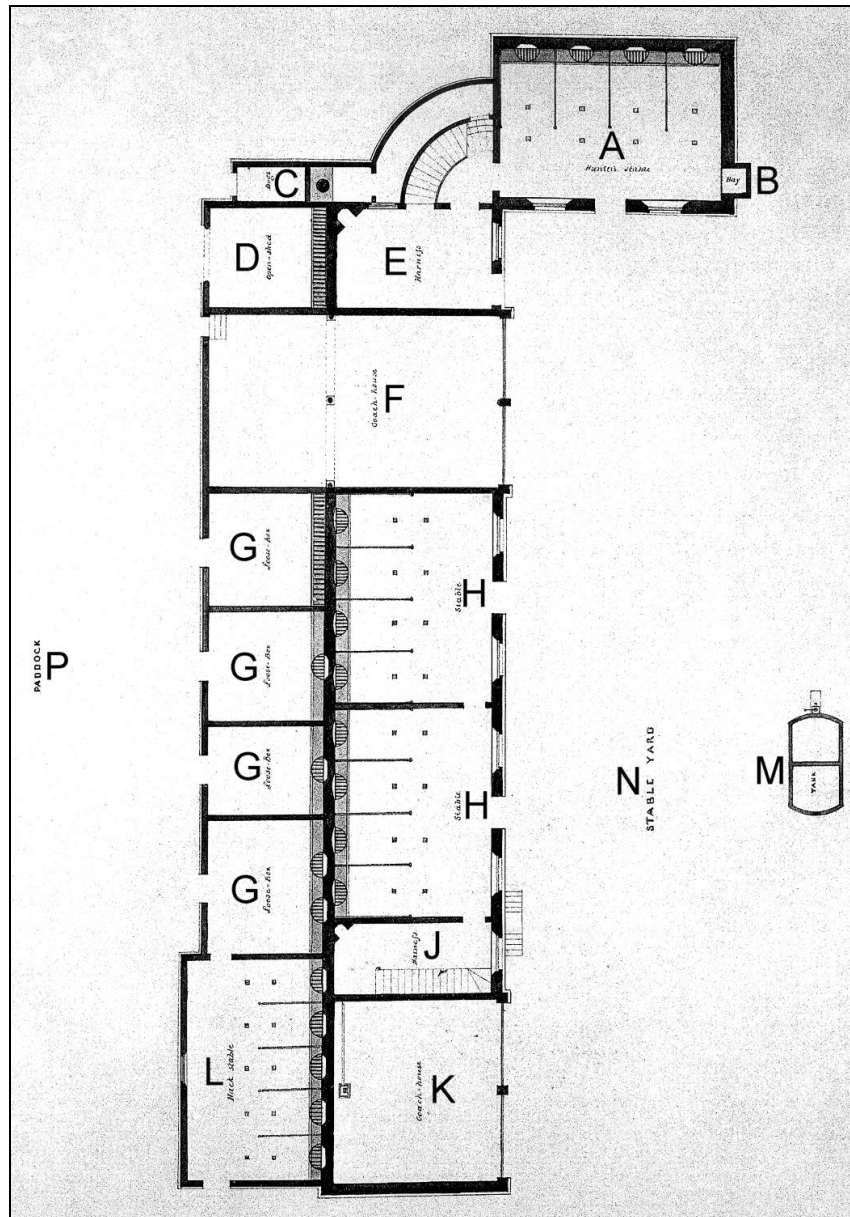
New stables were built on the inside of the garden wall in the early 1800's, but there are no records to suggest George Dance was involved with these. It can be assumed therefore that these were constructed by local builders.

In 1832, Robert Chaplin was requested to design a new stable block on the site, which is shown on the following page. The centre spine at the southern end was almost certainly the original kitchen garden wall. It is thought, that part of the left hand (west) side of Robert Chaplin's plan was the original stable block (marked G & L) which was built in the early 1800's, and the rest was added to by Chaplin.

If we look again at the above photograph, we can see the stables to the left as they were in 1997. They became the director's dining room and staff canteen when the National Coal Board rented the hall in 1947, and subsequently purchased it in 1948 for £30,000. They were later replaced by apartments. On the left is the section of the original stables that was built on the inside of the kitchen garden wall. Their location is marked C on the 1842 tithe map, and they are also shown on the aerial photograph attached to the following article on the tennis courts.

In John Crocker's research material, he has noted that pre 1900, up to nine apprentices lodged over the stables on the second floor. The hunters stable's marked A were apparently demolished by the N.C.B. for a boiler room to be built in connection with the adjacent large office complex. There are now a number of residential apartments on the site. The coach house and hack stable (K and L) were later used as garages by the 11th Baronet and his wife. Sir George kept his race horses down at the "Ginn Stables", where the estate office was located (see the later feature on "The life of Sir George Beaumont, 11th Baronet").

Robert Chaplin's 1832 ground floor plan for the Stables



Key

A	Hunter's stable	G	Loose boxes	N	Stable yard
B	Hay shute	H	Stables	P	Paddock
C	Dogs	J	Harness room		
D	Open shed	K	Coach house		
E	Harness room	L	Hack stable		
F	Coach house	M	Water tank		

The Brew House / The Head Coachman's Cottage and the Game House

The brewing of ale was an ancient tradition carried out on a private domestic scale alongside other domestic production of food and drink. Thus, ale and beer was produced at home for family consumption, and on farms and estates for the landowner's family and workers. The LH photograph below taken in 2015, shows the head coachman's cottage (former Brewhouse) to the right. A Brewhouse is mentioned in an inquisition on Sir Genry Beaumont's death in 1607. Under a subsequent article on the "Ice House" it shows an example of ale being supplied to the estate "Ice House" from the Beaumont Arms in 1836, which suggests that by this time it was no longer a Brewhouse. John Crocker recorded that it was converted into a cottage for the coachman c.1806. When the hall was advertised for Letting in 1890 in the London Morning Post, it was advertised with a coachman's cottage.



The 1979 photograph on the left, is a close up of the head coachman's cottage (former Brew House) adjacent to the stables. The photograph on the right is cropped from the lower 2015 photograph, and the small building in the centre with the pitched roof was a former game house, presumably used to hang the game in following a shoot. This was converted into an electricity sub-station by the NCB at some point during their time at the hall.

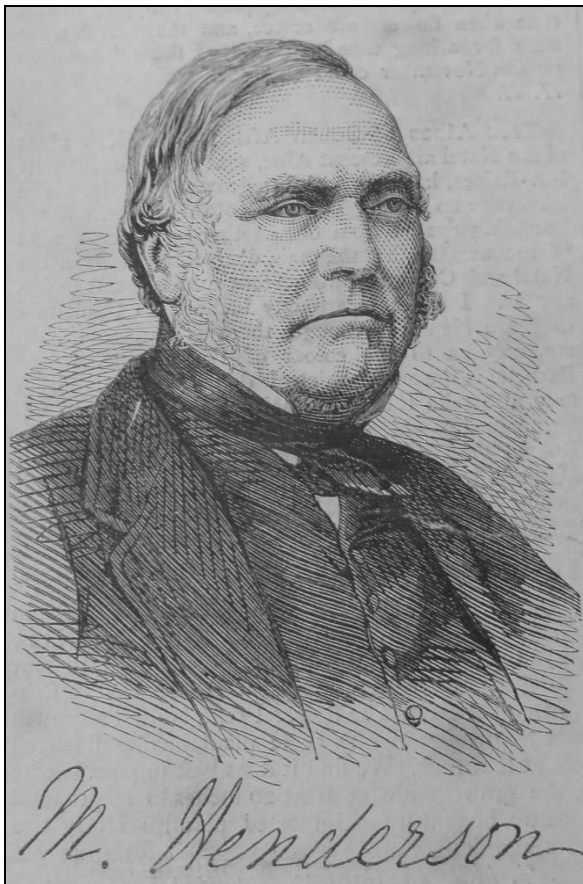


A Tribute to Montgomery Henderson - Head Gardener at Coleorton Hall 1838-1882

Coventry Herald - July 14th 1854

The Garden

At the exhibition of plants, fruits and flowers, held in "The Royal Botanic Gardens", Regents Park, London, last week, a silver gilt medal was awarded to Mr. Henderson, gardener to Sir George Howland Beaumont, 9th Baronet, of Coleorton Hall, Leicestershire, for three dishes of grapes, a silver medal for a dish of nectarines, a small silver medal for a box of nectarines, and a certificate for 12lbs of grapes.



Montgomery Henderson



Montgomery and his wife Sarah's
Grave in St. Mary's Churchyard

The above grave memorial was completely hidden before the area was cleared by the author and John MacDonald (Coleorton Heritage Warden) as part of an ongoing project to recover hidden or sunken graves in the churchyard.

Supplementary information, taken mainly from "British Gardeners - Volume VII in the Gardeners' Chronicle December 1874" -

Mr. Montgomery Henderson was born on 20th March, 1808, in the village of Swanston, at the foot of the Pentland Hills, near Edinburgh. At the age of fourteen he was placed for three years in one of the market gardens of that city. He spent time in various positions learning his trade as a horticulturist and in December 1834 went to be foreman under Mr. Neil Wilson, at Gopsall Hall, Leicestershire, the seat of Earl Howe. This situation he left in March, 1838, and obtained employment in the nursery of Mr. Knight of Chelsea. In June of the same year, Mr. Knight sent him to work as gardener for Sir George Beaumont at Coleorton Hall.

Montgomery made the following statement "My success as a grape grower is pretty well known, thanks to the Gardeners' Chronicle". When I came here, however, I found the grapes very poor and the vines in sad condition. I at once removed the top soil of the borders, and gave them a good dressing of turfy loam, on which I placed some strong manure, and then made a gentle hotbed over all. This drew the roots up to the surface. I endeavour to keep them there by using the same means, and to this I ascribe the fact that my grapes are so well colouredI succeeded so well, that within two years, they were carrying heavy crops, with bunches of from 4lb to 6lb weight". He also said that "I have been very successful in the cultivation of the Pine-apple, having often thirty years ago, when large Pines were not so plentiful as they are now, had Queens of between 6lb and 7lb in weight".

He is recorded in the chronicle as saying that "since I have been at Coleorton, I have been offered better places in point of position both in England and Scotland, but I have been made so comfortable both by the late and the present Baronet, who have always treated me more like a friend than a servant, that I have never thought of leaving them so long as I had strength to carry on my duties".

Montgomery Henderson died on 14th February 1892 at the age of 84, and had lived in Ashby since retiring from Coleorton Hall in 1882. He is buried in St. Mary's Churchyard, Coleorton, along with his wife Sarah who died on 26th January 1882, aged 75 in the same year her husband retired. He retired several months before the death of Sir George Howland Beaumont, 9th Baronet, who died in June 1882.

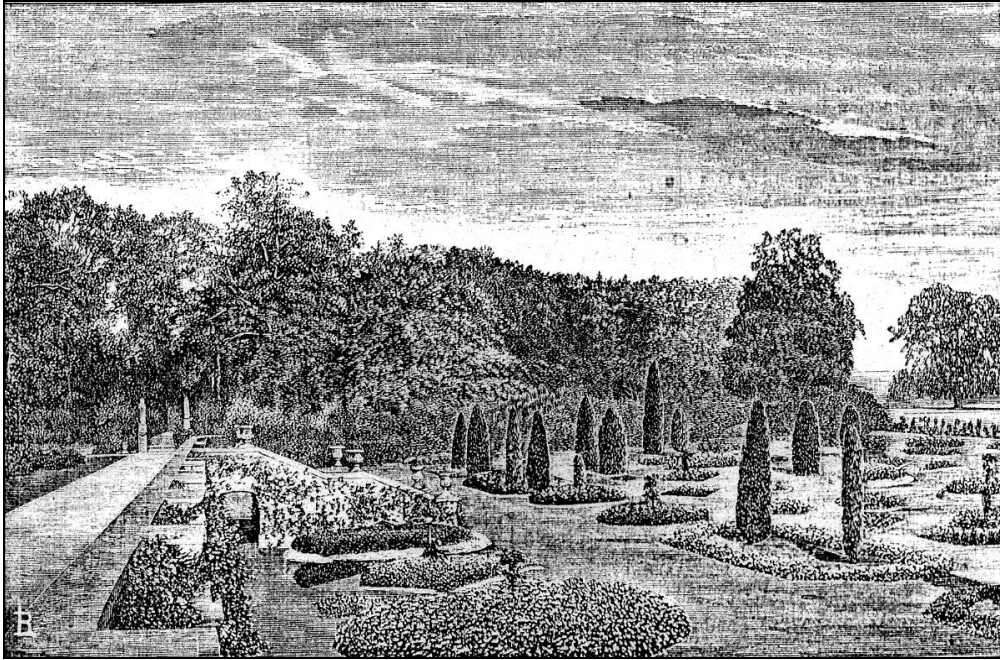
Supplementary notes:-

Prior to Montgomery Henderson coming to Coleorton Hall in 1838, James Cruikshank was the gardener and his annual salary was £100. It is a possibility that he was sacked to make way for Henderson who started on £63 - 0s - 0d per annum, which in the following year and thereafter was raised to £84 - 0s - 0d.

Although pineapples were one of Montgomery Henderson's specialities, it was noted in the accounts that James Cruikshank was growing them prior to Henderson arriving.

Other historical features of interest at Coleorton Hall

The Flower Garden - Coleorton Hall



Above is a copy of an old engraving of the "Flower Garden" taken from the "Journal of Horticulture and Cottage Gardener" 1875. The terrace walk leads to the steps where the 10th Baronet is shown sitting in an earlier photograph. The above engraving shows a pre 1875 view over the "Flower Garden" which was originally established c.1825, prior to it later becoming a "Rose Garden". The flower garden was designed by Lady Margaret Beaumont. According to "Wordsworth & The Gardens of Coleorton Hall" by Anne Anderson in *Garden History*, a plan of the garden was included in an auction sale held by Taylor Scott of Ashby in 1991, when it realized £1700. The drawing bore the signature of Lady Margaret Beaumont and James Cruikshank. The vendor had apparently purchased the work in the 1950s, from a sale of Beaumont family possessions.

The following is a synopsis of an article which was featured in "Gossip of the Garden" Volume 111. June 1858, and amongst other things gives a good description of the Flower Garden:-

Cole-Orton Hall -

The grounds and gardens - famous alike for their classical associations, their excellent keeping, their natural beauties, and the art with which these have been enhanced, are highly interesting, and will repay a visit at any time, but more particularly in the months of July, August and September, when the flower garden is in its glory. Visitors, through the kind liberality of the noble proprietor, are permitted to view the place on Mondays and Thursdays. We are indebted to a highly esteemed correspondent for the following brief notice.

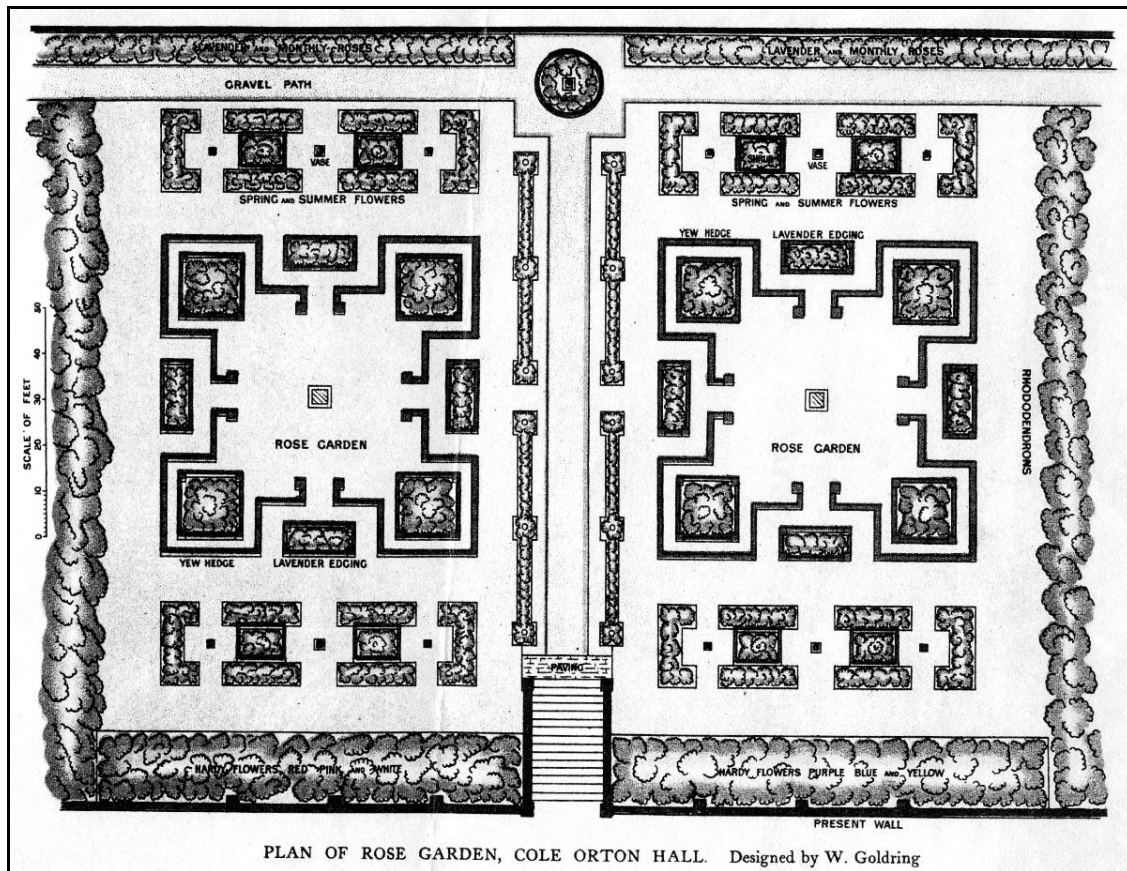
.....Leaving the kitchen garden, and passing through a small shrubbery walk, we pause to gaze on the view before us - a picture of rural beauty seldom surpassed. The village church with its partially ivy-clad walls, embosomed in trees and located within the grounds, is well worthy of our admiration, more especially when, as in the present instance, it has for accessories, a noble hall and some stately ancient trees, while a lawn, beautifully studded with conifers lies stretched at our feet, producing a scene which none could pass un-heeded.

Amongst the conifers.....the *Abies Deadora* near the church was planted by the late Archbishop Howely, in 1846, and the fine *Cedar of Lebanon* near the hall by the poet Wordsworth (*with Sir George Howland Beaumont, 7th Baronet*).

Proceeding onwards we come upon a lawn where are a large irregular mass of *Rhododendrons*, some of which might perhaps be spared with advantage. As we approach the terrace which overlooks the fine geometrical flower garden, the eye is arrested by a magnificent panoramic view. In the distance may be seen *Belvoir Castle*, *Bardon Hill*, *High Cademan* and all the north-western part of the *Charnwood range*, and in the foreground a beautifully undulating park.....

.....Moving forward we came upon the terrace, and look down upon the flower garden. - Never before did we behold such a gorgeous display! One hundred and twenty-two beds filled with dense masses of flowers lie growing beneath, while the vivid green of the grass which surrounds them shows their varied colours to great advantage; - words are inadequate to convey an idea of their beauty and gorgeous effect. Passing down broad, stone steps we enter to take a nearer view of what seems to be a living mosaic. (see the engraving on the previous page).

The Gardens - Coleorton Hall



The above plan of the rose garden by William Goldring appeared in Volume IV of "The Gardener's Assistant" 1902, edited by William Watson. It can be related directly to the photograph below, and the earlier engraving of the flower garden which it replaced.



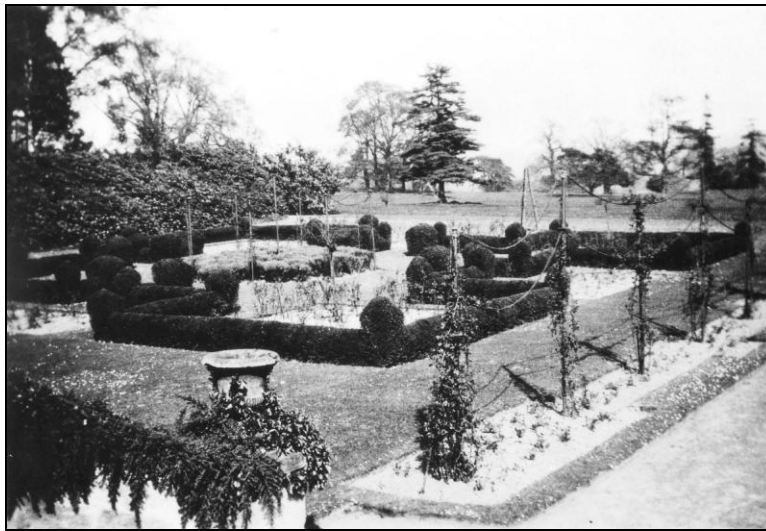
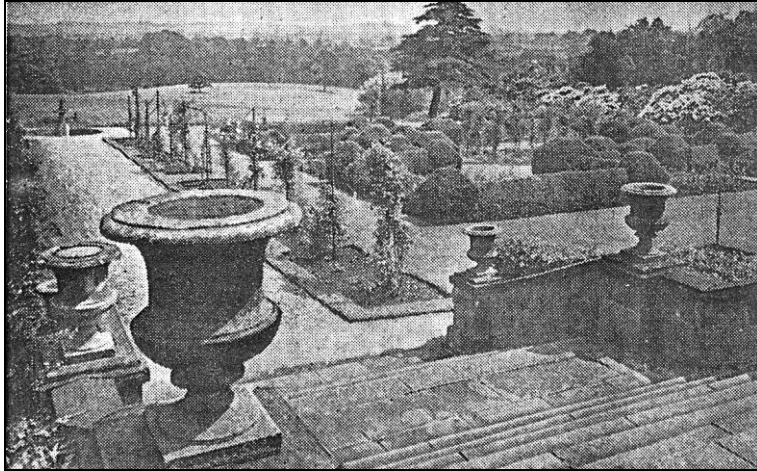
Photograph of "The Rose Garden", probably taken c.1900.

The author has not been able to verify when the Rose Garden was fully established, however, we know from the following extract which appeared in the "Journal of Horticulture and Cottage Gardeners" dated 1875 that the flower garden was still in existence then. However, a grand display of roses had been introduced on a bank along the eastern boundary, where it meets open park land:-

"We now cross the lawn for a glance at the flower garden. Our descent is by a flight of steps. The garden as seen from the terrace is exceedingly fine. The beds are thinly placed and with their masses of flowers, compact conifers, and fine sweep of lawn - with the massive boundary of Rhododendrons on one side and shrubbery on the other, with the rosery as the most distant boundary and the grand views beyond, a combination of fine features is provided such as can seldom be seen at a glance. This garden is just an acre in extent, and is truly beautiful. The boundary of Roses demands a note of explanation. The boundary is a sunk fence, and on the slope, which is considerable, the Roses are planted. They are on standards, and are planted in about ten rows of nearly one hundred yards each. They are of height's sufficient to show distinctly above the terrace wall, forming one glorious bank of blooms which must be seen to be appreciated. But how easy the idea is of being carried out by others! How many are the sunk-fence boundaries to gardens which are destitute of beauty, and what grand banks of Roses there might be! Roses at Cole Orton are grown by thousands, being special favourites of Sir George Howland Beaumont, 9th Baronet, and he devotes to them much personal attention. They give undoubted evidence of skill in culture, and generally afford blooms until Christmas: in October they were showing almost as freely as in May.

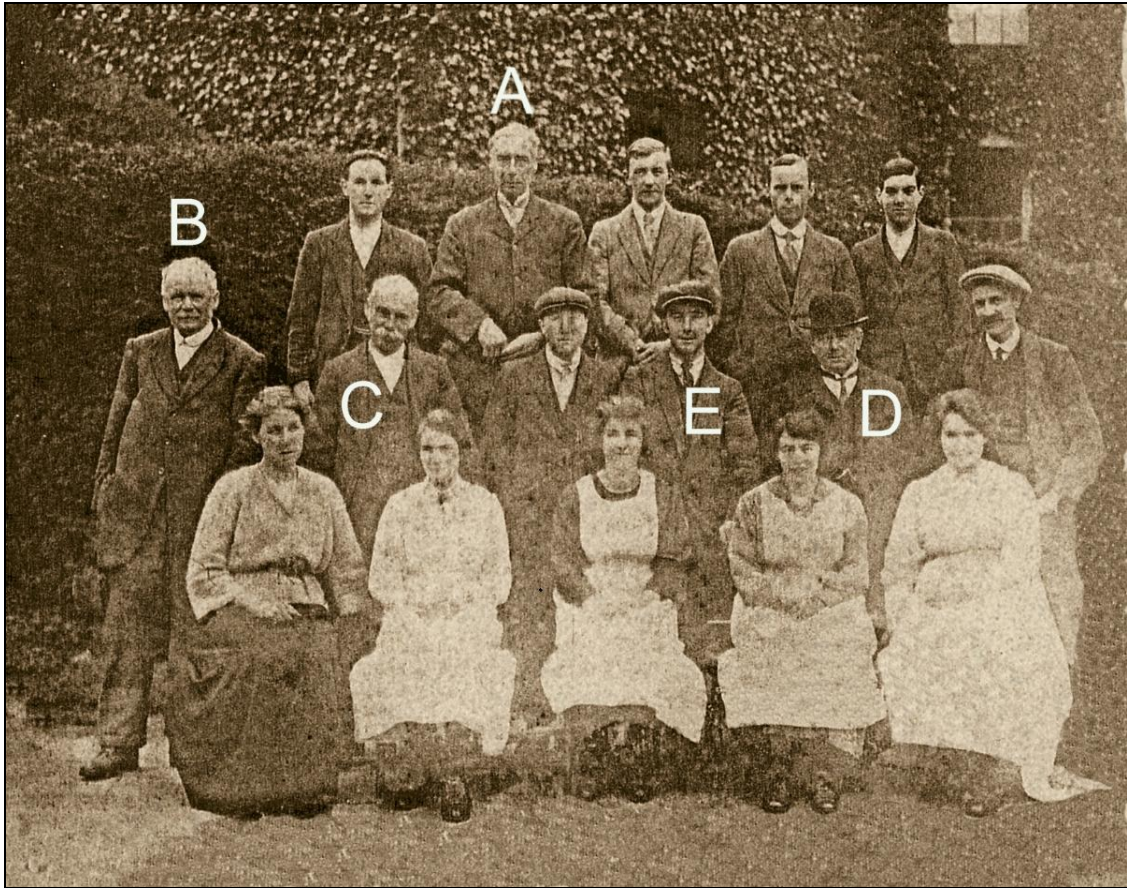
I must postpone my further remarks on this fine garden, noticing, perhaps, a few more trees, a little more memorial poetry, and something about Grape and Pine Apple growing of a nature not commonly to be met with. It is gratifying to find that a place so fine as Cole Orton is in the care of an owner who not only sustains but increases its natural beauty, whose care it everywhere shadows, as it does the admitted skill of the gardener Mr. Henderson". - J.W.

The preceding plan of the rose garden by William Golding was published in the "Gardeners Assistant" in 1902, so presumably the rose garden was established prior to this date. William Goldring (b. May 1854 d. Feb 26th 1919) went to the Royal Gardens Kew in 1875 and became a successful gardening journalist. He left this profession in 1886 to donate the whole of his time to landscape gardening for which he became internationally famous.



Photographs of "The Rose Garden" c.1930. Most of the features of the original design had still been maintained at this time.

The above photographs are looking in an easterly direction down the flight of fifteen steps from the eastern terrace which runs along the top in a north / south direction. The path from the steps leads to a fountain, as shown on William Goldring's plan. The sloping rose bed at the eastern boundary at the time of the Flower Garden, was replaced by William Goldring with a walled Ha Ha fronted by a lavender hedge (later became yew). The 1884 O/S map shown earlier actually defines the sloping rose bed area which is marked number 10 and coloured green. The six valuable Coade Stone vases shown in the photographs have now disappeared unfortunately, but there is still evidence where they were located on the pillars. The rose garden as depicted in the preceding photographs was partly lawned, and geometrically laid out with roses, flower beds and conifers, with the use of yew hedges, and lavender edging, as per the Goldring design plan. It was approximately 50m from east to west and 80m from north to south, and flanked by banks of rhododendrums on the north and south sides.



Staff at Coleorton Hall during the time when the Abel Smiths' were leasing the hall (1904-1925). See the later feature on the Abel Smiths'.

A- Thought to be William Williams (see photograph over page)

B- Mr. Arthur Brooks Gardener (brother of Frank Brooks of Brooks Nurseries, Coleorton?)

In 1890 when Sir George Howland William Beaumont, 10th Baronet, was at the Hall, there is a record that the gardens were leased, presumably due to the difficult financial situation Sir George was experiencing at that time which features in a later article. It is not known whether the gardens were leased whilst the Abel-Smiths were at the Hall.

C- "Gas Man"

D- Mr. Bayliss (Head Coachman)

E- Vic Whyman



Reference gentleman marked A in preceding photograph

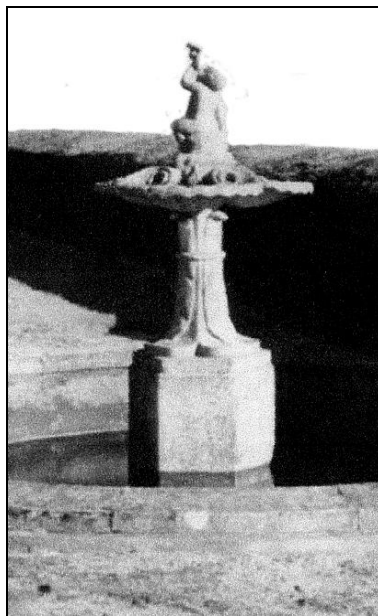
In the photograph are William Williams, his wife Harriet Elizabeth (nee. Simpkins) with their son William William junior

William Williams was born in 1869 at Hemington, Leicestershire He married Harriet Elizabeth (nee. Simpkins) in 1897 at Bloxham, Oxfordshire. She was born 08. 11. 1867 in Bromley , Kent. According to the 1921 census, living in the household are - William Williams, his wife Harriet Elizabeth and their son William Williams junior (b. 1899) and a younger son, John Butler Williams (b.1907)

They were living at the Outwoods, Nr Ginstables, Coleorton, (in Worthington Parish) in 1921 and William Williams was employed as an Estate Assitant to the Beaumonts at Coleorton Hall.



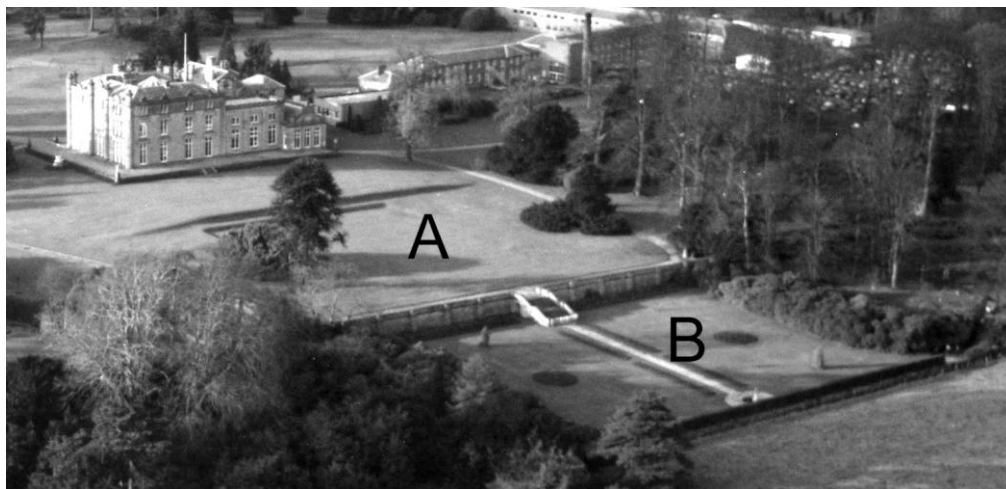
The above photograph, taken from the eastern terrace walk at the northern end of the rose garden has been included to give an idea of the view over the former parkland to the northern ridge of Charnwood Forest in the distance that was described earlier. Running along the centre of the photograph is a yew hedge behind which is the walled Ha Ha which replaced a sunk fence with a sloping bank of soil down to the park which was filled with roses at the time it was a Flower Garden. The photograph was taken when the original ornate fountain shown below was being replaced by a new fountain shown on the following page.





The above photograph taken in 2015 from the east end of what was the Rose Garden, shows the 4m high upper lawn retaining wall which runs in front of the south to north terrace walk and the 15 steps in the centre leading up to it. This fountain replaced the original ornate one shown on the previous page.

The aerial photograph below suggests that there was once another terraced area on the upper lawn marked A, which was given over to lawn at some time. B is the area that was formerly occupied by the Rose Garden.



The Coade Stone Vases

The two coade stone vases featured here are historically important and are also valuable items. Both the vases are indented Croggan Lambeth 1827. It would have been expected for them to be indented Coade, but apparently the reason they were indented Croggan Lambeth was that around the early 1810's SEALY (Coade's first partner) had died, and she took on her cousin W. Croggan who was soon in complete control. Mrs. Coade died in 1821 and Croggan continued production until the late 1830's sometimes using the COADE motif, sometimes just Croggan, and sometimes nothing at all! Precisely what these Coade objects are made of no one knows, as the closely kept secret died with Croggan by all accounts.

The vases were / are set at the southern and northern corners of the terrace which ran along the eastern elevation of the hall as shown in the photograph below, which was taken in 2015.



Photograph taken 2015



This photograph of the vase at the southern end of the terrace was taken following cleaning operations c.1982, and unfortunately some damage is evident.





This photograph taken in 2015, is of the vase at the northern end of the terrace and it is in a much better condition than the other one.

The W. Cary Sun Dial



The Sun Dial is situated at the centre of the south facing side of the house. The photograph was taken in 2015 looking in an easterly direction



This Sun Dial was depicted on the 1884 O/S map in the same place where it now stands. The author has found no other reference to this engraved brass or copper Sun Dial at Coleorton Hall elsewhere. We are very fortunate, that on inspection a manufacturer's name W Cary (William Cary), Strand, London was revealed.

The reader will appreciate from the following that it is difficult to date the Sun Dial, although one can presume it must be over 150 years old, and the 1884 map shows that it was there at that time. It is sitting on an ornate plinth over what appears to be a circular bricked "well", through which passed a pipe to carry hot water central heating from the hall to St. Mary's Church at one time. It is quite possible that the Sun Dial could have been made by John Cary (1754-1835) or even Francis Cary (both engravers) at the time the business was still being operated under the William Cary name, even after William died in 1825.



The above photograph taken c.1930, in front of the sundial, is of George Howland Francis Beaumont (RH side), and his younger sister Eleanor Brienne. They were the children of the Sir George Arthur Hamilton Beaumont, 11th Baronet and his wife Lady Renee Muriel.

The following was taken from an article on the internet by Brian Stephenson on the basis that the content seems to confirm that the William Cary Company were the likely suppliers / manufactures of the sundial. However, this is still open to further research.

William Cary was the youngest of four sons of George and Mary Cary. His eldest brother, George (c. 1753-1830), later operated a haberdashery. The second brother, John Cary, became a mapmaker. John and William also operated a joint venture to make globes, compasses and other such tools. The other brother, Francis (c. 1756-1836), became an engraver, and lived in Chelsea.

William served an apprenticeship as a maker of philosophical instruments (i.e. scientific equipment) with Jesse Ramsden (1735-1800). Ramsden was a highly regarded instrument maker. Through Ramsden, Cary would have learned considerable skill in working with brass, glass and other materials.

William established his independent business c. 1785, at 182 The Strand. He produced a wide range of scientific instruments and was well known for his quality workmanship. The

Dictionary of National Biography especially noted that, "*He constructed for Dr. Wollaston in 1791 a transit circle - the first made in England - two feet in diameter and provided with microscopes for reading off. In 1805 he sent to Moscow a transit-instrument described and figured in Pearson's "Practical Astronomy", for the safety of which Bonaparte provided in 1812 by a special order. A circle of 41 centimetres, ordered from Cary by Feer about 1790, is still preserved at the Zurich observatory. He was, besides, the maker of the 2½ foot altitude and azimuth instrument with which Bessel began his observations at Königsberg, and of numerous excellent sextants, microscopes, reflecting and refracting telescopes, &c.*" William was a charter member of the Astronomical Society, and produced monthly meteorological reports for *The Gentleman's Magazine*. Brother John's mapmaking shop was next door, at 181 Strand. Globes produced by William and John are marked "181 Strand". George's hat shop was nearby, at 63 Strand.

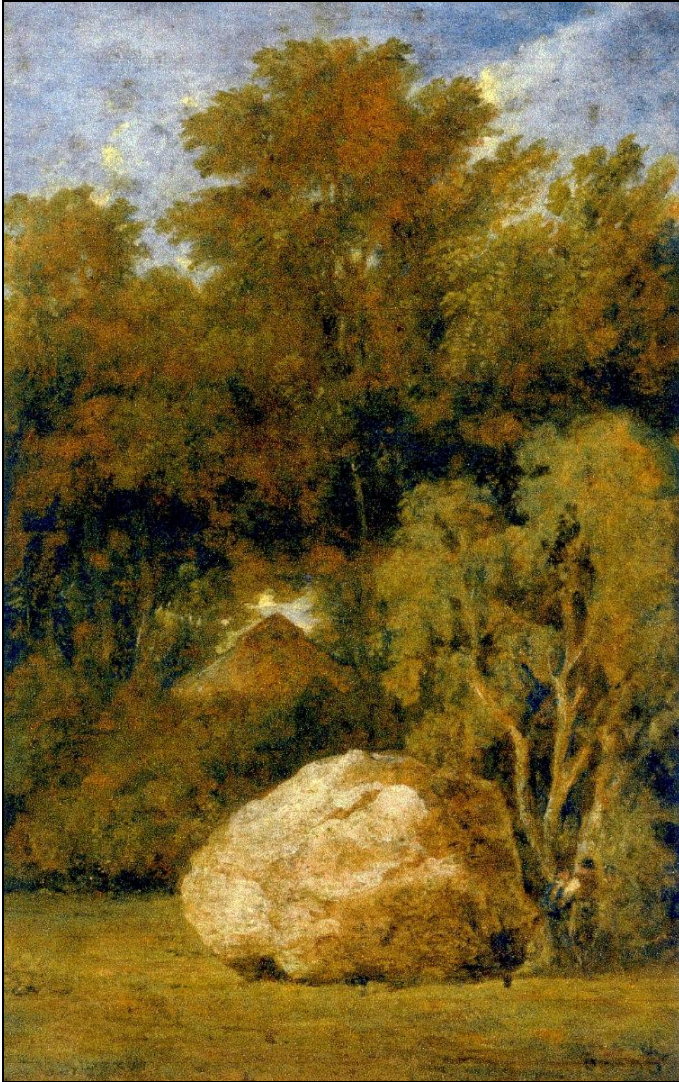
The January, 1820 issue of *The Gentleman's Magazine* reported, "*The houses numbered 181 and 182 Strand, occupied respectively by the brothers John and William Cary, were completely destroyed by fire on Monday, January 17th, 1820*". The Carys then moved their businesses to 86 St. James Street.

The 1823 *Kent's Original London Directory* listed "*Cary Wm. optician, 277, Strand*". The 1825 list of members of the Royal Astronomical Society also gave William's address as 277 Strand. However, *Kent's* listed "*Cary John, optician, 182, Strand*", as well as "*Cary John, engraver & mapseller, 86, St. James's-street*". The 277 Strand shop appears to have closed after William's death.

William Cary died as a moderately wealthy man on November 16, 1825. In his will he left "*To three brothers John Cary, George Cary and Francis Cary £1000 each. To Mrs. Penelope White, of Queen Street, Southwark, £500, and to her children, John White, Susanna White and Penelope Dare £200 each. To wife Elizabeth £500 a year for life. Residue to said three brothers for life equally and then to George Cary and John Cary, sons of brother John Cary*". The significance of Penelope White and her children is not apparent. The properties on the Strand were rented, and so not mentioned in the will.

Nephews George Cary and John Cary Jr. continued to operate the optical and scientific instrument business at 182 Strand. They retained the business name "*William Cary*" for some time. George and John Jr. do not appear to have produced optical instruments. All accounts indicate that Charles Gould was the manager and head machinist for the Cary business. This would have been a logical arrangement, since Gould was an experienced optician, whereas the Carys were map and globe-makers, who would have had very little practical knowledge of glass or brasswork. In 1828, the William Cary business moved next door, to 181 Strand, possibly merging with John Cary Sr.'s mapmaking operation. An 1830 publication described the optician's business as "*J. Cary*". Upon John Cary Sr.'s death in 1835, he left the 181 Strand lease to sons George and John Jr. The 1841 *Kelly's Directory* referred to the optical business as "*William Cary*", suggesting that the boys returned to their uncle's name. The business remained at 181 Strand for many decades and through several ownership changes.

Wilson's Memorial Stone in "The Grove"



Above is a copy of an oil painting by Sir George Beaumont entitled "View in the Winter Gardens of Coleorton Hall". It is very similar to the view into the winter gardens drawn by Constable and shown on the following page.

An inscription on the back of Beaumont's picture, painted in 1821, states that the Wilson memorial stone was found within a quarter of a mile of Coleorton Hall near Hall Farm, and was brought to the place it is now, by twenty three horses. Carved on the stone is - "brought here 1818". It is called "Wilson's Memorial" from the resemblance it bears to the stones that the landscape artist Richard Wilson (d.1782) introduced into the foreground of his pictures. The photograph to the right depicts the engraving on the stone.



The above is a pencil and grey wash drawing of the "Wilson Stone" by Constable and dated November 28th 1823. On October 21st 1823, Constable wrote to his wife Maria telling her of his arrival at Coleorton Hall, Leicestershire, where he stayed with Sir George Beaumont for several weeks....."O dear this is a lovely place indeed - such grounds - such distances - rock and water - all as it were can be done from the various windows of the house" (John Constable's Correspondance, R.B. Becket, p.290).



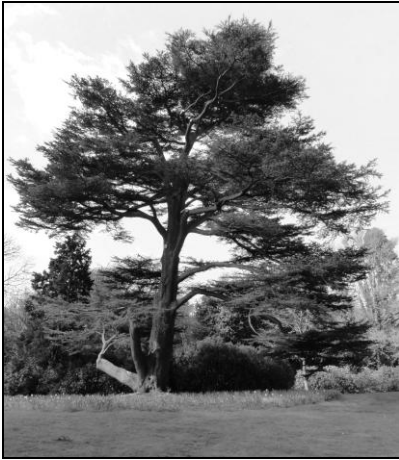
The "Wilson Memorial Stone" photographed in 2015 with the summerhouse to the right after re-thatching and repair c.2005



The summerhouse in poor condition in 1994. This was perhaps a copy of the previous summerhouse shown in the earlier John Mathews map.
The date it was built is not known .

Surviving tree planting records at Coleorton Hall - 2015

Three engraved slate tablets have survived in the hall grounds which record trees being planted by various members of the Beaumont family. In all honesty, they cannot be reliably attached to any particular tree, however, the cedar tree shown below is thought to be the one planted by William Beresford Beaumont. A number of old extended branches have needed to be removed in order to ensure the preservation of the tree.



The tree was planted by William Bersford Beaumont when he was seven years old in 1839. The Rev. William Beresford Beaumont, M.A., younger son of Sir George Howland William Beaumont, 8th Baronet, became Rector of Coleorton in 1864 for a span of 36 years. He was born in Addlington, Surrey on the 13th March 1831. "Coleorton Viscount School" was built at his expense in 1867. He married his first wife Julia Soames on the 13th of December 1860. His second wife Elizabeth Mary who was born at Siddlesmere, Suffolk on 25th September 1831 and died on April 5th 1900. She was buried in St.Mary's churchyard on April 9th. The Rev. William Beaumont died on February 18th 1901. William Wordsworth was his godfather.



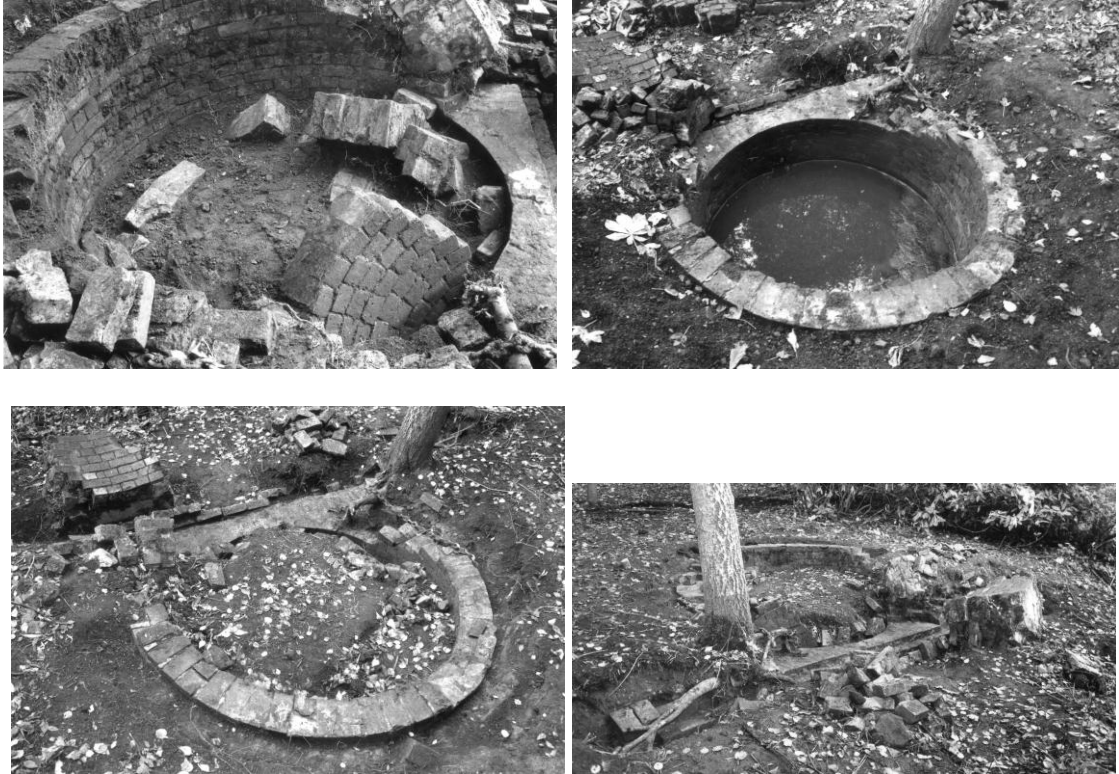
The above slate tablet placed against a tree that has been felled, refers to a cedar tree planted by Mary Constance Beaumont (1834-1929) in August 1845 when she was eleven years of age. She was the much loved sister of Sir George Howland Beaumont, 9th Baronet and daughter of the 8th Baronet. She is featured later in the book. Constance Mary married William Unwin Heygate Esq.



This slate tablet refers to George Howland Beaumont, 9th Baronet (1828-1882) who planted this cedar tree in November 1835 when he was seven years of age. He was the son of Sir George Howland Willoughby Beaumont, 8th Baronet. George Howland became the 9th Baronet when he inherited the Coleorton estate on the death of his father in 1845.

The Coleorton Hall Ice House- built early 19th century

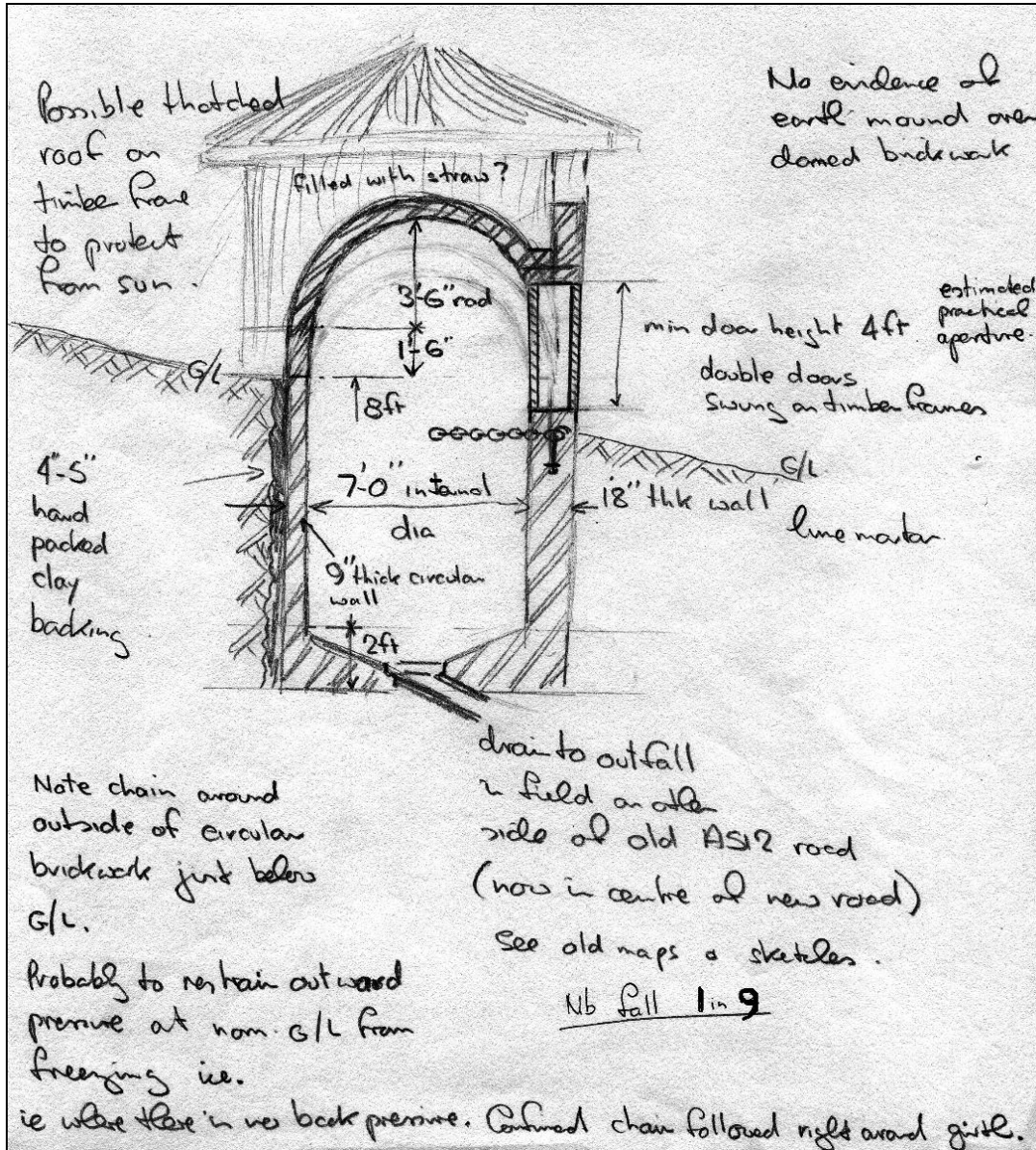
In November 1996, John Crocker carried out a detailed survey of the "Ice House" at Coleorton Hall. This stood c. 100m directly south of St. Mary's church. The following is a synopsis of his findings in an attempt to show what the original Ice House would have looked like. Below are a selection of photographs of the remains of the icehouse as it was in 1996:-



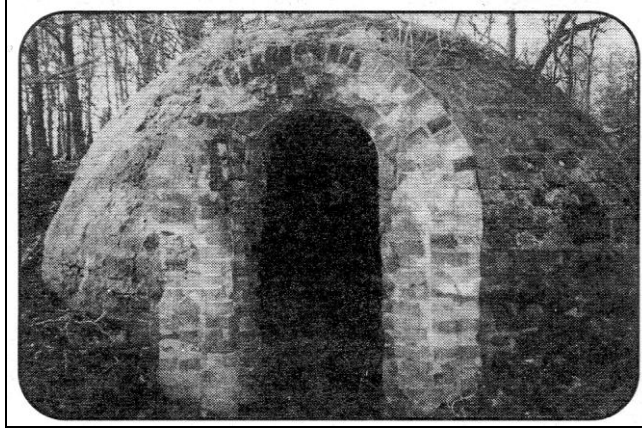
John Crocker's interpretation of how the original Ice House may have looked is shown on the next page. He estimated that it would hold up to 4 tons of compacted ice, but in practice would be more likely 3 tons due to confined space and difficulties in ramming. If ice was stacked up to the level of the chain (see following drawing) the capacity would have been 2 tons. The source for the ice was "Coleorton Fishpond" approximately 0.6 miles away (uphill). A chain ran right around the girth of the outside brickwork at ground level probably to restrain outward pressure on the brickwork from freezing ice. It is thought that the Ice House was demolished by the Beaumonts' for safety reasons c.1850, after it was no longer in use.

The Romans were the first to build Ice Houses, though not very widely here in the UK. They were usually built close to sources of winter ice, such as freshwater lakes. In the 17th century, grand country houses followed the fashion of having one built. Ice Houses fell from fashion in the late 18th century. On country estates from about 1660, the ice was mainly used not to chill food, but for making ice creams and increasingly popular desserts such as syllabubs. Fish did not need to be preserved on a large estate because they could simply be caught from estate lakes and ponds when needed. However, Coleorton fish pond was not

built till the early 1800's. Ice was also used for medicinal purposes, to treat fever and inflammation. At one time, a common prescription for indigestion was being told to suck on ice. The following evidence from the estate account books shows that other things were being stored in the icehouse at Coleorton hall such as cheese, ale and bread and probably butter and cream would have been kept there also. Temperatures were probably regulated by the amount of ice that was stored.



John Crocker's interpretation of how the central part of the former Ice House may have looked - The ice was packed in a brick cylinder 7 feet dia x 8 feet below ground level.

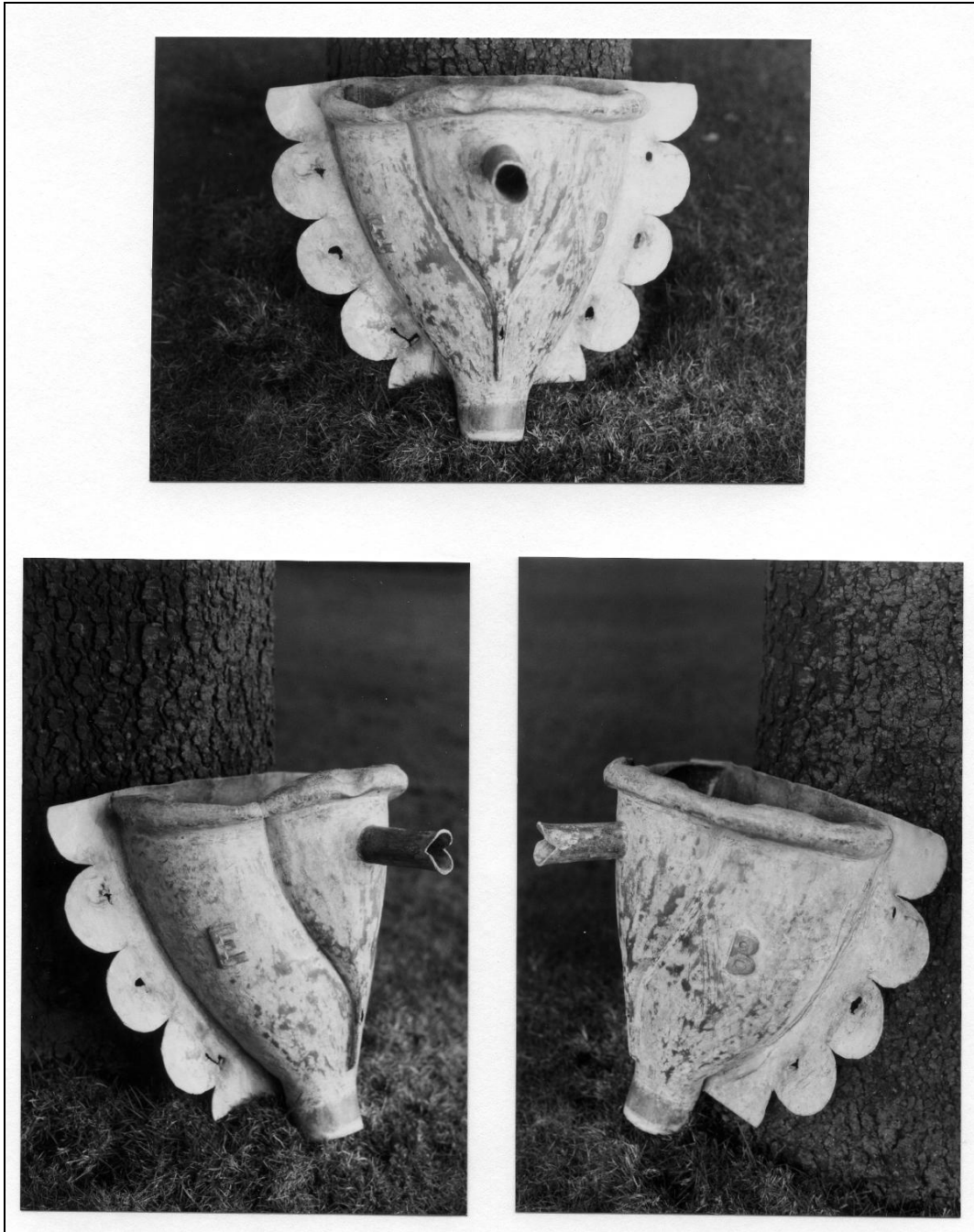


An Ice House near Wanlip, Leicstershire
of a similar design to the one at Coleorton Hall

Details of deliveries to Ice House- taken from estate accounts

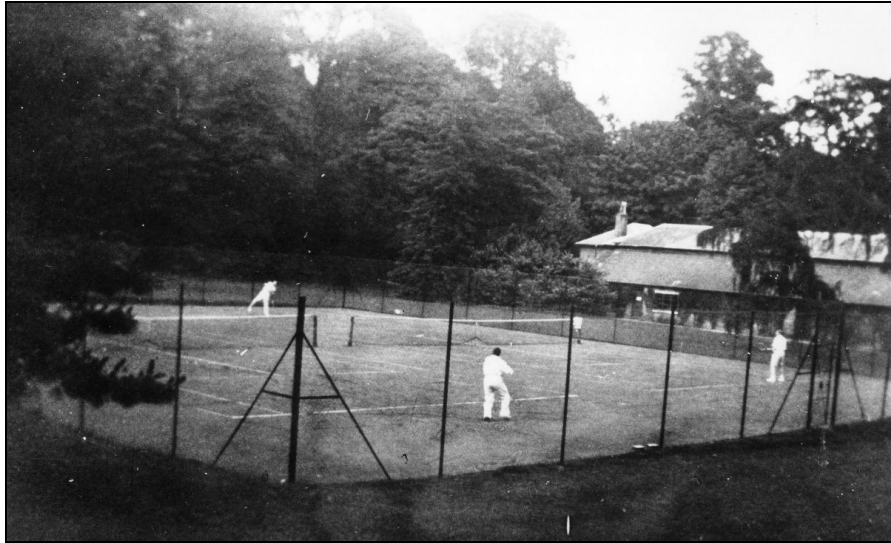
- 1836 Thomas Herrick (Heyrick), landlord (tenant) of the Beaumont Arms, Coleorton supplied 40 quarts of ale (16s 8d) to Sir G. H. W. Beaumont on January 18th 1836, which was delivered to the "Ice House".
- 1838 Thomas Ayre supplied to Sir George Beaumont - one cheese for the Ice House at 5s 10d, also one cheese 13lb in weight at 6½d per lb = 7s 0½d. Total 12s 10½d. Bill dated January 8th 1838, paid cash same day.
- 1836 John Wardle supplied to Mr. Cruickshank (Head Gardener), 4 loaves of bread (at 14d each), on December 31st 1836 for the Ice House - 4s 8d.

Note- The Ice House was the responsibility of the Head Gardener; his bills for goods supplied to the Garden and Ice House were paid by the estate office.



Examples of frost damaged leadwork removed from Coleorton Hall in 1984 and replaced with plastic.

The Tennis Courts - c.1930's

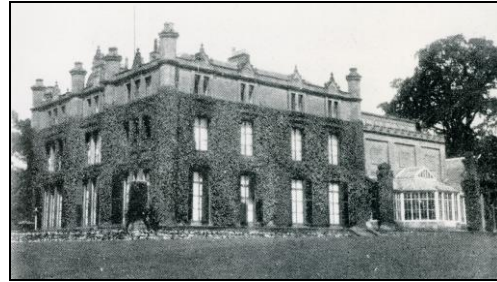


The above photograph taken c.1930, shows the tennis courts which were erected to the west of the stables, possibly by the 11th Baronet after the Abel Smiths left the hall in 1926 when their 25 year lease came to an end. The stables are shown in the background, and can be compared with earlier photographs.

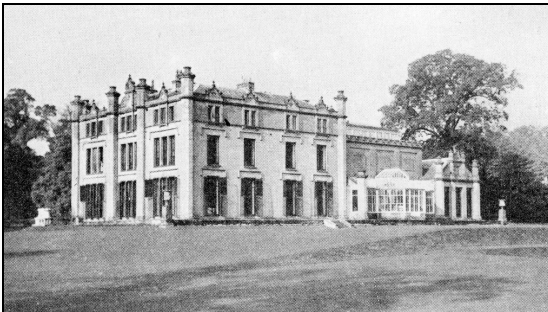
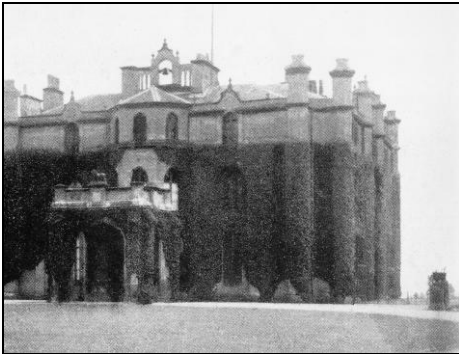


The above is a c.1980's aerial view showing the footprint of the tennis courts marked T opposite the stables, after they became surplus to requirement by the N.C.B. The tennis courts sit in the centre of an area once known as "The Pinetum" and which was partly turned over to the Kitchen Garden after the new hall was built in 1808 and prior to the Robert Chaplin designed garden being established further to the north west of the hall in the 1830's.

Photographs of Coleorton Hall from the early 1900's



c.1900.



The following is a description of the hall when it was advertised for letting in 1890:-
A handsome stone built family mansion known as Coleorton Hall, standing high, and commanding extensive views. The residence is surrounded by extensive pleasure grounds and park lands, and is approached by a carriage drive with two lodges at the entrances. It contains about 30 bed and dressing rooms, principle and secondary staircases, drawing and dining rooms, library and picture gallery (these four latter rooms are each over 30feet long and open into one another by folding doors, forming a magnificent suite of entertaining rooms), plus a billiard room with full sized billiard table. There is a handsome Doric Portico entrance leading to an entrance and an inner hall, a butler's pantry, and other domestic conveniences. There is stabling for about 17 horses (5 or 6 loose boxes), harness room, coach houses and a cottage for the coachman. The grounds are inexpensive to keep up and the kitchen garden with vineries &c., has been separately let. There is shooting over nearly 4,000 acres, about 500 acres of which are woods, with conveniently interspersed spinnies affording every facility for the rearing of a large stock of pheasants. The Mernell hounds also hunt the locality, which is likewise the forest side of the Quorn Hunt. The Church is in the grounds about 100 yards from the hall.

Modern external photographs of Coleorton Hall

Following the purchase of the hall and grounds in 1948 by the National Coal Board for £30,000, numerous alterations were carried out to the hall and grounds, many of which have been described in the book. In November 1997, the hall and grounds were sold by the N.C.B to a development corporation and this finally resulted in the hall being converted into apartments. The stable and coachman's cottage area was later converted into residential accommodation and private houses were built on the old Robert Chaplin kitchen garden area.



South west elevation (front)



Porte Cochere (carriage porch)
with vaulted ceiling



Beaumont Crest and Lion above entrance



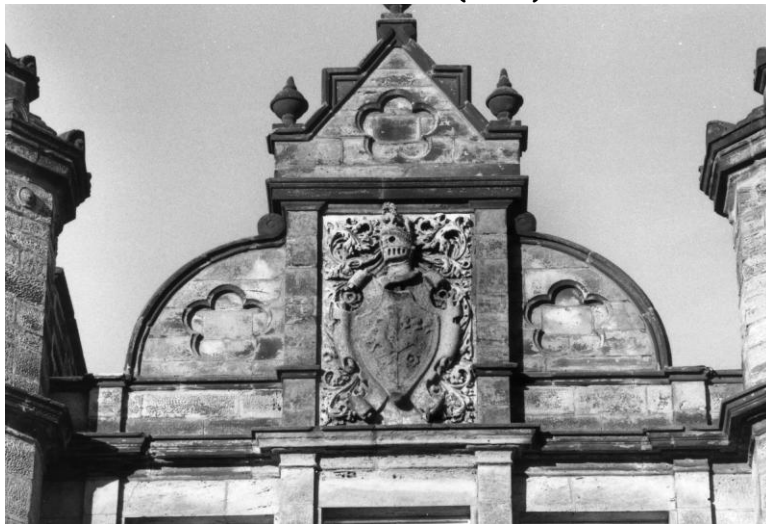
South east elevation



West elevation (front)



East elevation (rear)



Carved stone work above Beaumont Room (Dining Room)
at RH end of the centre photograph.

Continuation of newspaper articles

Leicester Chronicle - July 2nd 1825

Married - Lately in London, G. H. W. Beaumont, Esq., of Buckland, Surrey to Mary Ann, eldest daughter of the Bishop of London.

In consequence of the marriage of the adopted heir of the ancient and noble family of Coleorton Hall, in this county, with the daughter of the Bishop of London, Sir George Howland Beaumont, 7th Baronet, has given orders for great rejoicing to take place at Coleorton, and the neighbourhood. They were to commence yesterday.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette - February 12th 1827

Deaths - On Wednesday in his 73rd year, at Coleorton Hall, Leicestershire, Sir George Howland Beaumont, 7th Baronet. Sir George was well known as one of the best amateur painters in the Kingdom.

Supplementary information:-

Robert Southey, the English Poet, who seems to have been a humble friend, more in character of a hanger-on wrote in 1833: "Sir George's death was not from any decay. His mother lived for some years beyond ninety, and his health had greatly improved during the latter years of his life. He was never better than when in this country a very few months before his death. The seizure was sudden: after breakfast, as he was at work upon his picture, he fainted: erysipelas presently showed itself upon the head, and soon proved fatal". ("Coleorton and the Beaumonts" by Rev. A. Eveleigh Eagar).

Stamford Mercury - September 21st 1827

A poor man of Coleorton named Kirby (*father of a painter in Ashby*), is claimant as heir-in-law for the title and estate of the late Sir George Beaumont of Coleorton Hall, Near Ashby, Leics and is about to commence proceedings for the establishment of his right.

Mr. W. Beaumont of Coventry, is also prosecuting a claim.

Supplementary information

The above is of more interest than it may seem. We have no knowledge of the claimant Kirby to heir-in-law of the Beaumont Estate, but on the contrary, we do have some relevant background information about the claim of William Beaumont of Coventry.

William Beaumont claimed in the Court of Law, that he had right to possession of the Beaumont estate and he impeached the 8th Baronet, Sir George Howland Willoughby Beaumont as to his pedigree and right to the dignity of Baronet.

The 8th Baronet inherited the estate from his cousin the 7th Baronet, Sir George Howland Beaumont on his death in 1827.

The following is a record of the costs apportioned to Lady Dowager Beaumont between April 20th and December 23rd 1828 - "For business done in preparing to defeat the attempts of William Beaumont of Coventry to obtain possession of the Coleorton Estate and to impeach the right of the present Sir George Howland Willoughby Beaumont to the dignity

of Baronet. - Total cost £493 11s. 9d. This was not an insignificant amount of money at that time!

An old report repeated in the Leicester Chronicle dated June 28th 1845 puts a slightly different slant on the above - Mr. Beaumont, a ribbon weaver, of Coventry, who claimed to be heir-in-law of the Baronet who died in 1827, and was at great pains to trace his pedigree, informed us, that when he waited upon the then said Sir George, he told him that he knew of no direct descendant of his family, and that he (Mr. Beaumont) was the first amongst various claimants who had shown any relationship to him. Mr. Beaumont claimed to be the lineal descendant of the Thomas Beaumont Esq., of Stoughton or its neighbourhood, who was on the County list of magistrates many years before, but whose posterity became reduced in circumstances and were ultimately removed "by orders" to Coventry. Lady Beaumont, the widow of the same Baronet (Lady Dowager Beaumont referred to above), believing also that he was a relation of her husband, allowed him to range the grounds about her residence uninterruptedly, and gave special orders to her domestics not to interfere with him doing so. The poor claimant had then taken up residence at Coleorton, having married one of his Ladyship's tenants. He went to London to prosecute his claim, where he died suddenly. His son then put in his claim, as heir to the estate, and commissioned an inhabitant of Coleorton to give him the earliest intimation of Lady Beaumont's death, that he might take possession as heir-in-law. Instead however, of sending a special messenger to him, he contented himself with forwarding him a letter, which was interrupted in its course, and in the interim the last Baronet was therefore enabled to reach Coleorton before him, though the latter was living in Essex. We recollect to have seen the pedigree of the claimant, and were at that period of opinion that he had made out a good "Prima Facie" case.

A further report in the Stamford Mercury dated July 20th 1827 reads as follows.....A claimant for the title and estates of the late Sir George Beaumont of Coleorton Hall, Leicestershire, in the person of Mr. William Beaumont, ribbon maker of Coventry, has just appeared. Notices requiring the occupiers of the land, &c., not to pay their rent to anyone else but himself, have already been served upon the tenants, and writs of ejectment were also to be issued last week. If Mr. Beaumont's claim as to heir-in-law should be disputed, the subject will come before a jury at the assizes. Mr. Beaumont is about 50 years of age, and has eight children living. Mr. Harmer, the solicitor of London, has his case in hand, and, it is said, entertains the most sanguine expectations of being able to prove his client's right to the title and estates in question (taken from the Leicestershire Chronicle).

The Leicester Chronicle dated July 18th 1829 reports the following.....Coleorton Estate - In case the late Mr. William Beaumont of Coventry, had not been snatched away by death, it was his intention to have prosecuted his claim to his above estates at the assizes. Whether now that Lady Beaumont, the widow of the late Sir George is dead, there will be any other claimant, we have not yet heard. It is said, that the late Sir George Beaumont "Bequeathed the Title and Estates" to an individual he had adopted. This, of course, cannot be, as the conferring of a title belongs alone to the King. The late Mr. William Beaumont told the writer of this paragraph, that when he visited the late Sir George, the Baronet assured him that he knew of no person in existence who was related to him. It should seem, however, that the Baronet altered his opinion after he had seen Mr. W. Beaumont's documents, as on

referring to his "will", we understand, it was found to be dated a few days after Mr. W. Beaumonts visit to Coleorton Hall. This individual claimed, as the lineal descent of Thomas Beaumont Esq., of Stoughton, who married a Miss. Ashby, of Quenby, some time in the 16th century. He had been at great trouble in collecting documentary evidence to support his claim. He has several sons living.

There is recorded evidence of various legal charges well into 1829, but we have no evidence appertaining to the eventual outcome of this case. Clearly though, the judgement must have gone against William Beaumont, (and later his son) as the 8th Baronet retained both the Baronetcy and the Coleorton Estate.

Hull Packet, East Riding of Yorkshire - July 21st 1829

Obituary

On the 14th inst., at Coleorton Hall, Leicestershire, in her seventy-third year, Lady Beaumont, the widow of the late Sir George Howland Beaumont, 7th Bart. (*Sir George died in 1827, aged 73.*)

The Western Times - September 5th 1829

Anti-Population Mania - Lady Beaumont, who died a few weeks since, at her seat in Coleorton, near Ashby de la Zouch, and who was the relict (*widow*) of the late Sir George Howland Beaumont, 7th Baronet, by whose death the title became extinct (*incorrect*), used to make a practice, for the purpose of impeding the increase of the population, to reject all candidates for farms, or other situations in her patronage, who had large families of children, and even those who had been lately married, if there appeared a probability of a numerous family. She even went so far to call on some of her tenants, and tell them she would dismiss them from her estate, if they had anymore children; and she compelled a school master and his wife, whose situations were in her appointment, to sleep in different bedrooms, and threatened them with the loss of their situations, if they had anymore children.



This is Lucy Beckwith, the teacher referred to - in later life of course !

Hampshire Chronicle - April 19th 1830

Births - On the 8th inst., at Coleorton Hall, Leicestershire, the Lady of Sir George Beaumont, Bart, High Sheriff of the County of a son.

Leicester Chronicle - May 15th 1830

Death - On the 7th inst., at Coleorton Hall, in this county, the infant son of Sir George Howland Willoughby Beaumont, 8th Baronet.

Leicester Journal - August 6th 1830

Advertisement - Having received his majesties writ, commending me to cause to be elected two knights to represent the county, in a certain Parliament to be holden at the city of Westminster, on the fourteenth day of September next, I do appoint a special county court for the purpose of such election, to be held at the Castle of Leicester, on Wednesday, the eleventh day of August in the fore-noon, when and where the candidates, gentlemen, clergy, and freeholders, and others interested therein, are requested to give their attendance, in order to nominate and elect two proper persons to represent the county in such parliament.

Sir George Howland Willoughby Beaumont, Bart - Sheriff.

Sir George Beaumont's Allotment venture at Whitwick

Huntingdon, Bedford & Peterborough Gazette - March 3rd 1832

Sir George Beaumont of Coleorton Hall, Leicestershire has liberally allotted to the poorer families of Whitwick, a sufficient quantity of land for a good garden, and, as an inducement to industry, has promised prizes to the six best cultivators; the first a pig, and the others smaller prizes, in proportion to their success. *This was Sir George Howland Willoughby Beaumont, 8th Bart. See the next article for prize giving.*

Taunton Courier & Western Adviser, Somerset - November 21st 1832

Encouragement of the allotment system to the poor - On Monday last, Sir George Beaumont of Coleorton Hall, with the liberality which has ever reigned predominant in his character, visited Whitwick in order to inspect the potato gardens which he has kindly allotted to the poor of that place, and as a stimulus to promote industry, to bestow on the most deserving, some tokens of his approbative. - After partaking of a slight collation at the vicarage, with the Rev Marmaduke Prickett, Sir George, accompanied by two of his tenantry, Mr. Walker of Coleorton Hall Farm, and Mr. Samuel Bennett, the occupier of two large farms in Whitwick, arrived at the grounds, where they were loudly greeted by a numerous company of spectators, who were already there, impatient of the prizes. Sir George having awarded to the best managed gardens six different premiums viz., two pigs, two wheel barrows, and two spades, he in approval of their endeavours for competition, handsomely presented them with a sovereign, which example was immediately followed by the accompanying gentlemen.



Original painting of Sir G. H. W. Beaumont, 8th Bart.
by Margaret Carpenter

Leicester Chronicle - August 13th 1831

Advertisement - Notice is hereby given, that the game on several farms and lands on Charnwood Forest, belonging to Thomas Gisbourne esq., M.P., and Sir George Howland Willoughby Beaumont 8th Baronet, is strictly preserved.

All qualified persons are requested to refrain from sporting thereon, and all unqualified persons will be prosecuted according to law.

Edward B Knight (*Land Agent to Sir George*)
Coleorton Hall, August 3rd 1831

Derby Mercury - August 22nd 1832

Birth - On the 15th inst., at Coleorton Hall, Leics, the Lady of Sir George Howland Willoughby Beaumont, 8th Baronet, of a son.

The Leicester Chronicle - Saturday February 28th 1835

Deaths

On Sunday the 15th inst, at Hyeres, South of France (*on the Cote d'Azur*), Mary Anne, wife of Sir G. H. W. Beaumont, Bart., of Coleorton Hall, in this county; and on Friday the 20th inst, at Lambeth Palace - Willoughby Hastings, third son of the above, aged two years and six months.

Supplementary information on Mary Anne Beaumont (nee: Howley) -

She was the wife of Sir George Howland Willoughby Beaumont, 8th Bart, (1799-1845) and the eldest daughter of the most reverend William Howley D.D. Lord Archbishop of Canterbury and Mary Frances his wife, who was the eldest daughter of John Belli Esq., of the Honourable East India Company Civil Service and Elizabeth Stuart Cockerell of Sezincote, Glocs. Mary Anne b. (1806-1807, m. 16.6.1825 aged 19 years), died. 15.2.1835 aged 28 years. The Beaumonts left Coleorton on May 1st 1834, following the illness of Lady Beaumont, probably staying at Lambeth with her parents and seeking specialist medical advice. It is likely that being so advised, they departed from there to spend the winter on the Riviera, where she died. Her body was brought back to Coleorton for burial.

Sherbourne Mercury, Dorset - December 12th 1836

Late on Thursday evening last, the extensive mills adjoining the Union Inn at Measham, between Tamworth and Ashby, were discovered to be on fire. Expresses were immediately sent off for Ashby de la Zouch and Moira engines; also to Coleorton Hall for Sir George Beaumont's engine, all of which arrived in a short time. Sir George Beaumont attended personally, accompanied by his servants, and exerted himself to the utmost to extinguish the fire. Notwithstanding, however, the praiseworthy efforts of the inhabitants of the place and of hundreds who flooded in from the adjoining parishes. The large mill was together with its valuable machinery entirely consumed; but for the timely arrival of the engines, and the great exertions of the people, it is probable that the steam flour mill would have shared the same fate. The damage is estimated at several thousand pounds

Leicester Chronicle - August 5th 1837

The following was stated in a parliamentary meeting in respect to Sir George Howland Willoughby Beaumont, 8th Baronet, following the conduct of the Tories for pressing the poor law into service:-

...."and however high sounding his name and title, to have participated in this conduct attaches a dark stain on the character of Sir G. H. W. Beaumont, Baronet, of Coleorton Hall".

Leicester Journal - January 10th 1840

Coleorton Hall - The splendid suite of rooms of this mansion were again called into request on Tuesday week; The annual "Christmas Ball" celebrated with more than its accustomed magnificence and princely hospitality, and was attended by its noble owners numerous tenantry, including a considerable proportion of the "elite" of Ashby and the surrounding neighbourhood. - F. B. Farnham Esq. M.P. was present, and a superb fold of drapery comprised of blue satin, which was inscribed in large letters - "Welcome Farnham our Independent Member" was displayed to do him honour. The appearance of the ball-room was magnificent. A full band of musicians of first rate talent were engaged from Derby, and secured unqualified admirations. Sir George Beaumont (8th Baronet), with that easy affability and great politeness which at all times characterises him, commenced the dancing with the daughter of Mr. Edward Butt Knight, his respected steward - and in the course of the evening honoured many of the ladies with his hand. Upwards of one hundred sat down to supper, which consisted of a profusion of viands, embracing every delicacy and variety, and set out with consummate taste - ornamented with flagons bearing flowers - candelabras and vases of great value. Appropriate conservative toasts were given, and enthusiastically received. After the repast, the whole of the party returned to the ball-room, where dancing had already commenced with untiring animation. Refreshments were from time to time supplied with unsparing abundance. The company continued their dancing until a late hour, and separated much delighted with their entertainment, and great kindness of Sir George Beaumont.

Essex Standard - April 22nd 1842

Deaths - On the 17th inst., suddenly at Goston Lodge, Great Dunmow, Bridget, relict (widow) of Thomas Beaumont Esq., of Buckland, Surrey and mother of Sir George Howland Willoughby Beaumont (8th Baronet), of Coleorton, Leicestershire.

Cheltenham Chronicle - June 12th 1845

Death of Sir George Howland Willoughby Beaumont, 8th Bart. - The highly respected Baronet expired on Saturday evening last, June 7th, at Coleorton Hall, his seat in Leicestershire. The deceased was the eldest son of Sir Thomas Beaumont of Buckland, Surrey, and was born in 1799, so that he was only in his 46th year. He married in 1825, Miss Mary Anne Howley, eldest daughter of the Archbishop of Canterbury - that amiable lady died in 1835. Sir George succeeded to the Baronetcy on the death of his cousin in 1827, and his son George Howland Beaumont, born in 1828, now succeeds to the family honours and estates.

Supplementary information:-

During his later life Sir George must have been a very sick man. Invoices from doctors Thomas Kirkland & Dalby covering year's 1838 to 1843 show that the doctors were visiting on a daily basis and even more frequently over some periods, and high levels of medication were being administered. According to his death certificate, he died of Bilious Diarrhoea at 32 minutes past 4am at Coleorton. The informant was his butler Samuel Love.

Thomas Smith Kirkland leased a building from the Grammar School which was situated where the HSBC bank is now in Market Street, Ashby de la Zouch, and it remained as a doctors or surgeons house till 1880.

On the following page is an extract from one of the lengthy Kirkland & Dalby invoices from 1841.

Thomas Smith Kirkland was a descendant of Thomas Kirkland (1721-1798) who became a surgeon at Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leicestershire. In January 1760 he became involved in the murder case surrounding Laurence Shirley, 4th Earl Ferrers: he was called in to attend the steward of Lord Ferrers after he had been shot by his master.

Kirkland who was detained for dinner with the disturbed Earl, managed to leave the house covertly, brought a magistrate with armed men, and removed the wounded steward Johnson, who soon died. He was a witness at the trial of Earl Ferrers who was accused of murder, and subsequently found guilty and hanged.

1841		
Sir Geo Beaumont Bart		
To Kirkland & Dalby		
Jan 24	A Powder & Draught - M B	19
	A Mixture	3
	A Journey	36
25	A Journey	36
Feb 1	A Journey - Sir Geo	36
	A Powder	6
	A Powder & Draught	19
	A Mixture - M B	3
2	A Journey - Sir Geo	36
	Four poudes	2
	Four Draughts	5
3	A Journey	36
	A Powder	6
	A Powder & Draught	19
	A Mixture - M B	3
	A Mixture - Sir Geo	3
4	A Journey - Sir Geo	36
	Four Draughts	5
	A Powder	6
	A Powder & Draught	19
5	A Journey - Sir Geo	36
	A Powder & Draught	19
	A Powder & Draught	19
6	A Journey	36
	A Mixture	3
	A Powder & Draught	19
	A Draught	13
7	A Journey	36
	A Powder	6

Leicester Chronicle - June 14th 1845

Died - On Saturday, Sir George H. W. Beaumont 8th Bart, of Coleorton Hall, in this County, and of Dunmow, in the County of Essex.

Burial - Sir George Beaumont, we hear, will be buried today, at Coleorton Church, quite privately.

Drogheda Conservative Journal, Louth, Republic of Ireland - June 14th 1845.

Deaths - June 7th at Coleorton Hall, Sir George Howland Willoughby Beaumont, 8th Bart.

Morning Post, London - September 8th 1847

The "Archbishop of Canterbury" and Mrs. Howley returned to Addington Park, from a visit to see Sir George Howland Beaumont, 9th Bart, at Coleorton Hall, Leicestershire.

Leicester Mercury - February 8th 1851

Returns of rent - At the rent audit of Sir George Howland Beaumont, 9th Bart., of Coleorton Hall, on the 27th ult., the tenantry had ten per cent returned to them, in consideration of the present depreciation in the price of agricultural produce. This is the second instance of this respected Baronet meeting his tenantry with some liberality.

Leicester Mercury - June 7th 1851

FESTIVITIES AT COLEORTON HALL

Coleorton Hall, the residence of Sir G. H. Beaumont, 9th Bart., was on Wednesday last the scene of great festivity, it being the first anniversary of the honourable Baronet's wedding day, and also the day fixed for the baptism of his son and heir. A programme of the amusements of the day had been in circulation for some days previously, but a note at the bottom said, "Should there be any appearance of rain; the amusements will be postponed till the next day". The state of the weather was consequently a subject of much anxiety on the part of the villagers and the residents in the neighbourhood, especially when some smart showers fell on Monday night. On Tuesday morning, however, the sun shone brightly - too brightly to shine long, in the opinion of the weather-wise; and their predictions were fully verified in the course of the day; but the whole of the morning continued fine, the preparations went on, and a large number of persons gathered.

Before describing the particulars day's proceedings, we must state that great improvements have been made on the Coleorton estate during the last five or six years. Several cottages of a superior kind, in the Elizabethan style of architecture, with plots of gardens and shrubberies around them, present a very picturesque appearance. Various other improvements have been, and are still, being made. During the past year several new walks have been formed on the wooded parts of the ground on the north-east side of the hall, while on the southern side about two acres of ground has been cleared of wood, a portion of it covered with turf, and the remainder sown with grass, the whole tastefully planted with shrubs and ornamental trees. Two new windows were put in the west side of the church for the day of the baptism, and it is intended to replace all the other windows by similar ones.

The new windows are in the decorated style, stone mullions being substituted for the wooden ones which were used previously. The work has been executed in a very creditable manner by Mr. Elliot of Ashby de la Zouch. The expedience by which the work was completed is also worthy of remark, as it was commenced on Ascension-day and completed on Saturday.

In addition to the improvements on the grounds and at the church, a picture-gallery has been added to the hall. This is built of Derbyshire stone, and the floor, which is now being laid, will be of polished oak, the boards for which were formerly used as the floor of the Exchange recently pulled down at Leicester. Coleorton Hall and grounds are at all times well deserving a visit, particularly at this season of the year, and the improvements above referred to render them still more so.

To return to the subject of the day: the baptism of the heir to the Coleorton estates took place in the church at half-past twelve o'clock, the Rev. C. A. Belli, uncle of Lady Beaumont officiating. The names given were *George Howland William*. There were present at the ceremony a large party of visitors to the honourable Baronet, and a considerable number of the villagers. After the ceremony, Sir George and Lady Beaumont and their visitors returned to the hall, and a salute of twenty guns was fired from a number of small cannons placed on the terrace.



On the left is thought to be one of the small canons referred to on the terrace overlooking what was then the rose garden which had replaced the flower garden by this time. The garden's of Coleorton Hall are featured later in the book.

Luncheon was then served in the dining-room, and partaken of by the following ladies and gentlemen:- Sir G. H. Beaumont, Bart., Lady Beaumont, Mrs. Howley, Rev. C. A. Belli, Esq., W. Kingsmill, Esq., Mrs. Kingsmill, Miss Beaumont, Mrs. Lewis, Miss Lewis, J. R. Benson, Esq., Early Ferrers, Lady Ferrers, Colonel Wollaston, Miss Wollaston, W. W. Abney, Esq., Mrs. Abney, T. Mowbray Esq., Miss Mowbray, H. Clement, Esq., Mrs. Clement, Mrs. Moore, Miss Moore, Master Moore, Rev. M. Vavasour, Mrs. Vavasour, the Misses Vavasour, Rev. F. Merewether, Mr. Way, and Mrs. A. L. Philipps and family.

The dining-room, as well as other apartments, presented a beautiful appearance, in consequence of a profuse display of choice flowers selected from the gardens. The artistic skill of Mr. Henderson, the head gardener, had also been called into requisition in the way of providing ornaments for one or other of the rooms at the hall. Amongst the ornaments thus prepared was a tablet, on which was "Health and Happiness to G. H. W. Beaumont". The letters of the tablet were formed of the flowers of the forget-me-not, the ground work of white lilacs, interspersed with the flowers of the geranium, cineraria, &c., &c., and the border of green heath. Both Mr. and Mrs. Henderson must have bestowed much time and patience upon the execution of this tablet, the smallness of the forget-me-nots and the lilac requiring an extraordinary number of these flowers to be picked in to form the ground-work and letters.

The winner in the first race was Mr. Kidger Ayre's Peter Simple, beating Mr. Earle's Black Bess, Mr. R. Ayre's Black Jack, Mr. Allan Smith's Creeping Jane, and another (not named) belong to Mr. Bailey, of Diseworth. Black Bess and Creeping Jane ran well, but were beaten easily by the winner.

Five started for the second race; but Mr. Walker's Kate Kearney came in first in both the first and second heats, leaving the others a considerable distance behind, but the jockey (a youth) being unacquainted with the rules of the turf, jumped off as soon as he had won, instead of riding up to the scale, and consequently had to run another heat, which he did with the same success as before.

The third race excited as much interest as any - perhaps more. Six animals came to the scratch, but only five started, the other being "a donkey wot wouldn't go". Jack Onion's Rat-Tail, jockeyed by Jack's son Roger, dressed in a red coat and black velvet cap, came in first, and a donkey belonging to Mr. Hutchinson, of Whitwick, was a good second in the first heat; in the second, though Rat-Tail was again in first, his competitor from Whitwick was pretty close at his heels. This was the best contested race of the three. The remaining races excited considerable merriment, as did also, many unsuccessful attempts to reach the leg of mutton; and when, rather late in the evening, a stout young fellow who, after reaching the top, found it difficult to "hold on" while he un-spiked the prize, came down with it hugged to his breast, he was greeted with loud and hearty cheering.

The Melbourne Junior Brass Band was in attendance, and throughout the afternoon played a variety of lively airs, marches, &c., to the great delight of all who heard them.

Tea and other refreshments were provided in the large booth to which we have before alluded as the scene of a slight accident, and were supplied to the tenant's of Sir George, and many respectable visitors, under the superintendence of Mr. and Mrs. Howard (*Heward* ?), who were very assiduous in their attention to the comfort of the guests.

The sports were kept up till it was nearly dark, and the day's amusements were brought to a close by a display of fireworks, which was a treat of no ordinary kind to the inhabitants of the neighbourhood. Many persons were present from Ashby, and from all the

villages around Coleorton. There could not have been fewer than from 3,000 to 4,000 persons on the ground, and but for the unfavourable state of the weather at the time the sports were to have commenced, coming after the announcement in the programme, there would doubtless have been a greater number. Notwithstanding the *damp* which a couple of hours of heavy rain, succeeded by smart showers at intervals for another hour or more, was sure to put upon the proceedings, the day passed off well, and many a one cherished a hearty wish that he or she might live to see the infant, who was the unconscious cause of this day's festivities, grow up to manhood, that they might share the pleasure of celebrating the attainment of his majority.

Leicester Mercury - July 3rd 1852

Sudden death - Mr. George Gregory, artist, of Ashby de la Zouch, died suddenly at Coleorton, on Tuesday evening. He had been employed by Sir George Beaumont for several weeks past in hanging pictures in the new picture gallery at the Hall, and he completed his task on Tuesday aft. In the evening, he went to the house of Mr. Peter Heward, under steward to Sir George Beaumont, and whilst looking at a picture there, had a fit of epilepsy. Mr. Willey, surgeon, was sent for, but Mr. Gregory died in a few minutes. An inquest was held on Wednesday, and the jury returned a verdict of "died by natural causes".

Supplementary information - This and the previous article are important in that they define the exact time when the new picture gallery was added to Coleorton Hall, a fact previously not known.

**The Marriage and Memories of
Constance Mary Beaumont b. July 25th 1834
m. July 6th 1852, d. Oct 7th 1929 - Aged 95**

Leicester Journal - July 9th 1852

Marriage of Miss Beaumont - The marriage of Constance Mary, daughter of the late, and sister of the present Sir George Beaumont, Bart., High Sheriff of the County, to William Unwin Heygate Esq., of the Midland Circuit, son of the late Sir W. Heygate, Bart., and brother of Sir F. W. Heygate, was solemnized in the Parish Church at Coleorton, in the presence of a large circle of relatives and friends. The auspicious event excited much interest in that part of the county, and the inhabitants of Coleorton and other places in the neighbourhood, dressed in their best, flocked to the church in large numbers.

The wedding party left the hall about half-past eleven o'clock, and were greeted with "Hail Smiling Morn", which was well performed by the Melbourne Junior Brass Band, under the leadership of Mr. Leonard Warren.

The bride was attired in a white glace silk dress, covered with Honiton Lace, and wore a bouquet and wreath of orange flowers, myrtle, and lilies, and a Honiton Lace veil. The bridesmaids were Miss Alice Kingsmill, Miss Crewe, Miss Mary Crewe, Miss Henrietta Cockerell, Miss Jane Packe, Miss Beacham, and Miss Mary Belli, all of whom wore white tarlatan muslin dresses, trimmed with pink, white jackets to match, and white fancy straw bonnets with wreaths of wild roses.

The ceremony was performed by the Rev. C. A. Belli, and the bride was given away by her brother, Sir George.

The path from the hall to the church was carpeted, and on either side were ranged the children of the village day school, nearly 120 in number, each of whom was supplied with a white satin rosette, and on the bride and bridegroom leaving the church a profusion of flowers were strewed before them. The javelin men in uniform, and carrying white wands, were in attendance, and they as well as all connected with the estate were all supplied with flowers. As the bride and bridegroom left the church, the band struck up "The Wedding Polka", the bells sent forth a merry peal, and a salute of twenty cannons were fired. The dinner party then partook of an elegant dejeuner at the hall, and at half-past one o'clock the happy couple left for Loughborough, in a new travelling carriage drawn by four grey horses, amidst the endless cheering of the assembled multitude, which was kept up continuously until the carriage had quitted the grounds. From Loughborough they would proceed per railway to town, on their way to Switzerland, to spend the honeymoon.

The remainder of the party, amongst whom were Sir George and Lady Beaumont, Mrs. Howley, Sir F. W. and Lady Heygate, Miss Mary Ann Beaumont, Mr. F. Beaumont, Mr. and Mrs. Kingsmill, Miss Cockerell, Mr. J. Belli, Mr. W. Belli, Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Beacham, Earl and Countess Howe, Hon. W. Curzon, Mr. C. W. Packe, and Mrs. Packe-Reading, Mr. Herrick of Beaumanor, and Miss Herrick, Archdeacon Harrison, Mr. C. Hodson (formerly secretary to the Archbishop of Canterbury), Rev. F. Merewether, Mrs., Miss, and Mr. C. Merewether, Rev. J. B. Sweet, Rev. W. C. Stapleton, Rev. E. Paget, and about twenty others whose names

are not known to us, then proceeded to Ashby, where a general meeting of the society of Ivanhoe Archers was held on the Bath Grounds.

About two o'clock, the javelin men, tenants, and others sat down to dinner on the lawn, under the presidency of Mr. P. Heward, under steward to Sir George, and with Mr. Faux in the vice chair. Health and happiness to the bride and bridegroom, the health of Sir George and Lady Beaumont, the health of Mrs. Howley, and other toasts were drunk, and in the afternoon and evening a selection of country dances were engaged in, to the strains of the band before named, and all seemed highly delighted with the entertainment provided for them.

Contributed by the Dowager Lady Beaumont to the Cole Orton Parish Magazine, November, 1929.

On October 7th there passed away one who had lived amongst us for eight years, and had reached the great age of ninety-five. I have been asked to write some record of her life, as I have known and loved her for nearly fifty years.

Constance Mary Beaumont was born on July 25th 1834, and her mother, Lady Beaumont, died in February 1835, leaving behind her a sorrowing husband, and three motherless children.

The baby girl was taken into the loving care of her grandparents Archbishop and Mrs. Howley, and brought up at Lambeth Palace and at Addington, only coming from time to time to Cole Orton to see her father and her two brothers.

She had a most nice and loving upbringing, though she must have been lonely sometimes, as she herself used to say "My youngest playfellow was an Archdeacon". But she was the light and joy of her grandparents, and perhaps her first great sorrow was the death of Archbishop Howley in 1848.

During her childhood at Lambeth she had met many celebrated people, and she had many recollections of those early days, and of her visits to Queen Adelaide, the widow of William IV.

She used to relate how the Archbishop had confirmed, crowned and married Queen Victoria, and baptized the Princess Royal and the Prince of Wales.

Constance Beaumont was married in Cole Orton Church on July 6th 1852, to Mr. William Heygate. She was very young, not quite eighteen, and a very fair young bride she must have been. There are very few people still living who can remember her wedding. It was the beginning of a long and happy life lasting for fifty years, till her husband was taken from her in March 1902.

Her life was full of interests and of work for others. She travelled much, and went on many long voyages, for she loved the sea, and the rougher the weather the more she enjoyed it.

Her home for many years was Roeciffe Manor, and she often came to Cole Orton to visit her two brothers, Sir George Beaumont and Canon Beaumont, to both of whom she was deeply attached.

When I came to Cole Orton for the first time in November 1880 Mrs Heygate gave me a warm welcome, and from that time she was to me a most kind aunt and a true and loyal

friend. In many times of trouble I could always count upon her loving sympathy and help, and I loved her dearly.

All through her life religion was her guiding principle, and she loved to worship every Sunday in church, and would never miss a service if she could help it. In this she set us all a wonderful example.

During the last year of her life it was her great sorrow that she could not come to church, and she grieved to that she could not visit her friends in the parish, who loved to see and talk to her, and who missed her sadly.

The last year of her life brought to her much suffering and great sorrow in the loss of her loving and devoted daughter, Mrs. Philpott, whose passing brought grief to the whole parish.

I saw Mrs Heygate on the morning of October 7th and she just knew me. She passed away peacefully that evening and was laid to rest beside her husband in the Churchyard of St. Mary, Woodhouse Eaves, on Thursday October 10th 1929. She will be held in loving remembrance by many, especially in Coleorton, and in Woodhouse Eaves, where so much of her long life was spent.

Derby Mercury - February 11th 1857

Birth - On the 30th ult., at Coleorton Hall, Leics, the wife of Sir George Howland Beaumont, 9th Baronet, of a daughter. (*Lina Mary Howley Beaumont*)

Leicester Chronicle - April 1st 1859

Birth - On Sunday, the 27th ult, at Coleorton Hall, Leics, the wife of Sir G. H. Beaumont, Bart, of a daughter. (*Eleanor Grace Caroline Beaumont*)

Derby Mercury - December 26th 1860

Marriage - On the 13th instant, at Westmill, Herts., by the Rev. Charles Soames, the Rev. William Beresford Beaumont, M.A., younger son of the late Sir George Howland William Beaumont, 8th Baronet, Coleorton Hall, Leics, to Julia, youngest daughter of Charles Soames Esq., of Coles, Herts. (*This was his first wife*)

Nottinghamshire Guardian - May 9th 1861

This article was about a serious fire at Whitwick, for which Sir G. H. Beaumont 9th Bart., was requested to send his fire engine from Coleorton Hall to help put out the fire !!!!!. Sir George's fire-engine was also reported as attended a cornfield fire at Gracedieu in September 1863.

Northampton Mercury - June 21st 1862

Birth - On the 17th inst, at Coleorton Hall, Lady Beaumont of a son. (*Frederick Louis Maureward Beaumont-this was the wife of Sir George Howland Beaumont, 9th Baronet*).

Newcastle Courant - April 29th 1864

Birth - At Coleorton Hall on the 24th inst., Lady Beaumont, of a son. (*Henry Cecil Charles Beaumont*-this was the wife of Sir George Howland Beaumont, 9th Baronet).

Leicester Chronicle - December 17th 1870

Death of Lady Beaumont

On Friday morning week (December 9th) died, aged 41, after two days illness, Paulina Menzies, the wife of Sir George Howland Beaumont, 9th Bart., who was absent from home at the time of the sad event. Much sympathy has been called forth in the district for the family, by the melancholy and unexpected occurrence. Lady Beaumont was the daughter of W. H. Belli, Esq., of the East India Companies Civil Service, and was married to Sir George in 1850. She leaves issue four sons - George Howland William, b.1851; Frances Howley, b.1854; Frederick Louis Maureward, b.1862; and Henry Cecil Charles, b 1864; and two daughters Lina Mary Howley, and Eleanor Grace Caroline.

The remains of the deceased Lady were interred (*in the church vault*) on Wednesday last, at Coleorton. The mournful procession left the hall about 12 o'clock, Sir George Beaumont and his eldest son followed as chief mourners, and after them several members of the family. The tenantry of Sir George requested permission also to follow to the grave the remains of one they had held in high esteem, and when the funeral cortege had left the hall they joined in the procession. The Church was crowded. The service was conducted by the Rev. Alderson, of Ravenstone, the former part of it being chanted by the choir. Much sympathy is felt for Sir George and the family in the sad and sudden bereavement. Lady Beaumont was within a few days of attaining her 42nd year.

Supplementary information - Sir George Howland Beaumont 9th Baronet, born at Lambeth Palace Sept 12th 1828, died at Coleorton June 8th 1882, and Dame Paulina Menzies Beaumont, his first wife, born at Chinsurah, Bengal Dec 19th 1828, died at Coleorton on December 9th 1870 aged 41. According to the death certificate, she died of Scarlatina Exhaustion after 4 days. Their first son and heir George Howland William Beaumont was born on March 10th 1851 and died in 1914. Their second son Francis Howley Beaumont, born at Naples, Feb 11th 1854, died at Hampton Wick on Jan 3rd 1875. Their first daughter Lina Mary Howley b.1857 died June 6th 1934. Eleanor Grace Caroline Beaumont, their second daughter, born at Coleorton on March 27th 1859, died at Coleorton on Dec 16th 1870 aged 11. Frederick Louis Maureward B, their 3rd son was born on June 17th 1862 and died Nov 26th 1948. Their 4th son Henry Cecil Charles was born on April 24th 1864 and died Feb 13th 1944. The 9th Baronet married his second wife Dame Octavia Willoughby on April 4th 1872. She died in London on June 19th 1901.

From untitled newspaper cutting - Follow up to previous article

Death of Lady Beaumont

Of

Coleorton Hall

Last Saturday the feeling of the public was much startled by the announcement of the somewhat sudden death of the wife of Sir G. H. Beaumont, 9th Baronet., of Coleorton Hall, in

this county, her Ladyship having died from scarlet fever, on Friday, the 9th, after not more than two days' illness..

Lady Beaumont who was the third daughter of W. H. Belli, Esq., H.E.I.C., civil service, and niece of Dr. Howley, late Archbishop of Canterbury, and was married to Sir G. H. Beaumont on the 4th June, 1850. Her Ladyship, who died in her 41st year of her age, leaves issue four sons and two daughters.

The funeral of Lady Beaumont took place on Wednesday last, in the parish churchyard, at Coleorton. The arrangements were conducted by Mr. Orchard, of Ashby de la Zouch, and the attendances of mourners were confined to the relatives of the deceased's family and the tenants on the estate. The former consisted of:-

Sir G. H. Beaumont, Bart.	G. H. W. Beaumont, Esq.
Re. W. B. Beaumont.	F. H. Beaumont, Esq.
C. Belli, Esq.	J. Belli, Esq.
W. U. Heygate, Esq., M.P.	F. Pipe Wolferstan, Esq.
R. O'Shaughnessy, Esq.	

The funeral service was most solemnly conducted, the beautiful choir of the village taking part in it, whilst the Rev. J. Alderson, rector of Ravenstone, and the Rev. J. Gardiner, curate of Coleorton, officiated. A large crowd of villagers from the neighbourhood were present in the church, manifesting a lively sympathy for the loss of one who during her life evinced the liveliest sympathy with them. The sad and unexpected event has thrown a gloom over the neighbourhood. One writer says: - "I never knew Coleorton to exhibit such grief as it now does for the loss of this much esteemed Lady; her genial smile and ever welcome presence will long be remembered by all who knew her, and the great loss we have all sustained will be felt for many years".

A meeting of the parishioners and the tenants of Sir George was convened by Mr. Lewis in the boy's school room, Coleorton, on Saturday evening, for considering how they might show their great regard for the late Lady Beaumont, their deep regret at her loss, and also the best means of showing their sympathy with Sir George in his affliction. Mr. Faux was elected chairman. It was decided by a majority that they could not better show their respect for her Ladyship than by forming themselves into a procession on the day of the funeral, and attending her remains to the grave: and it was also resolved that a deputation, consisting of Messrs Beckwith, Faux and Lewis, be requested to wait on the rector, the Rev. W. B. Beaumont, to ascertain whether such a proceeding would be in accordance with the wishes of Sir George, and that the meeting be adjourned until Monday evening. - Sir George, in acceding to their wishes, suggested that the procession should be confined to the tenants only, as he was anxious that the funeral should be conducted as quietly as possible. - At the meeting on Monday, it was resolved, in accordance with this desire that the tenants only should be present; though some were disappointed with this arrangement, as her Ladyship was so universally beloved that all in the neighbourhood were desirous of taking part in the proceedings. It was further resolved that a letter of condolence should be presented to Sir George as soon as convenient after the funeral had taken place.

Supplementary Information from Death Certificate for Eleanor Caroline Beaumont

Eleanor Grace Caroline Beaumont who was the daughter of Sir George Howland Beaumont, 9th Baronet, died at Coleorton Hall aged 11 years on December 16th 1870, from Scarlatation (12 days) and Diptheria (4 days)

The Tamworth Herald - July 13th 1872

Presentation at Coleorton

On Thursday, the tenancy of Sir. G. H. Beaumont Bart, and the tradesmen of the family at Ashby de la Zouch, presented an address to Mr. G. H. W. Beaumont on his coming of age, and also took the opportunity of presenting an address of congratulation to Sir George and Lady Beaumont on their marriage and on Mr. Beaumont attaining his majority. About 40 gents attended from Coleorton and Ashby including Messrs. J.W. Faux, G. Lewis, T. Radford, R. Wardle, F. Walker, W. Walker, J. Hough, Dr. Hatchett, S. Love, C. Mathews, Orchard, Davenport, Ison &c. The deputation was received by Sir George at the entrance of the hall, and conducted to the library, where the family assembled. Mr. Faux read the address to Mr. Beaumont with which he presented a handsome solid silver candelabrum, with a suitable inscription. Mr. Beaumont made an appropriate reply, thanking his friends for the regard shown to his father and himself, assuring them that he should value their present, not merely as a magnificent ornament, but especially as their memorial of their good feelings towards the family to which he belonged. The address to Sir George and Lady Beaumont, was read by Mr. Love, and accompanied by the presentation of a handsome silver salver. Sir George in replying, expressed himself happy to find that after a life spent amongst them, there existed so much good feeling to him and his family, and hoped that the same feeling would still continue between them and their various relations. At the conclusion of the presentation the party was entertained at luncheon. Sir George Beaumont presiding faced by Mr. E. Fisher (Beaumont's solicitor from Ashby) as vice-chair. Various appropriate toasts were given and heartily received, and the party broke up about five o'clock after spending a very pleasant afternoon.

Leicester Chronicle - April 13th 1872

Marriage - On the 4th inst, at St.Pauls, Knightbridge, by the Rev. W. B. Beaumont, assisted by the Rev. Eyton - Sir George Howland Beaumont 9th Bart, of Coleorton Hall to Octavia Willoughby, widow of Major J. R. S. Wallis, late of the 4th Dragoon Guards, of Drishane Castle, County Cork. (*This was the Baronet's 2nd wife*)

Leicester Chronicle and Mercury - Saturday, March 11th 1876

It is recorded that Sir George Howland Beaumont, 9th Baronet, owned Two thousand four hundred and seventy seven acres, one rood and twenty nine poles of land in the parish with a rateable value of £3,685 14s.

Leicester Chronicle - October 28th 1876

Miss Lena Mary Howley, only daughter (*first daughter*) of Sir George H Beaumont (9th *Baronet*) of Coleorton Hall, was on Thursday, at Coleorton Church, married to Major Gavin R Hamilton, of Killyheagh Castle, County Down.

Leicester Daily Mercury - May 17th 1879

Lady Beaumont has arrived from the south of France at Coleorton Hall. Sir George and her Ladyship are expected to arrive at their residence, 99, Eaton Place, London, for the season, early in June.

Leicester Chronicle - June 17th 1882

Death of Sir George Beaumont - We regret to have to announce the death of Sir George Howland Beaumont, 9th Bart, which took place at his residence Coleorton Hall, Nr Ashby, on Thursday night, from an attack of "Gout". The deceased had been dangerously ill for some time, and when Sir William Jenner was consulted a few days ago, he had but little hope, although Sir George was only 54 years of age, and till very recently able to attend to his duties as magistrate for Leicestershire and in other respects. The melancholy event will cast great gloom over the district of Ashby, and, indeed, in a wider circle in which Sir George was known and highly respected. He is succeeded by his eldest son. *He actually died on June 8th and was succeeded by Sir George Howland William Beaumont, 10th Baronet.*

Supplementary information - Although the newspaper reported that Sir George had died from an attack of gout, his death certificate stated that the cause of death was "Tumour of brain" (1 month), "Pneumonia" (48 hours). He was actually 53 years old at the time of his death. The informant was his son Sir G. H. W. Beaumont, who was resident at the rectory at the time.

The Manchester Courier & Lancs General Advertiser - June 17th 1882

Sir George Beaumont, Bart, of Coleorton Hall, Ashby de la Zouch, has just died. He was the 9th holder of the Baronetcy, was born in 1828 and was educated at Winchester and Christ Church, Oxford.

Leicester Chronicle - August 30th 1890

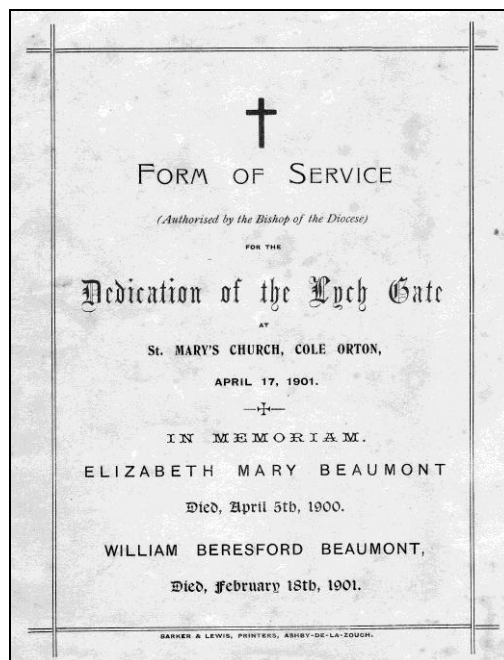
Sir George Beaumont robbed of £130- Sir George Beaumont of Coleorton Hall, near Ashby, is reported to have been robbed of money and jewellery amounting to £130, in travelling from Kingston to Dublin on Sunday morning. The money and valuables were placed in his dressing case, which was missed on his arrival at Westland Row Station, Dublin.

Dedication of the "Lych Gate" at St. Mary's Church, Coleorton -1901

The Rev. William Beresford Beaumont, M.A., younger son of Sir George Howland William Beaumont, 8th Baronet, became Rector of Coleorton in 1864 for a span of 36 years. He was born in Addlington, Surrey on the 13th March 1831. "Coleorton Viscount School" was built at his expense in 1867. He married his first wife Julia Soames on the 13th of December 1860. His second wife Elizabeth Mary who was born at Siddlesmere, Suffolk on 25th September 1831 and died on April 5th 1900. She was buried in St. Mary's churchyard on April 9th.

The Rev. William Beresford Beaumont died on February 18th 1901, aged 69. He was Rector of Coleorton when he died at the rectory where his niece Lillie Ellen Beaumont was present. He died of an Apoplectic S seizure. William Wordsworth was his godfather and in a letter to Lady Beaumont from Rydal Mount on July 8th 1831 he wrote....."You have thought of me and mine upon a very interesting occasion. Be assured it will give me great pleasure to be God-Father to the little William. I need not repeat how much I am attached to Coleorton - the place and its inhabitants - departed and present - and how sincerely I wish the welfare of your family. God grant that the little-one may prove a blessing to his parents".

The Lych Gate at the bottom of the path to the church was erected to the memory of Elizabeth Mary Beaumont, and a dedication service for it was held at St. Mary's church on April 17th 1901.



The following appeared in the parish magazine written by the then Rector, Harold Robinson, with respect to the death of Elizabeth Mary Beaumont - In the greatest unexpected sorrow, which has fallen so suddenly on our Rector, there is but one feeling in Cole-Orton and the neighbourhood of deep sympathy, and for universal grief for our own loss. It is hard to realise that the bright presence, so active in good works, so ready to sympathise in joy and sorrow, is gone from us, that we shall see her here no more on earth, but in the very suddenness of the blow, there is a comforting thought that she whom we loved so much was, by God's mercy, spared pain and lingering illness, while for one whose life was a daily psalm of thanksgiving, it was indeed a passing away to rest in God. "Blessed are the dead, who die in the Lord; even so saith the Spirit, for they rest from their labours". Nor is it only in this parish that her loss will be deeply mourned. Amongst a wide spread circle of friends, there is left a gap that cannot easily be filled, there is felt a grief that is deep and real.



Elizabeth Mary Beaumont, the Rector's second wife was quite an accomplished artist, and above is a sketch she did of St. Mary's church which appeared in the church magazine.

Although the following was recorded 25 years prior to the memorial service for the lychgate, the author felt that it was rather poignant and painted a lovely picture of what Coleorton churchyard would have been like at this time in contrast to its current depressing condition. It was sent by a correspondent to "The Journal of Horticulture and Cottage Gardener" dated 1875 :-

It was early spring when I was there, and the flowers in the churchyard were extremely pretty; some on the graves, and others on the grass and by the sides of the walks. At the entrance-gate there was a neat board just inside the churchyard with the following words:- "It is requested that no one will pluck the flowers in God's Acre". This name is taken from Longfellow's poem, which begins:-

I like that ancient Saxon phrase which calls
The burial ground God's Acre.

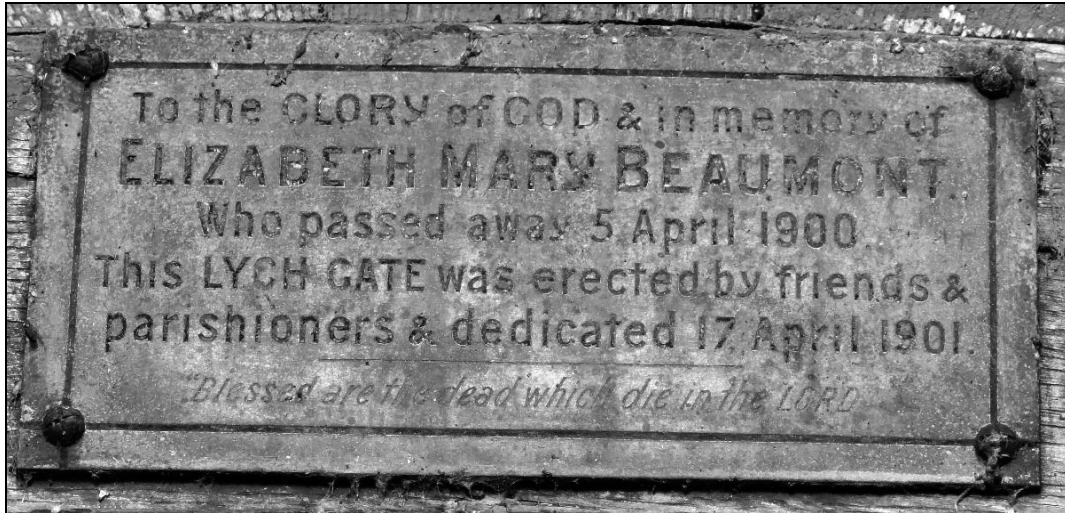
And concludes

This is the field and acre of our God;
This is the place where human harvests grow.

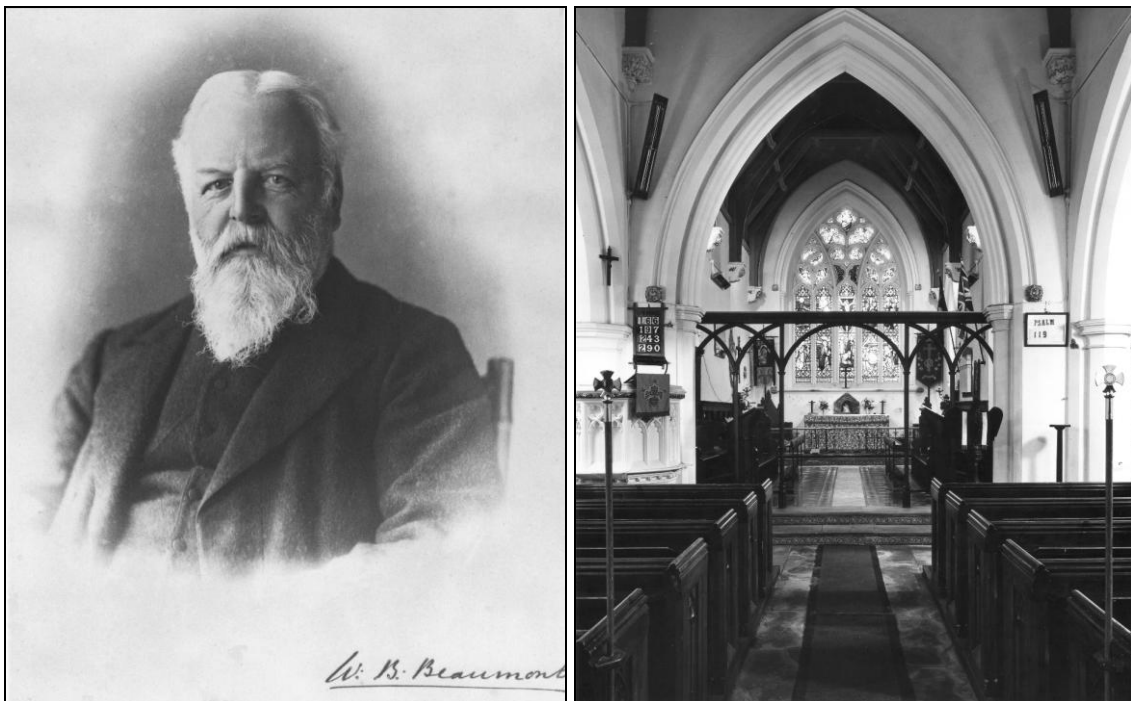
Coleorton is a churchyard worthy of imitation



The Lych-Gate



The Lychgate dedication plaque



The Rev. W. B. Beaumont, M.A. and a modern interior photograph of St. Mary's Church of which he became rector in 1864 for a period of 36 years.

The Manchester Courier & Lancs General Advertiser - June 22nd 1901

Obituary - Lady Beaumont, widow of Sir George Howland Beaumont, 9th Bart., of Coleorton, Leicestershire, died at her residence, 66 Cromwell St, London, S.W. (June 19th)

Supplementary information -

This was Sir George Beaumont, 9th Bart's second wife. He had died in 1882, hence her not residing at Coleorton Hall.

Wills and request from untitled newspaper report - Lady Beaumont, of 66 Cromwell Road, who died on June 19th 1901, *second wife, and* widow of the late Sir George Howland Beaumont, 9th Baronet, bequeathed to her maid Maria Rinne £2,000 and 100 shares in Stratton's Independence (Limited) and to Colonel Frederick Hill 100 shares, and to Helen Duncan and Dr. Sidney Beauchamp each fifty shares. The testatrix ordered that a marble replica of the bust by her of the late Sir George Beaumont should be made, at a cost of £200, and that this, together with a landscape painted by Sir George and a copy by him of a picture by Claude, should go as heirlooms with Coleorton. She bequeathed £100 for charitable purposes in Coleorton, and Lady Beaumont appointed from the trust funds settled on her first marriage £7,000 in favour of her daughter - Eva Violet Amelia Given Chistophers, and the remainder of the trust funds to her grandson Henry Digby Wallis, or on failure of this trust, as to one-half to the other children of her son Henry Aubrey Wallis, and as to the other half to the children of her said daughter. Lady Beaumont left the residue of her property in trust for the object known as the People's Palace, at the East-end of London. Her estate has been valued at £12,196 gross and £10,202 net.

The Beaumont's parlous financial situation, in the second half of the 19th century

Although the legal jargon in the researched material is quite complex, it is worth recording some of the basic facts. In the 19th century, the Beaumonts' were clearly experiencing financial problems. Two cases were heard in the high court of justice (chancery division) brought by the 8th and 10th baronets, Sir George Howland Willoughby Beaumont and Sir George Howland William Beaumont respectively.

When the first case was brought by the 8th baronet (c.1840), under the settled land act, he sort to obtain sanction from the court to sell off various chattels from Coleorton Hall. The income from the estate was given as £8,000, but there was a charge of £10,000 on the estate. It was proposed that a sale of chattels including pictures and various other items should be made to set against the debt. At this time, the 8th Baronet's only surviving son was an infant. Based on the fact that the chattels proposed were left in trust by the 7th baronet, the guardian of the infant (ad litem) strongly opposed the sale of the pictures, which would become the property of the child if he attained 21. In the exercise of his discretion, Mr. Justice Chitty declined to sanction the sale proposed to be made. The application therefore failed, and the summons was dismissed.

As further evidence of the Beaumont's parlous financial situation at this time, the Sherwins', a wealthy Coleorton family, were lending significant sums of money to the Beaumonts. At the end of this article, a copy of a page from the Sherwin account is appended. The author of this book has also written a book about the "Sherwin family of Coleorton" which is awaiting publication.

The second case brought by the 10th Baronet, c. 1885, was similar to the first, in that an application was made for the court to sanction a proposed sale of chattels, consisting for the most part of pictures at the family mansion house, Coleorton Hall, which had been settled in a previous will as heirlooms. It was proposed that the sum to be derived from the sale, which was estimated to be about £7,300, should be applied in reduction of charges on settled land. The income of the estates was about £7,500 per annum, and the tenant for life received £2,000 per annum after payment of all charges and expenses for keeping in repair &c.

The trustees opposed the application, and Mr. Justice Chitty said "that the 9th Baronet had settled the proposed chattels as heirlooms. The 9th Baronet must be presumed to have been aware of the circumstances of the family when he was providing for it by making his will, and what were the charges upon the estates and what was the income to be enjoyed by the tenant for life. He had also given the present tenant (10th Baronet) for life a sum of £17,000".

Justice Chitty said "that taking into consideration that fact, which was of some importance in an application which was, in truth, one to disturb testamentary dispositions, and also having regard to the small value of the pictures compared with the value of the whole estate, and also taking into consideration the facts that the pictures were a collection of some completeness, which had been formed by a member of the family, himself

an artist (7th baronet), and had been in the family for nearly a century, and were a characteristic feature of the mansion house, and that the guardian (ad litem) of the tenant in tail in remainder and the trustees were opposed to the sale, and that since the testator's death there had been no very substantial depreciation of the property, he, in the exercise of his judicial discretion, declined his sanction, and dismissed the application with costs".

Mr. Sherwin in account

1824.			£	s	d
Oct 30.	Cash received from Messrs Sherwin and Pratt	18500			
	Cash from Mr. Sherwin Senr	2500			
Nov 6.	Cash received from Walker on your account	263 19 2			
To amount due to Mr. Sherwin to balance		91 4 0			
		£21,353 2			
1825.			£	s	d
March 1.	By Cash from Mr. Sherwin to enable us to pay Mr. Searhead	410			
10	By Cash from Mr. Sherwin being a further loan to you and being with the £2500 above mentioned £4,200 secured by mortgage this day	1290			
		£1700 0 0			

Copy of a page from the "Sherwin" account referred to earlier, which shows substantial loans being made to the Beaumonts.

It would have become somewhat of a surprise for many, to see the following advertisement in the April 12th 1890 edition of the London Morning Post which advertised Coleorton Hall to be let on a yearly or short term of year's basis. At that time, Sir George Howland William Beaumont, 10th Baronet, held the lordship of the manor. Why Sir George decided to let Coleorton Hall is not known, but it is not unreasonable to assume that it was for financial reasons.

L EICESTERSHIRE, near Ashby de-la-Zouch (2½ miles from Ashby Station).—To be LET, with the use of the Furniture therein, either on a yearly tenancy or for a short term of years, and at a very moderate rent, a handsome Stone-built FAMILY MANSION, known as Coleorton Hall, standing high and commanding extensive views; the residence is surrounded by extensive pleasure grounds and park lands, is approached by a carriage drive with two lodges at entrance, and contains about 30 bed and dressing rooms, principal and secondary staircases, drawing and dining rooms, library, and picture gallery (these four rooms are each over 30ft. long, and open into one the other by folding doors, forming a magnificent suite of entertaining rooms), billiard-room with full sized table, handsome Doric portico entrance leading to entrance and inner halls, butler's pantry, and other domestic conveniences; stabling for about 17 horses (five or six loose boxes), harness-room, coach-houses, and cottage for coachman; the grounds are inexpensive to keep up, the kitchen garden, with vineries, &c., having been separately let; shooting over nearly 4,000 acres, about 500 acres of which are woods with conveniently interspersed spinnies, affording every facility for the rearing of a large stock of pheasants; the Atherstone Hounds meet about five miles distant; the Meynall Hounds also hunt the locality, which is likewise the forest side of the Quorn Hunt; the church is in the grounds, about 100 yards from the house; the village is about half a mile distant, and Ashby-de-la-Zouch is a good market town, where all supplies are obtainable.—To view and for particulars apply to Fisher, Jesson, and Wilkins, solicitors, Ashby-de-la-Zouch.

The following advertisement which is for the sale of the entire cellar of fine old wines from Coleorton Hall on the instruction of Sir George Howland William Beaumont, 10th Bart., was in the Leicester Chronicle dated February 19th 1887, and states that Sir George has already let the mansion at this time. There follows another advertisement from the Leicester Chronicle dated April 14th 1888 which is for an auction of a significant amount of trees grown on the estate.

It is only conjecture, but the inference seems to be that the Sir George was selling off any possible assets and had no intention of returning to the estate, following his move to France, where he lived with his mistress Mademoiselle Gabriel Louise Liegeard. Sir George deserted his wife Dame Lillie Eleanor Beaumont and died in Aix-le-Bains.

By Messrs. LUDLOW, ROBERTS, and WELLER.

ON THURSDAY NEXT,
AT THE SALE ROOMS, No. 18, NEW-STREET,
BIRMINGHAM.

Important Sale of the Entire Cellar of FINE OLD WINES, from Coleorton Hall, Leicestershire, by direction of Sir George H. Wm. Beaumont, Bart., who has let the mansion. Also, by permission, a FEW OTHER BINS of CHOICE OLD WINES and SPIRITS.

Messrs. LUDLOW, ROBERTS, and WELLER
WILL SELL BY AUCTION,

At their Sale Rooms, No. 18, New-street, Birmingham, on Thursday next, February 24th, at Two o'clock precisely,

THE above Choice and Valuable WINES, comprising Large Bins of OLD-FASHIONED SHERRIES, bottled in the years 1847, 1849, 1851, 1853, 1854, 1855, 1856, 1858, 1860, 1865, 1868, and 1874, and supplied by Lambeth, Butler, Jubber, Iveson, Cosens, &c. EAST INDIA MADEIRAS, Old Sercial and Tinto Madeiras, bottled 1830, 1860, 1870, 1876, and 1884. FINE OLD PORTS, consisting of 1847 (Lambeth's); 1851, bottled in 1856, 1852, 1853, 1855, and 1858; 1859, bottled by E. T. Hamp, of Ashby; rich port, bottled by Butler, 1860, and others. CLARETS, Chateau bottled and others, include Chateau Lafite, 1875; Mouton Rothschild, 1869; Margaux, 1869; Paveil Margaux, 1874; Palmer Margaux, 1875; Fourcade Malexot, 1875, and many others. FINE OLD BURGUNDIES, SAUTERNES, HOCKS, including PRINCE METTERNICH'S Johannisberg, CONSTANTIA, HERMITAGE, and a variety of other light wines in small quantities. The CHAMPAGNES include Geo. Goulet's, 1874; Wachter's, 1880; Louis Roederer's, 1880; Fred Meyer's, 1874, landed 1878; and others. Sparkling HOCKS include Johannisberg, 1874; old Moselles and Burgundy, 1868. VERY OLD BRANDIES, including Justerine and Brooke's Martello, 1865, &c. FINE OLD IRISH and SCOTCH WHISKIES. Rare old LIQUEURS, including Curacao, Noyaw, &c.

Note.—The Wines were principally laid down by Sir George Houlard Beaumont, Bart., and have remained undisturbed in the cellars from twenty to forty years. The Auctioneers themselves have drawn the samples, and will superintend the delivery of the Wines from the bins direct to the purchasers. See conditions of Sale.

The samples on view the day prior to and morning of the Sale, or may be had on the usual terms, and Catalogues may be obtained of

Messrs. FISHER, JESSON, and WILKINS,
Solicitors, Ashby-de-la-Zouch;
Or of the Auctioneers, No. 18, New-street, Birmingham.

wa345

By Messrs. GERMAN, GERMAN, and COOPER.

GERMAN, GERMAN, & COOPER,

AUCTIONEERS and ESTATE AGENTS

Offices: Ashby-de-la-Zouch, and Market-day stand-
apart at Loughborough, Derby, and Atherstone. wa830

Coleorton Estate. — Important Sale of Timber.

GERMAN, GERMAN, and COOPER

Are instructed by Sir G. H. W. Beaumont, Bart.,

TO SELL BY AUCTION,

On the above Estate, on Wednesday, April 25th, 1888,

343 LOTS of OAK, ASH, ELM, SPRUCE,
and LARCH TIMBER TREES and
POLES (including 82 Oak, 263 Ash, and 137 Spruce),
Cordwood, &c.

The Timber is all coppice grown, and the greater part of large dimensions, the Ash and Spruce being particularly worthy the attention of the Trade. It all lies in close proximity to good roads, and is in easy reach of several railway stations.

Mr. J. Hough, of Coleorton, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, will on application appoint a man to show the lots, which can be viewed in one day.

The company is requested to meet at Lot 1, near the bottom lodge, on the Belton-road, at eleven o'clock.

Dinner will be provided at the Beaumont Arms Inn, Coleorton, at the close of the Sale, at a charge of 1s. 6d. per head, which will be returned to purchasers.

Further particulars and catalogues may be had from the Auctioneers, Ashby-de-la Zouch. wa830

The author has found no information regarding who leased Coleorton Hall between 1887 and 1891

THE DONISTHORPES' AT COLEORTON HALL c.1891 - c.1903

From c.1891 to c.1903 the Donisthorpe family were leasing Coleorton Hall. The information available for the latter years is rather sketchy. However, we know that Mr. A. R. Donisthorpe died at Quenby Hall aged 74 in January 1904 leaving an estate of the gross value of £205, 954 0s. 6d.

Mr. A. R. Donisthorpe was the owner of a company of wool-spinners, and their factory in Bath Lane, Leicester is believed to date back to between 1794 and 1820. This building, was Leicester's oldest surviving factory building, but was badly damaged by fire in 2012.

From the 1820s, this area of Leicester was the centre of a thriving worsted spinning industry and the processes housed in the early mill buildings would have included wool preparation (carding and combing) and spinning, the final product being prepared for framework knitting.



Donisthorpe & Co. Ltd - Donisthorpe Mills, Frog Island, Leicester

Donisthorpe and Company was founded in 1739. But in 1220 there had been an monastery sited on that spot, belonging to the Black Friars of the Order of St Dominic, explaining why the building is often referred to as Friars Mills.

**What was left of this historically important building
was burnt down in July 2012**

The Donisthoe's employed a considerable number of staff at the hall and the photograph below was thought to have been taken of some of their staff outside the hall, possibly on the occasion of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee celebrations in 1897 although we have no concrete evidence for this.



See the Coleorton censuses for details of staff

From the Leicester Daily Post - Wednesday 21st October 1891

A sale of work at the School Room in Newbold in aid of restoration work at St. Mathews Church, Worthington, was held under the patronage of the Right Hon. the Earl Ferrers and Countess Ferrers, Lady Beaumont (Dowager), the Rev. Canon W. B. and Mrs. Beaumont, Colonel Partridge and Mrs Partridge, and Mr. N. C. Curzon and Mrs. Curzon.....**Mrs and Misses Donington** were amongst the distinguished guests.

Leicester Daily Post - Friday 30th October 1891

ACCIDENT IN THE HUNTING FIELD

The Quorn hounds met in the vicinity of Coleorton on Thursday, foxes being found, but none were killed. **Miss Donisthorpe of Coleorton Hall**, it is reported, was thrown from her horse, as also was young Hill, the son of a coachman, the latter being kicked by the horse. No serious injuries were sustained.

Leicester Journal - Friday 04 November 1892

COLEORTON HALL

A serious accident befel **Mr. Wright**, butler to **Mr. Donisthorpe**, of **Coleorton Hall**, yesterday (Wednesday) morning. It appears that he was violently thrown out of the trap through the restiveness of the horse he was driving, sustaining a deep cut on his forehead. Dr. Turner was at once called in, and his injuries were attended to.

Burton Chronicle - Thursday 30th November 1893

A FASHIONABLE WEDDING AT COLEORTON HALL

At the local church on Tuesday afternoon, Miss Beatrice Minnie Donisthorpe, second daughter of Mr. Donisthorpe at Coleorton Hall and Leicester, was married to Capt. W. Wanby Griffin of the Royal Artillery, at present stationed at Woolwich. The service was performed by the Rev. R. E. Griffin, brother of the bridegroom and Vicar of Halserown, St Ives, Cornwall assisted by the Rev. Canon Beaumont, Rector.

A large concourse viewed the wedding procession from the hall to the church. An awning 40 yards in length had been erected, under which the wedding party gained access to the church. The awning was of white calico, relieved with scarlet twill and adorned with evergreens, creating a pretty effect when viewed from the grounds of the hall. The church was filled before the wedding party arrived. The bride accompanied by her father, arrived at the church punctually at one o'clock, the hour fixed for the ceremony. The floral decorations were simple but effective, chrysanthemums decorating the altar table and the pillars near the chancel. The many guests invited to the wedding breakfast were present in the church and included Sir Edward and Lady Sieverking, Lady Beaumont, Mr. and Mrs. John Beard (Linton), Canon and Lady Beaumont, Miss Fane (Melbourne), Capt. Gordon (93rd Highlanders), Lieut. Logan (Chatham), Canon and Mrs. Denton, the Rev and Mrs. Vandeleur (Ravenstone), Rev. Terry (Ellistown), Lady Cave and Miss Cave, Dr. C. R. Williams (Ashby), Mrs. St. John (Ashby), Mr. and Mrs. Elliot Galer (Leicester). Mr. E. Clephan (Leicester) and many others.

The service was fully choral. The "Best Man" was Doctor F. T. Griffin, brother of the bridegroom. The bride who was given away by her father wore a rich white satin costume, trimmed with old Brussel's point lace, a wreath of orange blossoms, and a long veil, and carried an exquisite bouquet of white exotics and orange blossoms. The bridesmaids were the sisters of the bride, Miss F. E. Donisthorpe, Miss I. M. Donisthorpe, and Miss C.M. Donisthorpe. They were attired in pink silk, trimmed with deep flounces of white lace, and wore large "picture" hats trimmed with silk to match and carried bouquets of red chrysanthemums tied with pink satin ribbon. They also wore gold safety pins with monogram in pearls, presented by the bridegroom, and the bride wore a diamond pin, gold links, gold brooch, and a diamond ring, also presented by the bridegroom.

The bride's dress was an admirable specimen of the costumer's art, and was made by Madame Oliver Holmes of London, while the bridesmaids dresses, neat and pretty, were made by a local hand.

No less picturesque was the attire of the niece of the bride, Miss Madeline Howard, who gracefully carried a shower bouquet of chrysanthemums and formed one of the wedding party - there were numerous wedding presents.

Leicester Chronicle - Saturday 01 February 1896

THE QUORN HOUNDS.

The meet yesterday was at Coleorton Hall, in beautiful hunting weather. There were present: The Countess of Loudoun, Lord Lonsdale, the **Misses Donisthorpe**, Captain Townshends (Netherseal), Captain Charrington, Messrs. J. Denton, W. E. Stevenson, H. Joyce, T Oakey Earp (Staunton), W. A. Musson, Barrs (Odstone), and W. German (Packington). The hounds found a fox in Coleorton Gorse, and after a good run killed near Lount Wood. Subsequently there were some pretty and exciting runs.

THE ABEL-SMITHS' - BACKGROUND INFORMATION PRECEDING THE MOVE TO COLEORTON HALL

The wealthy Abel-Smith family could be said to be members of the upper class society and certainly lived up to that image particularly following the later Royal connection. There follows some information on their life prior to leasing Coleorton Hall. All the evidence seems to suggest that the Mr & Mrs. F. Abel-Smith never actually purchased a property but following their marriage below, leased well known historical properties in Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire including Easthorpe House, Ruddington; Papplewick Hall, Notts; Coleorton Hall, Leics; The Manor House at Ashby-de-la-Zouch; and Beaumanor Hall at Woodhouse Eaves, Leics.

Nottingham Guardian - Friday 14th August 1885

MARRIAGE OF MR. F. ABEL-SMITH AND MISS MADELEINE SEYMOUR

REJOICING AT HOLME PIERREPOINT

The marriage of Mr. F. Abel-Smith and Miss Madeline St. Maur Seymour was celebrated at Holme Pierrepont Church on Tuesday morning under the happiest auspices and general rejoicing. The bride is the fourth daughter of the Rev. H. Seymour M.A. rector of Holme Pierrepont, and the bridegroom is the son of Mr. A. H. Smith of the firm of Messrs Smith & Co., bankers of Nottingham and Wilford.. Both families are greatly esteemed in the neighbourhood and throughout the Nottingham district and the proceedings in consequence partook largely of a public character.

The road from the rectory to the church was made gay with buntings and floral decorations. At the entrance to the carriage drive had been erected a triumphal arch, made of evergreens and flowers set off at the top with a motto giving welcome to the visitors. From flagstaffs along the line hung the Union Jack and other flags. Another triumphal arch crowned with an appropriate motto and composed of flowers and evergreens was erected at the entrance to the churchyard and from here to the sacred edifice, and extending along the nave up to the communion rails, crimson cloth had been laid.

The church itself was a splendid picture, and much labour and great taste had been extended upon it in the way of decoration. The columns were set off with roses, Ivy and the dainty clematis and various other flowers and plants; the sides of the pews were relieved with a plenitude of floral devices; while from the upper portion of the building hung numerous shields formed of flags. The Chancel, too, had been extremely pleasing, the decorations, floral, and otherwise, being in excellent taste and in strict keeping with the nature of the celebration.

The ceremony was fixed for the hour of eleven o'clock, and not long before that time, large numbers of friends, and well wishers had assemble outside the church and in the beautiful park of Holme Pierrepont to witness the proceedings. The applications for

admission to the church were very much more numerous than could be accommodated, so that not only was the Church full, but when the bride and bridegroom, together with the bridesmaids, relatives, friends, flower children and congregation had all assembled the scene was really brilliant and impressive. Whilst the congregation were assembling, and previous to the arrival of the wedding party, Mr. W. Smith, the organist performed a number of voluntaries including a pleasing arrangement of one of Rubinstein's melodies. For the introductory voluntary he played a piece in F by Smart.

The bridegroom being a Lieutenant in the South Notts, Yeomanry Cavalry, an escort, in honour of the occasion was formed by a body of troopers of the corps, and the Radcliffe company of the 2nd. Nott's Rifles volunteers under the command of Lieut. Evelyn Stuart Seymour, acted as a guard to keep the approach clear to the church. The bride was escorted by her father, who gave her away, and Mr. Herbert Smith acted as best man to the bridegroom.

The bridesmaids were nine in number as follows:-

Miss. Seymour, Miss Julia M. Seymour, Miss Lillian Seymour (sister's of the bride); Miss Alice Smith, Miss Constance Smith (sister's of the bridegroom); Lady Mary Pierrepont, Miss Sullivan, Miss Marion Sullivan and the Hon. Bridget Vera Byng.

The service was choral and the singing was led by Mr. James Browne. The services were read by the very Rev, the Dean of Rippon, assisted by the Rev. Edward A. W. Seymour, brother of the bride. At the conclusion of the ceremony, the Dean delivered a brief but appropriate address, pointing out what were the true elements of happiness in the married state and impressing upon all present that marriage was a religious, and not a mere social or civil rite.....A long list of witnesses followed.....

The bride wore an ivory satin dress, the front being covered with pearls and the bodice trimmed with lace and pearls. She had on her hand a wreath of orange blossoms, and her veil was of Tuile. For ornament, she had on a gold necklace set with pearls, the gift of the bridegroom. The bridesmaid's dresses were of cream coloured satin, the skirts being coloured with cream covered lace, and caught up at the side with long satin ribbon. The veils were of Tuile, and the wreaths were of marguerites. The veils were fastened to the waist at the back with a band of marguerites. Each bridesmaid wore a gold bangle fastened with a horseshoe of pearls, the gift of the bride.

After the signing of the registers, the party adjourned to the Rectory, where breakfast was served, both this and the luncheon served later in the day being supplied by Mr. Bingham of the Long-Row, Nottingham.....A long list of guests then sat down to breakfast.....

In a large marquee, in front of the rectory, a luncheon was served to visitors and friends and the band of the South Nott's, Yeomanry, conducted by Mr. W. G. Taylor performed.

In the afternoon, the Bride and Bridegroom left Holme Pierrepont for the Channel Islands and the Continent where they intend to spend their honeymoon.....

There was a tremendously long descriptively detailed list of presents given to the Bride and Bridegroom.

EASTHORPE HOUSE

There is a record that the Abel-Smiths' were living at Easthorpe House, Ruddington, Nottinghamshire in 1891.



Recent photograph of Easthorpe House

PAPPLEWICK HALL

The Abel-Smiths were leasing Papplewick Hall, Nottinghamshire, c.1896



Papplewick Hall, c.1936 with St. James church in the distance

Nottinghamshire Guardian - Saturday 04 March 1899

PAPPLEWICK CHURCH.

During the last twelve months some extensive improvements have been effected at this old church. The bells have been re-hung, the interior cleaned and decorated, the sanctuary paved with mosaics, and a handsome new altar cloth and altar rails provided by **Mr. and Mrs. F. Abel-Smith, of Papplewick Hall**, who have taken an active part in this excellent and much-needed work, and on Tuesday the last of a series of efforts to

secure funds was arranged, **in the shape of a sale of work in the old Hall**. The spacious dining-room was occupied by a large stall, and filled to repletion with a variety of articles, and in an adjoining room refreshments were provided for the visitors. The arrangements were superintended by Mrs. Abel-Smith, who was ably aided by Miss Ethel Hind, Mrs. Cundy, Mrs. and Miss Weddall, the Misses Machin, Miss J. Wright, Miss Hardstaff, and the Misses Ducker. £31 12s. 8d. was cleared, which leaves a small balance in hand, after meeting all expenses.



St. James Church, Papplewick 1897

Nottinghamshire Guardian - Saturday 21 October 1899

On Wednesday afternoon, about 100 ladies resident in the neighbourhood of Papplewick responded to the invitation of Mrs. F. Abel-Smith, and were entertained at Papplewick Hall, where a large display of ladies' work, suitable for distribution amongst the sick and poor of the county, was on view in the library. Tea and refreshments were furnished to the guests in the dining-room, and in the drawing-room a concert was given, the performers being Mrs. Walter Salmond and the Misses Salmond and Mrs. Richard Birkin. The music was thoroughly enjoyed by the party, especially the original compositions from the pen of Mrs. Salmond. Mrs. Abel-Smith was heartily thanked for her hospitality, and that lady expressed her appreciation of the contribution of needlework for the Guild, of which she is the local president

THE ABEL-SMITH'S MOVE TO COLEORTON HALL

The Abel-Smiths moved to Coleorton Hall on April the 14th 1904 and Mrs. Abel-Smith's leaving presentation was on March 23rd 1925 at Coleorton School.

When the Abel Smiths arrived at Coleorton Hall from Papplewick Hall, Nottinghamshire, it is recorded that one of the first things they did was to install a new head gardener, Henry Wilson, junior., and tight constraints on the agent Fisher Jesson were applied, **because the landlord is "short of money" (Sir G. H. William Beaumont, 10th Baronet of Stoughton).**

An invoice dated 1904, shows "The Midland Horticultural Works" (owned by Messenger and Co,) had a contract at Coleorton Hall to carry out various work, particularly in relation to boilers, green houses, pipe work etc. Payment for invoices was being delayed because it was stated "the landlord was short of money". Presumably this was referring to Sir George Beaumont, 10th Baronet, and it is further proof of the parlous financial situation the Beaumont estate was in.

It is important to note, that during the period when Coleorton Hall was being leased by the Abel-Smiths', the Beaumonts' clearly had a good relationship with them as numerous Beaumont functions were still held at the hall. The Beaumonts' remained landlords of the Coleorton estate still of course.

At the time the Abel-Smith's move to the hall, the 10th Baronet was Lord of the Manor. He had lived abroad for many years with his mistress Mademoiselle Gabriel Louise Liegeard. The 10th Baronet died in 1914 in Aix le Bains, France at the age of 63. On his death, his son Sir George Arthur Hamilton Beaumont, 11th Baronet, inherited the Beaumont honours and estate. This approximately coincided with the time Sir George Arthur Hamilton Beaumont, 11th Baronet, had joined the army at the age of twenty.

When Sir George Arthur Hamilton Beaumont, 11th Baronet, married Renee Northey in 1923, they went to live in "The Gables" at Coleorton, then owned by the Beaumonts, as Mrs. Abel-Smith's lease still had three years to run. Sir George and Lady Renee moved into the Hall after Mrs Abel-Smith left in the spring of 1925 to become the lessee of the Manor House, adjacent to the castle at Ashby-de-la-Zouch, the former home of the Countess of Loundon.

The author is of the view that after the death of her husband Francis, in 1908 who was an "extremely" wealthy banker, Mrs. Abel-Smith, saw herself as the "Lady of the Manor", during her time at Coleorton Hall. Mrs. Abel-Smith and the children certainly played an interesting part in Coleorton History, and their son Capt. Henry Abel-Smith married into Royal circles as can be seen later. There is ample evidence that the Able-Smiths' appeared to be extremely well liked by the people of Coleorton.

We start the period of the Abel-Smith's lease of Coleorton Hall with "The William Wordsworth Centenary Commemoration", which was recorded in an obituary for

Mr. Francis Abel-Smith as being organized by him. Ironically, there was no known ancestral relationship with Wordsworth.

WORDSWORTH CENTENARY COMMEMORATION AT COLEORTON HALL IN 1907

THERE FOLLOWS EXTRACTS FROM NEWSPAPER ARTICLES ON
WORDSWORTH'S CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS -
THESE ARE THE ONLY KNOWN RECORDS

From the Loughborough Monitor - July 1907

WORDSWORTH AT COLEORTON CENTENARY COMMEMORATION PROCEEDINGS AN INTERESTING GATHERING

Note – Pictures plus information in italics added by Samuel T. Stewart.

One hundred years ago, the great poet, William Wordsworth, paid his first visit to Coleorton, and on Sunday and Monday this fact was commemorated by divine service in the church on Sunday and a gathering in the hall grounds on Monday.

During his first visit to Coleorton, the poet lived at the “Hall Farm” from October, 1806, to August, 1807. *This was whilst he was designing the Winter Garden for Sir George and Lady Margaret Beaumont*



Hall Farm in 1981

Here his friend, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, was with him from December 1806 to February, 1807; there also he was visited by Sir Walter Scott. In the Hall Farm which has been occupied by Mr. T. Radford for nearly half a century (*his grave is in St. Mary's Churchyard*), is a record of the famous people who have visited it. It runs from the early days of the nineteenth century. Coleorton Hall, the seat of Sir George *Howland* Beaumont, *7th Baronet of Stoughton*, with its shady groves, its smooth lawn, its classic alters, and its antique treasures, was the haunt of many a child of genius. Sir George

Beaumont, who was endowed with true artistic perception, acquired some celebrity both as a landscape painter and a collector, and extended his hospitality without stint to votaries of the brush. There, Wilkie, Lanseer and Gibson in the morning of life found a warm and kindly patron. There, Wordsworth conversed and meditated with Coleridge, and wrote some of his best poetic pieces. There, Haydon went to talk and dream, and there, Sir Walter Scott met Davy, Rogers and Byron. The Hall Farm has been visited by Sarah Siddons, the celebrated actress, in the time of Sir George Beaumont's residence at *Hall Farm* for four years whilst the hall was being re-built (*he spent much of his time at his Grosvenor Square London residence with Lady Beaumont*). It has also been visited by Charles Dickens (*the author has found no other evidence to confirm this*).

Sir Walter Scott, the wizard of the North, there wrote part of "Ivanhoe" whilst visiting Sir George, for of those who have read the romance know, the scene of the tournament took place just a short distance away "on the memorable field of Ashby de la Zouch, one of the most gallantly contested tournaments of the age". Coleorton, indeed abounds with many memories particularly relating to the post Wordsworth. In the Parish Church there are two tablets by Chautrey, one in memory of Sir George Beaumont referred to by Wordsworth in his "Elegiac Musings", the stanzas of which were suggested by a picture of Peele Castle which was painted by Sir George. Another was in memory of Mrs. Fermont, the inscription upon which being composed by Wordsworth. *Mrs. Fermont was the sister of Sir George Howland Beaumont, 7th Bart's wife Margaret Willes of Astrop Manor, who he married in 1778.*



B&W copy of "Peele Castle in a Storm" by Sir G. H. Beaumont, 7th Baronet.

On the Sunday, the sermon in the morning was preached by the Rev. Christopher William Wordsworth, Chaplain of Clifton College, and a great-grandson of the Rev. John Wordsworth.

From the Leicester Daily Post - Tuesday July 9th 1907

**WORDSWORTH CENTENARY CELEBRATION AT COLEORTON
INTERESTING MEMORIES OF THE POET**

Note – Pictures plus information in italics added by Samuel T. Stewart.

The celebration in connection with the Wordsworth centenary, organized by Mr. and Mrs. F. Abel-Smith, of Coleorton Hall, which, as already reported, began on Sunday, were continued yesterday, when a large party were entertained by Mr. and Mrs. Abel -Smith, and the villagers were provided with tea and sports, and other amusements were indulged in. The arrangements were, however, somewhat marred by rain, which fell towards evening. A very large number of guests had accepted invitations amongst whom were.....*there are too many to list but well over two hundred are estimated including some Wordsworth relatives.....*

THE HALL FARM ASSOCIATIONS

Hard by Coleorton Hall lies the Hall Farm (the residence of Mr. and Mrs. T. Radford), which is full of relics of Wordsworth and contemporary poets, chief amongst which are six line engravings of what is known as the "Coleorton Group", being portraits of William Wordsworth, Walter Scott, and Samuel Taylor Coleridge in one frame, and George Gordon Byron, Thomas Moore, and Robert Southey in another. Wordsworth lived at the Hall Farm in 1806 and 1807 at the invitation of Sir George Howland Beaumont, himself one of the finest amateur artists of the day, which accounts for his intimacy with Sir Joshua Reynolds. Sarah Siddons was also a visitor at Hall Farm. Mrs. Radford also had an autograph of Wordsworth, which with one of the late Queen Victoria and Prince Consort were lent to the exhibition, which was arranged in the magnificent library in the hall. Sir Walter Scott wrote the greatest part of "Ivanhoe" here, according to a statement made by Sir George Beaumont, who died in 1881 (*should be 1882*). Dorothy Wordsworth (*who was with the poet*), writing to Lady Beaumont in November 1806, speaking of the Hall Farm, said:- "We like the place more and more every day, and every day we find more comfort in having a roomy house. The sitting-room, where, by the fireside, we have seen some glorious sunsets, we far more than like - we already love it". Again - "We have not been much further than your grounds except to Ashby, where we have gone several times on business - the roads, if you don't go very far from home, are by no means as bad as I expected. For instance, the Ashby road till you come to the turnpike, is very well. Afterwards, to be sure it is shocking, and no doubt the Ashby people think we are marvelous creatures to wade through it".

Other exhibits included the original edition of "The Excursion" with the poets corrections; Wordsworth's poems, his gift to his godson, W. B. Beaumont; the official catalogue of the contents of Dove Cottage, Grasmere (*Wordsworth's home*); one of the Coleorton parish registers, containing two signatures by Rev Jno Wordsworth, 1828; a portrait of the Rev. Francis Merewether, who is mentioned in several of Wordsworth's letters; and many other interesting relics lent by members of the Wordsworth family.

Professor Knight, LL.D., of St. Andrews sent a large number of portraits and pictures to the Rev. Harold Robinson, the rector of Coleorton, to be included in the exhibition, comprising five photographs of portraits of Wordsworth, a portrait by W. Byron, Grasmere Church, Wordsworth's grave at Cockermouth, Dove Cottage, and Heidelberg

Castle, by Dorothy Wordsworth, when visiting the Rhine with her father and Coleridge in 1828; the walk in the gardens behind the house at Cockermouth, where Wordsworth and Dorothy were born; seven engravings from water-colour drawings, by J. MacWhirter, of places associated with Wordsworth; other portraits of Wordsworth, his wife, sister, daughter etc., and a book of MSS, of Wordsworth Coleridge and Southey. Professor Knight also wrote a study and a eulogy of the poet, which was read by the Rev. Harold Robinson to the guests in the picture gallery, where also Miss Elizabeth Wordsworth, principle of Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, gave an address, which, with the professor's paper, showed that Wordsworth was the poet of humanity as well as of nature.

ADDRESS BY THE BISHOP OF LEICESTER

The Bishop of Leicester gave an address to the company assembled at tea on the lawn. He said that he believed most of them were in church on the previous evening when he had an opportunity of saying something about the poet himself. This commemoration was a very unusual thing. There were not many places that had a connection with great men, and when there was a connection, it did not seem at all suitable that it should be forgotten, as they were apt to be. He could imagine that the young people of Coleorton would remember that day for the rest of their lives. It would set them thinking of Wordsworth, and his (the bishop's) belief was that there were very few of our great poets who were better worth thinking about than he was. Among the lessons he taught them was of value and interest in every human life. No one ever took more interest than Wordsworth did in everybody that he came across, no matter what his condition might be. Even a beggar on the road was of interest to him! He never saw a human being but what his heart went out to him, and he found something in him that was worth thinking about. "Peter Bell" was not a model character at all, but Wordsworth felt there was something in him. There was a tale about a Coleorton man and he (the bishop) would be glad to know whether it could be traced. Whilst walking between the Hall Farm and the hall, Wordsworth used to repeat his verses in rather a loud voice, and he discovered that a Coleorton man used to walk after him and listen to what he was saying, picked up a good many of his lines, and used to repeat them. When the poet heard of this some years later after, he sent the man a copy of his poems, and hoped he would recognize some of the lines. "I wonder" said the bishop, "if that copy is in Coleorton now?" It would be well worth while, he proceeded, to make enquiries about it. There was a reference by the poet also to a Coleorton man named Mitchell. (a voice; There is no Mitchell in the parish now). This man was a watchman in whom Wordsworth was interested. He told Wordsworth the tale about the seven whistlers and of "Gabriell's Hounds". "I wonder" said the bishop, "if anything is known about that?" The idea is that a man was hunted by his own hounds, but as to the seven whistlers, he believed that the story was well known, although he did not know if anyone had heard them. He did not know what a better lesson could be taught than to learn to find interest in all that there was about us, and to believe that there was something well knowing in every human being they met. His Lordship concluded an interesting address by an expression of exceeding sorrow that Mr. F. A. Abel-Smith was unable to be present due to illness (*he died in 1908*), a sorrow which was, he was sure, shared by all. (Hear, Hear). It deprived him of the pleasure of making Mr. Abel-Smith's acquaintance. (Applause). The Rev. H. Robinson, in a few remarks, thanked the bishop for his address, and especially for his references to Coleorton.

CONTINUATION OF THE ABEL-SMITHS' PERIOD OF RESIDENCE AT COLEORTON HALL.

Even though the Abel-Smiths were members of the upper class society, Mrs. F. Abel-Smith was very much a voice for good in the community. She was involved in numerous charitable functions, and was clearly well known for her good work in the locality and wider area. There are many newspaper reports that refer to her good work and generosity but they are too numerous to include here, however, a small selection has been included. She was also invited to open numerous events. They did excellent work in promoting the "Coleorton and District Horticultural Society" and before his death Mr. F. Abel-Smith was the president. Large events were organised at the hall and dinners were held at the Beaumont Arms. The number of entrants for vegetable competitions etc were numerous from all around the county.

Leicester Daily Post - Thursday 21 December 1905

The Quorn Hounds met at Coleorton on Saturday morning. It was a beautiful morning, and there was a large field. The usual hospitality was extended by Mr. F. Able-Smith. of Coleorton Hall, and hounds and huntsmen then moved off to Spring Wood. Among the company were the Master, Captain Forester. the Misses Abel- Smith (Coleorton Hall), Miss Bellasis, Mr. and Mrs. Paget, Mr. J. D. Craddock, Major Tennant, Captain Pennington, Mr. F. Whetstone, Mr. O. Worthington, the Rev. H. E. Worthington, Mr. J. Harriman, Dr. and Mrs. Burkitt, Mr . F Jesson. Mr. Shields, Mr. R. O. Crewmen, Mr. J. Shepherd, and others.

A fox was soon found in Spring Wood. For a time "Bernard" kept his pursuers in the vicinity of the wood, and ultimately led off in the direction of Lount, where he was lost returning to Coleorton, a second fox was found, and he gave the hounds a good run in the direction of Ravenstone, where he also was lost.

Coalville Times - Friday 19 January 1906

ASHBY BOARD OF GUARDIAN - WORKHOUSE

MASTER'S REPORT. The workhouse master (Mr. Blake) reported the receipt of cards for the inmates from Mrs Abel-Smith, of Coleorton Hall.—A vote of thanks was passed to Mrs. Abel-Smith. Mr. Blake also reported that three children named Curtis of Coalville were admitted to the home on Friday on an overseer's order, **the parents having been sent to prison for five months for neglect.**

Coalville Times - Friday 02 March 1906

TO RELIEVE THE MONOTONY

Mrs. Pratt suggested that an invitation be given to Mrs. Abel-Smith, of Coleorton Hall. to visit the Workhouse when she thought fit, with the view of teaching the old inmates certain things in which they could pass their time and thus relieve the monotony. While in Nottinghamshire, Mrs. Abel-Smith did excellent work at the Basford Union and she said she would be glad to visit the Ashby Workhouse if invited. Mr. T. Radford said he would

second it and thought it would be a very good thing. Mr. Adcock said it was a new thing and they did not know how it might come into collision with the regulations of the house. He thought notice of motion should be given. Mrs. Pratt said she should be pleased to give notice.

Leicester Daily Post - Friday 30 November 1906

COLEORTON.

For Waifs and Strays.—

By the kindness of Mr. and Mrs. F. Abel-Smith, a drawing-room meeting in support of the Church of England Society for Waifs and Strays was held at Coleorton Hall, on Wednesday. Invitations were sent out to the neighbouring villages, and there was a large company present, including Mrs. and Miss Booth (Gracedieu Manor), Mrs. Jno. Martin and Miss Martin (Charley Hall), Mrs. W. A. Musson, hon secretary for Ashby district and for the Children's Union, Mrs. Barber (Ravenstone Hospital), Revs. H. Robinson (Coleorton), J. H. Bailey (Swannington), A. J. Meakin (Breedon), and C. H. D. Moore (Hugglescote). The chair was taken by the Rector of Coleorton.—The Rev. Archibald Nicol was present as a deputation from the society, and gave an interesting address on the useful work being done to reclaim and make good citizens, many who would probably otherwise gradually drift into a life of crime. If they had more funds at their disposal he thought they would make each diocese in the kingdom a separate district, so as to better carry out the society's work. There were two homes in his section, one at Stonegate, Leicester, for boys, and the other, which had recently been opened at Kettering, for girls, out of the total of 101 homes kept going by the society. He asked those present to do what they could to help the society. A collection was taken at the close, and realised upwards of £20. Tea was afterwards served, and reception rooms thrown open to the visitors.

Leicester Daily Post - Monday 03 December 1906

FROM ASHBY BOARD OF GUARDIAN MEETING - ASHBY WORKHOUSE

.....Master's Report - The Master reported the receipt of tobacco, buns, shawls etc., for the inmates from Mrs. F. Abel-Smith of Coleorton Hall to whom the thanks of the board were given.....

Melton Mowbray Mercury & Oakham & Uppingham News - Thursday 22nd August 1907

OUTING FOR WORKHOUSE INMATES

In connection with the "Brabazon" scheme instituted at Ashby workhouse by Mrs. F. Abel-Smith of Coleorton Hall, a number of the inmates were taken on Tuesday on the light railway for a trip to Barton where they had tea. They were accompanied by the matron (Mrs. Blake), Mrs. Pratt, Mrs. German, Miss Ison and Miss Isable Hastings. There were 21 children, 11 men, and 14 women, and the trip was greatly enjoyed.

THE DEATH OF MR. FRANCIS ABEL-SMITH

Leicester Chronicle – March 28th 1908

Death - Mr. F. Abel-Smith of Coleorton Hall, Ashby de la Zouch, died on Friday afternoon at Bournemouth where he had resided with his family during the winter. He had been in failing health for some time. He was head of the firm of "Smith, Payne and Smith's", bankers, and also honorary colonel of the Nott's Hussars. He had resided at Coleorton Hall for four years. The deceased gentleman leaves a widow, three sons and two daughters. While residing at Coleorton Hall, Mr. Able-Smith organized a "Wordsworth Celebration" in honour of the poet's association with Coleorton.

THE WILL OF MR. FRANCIS ABEL-SMITH

**Leicester Chronicle & Leicestershire Mercury –
Saturday, June 6th 1908**

Will of Mr. F. Abel-Smith of Coleorton

Estate of Half a Million Pounds

The gross value has been sworn as £541,846 11s 6d of the personal estate of Mr. F. Abel-Smith of Coleorton Hall, Ashby de la Zouch, director of "The Union of London and Smith's Bank Ltd".

A HIGH SOCIETY WEDDING AT ST.MARY'S CHURCH WITH RECEPTION AT COLEORTON HALL MR. EDGAR HUTTON AND MISS VERA CHEDWYND- STAPYLTON.

**Melton Mowbray Mercury and Oakham and Uppingham News - Thursday 15
July 1909**

The wedding of Mr. Edgar William Hutton and Miss Vera Chedwynd-Stapylton was solemnised at Coleorton Church on Wednesday. The bridegroom is the only son of the late Colonel Edmund Bacon Hutton, 1st Royal Dragoons, and the late Lady Katherine Hutton, of Blidworth Dale, Notts, and grandson of the late Earl of Charleville, whilst the bride is the youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Chedwynd Stapylton, of Weybridge, Notts. The picturesque environments of Coleorton Hall were enhanced by tasteful decorations, and by the kindness of Mrs. F. Abel Smith. A large number of tickets of admission to the grounds and church were issued. Fortunately the weather was fine before and during the ceremony, and hundreds of spectators lined the carpeted awning from the hall to the church to see the bridal procession. Under the direction of Mr. Wilson, the pretty church was lavishly adorned with lilies of the valley, mounted amongst the twining smilacaceae, which also encircled the pillars, whilst orchids were banked on the window sills, and the pulpit and font were exquisitely dressed with rare flowers. A band stationed on the lawns playing a wedding march announced the approach of the bride, whose girlish beauty was admired as she entered the church with her father, who afterwards gave her away. The bridegroom was accompanied by Mr. Miles Selby-Smyth, of the Rifle Brigade. The officiating clergy were the Rev. Canon

Chedwyne Stapylton, grandfather of the bride, and the Rev. H. Robinson, rector of Coleorton. The service was choral, and included the hymns, "Lead us, Heavenly , Father," and "O perfect love." The bride wore a simple Princess robe, with long train of exquisitely soft satin brilliant. The bodice was draped fische fashion, with soft crepe chiffon and pearl embroidery. The collarless transparent yoke was of fine lace, and the tight sleeves of chiffon and lace. A wreath of orange blossoms on her head was covered with a beautiful old veil of tulle, powdered with pearls and edged with exquisite Limerick lace, lent by Lady Emily Howard Bury, the bridegroom's aunt. The bridesmaids were Miss Dorothy Chedwynd Staylton and Miss Grace Chedwynd Stapylton (sisters of the bride) , Miss Madeline Abel-Smith, Miss Ella Ohetwynd-Stapylton, Miss Helen Chetwynd Stapylton, Miss Violet Abel-Smith (cousins of the bride), and Miss Dorothy Gordon (niece of the bride), and Miss Margery Bacon (cousin of the bridegroom). The gowns of the grown-up bridesmaids were of pale shell pink & charmeuce mounted over taffeta under dresses, and made after a picture by Romney, having pretty fichus of pink chiffon de sole edged with lace, quaint belts on which were worked roses, and the old-fashioned puffed sleeves encircled twice with wreaths of roses. The children's dresses were of soft white muslin, with little quaint yokes of Valenciennes done into squares, old-fashioned fichus of insertion of lace and full gathered skirts, with little ruched flounces over silk underskirts, the shell pink colour repeating itself in waistbands, buckles, and sashes. The bridesmaids' presents were pendants of pink crystal net in diamonds, and they had bouquets of pink Madame Chesney ruse. The pages who bore the bride's train were Master Alexander Abel Smith. (her cousin) and Master Edward Hutton (the cousin of the bridegroom). The honeymoon in to be spent in Pans and the Austrian Tyrol. The bride went away in a dress of delicate blue chiffon voile, made as a draped Princess gown, with embroidery of the same, and yoke and half-sleeves of white lace. She wore a large black picture hat, trimmed with long blue feathers, and a biscuit coloured Shantung travelling cloak. A reception was held at Coleorton Hall. The guest list was far to long to be recorded here.....

**THE WEDDING IN LONDON OF
MR HARRY TABOR & MISS MADELEINE ABEL-SMITH
FOLLOWED BY A CELEBRATION RECEPTION AT COLEORTON
HALL FOR THE VILLAGERS**

**Leicester Chronicle & Leicestershire Mercury –
Saturday June 14th 1913**

The following is a synopsis only of the newspaper article, as the content was far too large to include all of it.

**MARRIAGE OF MISS MADELEINE ABEL-SMITH
FASHIONABLE WEDDING IN LONDON (11th JUNE)**

Miss Madeleine Abel-Smith and Mr. Harry Tabor were married at St. Peter's, Eaton Square, London, before a large congregation which included many notable people.

Mrs. Francis Abel-Smith held a reception at 9, Chelsea Embankment, S.W. The house is picturesquely situated, overlooking the Thames, with a view of Battersea Park.

It formerly belonged to "The Marquis of Ripon". The guests numbered several hundreds. The floral decorations were carried out by Mr. H. Wilson of Coleorton Hall Gardens (*Head Gardener*).

A number of Ashby and Coleorton residents left Ashby by the 8.46 a.m. train to attend the wedding. They were provided with luncheon by the kindness of Mrs. Abel-Smith at the St. Pancras Hotel, and afterwards went on a motor tour through London before arriving at the church. Subsequently, they were entertained at Mrs. Abel-Smith's town residence (Princess Gate, Kensington) and went on a second motor tour, ending at St. Pancras, where tea was served before departing to Ashby

Leicester Chronicle - September 20th 1913

Wedding reception at Coleorton Hall – villagers entertained

By invitation of Mrs Madeleine Abel-Smith, of Coleorton Hall, between 600 and 700 residents of the villages assembled in the beautiful grounds of her residence on Saturday, to celebrate the wedding of Mr and Mrs Harry Tabor. It will be remembered that the marriage of "Miss Madeline" (as Mrs Smith's daughter was known in the villager's homes) to Mr. Harry Tabor, of Ashtead, Surrey, took place at St. Peters', Eaton Square, in June, and on Saturday, Mr and Mrs Tabor, made their first appearance together amongst the people, and received a very hearty welcome.

Three large marquees were erected on the lawns, in which tea was provided. The "Coalville Coronation Band" played selections meanwhile, and a troupe of "Peirrots" gave several performances, whilst hundreds of children made merry in the grounds. Mrs Abel Smith extended a greeting to everyone, and with her friends, visited the tables whilst the tea was in progress. The house party included – Mr and Mrs Harry Tabor, Miss Violet Smith, Mr. Henry Abel-Smith, Mr Alex Abel-Smith, Lady Maud Hastings, Viscount Tamworth, Lady Jean Shirley, Lady Phillida Shirley, Mrs Phillimore, the Rev. R and Mrs Fawkes, Mr. E. Seymour, Mrs Goodman of Park Hatch, Mrs Marjorie Goodman, Misses Irene and Marjorie Stewart, and Miss Cable.

During the evening, Mr Harold Robinson, Rector of Coleorton, said that this was a very special occasion, and he desired to say how grateful they all were to Mrs. Smith for her many kindnesses and at the same time to wish Mr and Mrs Tabor long life and happiness (applause).

Mr. George Beckworth, the oldest inhabitant, cordially endorsed what had been said, and he added that he hoped Mr and Mrs Tabor would live together for 50 years, "the same he had with Mrs Beckworth" (laughter) – Mr. H. Cuthbert also joined in the expression of good wishes.

Mr. Tabor said he was very glad of the opportunity of meeting them all and of thanking them for the magnificent present they gave his wife on their marriage. He hoped to see a great deal of them in the future, of those with whom his wife had been so closely associated, and he hoped that the kind feeling towards her which she prized so dearly would be extended to himself. He was sincerely grateful also to Mrs. Smith for the great kindness she had always shown him (applause).

Mr. E. Seymour responded for Mrs. Abel-Smith, saying how deeply grateful she was for the kindly expressions made towards her and her family. A beautiful garden was a great possession, but its beauty and enjoyment were enormously enhanced by the presence of hundreds of happy faces, and he was sure Mrs. Smith was never so happy as when her people were around her.

There was a display of fireworks at night.

Leicester Chronicle – October 4th 1913

Worthington – Opening of the new parish rooms – On Saturday,

Mrs. F. Abel-Smith of Coleorton Hall, opened the parish room, the Rev. H. B. Green presiding at the gathering. Mr. J. G. Shield of Isley Walton, he said, had generously given the land, and when the framework had been erected, they came to a standstill, because they had not the money to complete the work, but Mrs. Abel-Smith came to the assistance, defraying the expense, and at a later date, brought them 100 chairs! – A hearty vote of thanks was accorded Mrs. Abel-Smith.

Mrs. Abel-Smith then formally opened the doors, and entered the building. – Tea and a concert followed.

Leicester Chronicle – September 5th 1914

Mrs. Abel-Smith of Coleorton Hall, has organized a women's working party, and they meet for work on the lawn of Coleorton Hall. On Tuesday, Mrs Abel-Smith had with her, Lady Maude Hastings, the Countess of Huntingdon, Lady Kathleen Hastings, Viscount Hastings, Mr & Mrs Harry Tabor, Rev. H. and Mrs Robinson, Rev. H. and Mrs Green, Miss Seymour and others. Five of the employees of Mrs. Abel-Smith have joined the new army.

Coalville Times - Friday August 6th 1915 (Issue 1222) Page 3

WOUNDED SOLDIERS AT COLEORTON HALL

V.C.'S DRAMATIC MEETING WITH RESCUED MAN

About 400 wounded soldiers in Leicester and county hospitals had an outing on Saturday, arranged by the Leicestershire Automobile Association. It was intended to visit Beaumanor, but the death of Mrs Perry Herrick necessitated a change in the arrangements and Mrs F. Abel-Smith, of Coleorton Hall, placed her grounds at the disposal of the promoters. Over a hundred cars, several of which were driven by ladies, were lent for the occasion and the route taken was via Loughborough and Gracedieu. The villagers of Coleorton gave the wounded soldiers a splendid reception, many displaying flags and cheering the men as they passed, while some ladies threw cigarettes to the Tommies. In the beautiful grounds of Coleorton Hall, associated with Wordsworth, the company spent a most enjoyable afternoon, the weather being beautifully fine.

Amongst those present at Coleorton were Mrs Abel-Smith, Countess Ferrers, Lady Joan Shirley, Lady Maude Hastings, Lady Hon. Mrs Skipworth, the Hon. Dorothy Maude, Miss Violet Abel-Smith, Miss Isabel Hastings, Mr and Mrs Evelyn Seymour, Mr and Mrs Radford, Mr and Mrs St. Quentin, the Rev. and Mrs H. Robinson, the L. H. Wellesley Wesley, Mr Michael Wesley, Mr Henry Abel-Smith, and Mr Alex Abel-Smith.

Whilst the men were recalling their exploits of the past few months a dramatic meeting occurred. Private Buckingham, V.C., the modest and fearless life saver of the 2nd Battalion Leicestershire Regiment, unexpectedly saw for the first time since he performed his deed of bravery at Neuve Chapelle on March 12th, one of the men he

rescued under fire. It was his gallantry in regard to this particular man that was so much taken into consideration when it was decided to award the former Countesthorpe Cottage Homes boy the coveted V.C.

The rescued soldier, Corporal W. Tarry, "A" Company, 2nd Leicesters, had for a long time keenly desired to express his deep sense of obligation to the V.C. hero, and to whole heartedly congratulate him on the King's high recognition of the service rendered, but it had hitherto been impossible for him to do so. Corpl. Tarry was taken from the Base Hospital to Coleorton from the Charnwood Convalescent Home on Saturday, and he had not the slightest idea that Private Buckingham would be included in the company. It was whilst Tarry was making the best use of a pair of crutches – he was shot through the thigh – that the men met. Immediately they recognised each other, but for the moment neither spoke. Their vivid memories had temporarily got the better of them, but when they did speak it was one long stream of mutual congratulation.

Tea was served in a marquee on the grounds, and a concert, arranged by Mr G. W. Appleby, was gone through, the artists being Miss Edith Holloway, Mrs M. E. Wood, Mr J. Goddard, Mr H. Appleby, and Mr Ian McKensie. The Borough of Leicester Club and Institute Silver Prize Band, conducted by Mr S. Brown, also rendered a number of items.

At the close Councillor P. L. Baker expressed the thanks of all concerned to Mrs Abel-Smith for entertaining them. He mentioned that it was originally intended to go to Mrs Percy Herrick's at Beaumanor, but unfortunately owing to that lady's illness and subsequent death, the idea had to be abandoned. Whilst they deplored Mrs Perry Herrick's death, they admired the spirit of Mrs Abel-Smith, who, when told of the dilemma they were all in, said, "Bring them all here."

Cheers and musical honours were accorded Mrs Abel-Smith, who, in reply, said she needed no thanks. Mrs Perry Herrick was dreadfully distressed when she found that she could not entertain them, but she was so pleased when she knew they were going to Coleorton. Mrs Perry Herrick was a very charitable lady and she knew of no one who would be more missed.

The return journey was via Whitwick, Copt Oak and Bradgate.

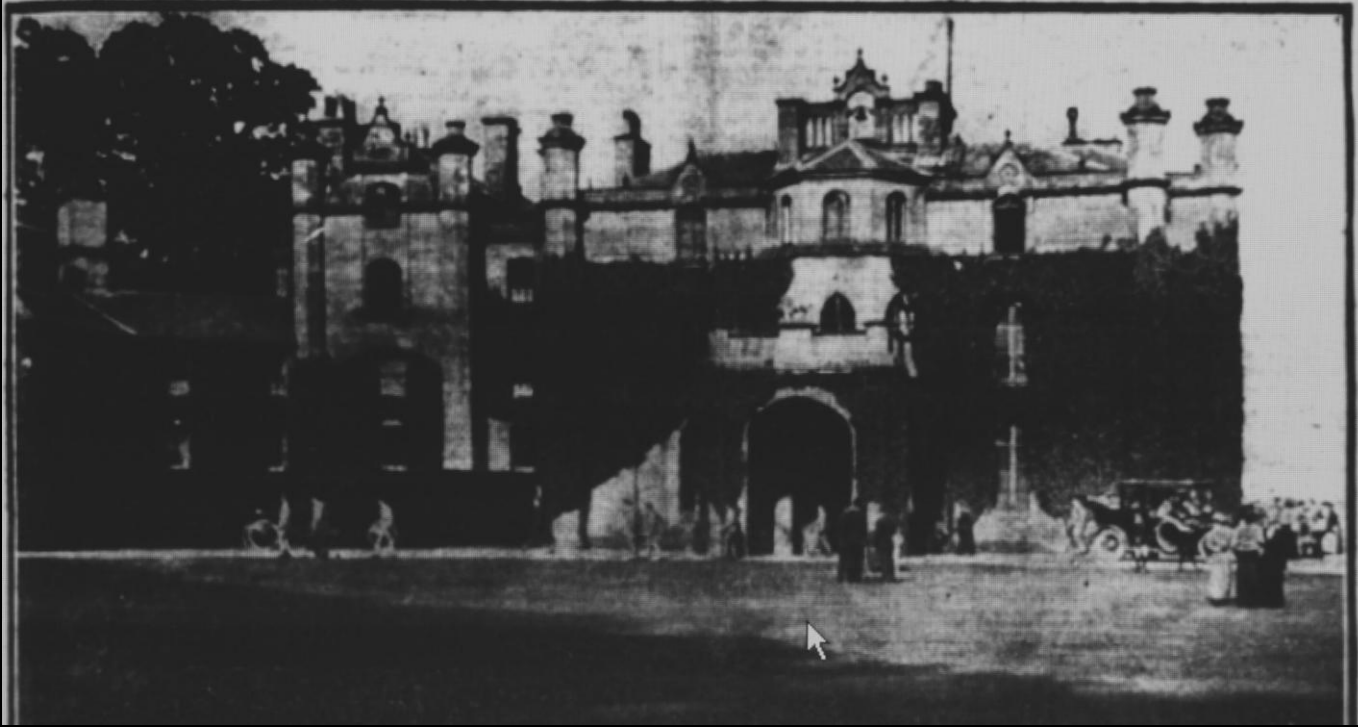
The Illustrated Leicester Chronicle - Saturday 24th June 1916

WOUNDED SOLDIERS OUTING TO COLEORTON

A striking photograph of Coleorton Hall, Nr. Ashby-de-la-Zouch, the stately home of Mrs. Abel-Smith who on Saturday last, entertained 200 wounded soldiers taken out from Leicester by the Automobile Club.

Continued over page

WOUNDED SOLDIERS' OUTING TO COLEORTON.



A striking photograph of Coleorton Hall, near Ashby-de-la-Zouch, the stately home of Mrs. Abel Smith, who on Saturday last generously entertained 200 wounded heroes, taken out from Leicester by the Automobile Club. Coleorton Hall is the seat of the Beaumont family, and was built by a former baronet, Sir George Beaumont, in 1805. Surrounded by beautifully kept grounds it commands a magnificent view of Charnwood Forest. The poet Wordsworth was a frequent visitor here, and memorials to him and to Sir Joshua Reynolds are objects of interest in the gardens. Beneath is a photograph of the members of the Leicester Club and Institute Band who played for the wounded soldiers at Coleorton Hall. In the centre is Councillor P. L. Baker, who organised the excursion.

The Leicester Club & Institute Band who played for the wounded soldiers

The illustrated Leicester Chronicle - Saturday December 16th 1922

ENGAGEMENT OF MISS V. ABEL-SMITH OF COLEORTON HALL

Miss Violet Abel-Smith, youngest daughter of the late Mr. F. Abel-Smith and of Mrs. Abel-Smith of Coleorton, whose engagement to Mr. Hugh Alastair Hamilton Fraser is announced. Miss Abel-Smith is captain of the Coleorton Girl guides, and has also started a troop at Ashby-de-la-Zouch. Mr. Hugh A. H. Fraser is the son of Sir Hugh and Lady Fraser of Stromeferry, Ross-Shire, and 43, Linden Gardens, London, W. and is a member of the Fraser Clan.



Nottingham Evening Post – November 13th 1923

A two day bazaar was opened at Loughborough yesterday by Mrs. Abel-Smith of Coleorton Hall, to wipe off the debt on the restoration of Holy Trinity Church, which was partly destroyed by fire in 1918.

Nottingham Evening Post – August 4th 1924

The grounds of Coleorton Hall were lent by Mrs. F Abel-Smith, on Saturday, for the annual fete in aid of The Leicester County and Coleorton and Swannington Nursing Associations, which was opened by Lady Ferrers.

Supplementary information - *It is clear to the author, that although Mrs Abel-Smith was leasing and living at the Hall, the Beaumonts had maintained a close relationship with her. The hall and grounds were still used by the Beaumonts' for at least three major events before Mrs. Abel-Smith moved to the Manor House adjacent to Ashby Castle, previously occupied by the Countess Loudon.*

Sir George Arthur Hamilton Beaumont, 11th Baronet of Staunton and Lady Beaumont moved back into the hall to take up his seat again as Lord of the Manor by the middle of

1925 in time for his son's first birthday anniversary as reported in the Nottingham Evening Post -Sept 26th 1925.

As early as 1919, Sir George held a large party for his tenantry in Coleorton. An extract from the photograph of that event is shown below, with Sir George and his mother on his left hand side in the centre. The Lady Dowager went to live at "Swannington House" before the Abel Smiths occupied the Hall, as a result of her husband the 10th Baronet deserting her. The Abel Smiths also hired out the hall & grounds for notable weddings.



Extract from the landscape picture entitled "Coleorton Tenants Entertained by Sir George Beaumont" – August 16th 1919. Sir George is in the centre with his mother to his left.

MRS. ABEL-SMITH'S LEAVING PRESENTATION AT COLEORTON SCHOOL ON 23RD MARCH 1925

Leicester evening Mail - Tuesday 24th March 1925

COLEORTON'S GIFT PARISHIONERS FAREWELL TO MRS. F. ABEL-SMITH

*

RECORD OF KINDNESS

After occupying Coleorton Hall for nearly 21 years, Mrs. F. Able-Smith is leaving for Ashby-de-la-Zouch, having taken the Manor House there, and as a token of affection and esteem, the parishioners of Coleorton last evening presented Mrs. F. Abel-Smith with a beautiful silver rose bowl and sugar sifter, for which nearly all the villagers had subscribed.

The event took place in the school, and there was a large attendance. The Rector presided, and the presentation was made by Mr. H. M. Cuthbert, who said it was a painful duty, though at the same time a pleasant one. During all the time that Mrs. Abel-Smith had lived amongst them, she had devoted herself to making others happy and her good work had not been confined to Coleorton, but everywhere in the district one heard nothing but praise for Mrs. Abel-Smith and her many kindnesses. They had been blessed in Coleorton in having such a lady living amongst them for so long and she had endeared herself to them all, and it was with the deepest regret that they met to say goodbye. They hoped that she would be spared for many years to carry on the good work with which she had been associated.

The inscription on the rose bowl was - "Presented to Mrs. Abel-Smith, on her leaving Coleorton, as a token of respect and affection of her neighbours and friends in the parish., March 1925.

Little Miss Sheila Stacey, on behalf of the day school teachers presented to Mrs. Abel-Smith a beautiful album containing all the names of the subscribers.

HAPPY YEARS

Mrs. Abel-Smith in reply, thanked them very much and said she would treasure those beautiful gifts, which would be handed down to members of her family. It would always be a reminder of the happy years spent at Coleorton. It was a sore trial to leave this beautiful place, the only home that three of her children ever rememberd. It was 21 years on April 14th since they came there. She felt that her lines had fallen in pleasant places, and she had everything in the world to make her happy. She had been wonderfully helped by the kindness of them all. She regarded Coleorton as the most wonderful place in the world, and was sorry to leave it.

Mr. Alex Abel-Smith also spoke acknowledging the kind references to himself and other members of the family.

Coleorton Hall is associated with Wordsworth, the poet having often stayed there, and a monument to his memory stands in the hall grounds. The hall has for centuries been the ancestral home of the Beaumont family. Sir George and Lady Beaumont are shortly to take up residence there.

**MRS F. ABEL-SMITH (MADELEINE ST. MAUR)
LEAVES COLEORTON FOR THE MANOR HOUSE
AT ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH MARCH 1925.**

**Leicester Chronicle - Saturday 28th March 1925
"FAIRY GODMOTHER"**

Regret is freely expressed in the Coleorton district at the departure of Mrs. F. Abel - Smith from Coleorton Hall. Mrs. Abel-Smith is held in high esteem by all in the village and the neighbourhood, and has been termed "The Fairy Godmother of Coleorton", a title which she richly deserves.

The Coleorton folk have one consideration, and that is that Mrs. Abel-Smith is not leaving the district. She has taken the Manor House at Ashby-de-la-Zouch (*adjacent to the castle*) the former home of the Countess of Loundon.

Leicester Daily Mercury - Wednesday 13 January 1926

This afternoon Mrs. Abel-Smith, of the Manor house, Ashby, opened the new wing of the Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Kilwardby Street, Institute in the presence of a large and enthusiastic assembly. Nominally, the institute is the property of the Wesleyan body, but the club is quite non-sectarian, and payment of 1s. a year as acknowledgment money is the rent charged. Mr. J. H. Sutton, J.P. who was the prime mover in the erection of the institute, presided at the opening ceremony. A tea followed the speechmaking, and a whist drive is being held this evening.

Leicester Evening Mail - Tuesday 04 February 1930

I am sure all our readers will join with me in wishing Mrs. F. Abel-Smith, of the Manor House, Ashby, a speedy recovery. Mrs. Abel-Smith has been an active worker for the Conservative cause and also for the Church. During the latter part of last summer Mrs Abel-Smith had to withdraw all public duties and go into a private nursing home owing to a serious illness. I am now informed officially that Mrs. Abel-Smith has left the nursing home and set sail on Friday, January 31st, for South Africa to recuperate. I also understand that she has a son in South Africa who holds a very important position, and that she hopes to see him.



Ashby Manor House

LADY MADELEINE ABEL-SMITH MOVES TO BEAUMANOR, WOODHOUSE EAVES BY 1931

By 1931, Mrs. Abel-Smith had returned from her recuperation in South Africa, left the Manor House at Ashby and taken out a lease on Beaumanor, Woodhouse Eaves, owned by Mr. Herrick of the well known and respected Herrick family.

Leicester Evening Mail - Tuesday 01 September 1931 **DATE OF WEDDING NOT FIXED**

Lady May Cambridge, daughter of the Earl of Athlone and Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone, left Beaumanor, Woodhouse Eaves, yesterday, where she has been staying with Mrs. Francis Abel-Smith, mother of Capt. Henry Abel-Smith, her fiancé, to rejoin her parents, who are holidaying in Brussels. During her ten days stay at Beaumanor, Lady May spent most of her time riding in the mornings, and playing tennis. Captain Abel-Smith is on Salisbury Plain for the manoeuvres, but, it is understood, he will be free from his duties there on September 19, the date on which his bride-to-be and her parents return to London. Both October 13 and October 15 have been mentioned as possible dates for the wedding, but the "Leicester Evening Mail" was informed to-day by Mrs. Abel-Smith that the exact date has not yet been axed.



**THE MARRIAGE OF
LADY MAY HELEN EMMA CAMBRIDGE ABEL-SMITH
(BORN PRINCESS OF TECK)**

**Photographs relating to Lady May Helen Emma Cambridge
& Capt. Henry Abel-Smith**



Photograph issued prior to their wedding at St. Mary's Church, Balcombe,



**Miss May Helen Emma Cambridge
Born Princess of Teck**



On the left Princess May as a toddler with her mother (Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone) and brother Rupert. She was the only daughter of the Earl & Countess of Athlone. On the right, Lady May's happy smile as she left St. Mary's Church, Balcombe on the arm of her husband Captain Henry Abel-Smith. She was radiant in her gown of shimmering satin and veil of Honiton lace lent by the Queen (Queen Mary), who wore it at her own wedding. The bride broke a precedent of centuries of Royal weddings by omitting the word "obey".

Lady May (formerly Miss May Helen Emma Cambridge) and cousin of the King, married Capt. Henry Abel-Smith (later to become Sir Henry) on 24 October 1931 in St. Mary's church, Balcombe, Sussex, close to the Athlone residence at Brantridge Park. **The bride was attended by four child bridesmaids; Princess Elizabeth (later to become our current Queen),** Rosemary Madeline Hamilton Fraser, Jennifer Bevan and Kathleen Alington: and eight adult bridesmaids; Hon. Imogen Rhys (daughter of Walter Rice, 7th Baron Dynevor), Lady Mary Whitley, Phyllis Seymour-Holm, Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, Princess Ingrid of Sweden, the later Princess Sibylla of Sweden, Verena Seymour (daughter of Sir Edward Seymour and granddaughter of the 4th Marquess Conyngham), and Wenefryde Tabor. The best man was Cecil Weld Forester, 7th Baron Forester of Willey Park.

In the front pew of the north side of the nave at St. Mary's church, Balcombe is a brass plate marking the spot where Queen Mary sat at the wedding of her niece, Lady May Cambridge to Captain Henry Abel-Smith of the Royal Horse Guards, on 24th October 1931. Other guests included the Prince of Wales, more members of the Royal family and many foreign royalties. Princess Elizabeth, now Her Majesty the Queen, was a bridesmaid. The bride was the daughter of the Earl and Countess of Athlone who lived at Brantridge Park.



THE QUEEN'S GRAND-NIECE.—A new portrait of Lady May Abel Smith, formerly Lady May Cambridge, and her daughter Anne Mary Sibylla, who was born last year.



The photograph on the left shows the first daughter Anne Mary Sibylla (b. July 28th 1932). In the RH photograph at the front is the second child, son and heir, named Richard Francis (b. Oct 11th 1933) and held by the nurse with mother and father either side. At the rear are the Earl of Athlone and Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone with Mary Anne Sibylla. They had a third daughter Elizabeth Alice (b. Sept 5th 1936)

Lady May did not carry out any royal duties due to being only a distant member of the royal family. She did attend some major royal events such as the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II and the wedding of Charles, Prince of Wales and Lady Diana Spencer. At the latter event, Lady May was credited with popularising the counterweights at the back of women's necklaces to prevent the clasps from turning around, which she often wore herself on her usual pearl necklaces. Between 1958 and 1966, Sir Henry Abel Smith served as the Governor of Queensland. Lady May accompanied Henry to Brisbane, as vice-regal consort. They retired in 1975 to Barton Lodge at Winkfield in Berkshire, England. Lady May died one year after her husband. They are both buried at the Royal Burial Ground, Frogmore, not far from Windsor Castle. Her funeral was held at St George's Chapel, Windsor on 9 June 1994. It was attended by the Duke of Gloucester and Princess Alexandra, representing the Royal Family.

Nottingham Evening Post – November 23rd 1931

Lady May Abel-Smith, and her husband, Capt. Henry Abel-Smith, have promised to attend a dance in the Coleorton village school on Wednesday, promoted by the local lodge of the Manchester Unity of Oddfellows. Lady May will present the prizes in dancing competitions. Coleorton is the Leicestershire village where Capt. Abel-Smith spent much of his early life.

A DAUGHTER BORN AT KENSINGTON PALACE

Leicester Evening Mail - Friday 29 July 1932

Lady May Abel-Smith, daughter of the Earl and Countess of Athlone and wife of Captain Henry Abel-Smith, gave birth to a daughter at Kensington Palace, the residence of her parents, last night. Both mother and baby are stated to be going on well. This event is of considerable interest to Leicestershire, for Lady May spent much time at her husband's home at Beaumanor, Leicestershire, prior to her marriage last October. Lady May Abel-Smith was often to be seen hunting with the Quom Hounds and riding with her fiancé through the lanes of Leicestershire. Lady May Abel-Smith and her daughter were stated this day to be both going on well. The news of the birth of this baby has been relayed to the King and Queen on board the Royal yacht, Victoria and Albert, at Cowes. Lady May Abel-Smith, who before her marriage was Lady May Cambridge, is a niece of the Queen, and a daughter of Princess Countess of Athlone and the Earl of Athlone. Captain Abel-Smith is a son of Mrs. Francis Abel-Smith, of Princes Gate, Kensington, and Beaumanor, Woodhouse Eaves, Leicestershire, and the late Mr. Francis Abell Smith. He was aide-de-camp to the Earl of Athlone when he was Governor of South Africa and is in the Royal Horse Guards.

ROYAL FAMILY AT WEDDING

The Queen, the Prince of Wales, and the Duke and Duchess of York, with many other members of the Royal family, were present at the wedding, which took place in the little church at Balcombe, a village of Sussex. Lady May chose a country wedding herself, and particularly wished it to be at the Church of St. Mary's, Balcombe, where her parents have their country residence, Brantridge Park. For her marriage, the Queen lent her a very old Honiton lace veil, and the little Princess Elizabeth was numbered among her 12 bridesmaids. There were celebrations for the villagers in Leicestershire as well as in Balcombe, prior to the wedding, and a wedding eve dinner party was held at Brantridge Park. People from every part of the country journeyed to Balcombe, to witness the marriage, which claimed the interest of people all over the world.

ANN MARY SIBYLLA COMES TO BEAUMANOR

Leicester Evening Mail - Tuesday 30 August 1932

CAPTAIN AND LADY MAY ABEL-SMITH AND A BLUE-EYED BABY

As I rang the bell at Beaumanor, Woodhouse Eaves, to-day, the residence of Mrs. Frances Abel-Smith, I could see a large bassinette through a side window. It belonged to baby Anne Mary Sibylla, the infant daughter of Lady May and Captain Abel Smith, who arrived yesterday to spend three months at this delightful Leicestershire mansion. When the door swung open a nurse was just crossing the hall with the little mite wrapped up in a warm shawl in her arms, to be placed in the pram and taken out for her morning siesta. She was accompanied by her great aunt, Miss Seymour, Mrs. Abel-Smith's sister. I went in to look at this wonderful baby, for she is indeed wonderful, a little blue-eyed doll with just a wisp of dark hair peeping underneath a white lace bonnet with pink rosettes, and she has a beautiful skin. With gentle persuasion she smiled for the nurse and settled down snugly among lovely cosy pink and blue shawls.

Miss Seymour then took me down to the hard tennis courts where a number of the house party were. Some of them had gone to Derby races while Mr. Alexander Abel - Smith had made the journey to London. However, a very strenuous set of tennis was being played by Captain Abel-Smith and the Hon. Henry Tufton. Mrs. Abel-Smith returned with me to the house, and as we passed the front with its beautiful terraced lawns, Lady May came down the steps, it being her first appearance to-day as she had rested from her motor Journey from London yesterday. She looked extremely young and sweet in a soft blue silk frock with a cardigan coat to match. She wore no hat, and her pretty fair wavy hair was dressed in a swathing in her neck. Lady May's dog Whisky was by her side. She assured her mother-in-law that she had had an extremely good night, and her first question was: " Where is my baby?"

Leicester Evening Mail - Tuesday 13 December 1932

RENT ON MRS. ABEL-SMITH'S HOUSE

The rent Mrs. Abel Smith was paying Mr. Herrick said was no rent at all. In fact, it might be said "he payed her to keep the place warm for him", he added. Mr. Herbert Bennett, of Richardson and Neville. Derby, said the agreement between Mrs. Abel -Smith and the owner was extraordinary. It was a caretaker's rent and did not reflect truly what an ordinary person would be prepared to pay. He suggested that a rental of £300 would easily be obtained. In reply to Mr. Loseby, who asked whether a house let for £500 a year before the war could not be let now for £100. Mr. Bennett said "No that is not my experience". "The market for country houses is limited" he said later. The tastes of people who rented country houses were mentioned by Mr. Bennett and he said tenants might object to the furniture and refuse to rent the house.

REASONABLE RENT

Mr. Brassey, addressing the Court, said Mr. Herrick was paying a substantial sum to keep his house going. In return, he was receiving a caretaker's rent in order that the house be kept up. Otherwise, would it not be better, if he sold his furniture and invested the money said counsel. "It would bring him in a greater return". Mr. Brassey stressed the fact that the rent which was being received should not be the basis upon which the assessment was made. He asked the court to decide what was a reasonable rent for Beaumanor and the assessment should rest on that figure. Mr. Joseph said the only alternative to accepting a rental of £200 a year was demotion. But £200 was £200 and it was no reason why an assessment should not be fair and proper. The appeal was allowed and the assessment reduced to £200. Costs to be taxed out of court by the Clerk of the Peace were allowed.

Leicester Evening Mail - Monday 06 November 1933

CHRISTENING OF LADY MAY'S SON

The christening of Lady May Abel-Smith's son will take place at St. Mary Abbot's Church, Kensington, at three p.m. on Saturday next, Armistice Day. Lady May, who is the daughter of the Earl of Athlone, is the Queen's favourite niece. Her husband is Captain Henry Abel-Smith, son of Mrs. Abel-Smith, of Beaumanor, Woodhouse Eaves. The boy, who was born on October 11, is to be named Richard Francis Abel- Smith. The godparents will be Princess Juliana of the Netherlands, Mrs. Francis Abel-Smith, the Earl of Athlone. and Mr. Edward Seymour. Princess Juliana will not make the Journey from Holland, but will be represented at the christening.

Nottingham Journal - Saturday 11 November 1933

LADY MAY ABEL-SMITH'S SECOND CHILD

LADY MAY ABEL-SMITH is showing that she has that loyalty to the past which has distinguished her parents, Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone, and the Earl of Athlone. They are famous for their never-failing interest in South African affairs and their memory of people they met while they were out there. I went up to find what artist had given his work for the charity.

In a smaller and domestic way, Lady May has a similar trait. When her second child is christened next Saturday she has decided not to have the ceremony at one of the fashionable West End churches.

St Mary Abbots, Kensington, where the christening of the first child took place, is once again to be the scene. Also for sentiment's sake, she has asked Dr. Carter, the former Archbishop of Cape Town, who officiated at her wedding, to baptise the boy. He will be called Richard Francis, and Princess Juliana of the Netherlands is to be one of the godparents.

Leicester Evening Mail - Thursday 21 December 1933

LADY MAY ABEL-SMITH, accompanied by her husband, Captain Henry Abel-Smith, who are spending Christmas with Mrs. Francis Abel-Smith at Beaumanor, Woodhouse Eaves, was presented with a difficult task when she arrived at about half past ten last night at the Church Hall to judge fancy costumes. She received a splendid reception and looked charming in a gown of black with steel bead trimming at the waist line and a magnificent three-quarter evening coat of black ring velvet with an enormous white fox collar and bands on the cuffs to the elbow. It was lined with white ermine. Around her neck hung a beautiful pendant of turquoise and diamond, and her massive diamond engagement ring glittered on her finger.....

Leicester Evening Mail - Monday 19 March 1934

GUIDES' BAZAAR - LADY MAY ABEL SMITH'S VISIT TO LOUGHBOROUGH

Lady May Abel-Smith opened a bazaar at Loughborough Town Hall on Saturday, organised by Loughborough Division Girl Guides in aid of the Children's Convalescent Home, Woodhouse Eaves. A crowd of several hundred waited at the door, unaware that the lady who arrived with Mr. and Mrs. William Martin and the Rev. Arthur King, Woodhouse Eaves, was the distinguished visitor, and that she was already speaking on the platform. It was stated that Lady May Abel-Smith had made a special Journey from Windsor to perform the ceremony. - Mrs. C. H. Martin, County Commissioner, presided and was supported by the Mayor, Councillor J. S. Mart, who proposed a vote of thanks to the visitor. The Hon. Mrs. R. E. Martin, who seconded, Mr. C. B. Carryer, chairman of the Convalescent Homes Committee, and Mrs. Quilter, matron.

VISITS BY THE ABEL-SMITHS' TO COLEORTON

Leicester Evening Mail - Thursday 26th November 1931

LADY MAY AT COLEORTON CHARITY DANCE

CAPTAIN ABEL-SMITH RECALL BOYHOOD DAYS

HEARTY WELCOME

ODDFELLOWS - OFFICERS ATTEND

The visit of Capt. Abel-Smith and Lady May Abel-Smith to Coleorton last night was an event of great interest to the villagers, to many of whom the Captain is personally known, he having spent a good portion of his boyhood days at Coleorton.

The occasion was a dance organised by the Loyal George lodge of the Manchester Unity of Oddfellows, the proceeds being for the juveniles summer outing fund.

Amongst those present were the Grand Master of the district, Mr. George F. Sheffield, of Coalville and Mr. Elijah Toon of Coleorton, the past provincial grand Master (see supplementary information at end).

The Bohemian Band provided a good programme, and Messr's. A. H. Choyce and Mr. J. D. Smith were M.C's.

Lady May looked charming in a dress of Princess Mary Blue Broderie Anglaise and black seal fur-lined coat with white fox collar and cuffs. She wore a single string of pearls, and had blue satin slippers to match her dress.

Mrs. F. Abel-Smith who accompanied by her son and daughter-in-law was attired in a black lace dress with brocaded coat and wore three strings of pearls. Capt. Henry Abel-Smith wore a pink hunting coat with evening dress.

BOUQUET PRESENTED

The youngest Oddfellow, Alec Toon, aged four and a half years presented to Lady May a bouquet of flowers from Coleorton Hall, Capt. Henry Abel-Smith's former home.

The Grand master, Mr. G. F. Sheffield expressed a hearty welcome to the distinguished visitors. Mrs. Abel-Smith he said, was always welcome to Coleorton or anywhere in Leicestershire. She was known for her good works and the world would be better if there were more like her.

The past provincial Grand Master, Mr. E. Toon, said that the effort that night was to raise funds to take 150 boys and girls to the seaside in the summer. But for this effort these children might never see the sea.

Mrs. Abel Smith said they were very gratified to the Coleorton people, who had always been very dear to her, and it was a great grief to her when they had to leave Coleorton. It was always a pleasure to them to come and help in any small way and she hoped the effort would be a wonderful success. She added: "I am so delighted to present my daughter-in-law to you tonight. I think you have only to look at her to see what a good wife she will be and how very fortunate my son is.

There was a common saying she went on to say, that a man was the head of a woman; but an old man once said, "I am not sure, I think the woman is the neck that twists the head, the way she wants it to go". "If Lady May is to be the neck, I think you will agree that she will twist the head in the right way", she added.

Dancing competitions then took place, Capt. Henry Abel-Smith and Lady May Abel-Smith acting as judges.. Four prizes, given by Mrs. F. Abel-Smith were awarded, the winners being:- Foxtrot, Mr. Haydn Chambers and Miss Gladys Smith; Waltz, Mr. L. Chester and Miss Irene Chester.

After Mr. Clifford had moved a vote of thanks succeeded by Mr. Bott. Capt. Abel- Smith said that on behalf of his mother, his wife and himself, he would like to thank them all for the warm welcome given to them. His wife said the judging was extreme difficult, as the standard of dancing was so high it took them a long time. The Captain said "it is a great pleasure to bring my wife here tonight to meet you all in Coleorton, where I spent most of my happiest years". In reminiscences of his boyhood days at Coleorton, he recalled that he was chosen to play "The Ugly Sister" in a performance of "Cinderella".

A pair of silver candlesticks, the wedding gift of the Coleorton people, were on view.

Mr. Victor Wileman, a Coleorton cripple, was introduced by Mrs. Abel-Smith to Lady May who chatted with him; and a young guardsman in uniform, Private Toon, had a conversation with Captain Henry Abel-Smith, who is in the Guards.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION ON ELIJAH TOON



Elijah Toon

CORPOAL TOON AWARDED MILITARY MEDAL

Corporal Elijah Toon from Coleorton was awarded the Military Medal (second only to the Victoria Cross) for his services to fellow prisoners in the Wittenberg camp during the first World War. He nursed many sick prisoners during a cholera outbreak when they

received no help from their captors. Corporal Toon lived with his wife and family in Coleorton and worked at the Whitwick Colliery before the war. Corporal Toon was subsequently promoted to sergeant. Further information is available on the Coleorton heritage website under topics and families.

Leicester Evening Mail - Wednesday 06 January 1932

LADY MAY ABEL SMITH AT COLEORTON

Captain Henry Abel-Smith and Lady May Abel-Smith were among those who attended yesterday's meet of the Quorn at Coleorton, the latter motoring with her Mother-in-Law. A capital day's sport ended on the borders of the Meynell country, about 22 miles from the kennels. Smoile Wood furnished the first pilot, and hounds ran well for Breedon Clouds Wood. It took them some 20 minutes to induce their quarry to quit the shelter of this spacious covert, but eventually he emerged at the end at which he entered, and made direct for Lady Augusta's Gorse, the scent failing between there and Staunton Harold Park after an hours gallop. Staunton Harold Spring Wood was tenantless, but a good fox was roused in South Wood. He was forced along at a fast pace all round the Staunton Harold Estate, and then set out as if for Coleorton. Short of this village, the hounds turned back by Staunton Harold Hall, and then made their way over the brook into Caulk Park. The closure was applied when the deer park was reached after a good run of 30 minutes.

Leicester Chronicle - Saturday 28th November 1936

SOCIETY AT COLEORTON

Mrs. Alexander Abel-Smith the former Miss Peirpoint Morgan of the famous Banking House was one of the large party which her mother-in-law, Mrs. Francis Abel-Smith organised for the dance in aid of the Coleorton Friends Society at Coleorton the other evening. Of the many people present, she seemed to be the one to most thoroughly enjoy that very enjoyable event. She was absolutely thrilled, she confessed, at what was her first experience of an English village dance.

With her husband, her mother-in-law and others in the party, she was given a tremendous reception when she arrived at the tiny Coleorton school room where the dance was held. Her winning smile and delightful personality endeared her to everyone.

After being presented with a bouquet, Mrs. Abel-Smith and her husband went onto the platform to judge dancing contests. Following their adjudication, Mrs. Abel-Smith presented the prizes to the winners.

Mr. Abel-Smith expressed his appreciation of the villager's welcome in a little speech from the stage. He also said in his speech that it was a great pleasure to return to Coleorton, where his parents once lived, especially when that return was made to introduce a new member of the family to them (many cheers followed these words).

Before they left, an invitation was extended to Mr and Mrs Abel-Smith to have coffee in the cottage of one of the women villagers. To this villagers everlasting pride, the invitation was accepted with charming enthusiasm.

DEATH OF MRS. MADELEINE ST. MAUR ABEL-SMITH

COLONEL ABEL-SMITH'S MOTHER DIES

Leicester Evening Mail - Saturday 15 September 1951

The death has occurred in London of Mrs. Madeleine St. Maur Abel-Smith, widow of the late Mr. Francis Abel-Smith of Wilford House, Notts., and mother of Col. Henry Abel-Smith, formerly of Beaumanor, near Loughborough. She was 88. In 1931, when he was a captain in the Royal Horse Guards, Col. Henry Abel-Smith was married at Balcombe, Sussex, to Lady May Helen Emma Cambridge, daughter of the first Earl of Athlone and niece of Queen Mary. It was regarded as the "wedding of the year," and was attended by the King and Queen, the then Duke and Duchess of York, Princess Elizabeth, the Duke of Windsor, then Prince of Wales and others of the Royal house. Mrs. Madeleine St. Maur Abel-Smith was the fourth daughter of the late Rev, Henry Seymour, Rector of Holme Pierrepont, Notts. She married Mr. Francis Abel-Smith, who was High Sheriff for Nottinghamshire in 1885. He died in March 1908.

MEMORIAL TO MRS. MADELEINE ST. MAUR ABEL SMITH (1862-1951)



Memorial to Mrs. Madeleine St. Maur Abel-Smith (b. Nov 8th 1862 d. Sept 13th 1951).

The photograph shows the Governor of Queensland, Sir Henry Abel-Smith, accompanied by his wife, Lady May Abel-Smith, and members of his family, unveiling a commemorative tablet to the memory of his mother, Madeleine St. Maur Abel-Smith, in Wilford Parish Church, Nottingham. The Abel-Smiths had strong connections with Wilford, and for many years lived in the Parish.

The Death of Sir George Howland William Beaumont, 10th Baronet.

Grantham Journal - June 27th 1914

Death of a Baronet - Sir George Beaumont, died at Aix-le- Bains on Monday. Sir G. H. W. Beaumont of Coleorton Hall was the 10th Baronet, the title having been created in 1661. He was once a captain in the Royal Horse Artillery, was 63 years of age, and owned 4,000 acres. The new Baronet, his son, is a lieutenant of the Kings Royal Rifle Corps, and was born in 1881.

The Times - Wednesday, June 24th 1914

OBITUARY

Sir George Beaumont

News was received at Ashby de la Zouch of the death on Monday at Aix-les-Bains of Sir George Beaumont, of Coleorton Hall, Ashby de la Zouch.

Sir George Howland William Beaumont was the 10th Baronet and represented an ancient family, whose surname was derived from the French City of Beaumont. Born in 1851, He married Lillie Ellen, daughter of the late Major-General G. A. Craster, R.E., and he is succeeded by his son, Captain. G. A. H. Beaumont, of the King's Royal Rifle Corps. The late Baronet, who was formerly a captain in the Royal Horse Artillery, had resided abroad for many years.

A subsequent entry in The Times - Lady Beaumont sends to us the following for publication:-

I have been most deeply touched by all the love and sympathy which have been shown to me by the people of Coleorton in the great sorrow which has come into my life; and I want to thank them all from the depth of my heart. Much of the sympathy has of necessity, been unspoken: but I have known it was there, have read it in every face, and felt it all around me. It has helped and supported me in my sorrow more than I can ever say, and all my life I shall remember it. I count as one of God's richest gifts to me, the love of the people of Coleorton that has never failed me in all of the thirty five years I have lived amongst them, and without it my life would lose one great source of happiness. The link that binds us together has held fast through generation after generation of our forefathers, and will ensure, please God, for many generations yet to come.

Unknown newspaper article from 1914 re the will of the 10th Baronet

Wills and Bequests

Captain Sir George Howland William Beaumont, Bart., of Coleorton Hall, Ashby de la Zouch, Leicestershire, formerly of the Royal Horse Artillery, who died at Aix-les-Bains, France on the 21st June 1914, aged 63 years, left unsettled property, in the United Kingdom, of the gross value of £3,042 11s 10d., of which the net personalty has been sworn at £2,421 17s 10d. Probate of his will, dated 29th July 1910, with two codicils, has been granted to Mr.

John Fisher Jesson, solicitor of Ashby de la Zouch, and power is reserved to grant probate also to Mademoiselle Gabriel Louise Liegeard. The testator left £150 to Mr. John Fisher Jesson of the executorship and "in recognition of the kind and able manner he has always managed my affairs" (this is in addition to professional charges, and all other property in his own disposition to Mademoiselle Gabriel Louise Liegeard).

Supplementary information - Lady Beaumont's husband had deserted her in the early 1900's and went to live in France presumably with his mistress Mademoiselle Lisgeard who features in his will. The reader will see later that Coleorton Hall was leased to the Abel Smiths from 1901 to 1926 and Lady Beaumont went to live at Swannington House.

96-105.
 Sir George Howland
 William Beaumont
 Bart.

Pour extrait conforme
 AIX LES BAINS (Savoie)
 le 12 février 1999

L'Officier de l'Etat-Civil
 Délégué

M. Guilleminet

Mairie d'Aix-les-Bains
 (SAVOIE)

Le vingt-un Juin mil neuf cent quatorze,
 onze heures et demie du matin
 Sir George Howland William Beaumont Bart, né à
 Londres (Angleterre) le dix mars mil huit cent cinquante-un,
 fils de Sir George Howland Willoughby Beaumont
 Bart, et de Paulina Georges Belli, son épouse, tous deux
 décédés. Epoux de Villie Ellen Craster, sans profession,
 domiciliés au château Coleorton Hall à Ashby de la
 Zouch, province de Leicester (Angleterre),
 est décédé Boulevard de la Roche du Roi villa Russie.
 Dressé, le vingt-deux Juin mil neuf cent quatorze,
 neuf heures et demie du matin, sur la déclaration de
 Marco Guilleminet, cinquante-quatre ans, négociant et
 Alexis Storand, quarante-sept ans, garde-champêtres,
 tous deux domiciliés à Aix-les-Bains,
 qui, lecture faite, ont signé avec Nous, Albert Antoine Marty,
 Maire d'Aix-les-Bains.

L'Officier de l'Etat Civil,

M. Guilleminet
 Guilleminet

Marty

French death certificate for
 Sir George Howland William Beaumont 10th Baronet.

Translation of above death certificate:-

No.105 -

Sir George Howland William Beaumont, Bart.

21st June 1914

11-30 in the morning.

Sir George Howland William Beaumont, Bart, born in London (England), 10th March 1851. Son of Sir George Howland Willoughby Beaumont, Bart and of Paulina Menzies Belli, his wife, both deceased. Husband of Lillie Ellen Craster, without profession, resident country-seat Coleorton Hall, in Ashby de la Zouch, in the shire of Leicester (England).
Died - Boulevard, de la Roche du Roi villa Russie.

Dated 22nd June 1914, 9-30 in the morning on the declaration of Marc Fuillermet, 54 years, merchant, and Alexis Morand, 57 years, village policeman, both residents of Aix-Les-Bains, who, after reading, has signed with us - Albert Antoine Marty, Mayor of Aix-Les-Bains.

In an interview with his grandson, the 12th and last baronet in 2003, he said that he had recently visited his grandfather's grave in the "Cimetiere du Pere-Lachaise, Paris and photographed his tomb.

Dame Lillie Ellen (Ellenor) Beaumont

Dame Lillie Ellen (Ellenor) Beaumont was the widow of the above Sir George Howland William Beaumont, 10th Baronet, whose death and will features on the preceding page. She died at "Swannington House" on August 17th 1946, although her tombstone in St. Mary's graveyard, Coleorton records her death as August 18th 1946. She was aged 87 years at her death so would have been born in 1858 / 59. She was the second daughter of Major-General George Ayton Craster (Army) who was born on June 9th 1830 and died November 25th 1912. Major-General Craster joined the army in 1849 and retired in 1888. His wife was Charlotte Amelia Vincent (daughter of Colonel Vincent) who died in 1892

Lady Lillie Ellen married Sir George on February 24th 1880 in India, having met him when she was a nurse and he was her patient. Their only son was Sir George Arthur Hamilton Beaumont, 11th Baronet who was born on January 18th 1881.

Leicester Mercury - March 20th 1947

Wills -

Dame Lillie Ellen Beaumont of "Swannington House", near Leicester, who died August 17th last, was the widow of Capt. Sir George Beaumont, 10th Baronet, of Coleorton Hall, Ashby de la Zouch, and daughter of Major-General G. A. Craster. She left £8,988 - 13s - 2d gross, with net personalty £6,910 - 18s - 11d. Probate has been granted to Graham D. Heath, Solicitor of 1 The Sanctuary, S.W. 1.

She left £50 to her "dear friend" Helen M. K. Peberdy, and the residue upon trust for her for life **and then** to her grandson Sir George Howland Frances Beaumont, 12th Baronet. Mrs. Peberdy, widow of a clergyman, was a friend and personal companion of the Dowager Lady Beaumont for many years and resided with her at Swannington.

Swannington House

On the following page are a photograph and painting of "Swannington House" where Dowager Lady Beaumont went to live after she was deserted by her husband the 10th Baronet who went to live with his mistress in France. The preceding will of the 10th Baronet confirms he had gone to co-habit with a lady by the name of Gabriel Louise Liegeard. Swannington House was situated almost opposite the "Fountain Inn" which has recently been converted into a private residence. It was eventually demolished due to serious mining subsidence.

Raymond Walker who was the 11th Baronet's (son of the Lady Dowager) chauffeur, used to take the two children to Swannington House every day in the early 1930's.

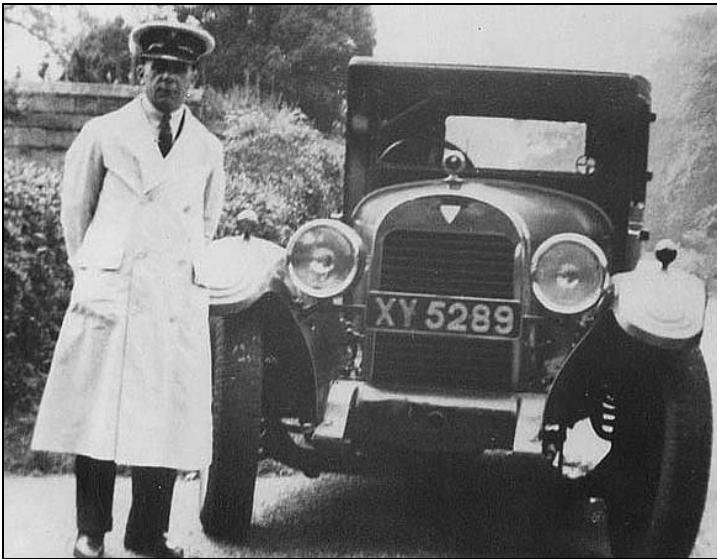
The Lady Dowager apparently called her son "Sammy". Ironically her granddaughter Brienne also had a dog called "Sammy" !!



Front of Swannington House



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



The upper photograph is thought to show the Lady Dowager Beaumont sitting to the left of her son (11th Baronet) in 1919, and the lower one is of Ernie Yates who was the Lady Dowager's chauffeur with her car.

Margaret Bannister, a 95 year old resident of Stoney Lane Coleorton, and mother of the author's wife, vividly remembered the Lady Dowager walking from Swannington to Coleorton church and around the village in her long black dresses. Margaret, who was born and lived in Coleorton nearly all her life, and who was a wealth of information, sadly died during the writing of this book.

**Celebrations at Coleorton Hall for Queen Victoria's
Diamond Jubilee - The 60th anniversary of her
accession fell on Sunday June 20th 1897 &
celebrations took place on June 22nd in London**

From an untitled and undated newspaper report - The village of Coleorton was the scene of great rejoicing on the occasion of the "Queen's Diamond Jubilee". At 10.30 a procession was formed, and, headed by the Ibstock brass band, marched to the church where an excellent address was given by the Rev. Canon Beaumont from the words "What meaneth this service to-day?" After the service, the procession was reformed and marched to the hall and the rectory, the band playing merry tunes. On reaching the school-room (which had been most effectively decorated by Mrs. Beaumont, Mrs. Radford, and Mrs. Gerald Martin), about 300 men and boys partook of a capital dinner, consisting of roast beef, mutton, veal, ham and the good old English plum pudding, beer and aerated waters being provided *ad lib*. At 3-30 the children were regaled with a meat tea, which was presided over by Mrs. Faux, Mrs. D. Walker, Mrs. Charville and others, who found many willing assistants.



Queen Victoria

At five o'clock the tables were again spread, and well they looked with their load of beef, ham, veal pies, tongues and sandwiches, cakes &c., and about 250 women partook of the good cheer. After tea the whole party adjourned to a field kindly lent by Mr. Faux, where various amusements were provided - a merry-go-round and swing boats for the children, and sports for the older portion of the company. The wheelbarrow race won by Hare and Bradford, and the obstacle race cleverly won by John Williams were all worthy of mention; the slow bicycle race won by Percy Butler was a great success, for the boy rode with both skill and judgement, and was loudly applauded. Mr. Waterfield and Mr. H. Earp kindly officiated as judges. At the conclusion of the sports the prizes were distributed by Mrs. Beaumont, assisted by Mrs. Radford, who also distributed a box of oranges and a large quantity of sweets and buns amongst the children, both ladies receiving hearty cheers. Cigars and tobacco were provided for the men, and all with one voice agreed that the whole proceedings passed off without a hitch. Many thanks are due to the committee for the excellent way in which they carried out their programme - Canon Beaumont (Chairman), Messrs. T. Radford, Faux, Plowright, Charville, Armson, Shaw, A. Walker, Hough, W. Walker, Martin, Beckwith, Kendrick, Bailey and Lord. The sports committee were the Rev. G. Boothby, Messrs. Garrett, Kendrick, Plowright, jun., and others. Much regret was expressed that Mr. Boothby was unable to be present due to a family bereavement. Amongst the company were noticed Mr. F. Donisthorpe, Miss Donnisthorpe, Mrs. Gerald Martin, Mrs. Loudoun (of New York), Mrs. Waterfield &c. The plants and flowers for the tables and platform were kindly lent and arranged by Mr. Maynard, Coleorton Gardens; and the cooking of the huge dinners was done by Mrs. Charville and Mrs. Birkin, with their usual ability. Amongst the subscribers to the entertainment fund, which amounted to £65 10s., were Mrs. A. R. Donnisthorpe, £20; Canon Beaumont £10; Sir. G. Beaumont £5; Mrs. Donnisthorpe afterwards gave an additional £5 privately to provide further refreshments and luxuries for the villagers.

Supplementary information - The 60th anniversary of Queen Victoria's Accession fell on Sunday June 20th 1897 and celebrations were held 2 days later in London. She celebrated her accession day at Windsor Castle. A special hymn "King of Kings" was written by the Bishop of Wakefield for the Diamond Jubilee, which was set to music by Arthur Sullivan. It was used by all churches and chapels in England and Wales. It is not clear on which day the celebrations were held at Coleorton, but it was probably on the Tuesday. It is noticeable that Sir George and Lady Beaumont were not mentioned which is most unusual, but the reader will appreciate by now that things were not well between the couple, and as explained previously the 10th Baronet subsequently deserted his wife.

Nottingham Evening Post - October 21st 1926

A golden wedding anniversary of wide local interest occurred on Tuesday, for it was on October 19th 1876 that Miss Lena Beaumont, daughter of Sir George Howland Beaumont, the 9th Bart of Coleorton Hall, Leicestershire, was led to the alter by Colonel Garwin William Rowan Hamilton, of Killyleagh Castle, County Down. The Beaumonts are one of the oldest families established in this part of the country, and Colonel. G. W. Rowan Hamilton is the oldest lineal representative of the Hamilton's, Earls of Clan Brassil.

The life of Sir George Arthur Hamilton Beaumont, 11th Baronet.

Born January 18th 1881 - Died October 2nd 1933



Sir George Arthur Hamilton Beaumont 11th Baronet, 1881-1933
Seated on one of his horses (probably "Coleorton") in his racing colours of
Scarlet cap and French Grey

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 was keenly interested 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. 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 "Gin 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 - Lingfield in the "Oak Tree Maiden Three Year Old Plate" over six furlongs; the horse being trained by Capt. Bell. "Coleorton" ran 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 7th 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 (Date c.1915)

From an un-titled newspaper cutting

The annual rent audit for the Coleorton estate of Captain Sir George Arthur Hamilton Beaumont, 11th 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:-

Cod Fish	Oyster Sauce
JOINTS	
Roast sirloin of beef.	Horse radish sauce
Boiled round of beef	
Boiled leg of mutton.	Caper sauce
Rabbit pie -	
Jugged Hare	Red current jelly.
Boiled fowls and ox tongue.	
Roast chicken.	
Roast turkey,	
Roast goose.	
SWEETS	
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, 10th 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 (11th 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 Irishman'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 14th year of the Abel-Smiths 25 year lease on Coleorton Hall.*



A panoramic photograph entitled - Coleorton Tenants entertained by Sir George Arthur Hamilton Beaumont August 16th 1919.

This party in the grounds of Coleorton Hall was thought to be when Sir George left the army after WW.I. 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.

Nottingham Evening Post - September 27th 1923.

A Bachelor's Confession

Sir George A. H. Beaumont, of Coleorton Hall, Leicestershire, who last January told his tenancy 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 13th 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.

Nottingham Evening Post - November 19th 1923.

The Wedding of Sir George Beaumont



The wedding on Saturday afternoon (17th 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 60th 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*).

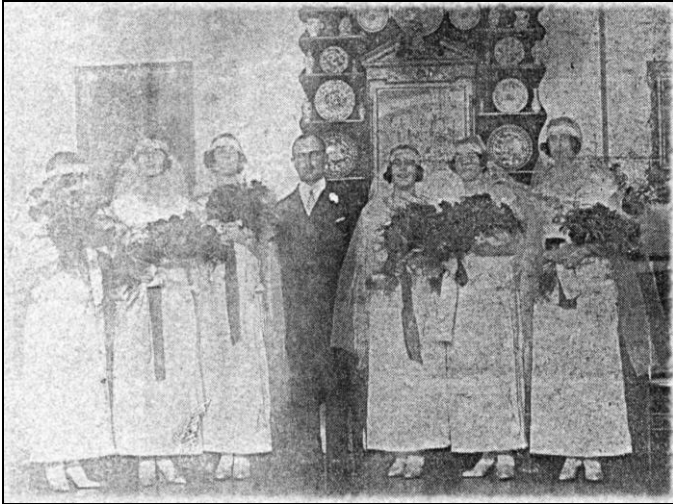
The guests numbered 400, including 70 of the bridegroom's Leicestershire tenants. A reception was held at Woodcote House, Epsom, which has been the Northey family seat for generations. For the purpose of the reception, a large temporary building had been built on the drawing-room. The honeymoon is being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



Bride and her father

Both taken at Woodcote House



Leaving Woodcote House
in horse and carriage



Outside Epsom Parish Church

Nottingham Evening Post - December 12th 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.

Hull Daily Mail - January 2nd 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 - September 26th 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 24th 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".

Supplementary information -

Wilf Lord, one of the eight church bellringers 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!! Sir George Howland Francis' sister Eleanor Brienne was born 3 years later in 1927.

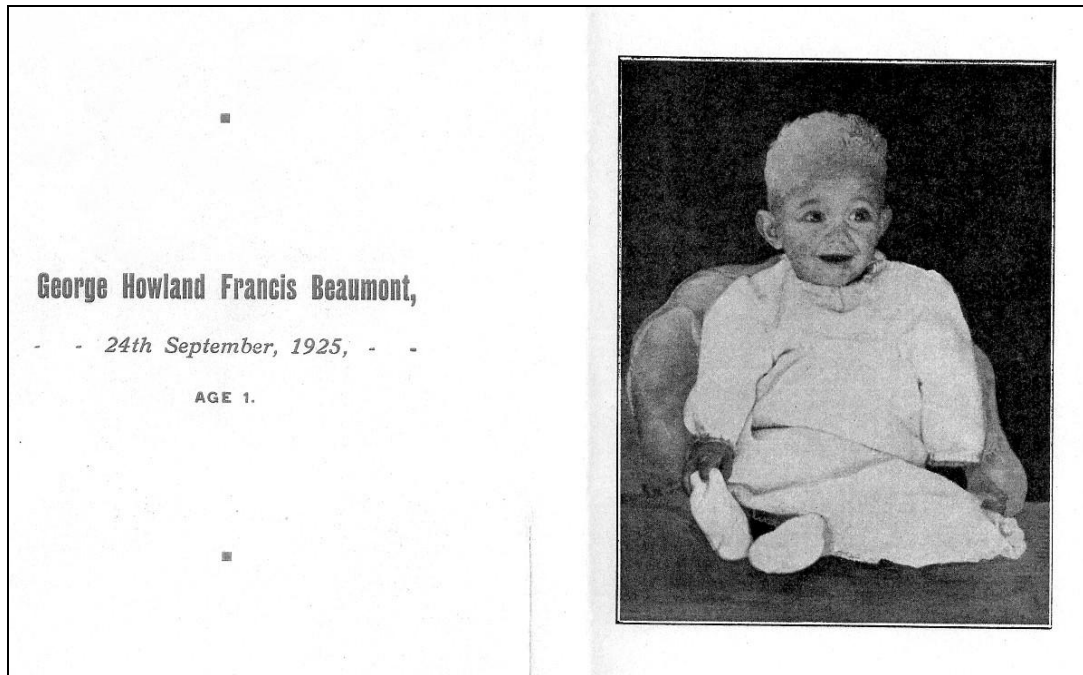


Lady Beaumont cutting Francis first birthday cake

The following two pages include copies of the pages 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 & Miss & Mrs 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. Leicesters.

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

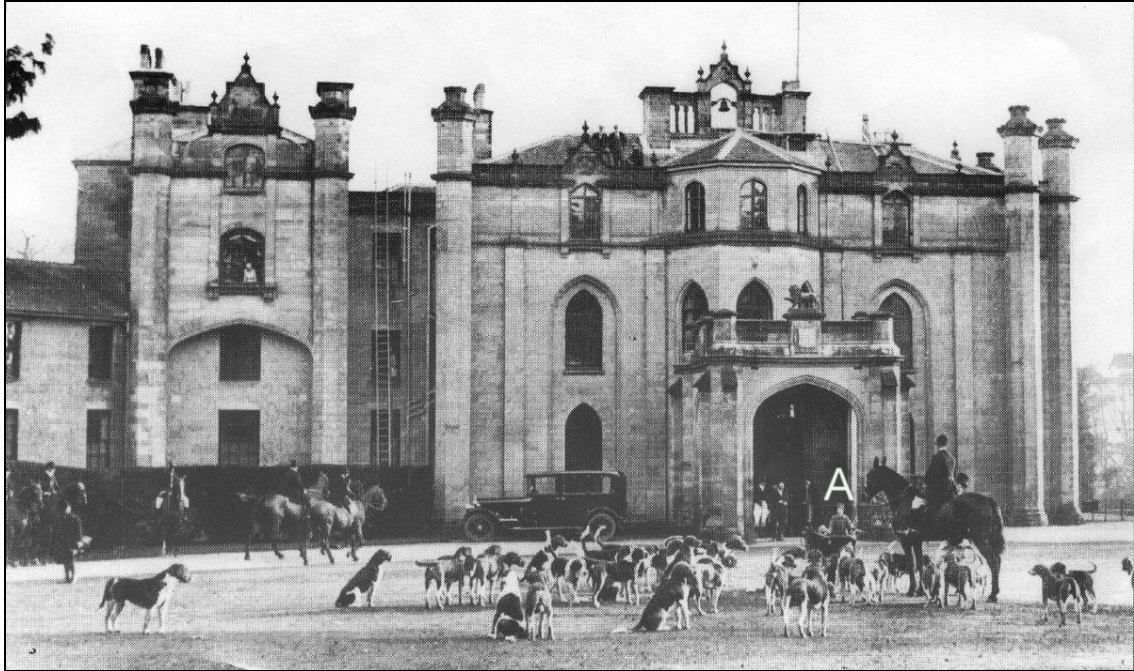
THE COLE ORTON ESTATE.

Proposed by MR. J. FISHER JESSON
 Supported by MR. J. PARGETER
 Reply by SIR GEORGE BEAUMONT

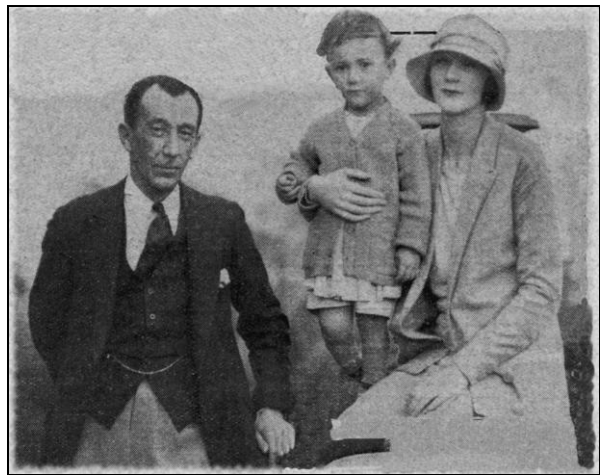




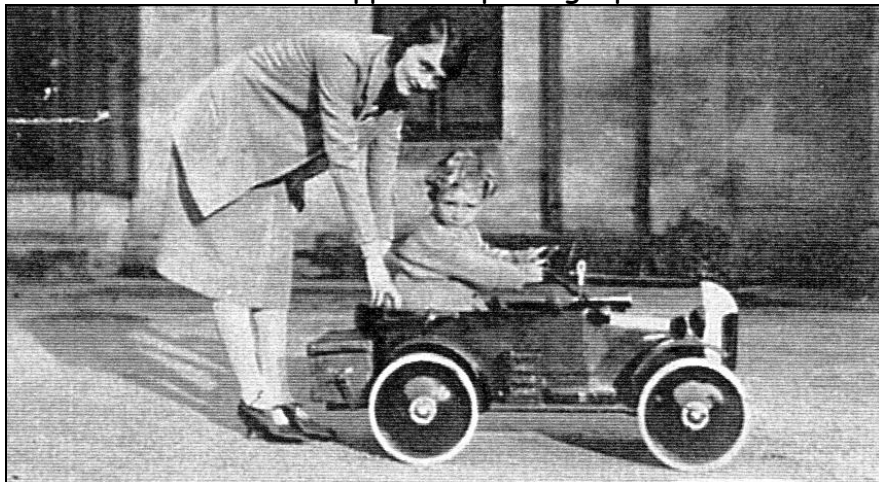
Mr & Mrs Fern lived in the above thatched cottage which was situated opposite / close to the Coleorton Primitive Methodist Chapel on Lower Moor Road. Due to a lack of basic facilities the house was condemned by the council and they moved to a council house at "The Moorlands", Coleorton.



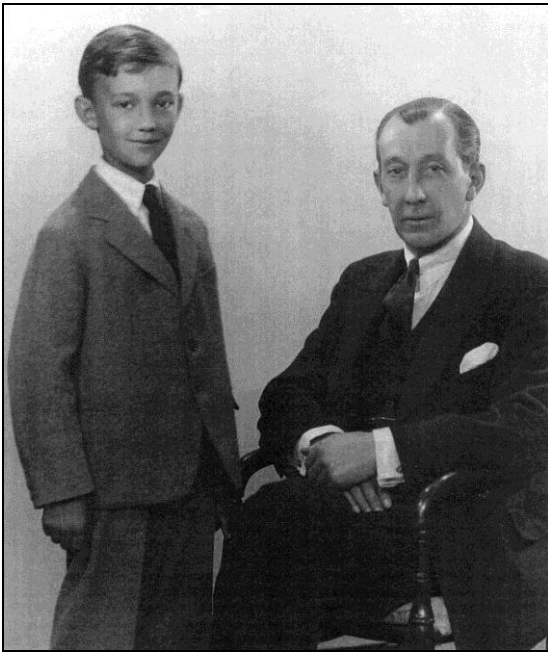
Above are photographs taken on the occasion of the Horse & Hounds visiting Coleorton Hall. Francis is sitting in his pram in both photographs. In the top photograph he is marked **A** (possibly with the nursery maid Winnie Saddington) and in the bottom one Sir George is pushing the pram. Assuming Francis was aged about two at the time, the photograph would have been taken in 1926. 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.

Lady Beaumont cuts first sod of turf for
New Lount Colliery 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.



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 12th 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 greyhound 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 greyhound 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 greyhound 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.

Dundee Courier - April 12th 1933 and Grantham Journal April 15th 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.

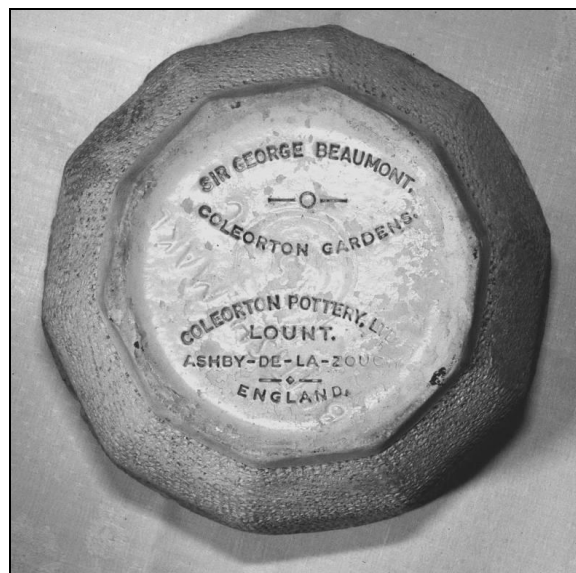


Sir George with his white coated salesman Les Dodds.

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 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:-



Leicester Chronicle - 1933 - June 3rd, June 10th, October 7th

"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 10th 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, 11th 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 (2nd 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.

Death of a Leicestershire sportsman

Grantham Journal - Oct 7th Oct 1933

Death of a Leicestershire sportsman.

Sir George Beaumont of Coleorton Hall, died on Monday October 2nd 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 5th 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. Rudolpf 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.

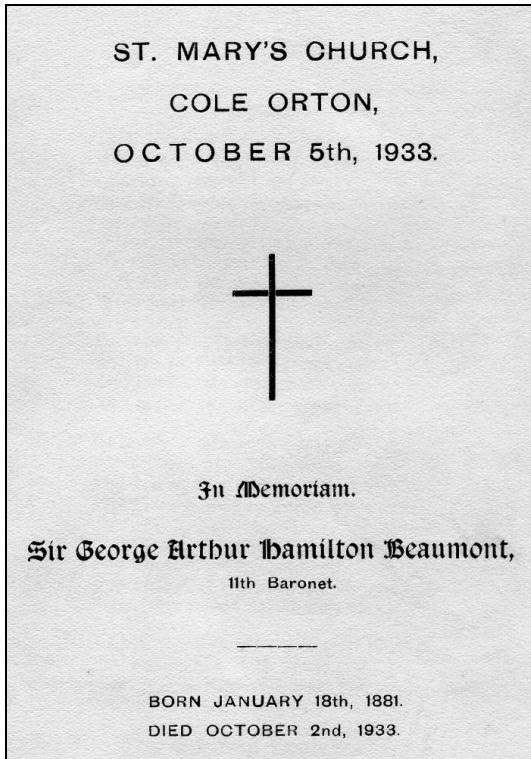
Lady Beaumont's wreath, a huge Maltese cross in pink carnations and ferns, bore the inscription, "With all our dearest love, Renee, Francis and Brienne".

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



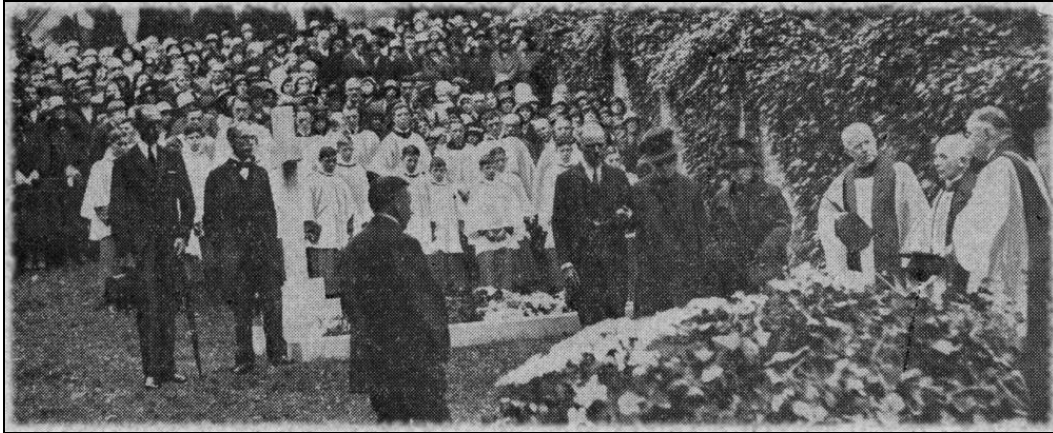
Taking the coffin on the bier to the graveside, borne by Messrs, J.J. Knight (oldest tenant), J. Capenor, R. Walker, and E. Toon. Sir George's mother, the Lady Dowager (Dame Lillie Ellen) is following the bier



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.

Synopsis of the Will of Sir George Arthur Hamilton Beaumont 11th Baronet

Sir George left £145,312. 19s. 6d. with net personalty £53,721. 8s. 8d.

Probate was granted to his widow Dame Renee Muriel Beaumont, Miss Isobel Frances Northey and Lt. Edward George Varnon Northey, the latter both of Woodcote House, Epsom, and Henry Lushington Bolton, solicitor of 1, The Sanctuary, Westminster.

Left to as executors- £3,500 to his wife
£250 to his mother, Dame Lillie Ellen Beaumont.
£50 each to Edward V Northey and Isobel Frances Northey.
£250 to Henry Lushington Bolton. (*he was a solicitor based at 1, The Sanctuary, Westminster*)

He directed that his mother's jointure be continued as from the date of his death, at such an amount as, after deduction of income tax shall produce a net sum of £1,000 per annum, any estate or other duty to be paid out of his estate.

He left his personal effects, not otherwise disposed of, and his motor cars, to his wife. Also £300 per annum for maintenance of his daughter Eleanor Brienne Beaumont until 21 years of age and thereafter during the life of her mother, and on the death of his mother, should she survive the testator, he left £100 per annum to his mothers devoted maid Florence Fish, for life.

He confirmed a settlement in favour of his wife, and left the residue of the property upon trust to pay the income there from to his wife until his son attained the age of 25 years, and, subject thereto, upon trust for his son and his wife and issue whom failing, upon trust for his (testator's) wife for life with the remainder to his daughter absolutely, whom failing, as his wife may appoint.

Memories of elderly people of the village and Coleorton Hall staff recorded in 1988

- Lady Beaumont (*Renee Muriel - wife of the 11th Baronet*) will be remembered for her exquisite politeness and gentle and ladylike behaviour. 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. An acknowledged manic depressive, he brooded over his outbursts and was always at pain to redress any offence caused, especially to the women tenants.
- 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 ongoings 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 imigrant 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. Sir George had a violent temperament, and was known to let fly with his fists if something fired his temper. Generally the villagers put up with these erratic outbursts and were wary of retaliation since they had a healthy respect for their own well being and security. However, more than once Sir George got back as good as he gave. On one occasion his assailant was called to account at the hall, and although the blow was struck in self defence, nevertheless he had committed the offence of striking the lord of the manor and expected some dire consequence of his injudicious action. Sir George's response was characteristic if unpredicable....."Have you cooled off? Good! Can you use a load of logs? I'll get them sent round tomorrow. No hard feelings".

Lady Renee Muriel Beaumont, wife & widow of the 11th Baronet.

Following the death of the 11th Baronet, Lady Beaumont married his horse trainer Capt. Oswald Marmaduke Dalby Bell (Ozzie) of Lambourne, Berkshire on October 26th 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 29th 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 28th 1987 at Edgcombe 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, 11th Baronet.

**Sir George Howland Francis Beaumont,
12th and last Baronet (b. Sept 24th 1924 d. March 26th
2011).** (He was known as Francis / Sir Francis by the family and
the local community respectively)

The Squire, Aged Nine, Makes A Speech

HIS LIFE'S INTERESTS TO BE LINKED WITH THOSE OF HIS TENANTS

THE best sportsman you or I have ever known" was how Lady Beaumont described her late husband, Sir George Beaumont when she welcomed tenants and visitors to the estate rent dinner at Coleorton Hall. "Although we have many sad memories, I beg of you all to enjoy yourselves as much as possible," she said.

Lady Beaumont explained that she did not want to let the annual rent dinner fall through, and she was trying to carry on in the way her husband did. Lady Beaumont introduced her father, Major-General Sir Edward Northey, who was chairman and host, and his son, Mr. Edward Northey, who is a lieutenant in the King's Royal Rifles, his father's regiment, in which the late Sir George Beaumont also served.

Dinner was served in the spacious picture gallery, and the guests were waited upon by maids wearing dresses of French grey and scarlet—the late baronet's racing colours.

Great Reception

The young Squire—the nine-year-old Sir George H. F. Beaumont—also welcomed the visitors and presented his cups for the best-kept gardens on the estate. He had a great reception, and, speaking slowly and deliberately, said: "Good evening, gentlemen,—I am happy to welcome you and hope you have a nice time. I am pleased to give these cups to the garden prize-winners."

After presenting the silver trophies to Mr. Arthur Brooks, Mr. John Brooks, and Mr. A. Jeffreys, the young Squire said, "Good night, gentlemen"—and retired to bed.

"The Navy, Army and Air Force" was proposed by Mr. Elijah Toon, and replied to by Mr. Ed. Northey, who was making his first speech.

Mr. Frank Hodges, the managing director of the New Lount Colliery, proposed "Agriculture."

Mr. T. Forvarque replied. Mr. J. K. Smith, another farmer, said the sooner the farmers got out of the hands of the Government the better. There were too many schemes.

Sir Edward Northey, proposing "The Guests," said his daughter, Lady Beau-



THE YOUNG SQUIRE

mont, was trying to keep things going in the usual way until her little son could do it himself.

Mr. Burrows replied.

Young Squire's Future

Mr. G. J. Leeds and the Rev. H. Stevens spoke of the good work of the Dowager Lady Beaumont, and Mr. J. Fisher Jesson proposed "Sir Geo. H. F. Beaumont and Miss Brienne Beaumont."

Sir Edward Northey, replying, said Lady Beaumont had considered the future and took the firmest line that her son must stay at Coleorton. His tenants' interests must be his life interests.

In an interview later in life, Sir Francis related that as a youngster, following his father's death, he had to give a speech (see above) in the dining room, now known as the Beaumont Room which features earlier. Sir Francis said that he spent his childhood at Coleorton (apparently not a happy one), seeing his father very rarely, only briefly in the morning and in the evening, so there was no real contact between them. He did see his grandparents - Major General Sir Edward and Lady Northey quite often at Woodcote House because at the age of 9 he was sent to St. David's boarding school in Riegate. He continued his education

from the age of 13 at Stowe School, Buckingham. The Northey's house, Francis said, contained many trophies shot by Lady Northey during her travels abroad, particularly in Kenya. Francis also recalled that he remembered his father interviewing prospective maids for the hall in the billiard room, and each one had to lift their skirts so that he could see if they had good legs, if not, they didn't get the job. He also related that his father was a manic depressive and often took to his bed for weeks at a time, and only his wife could cope with him. When Francis was eighteen years old he was conscripted into the Army. As an act of rebellion against the family tradition, instead of joining the "The Kings Royal Rifle Corps", he chose to go into the Colestream Guards - which he entered as a private. However, he found he was unable to bring himself to submit to the rigorous discipline of this elite regiment, and with a fellow soulmate broke most of the regiment's rules and was eventually thrown out of the guards. He felt that probably his title went against him, especially since he had no money to throw around which his colleagues would have expected from a titled gentleman. He admitted that joining the Guards was a big mistake and so chose then to go to Sandhurst where he was commissioned into the 60th Kings Royal Rifles early in 1945, serving in the Middle East and European theatres of war as a Lieutenant, until demobilisation in 1947; he then went to live with his mother and father-in-law Capt. Bell at Lambourne until the latter died in 1949. It should be remembered, that Coleorton Hall was leased from the Beaumonts in 1947 by The National Coal Board (N.C.B.) and subsequently purchased by them together with the grounds in 1948 for £30,000.

The following is based upon various newspaper articles



Married at 24



Sir Francis with Barbara Singleton and dog Sandy in 1949

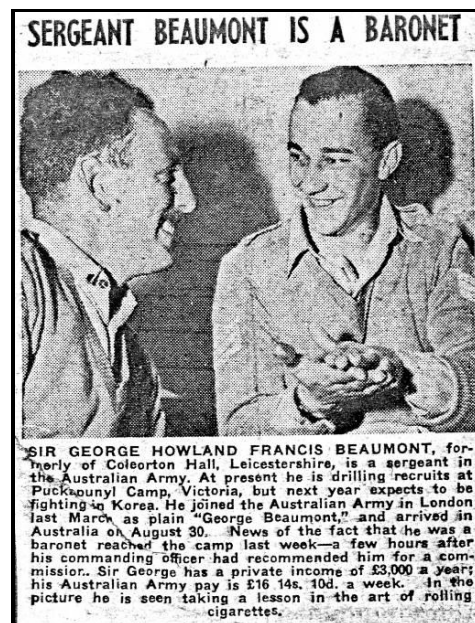
Sir Francis's married Barbara Singleton of Eccleston Mews, London on June 11th 1949, and their honeymoon took place in Capri. However, by the end of the year a very acrimonious situation had broken out between the two parties. Sir Francis was seeking a decree of nullity of his marriage and the case was set down to be heard in London on January 31st 1950. Lady Beaumont contested the nullity. During the case in the divorce court in London "A most extraordinary series of events" on the wedding night were referred to, in fact, anyone reading the full report would find it all extremely hard to believe! After an appeal, a decree of nullity was granted to Sir Francis in July 1951 and Lady Beaumont had withdrawn her application for leave to appeal in the House of Lords.

Mrs. Bell told a local newspaper in 1952 -

"My son hasn't signed anything yet, but he is vey keen to go abroad". Sir Francis's application is being considered by the Australian Army, and if he is accepted, he would sail at the end of April. The 28 year old nobleman, formerly a Lieutenant in the 60th rifles, joined the Australian Regular Army in March 1952 as "George Beaumont" and went to Australia on August 30th. Colonel G. F. Larkin, Commander of Puckapunyal Camp, Victoria, where Sir George was serving, stated that he did not know of Sergeant Beaumont's title when he recommended him for a commission. Sergeant Beaumont gained top marks in the N.C.O's cadre in the camp. A reporter found him drilling a squad of National Service trainees. Sir George said that by keeping his identity secret he lived up to the family motto, "Exalted not Elated". He did not seek leave to attend the Coranation of Queen Elizabeth II in June. "I hope to be fighting in Korea" in June he said. The Baronet, whose private income was £3,000 p.a., draws £16. 14s. 10d. a week army pay - less tax.



Sir George Howland Francis Beaumont -
Warrant Officer Australian Army
Melbourne 1958



Sir Francis apparently found himself in the thick of the fighting in Korea. He left the army and returned to England in 1958. A major factor being that his mother's third marriage to Leslie Hawkins had been dissolved in March 1957.

According to Sir Francis, on his return from Australia in 1958, he went straight into the nursery business at Pangbourne, Berkshire and in 1963, Sir Francis was running a nursery garden business there which specialised in the growing of dahlias and chrysanthemums. By 1971, he was running "Duntrune Nursery" at Deddington, Oxford. Presumably Sir Francis had gained experience in the gardens at Coleorton Hall.

On Dec 27th 1963, Sir Francis married Henrietta Anne Waymouth (b.1942). She was the daughter of Dr. Arthur Waymouth M.A. (Cambridge), Fellow of the Royal Geological Society and Major in The Royal Army Medical Corps. The marriage took place at St. Mary's Shaw with Donnington, Berks. They had twin girls, born on June 12th 1967 who were named Georgina Brienne Arabella Beaumont and Francesca Renee Henrietta Beaumont. Lady Beaumont's speciality was the breeding of donkeys, which had become a status symbol at the time it seems. The marriage ended in divorce in 1985.



Blue dahlia — pink donkey!

WHILE Sir Francis Beaumont is searching for a blue dahlia on his Duntrune Nursery at Deddington, Oxford, his wife Lady Henrietta (above) is trying to breed a Palomino donkey — one with a pink mane and tail.

In the meantime, Sir Francis has raised a new collerette dahlia with bright scarlet petals and a buff centre, called *Painted Lady*.

He believes that there is a future for these old-fashioned plants, largely because the flower arrangers like them.

As soon as Lady Beaumont had finished helping her husband at the show, she was off up to Stoneleigh

with six of her donkeys for the Donkey of the Year Show. All of them are in her own variegated strain of piebalds and skewbalds.

Railway find

FIRST prize in the RHS competition for ornamental heathers went to Mrs. A. H. Potter of Wentworth, Surrey, with the red *Erica vagans* Mrs. D. F. Maxwell.

The variety was first found on a railway embankment after being seen by a heather enthusiast in a passing train.



Lady Beaumont and status symbol

FORMER royal groom at Windsor Lady Beaumont has her own stables these days where she is making a thriving business of breeding donkeys, which she sells at up to £400 each.

'They are becoming status symbols,' she says. 'They seem incredibly popular, especially with

middle-aged women who have grown tired of keeping big dogs.' Lady Beaumont—her husband is Sir George, the 12th baronet—has been having a bit of trouble with the nearby American air base. The large-eared animals don't like jet noises.

'They don't,' she tells me, like being laughed at either.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 22, 1963

WMC's Noble Coat Of Arms



Exalted, not stated
Beaumont Coat of Arms

SIR George Beaumont, 12th Baronet of Coleorton, has given the new Beaumont W.M.C. at Stocking Farm the exclusive right to use the family coat of arms. This is probably the first time a working men's club has been so honoured.

Subject to planning permission, work is ready to begin on the new premises at the corner of Halifax Drive and Marwood Road, a short distance from Beaumont Leys Lane, which is a constant reminder of the family name.



Sergeant (Sir George) Beaumont

The newly-built working men's club in Marwood Road, Stocking farm, Leicester was officially opened on September 25th 1964. It is a short distance from Beaumont Leys Lane, a constant reminder of the family name !!

Sir Francis passed away on March 26th 2011 and came back home to be buried in the Beaumont family plot in St. Mary's Churchyard, where a private family funeral was held which was attended by his two twin daughters Georgina Brienne Arabella and Francesca Renee Henrietta who came over from Australia.



The above tree and plaque to the memory of Eleanor Brienne Collins (*nee.*, Beaumont) was thought to have been placed at the front of the hall sometime in the early 1980's, by her brother Sir George Howland Francis Beaumont, the 12th Baronet "as a memorial to his sister and combined his mother's commemoration of her only daughter". Eleanor was the only daughter of the 11th Baronet and his wife Renee, and it is interesting that her father's nickname "Sammy", given to him by his mother, appears on the plaque. Eleanor had a dog named Sammy also.

The Beaumont trust was apparently finally broken up in 1988, which at that time reportedly comprised of stocks and shares at a mid-market value of £300,000 with no Real Estate. Practically, the Trust had ceased to exist by 1967 with the disposal of the family estates and chattels over the previous seventy or so years. The regular sales of Real Estate, partly apparently to maintain the 11th Baronet's erratic life style, became a continuous drain on the Estate Capital.