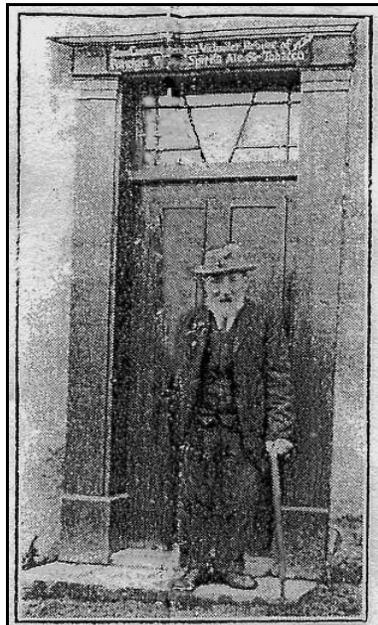


THE BEAUMONT ARMS – COLEORTON



The Beaumont Arms building in 1994



John Peck Charville
The Beaumont Arms most fondly remembered Landlord
standing outside the front entrance

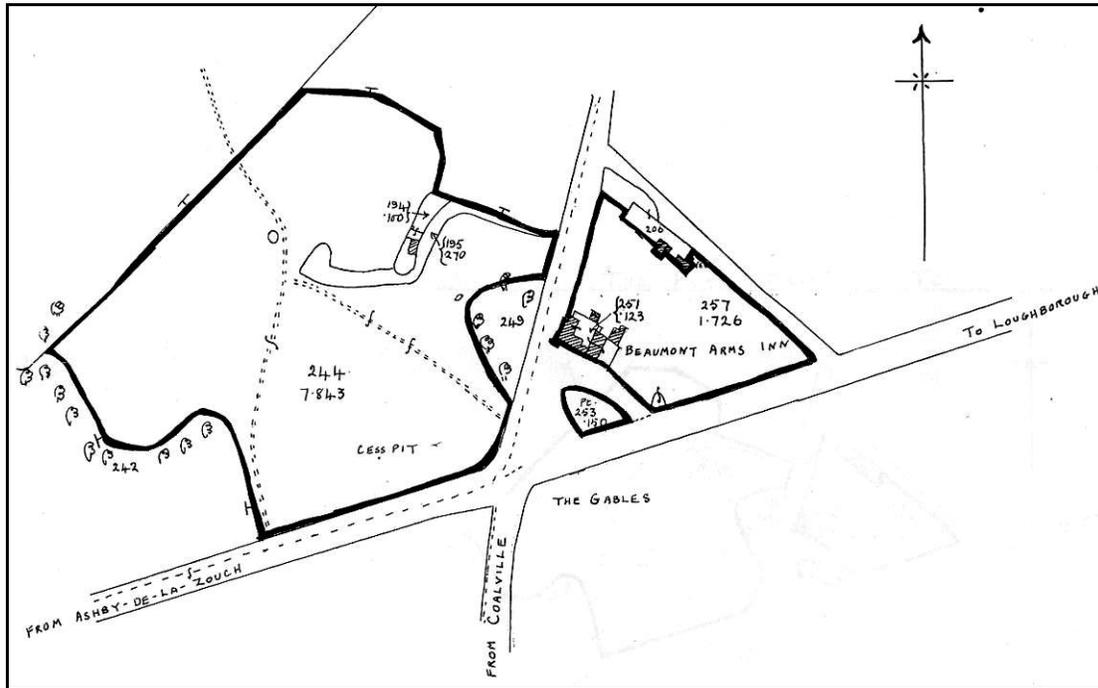
By Samuel T Stewart – February 20

© Samuel T Stewart 2020

**All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced,
stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any
means, electronic, mechanical or otherwise without first seeking
the written permission of the author**

THE BEAUMONT ARMS

The "Beaumont Arms" has an extremely checkered and interesting history, and much of that is included in the following text which is supported by photographs. Its beginnings as an Ale House or Inn are not clear. Since writing his first history of the Beaumont Arms in his book entitled "A History of Coleorton & the Locality", the author has carried out more research which clearly demonstrates that what became the "Beaumont Arms" was neither built or initially owned by the Beaumonts.



The location of the Beaumont Arms in 1940 to the NE of the cross-roads

The following story, in italics, is taken from the Boulton family genealogy website. The author was granted permission by the Boulton's to include this information in his books, but wish to make it clear that the copyright is owned by them. The author has added some appropriate comments. **It is included to provide background information on Rotten Row where the "Beaumont Arms" was located, which was part of Thringstone Parish / Township from before 1764 to 1884.**

Both Joseph Boulton Snr. and Jnr. referred to below, accumulated a fortune leasing mines from the Beaumonts. They were named after Joseph Boulton of Griffydham (grandfather and great grandfather respectively). He accumulated a large fortune, and bequeathed a good estate to each of his sons.

Joseph Boulton's connection with the Beaumont family and the old Coleorton Hall, is a story whose ramifications continued long after his death, indeed into the next century and also including his only son Joseph. It begins in 1757 when Joseph Senior was appointed as land agent to the Beaumont family estate in Leicestershire by Sir George Beaumont, 6th Baronet. In 1760, Joseph was granted a 21 year lease of a Beaumont colliery, farm and woods. This, a large parchment document, has survived in family possession. In the same year, he leased Coleorton

Hall from Sir George, despite it not being occupied since 1702, and not in a state of good repair. In 1762, Sir George died, leaving as heir, his only surviving son Sir George Howland Beaumont (7th Baronet of Stoughton), then aged nine, who lived with his mother at their other family home at Dunmow, Essex

The former lessee of the colliery had neglected it, the pit shaft was decayed and the mine water-logged. Joseph installed a Newcomen engine to pump out the water, and carried out other work also at his own expense (**The Newcomen atmospheric steam engine, which had been developed in 1705, helped to revolutionise the mining industry overnight, and provided an immediate solution to drainage and ventilation problems**). Joseph Boulton's rent was fixed at £140 per year with output set at 10,000 loads of coal annually. He also took over a second Beaumont colliery at £50 per year rent, but this colliery was said to be worth £1,000 a year. It was known as the "Newbold Field Colliery".

The local mines were, however, producing too much coal for the available market. Joseph leased one from Earl Ferrers, and in effect, closed it down, supplying the market with approximately 13,400 loads of coal annually altogether (about 33,600 tons). His mining operations required capital to run them, and in 1771 he was loaned £10,000 by Sir Charles Sedley, who had initially borrowed it from Drummond's Bank. By 1777, Sir Charles had repaid the Bank, so we must assume that Joseph had repaid him. Joseph's financial transactions are quite astonishing, even today. In 1776, Thomas Noel, 2nd Lord Wentworth, raised a loan of £15,000 from Joseph and a further £5,000 a year later. In contemporary terms, these were enormous sums.

By 1784, the Beaumont lease of the mines, etc., had been renewed, though after prolonged negotiations with the Beaumont family lawyer regarding the large difference between the permitted number of coal loads to be extracted and the actual number. The difference was attributed by Joseph to the difficulty of separating extractions from adjoining Beaumont and Boulton coal seams. In 1789, Joseph Senior died, and his only son Joseph took over the Stewardship, having been associated with his father in the management of the estate and collieries. We shall now deal with Joseph the younger's career out of its proper sequence, and only here in so far as it relates to the continuation of the Beaumont connection.

Matters went on as before until 1791 when Sir George, whose interests were primarily artistic and political, visited his Leicestershire estate, probably for the first time. The reason was, that a new canal nearby, facilitating new markets for his coal, would be profitable to him. The state of the Hall must have been a shock for Sir George as it was in ruins, little was left of its park, and the whole estate was in a distressing condition. Subsequent inspections by a surveyor he employed, revealed further irregularities; timber had been sold off from the Beaumont woods, and brick making had used clay from deposits on the estate.

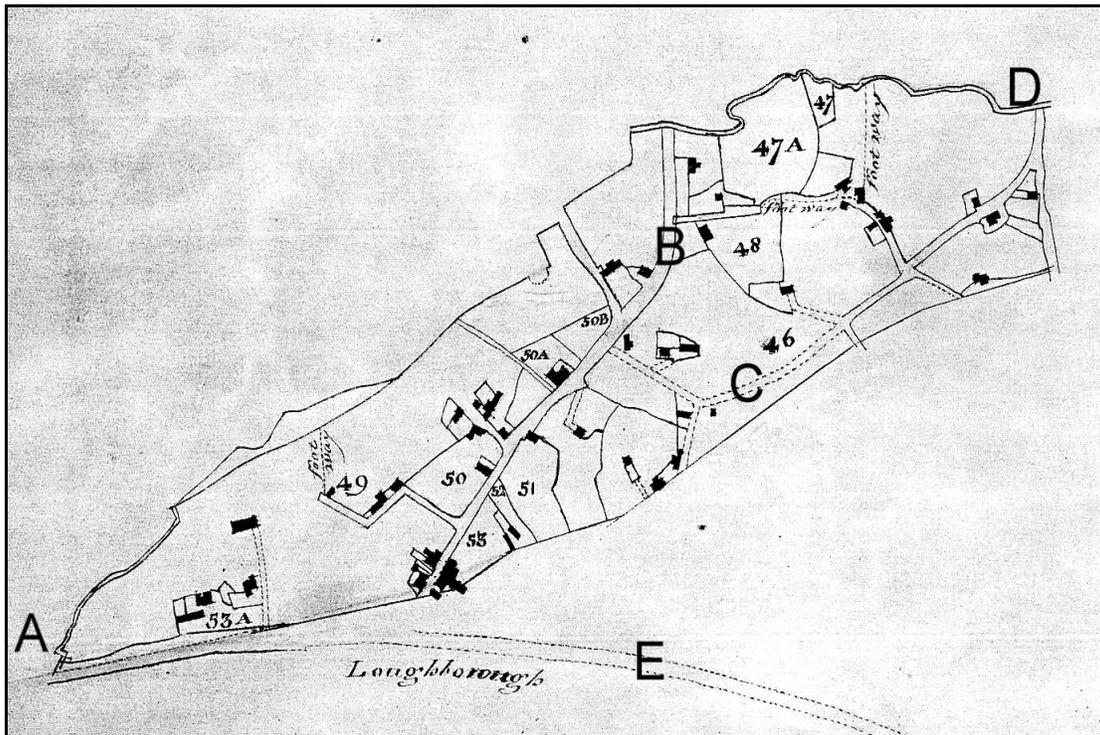
Sir George was then faced with leaving things as they were, which provided him with an income of £2,000 per annum, or resorting to law for compensation. In 1793, Joseph was summoned from Bath to give account of his stewardship. However, it was not until 1797 that he was dismissed, and in the following year, legal proceedings for compensation were started by Sir George. The case finally came up in July, 1800, and Joseph was ordered to pay £20,000 as compensation for underpayments. This was not forthcoming, and the case came up again in the Court of Chancery in August, 1802. Joseph appealed unsuccessfully against that part of the verdict being back dated to his father's time, though he was allowed to hand over one of his collieries as part payment. The original compensation was now reduced to some £15,000.

The whole matter was not finally settled until 1805, the year before Joseph's death, when the Lord Chancellor, Lord Eldon, refused him increased wages or legal costs, though he allowed Sir George interest on under payments only from 1798. With reference to wages, part of Joseph's defence was that his salary as steward was only £20 a year, the same as that his father had received for thirty years ! These are the facts of this extraordinary story.

In the judicial reviews of *Beaumont v Boulton*, the following information is given - Joseph Boulton Jnr. (defendant) stated, that soon after the commencement of the lease, an estate called "Rotten Row", and the Manor of Thringstone, adjoining the Plaintiff's (Sir George Beaumont) estate, was held forth for sale. That estate was supposed to contain valuable mines of coal, which might at a future time, be worked in competition with the Plaintiff's estate. The price demanded was £2,000, though it produced a rent of no more than £10 per annum. The defendant's father (Joseph Boulton Senior) proposed, that it should be purchased for the Plaintiff's benefit, but that proposal being refused, the defendant's father in 1764, purchased it for his own use for £1,600 from Mr. Busby. He later stated that "Rotten Row" and the Manor of Thringstone, ought undoubtedly to have been Sir George Beaumont's purchase, and not mine, as his deep coal adjoining to it, can never be got to advantage without it.

The Beaumont Arms was part of the area of "Rotten Row" and its location is shown on plot 53 in the following map extracted from the 1807 inclosure map for Pegg's Green and Thringstone. **The area of "Rotten Row" was in Thringstone Parish prior to 1764 until 1884**, when it then became part of Coleorton Parish.

Basically, Rotten Row was an island within Coleorton Parish. In order to try and give the reader an understanding of how it relates to present geography in the area, the following applies:- **A** = Coleorton Fish Pond, **B** = Lower Moor Road, **C** = Stoney Lane, **D** = The Woolrooms, **E** = Loughborough Road. It was a busy area with Pubs, Shops, a Chapel and some light industries like Whetstone / Oil Stone making, Bauble manufacturing and Hat making.



The author is of the view that what became the "Beaumont Arms" was initially an Ale House of some age which was incorporated into an existing Farm House. It was quite common for Ale Houses to be part of a farm and this provided the farmer with two incomes with, the Ale house being run by the wife.

Thomas Stinson who was the licensee of the Bell Inn Coleorton moved to reside at the Beaumont Arms c.1830 with his wife and children, but sadly died there in 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.*

All the licensing records for the Ale House / Beaumont Arms came under Thringstone till 1884. Interestingly, Thomas Stinson was listed as a licensee of an Ale House in Thringstone from 1806 to 1821 and the author is of the view that this was what became the “Beaumont Arms”. We know that Thomas is recorded as being licensee at the Bell Inn, Coleorton, near the fish pond for some of this time which at first seems confusing because he couldn't be in two places at the same time. However, there is no reason to suppose why Thomas and his wife couldn't have managed both Ale Houses till the Bell Inn closed c.1830, even though they had five children by 1827 to look after as well.

It was not until a new licensing Act came into force in 1825 that the licensee had to register the name for an Ale house, Inn or Public House as they became known. It also became necessary for at least one person (not the licensee) to put up a surety of £10, so it is unlikely that the Beaumont Arms would have been given a name till then.

It is possible that Thomas Stinson's wife took over as licensee after he died and the author has no record of a licensee there (if it was still open) till John Waterfield became the licensee from 1842 till late 1866. John Waterfield is listed in Trade Directories as employing servants. In 1841, he was aged 40 and was married to Sarah (40) with 7 children. By the 1871 census, John (70) and his wife Sarah are living with their daughter Harriet in Alfreton. By the 1881 census, he had returned to Coleorton as a widower aged 79, and was living with his son William who was a farm bailiff at Farm Town.

On Dec 1st 1866, a new license was awarded to Alexander Foulds & Alice Briggs. They held the license till 11th Dec 1869 when it was transferred to John Charville. He is then shown in the Ashby register as holding the license till 1892, however, we know he continued as licensee at the Beaumont Arms till 1932, the year of his death.

Until John Charville became the licensee in 1869 / 70 there is no mention in the licensing records of an owner or leaseholder. It is only from 1872 that Sir G. H. Beaumont is listed as the owner / leaseholder and this continued till 1892 under Thringstone even though we know that it would not have come under Coleorton till 1884. It was clearly around this time that Sir George Beaumont came into possession.

The Beaumont Arms was an important focal point for the villagers of Coleorton, and needs to be recorded for future generations. It appears that when the Beaumonts' could not accommodate people at the hall, then they would stay at the Beaumont Arms when possible. It is even referred to as a hotel in a later advertisement. It was known locally as “Charvilles pub”, after he became landlord and even the cross roads were known locally as “Charville's Cross Roads“ which designated where you needed to get off and on the local buses (local buses, what are they??).

When John Charville took over the license in 1870, this undoubtedly became the most interesting period in the pub's history. His daughter Mrs. Cuthbert, and his son John Charville are recorded in an old copy of “The Coalville Times” as relating that John V (Peck) Charville was Landlord of the Beaumont Arms for sixty-two years, that is a remarkable achievement by anyone's standards. He died on April 14th 1932, at the age of 89. He was obviously a man of some standing, and well respected in the community. This was borne out by the list of distinguished mourners who attended the funeral. He was a popular host at the Beaumont Arms and for 55 years he did the catering at the annual dinner for the tenants, at the annual rent audit (see later feature).

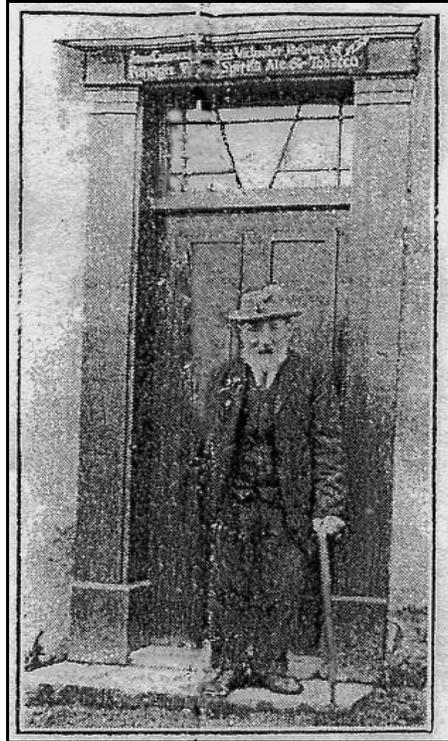
The Beaumont Arms was also Sir George Howland Beaumont's (the sporting baronet) favourite local watering hole and hearsay has it that he frequented there on regular occasions where he liberally imparted information on horse racing tips to the locals. On occasions when his hot tips had failed miserably, 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 he 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.

It is thought that John V Charville had a close relationship with the Beaumonts, as the following suggests. Firstly, he was born in New Bond Street, London which sounds a rather grandiose address, and then before becoming a publican, he was butler to Sir George Beaumont at the Hall. During his stay at the Beaumont Arms, he was often listed as a grazier, as it was also a small farm, but it was not unusual for publicans to have at least two jobs at this time.

John V (Peck) Charville's funeral took place at Coleorton Cemetery on a Monday afternoon, the service being conducted by Cannon Ashmell. The body was borne from the house on a bier, the mourners following on foot. The only carriage was the one containing the many beautiful wreathes and crosses. Amongst the mourners was Dowager Lady Beaumont. Sir George and Lady Beaumont were represented by their agent, as they were away from home. A wreath was sent from the old players of "The Beaumont Cricket Club", of which he was a member and treasurer (see following article). The initial V seems to have been dropped from his name at some time and replaced by "Peck". The E has also been dropped from his surname



**John Peck Charvill and his wife Maria's grave
in the cemetery at St. John's Chapel**



**Mr John Charville
outside the entrance door at the Beaumont Arms**



The Beaumont Arms in a state of disrepair 1994

**THE BEAUMONT ARMS WAS ALSO USED FOR SALES, AUCTIONS,
MEETINGS, LOCAL HOTEL AND RENT DINNERS ETC**

**The following advertisement appeared in the
April 1889 edition of the Burton Mail :-**

Sir G.H.W Beaumont, Bart., has instructed German, German and Cooper to SELL by AUCTION, on the Coleorton Estate, on Wednesday, May 1st, 1889, 430 Lots of Ash, Larches, Sycamore, Spruce, and Oak TIMBER TREES, CORDWOOD, &c.

The Ash and Larch are of first class quality, the Sycamore is of large dimensions, and the Auctioneers can with confidence invite the attention of buyers to this important Sale.

The Timber all lies conveniently together for sale, and is in close proximity to good roads and within easy reach of several railway stations.

The company is requested to meet at Lot1, near the Beaumont Arms Inn, Coleorton, at Eleven o'clock.

Dinner will be provided at the Beaumont Arms Inn, Coleorton, at the close of Sale at a charge of 2s. 6d per head, which will be returned to purchasers.

Note. - The Timber may be viewed on application to Mr. John Hough, Coleorton, near Ashby-de-la-Zouch, who will appoint a man to show the Lots.

**ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE SALE OF THE BEAUMONT ESTATE 1920 –
A FREEHOLD PROPERTY AND LAND SALE AT THE BEAUMONT ARMS
(REFERRED TO AS A HOTEL)**

Leicestershire.

SALE OF

Five Valuable Freehold Farms

with Areas of 226, 204, 164, 85 & 75 Acres respectively.

Several Small Holdings,

Excellent Accommodation Lands

with convenient areas.

Cottages and Gardens, &c., and

TWO VALUABLE OLD LICENSED HOUSES

Known as "THE GEORGE INN" and "THE ANGEL INN,"
both situate in the Parish of Coleorton.

GERMAN, STEVENSON & STIMSON

Have been favoured with instructions from J. Fisher Jesson, Esq.,
Agent for Sir G. A. H. Beaumont, Bart.,

TO SELL BY AUCTION, ON

Wednesday, November 3rd, 1920,

The above-mentioned Valuable Freehold Properties,

which will be offered at the

BEAUMONT ARMS HOTEL, COLEORTON

at **TWO** o'clock in the Afternoon precisely.

Further information may be obtained from the AUCTIONEERS; or from

Messrs. FISHER JESSON & CO.,
Solicitors,
Ashby-de-la-Zouch and Coalville.

Auction Offices: Ashby-de-la-Zouch.
Tel. 56.

G. J. LEWIS, PRINTERS ASHBY-DE-ZOUCH, ENGLAND.

Note the reference to Beaumont Arms Hotel

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, Griffydham 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 CHRONICAL – 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.....

The Beaumont Arms was clearly a focal point for the village, and it also supported a formidable cricket team known as "**The Coleorton Beaumont Cricket Club**", for obvious reasons. This was listed in at least five directories under Leicestershire Cricket Clubs, dated 1895, 1899, 1908, 1912 and 1916. Their games were played somewhere in "Coleorton Paddock", but exactly where, is not known. Thomas Williams, shown in the photograph below, became a professional cricketer, as did his brother.

THE RENT DINNER AT THE "BEAUMONT ARMS"

One of the most exciting events of the year, recalled by Mrs. Cuthbert, was the annual rent dinner held at "The Beaumont Arms" by the estate farmers. Never was there such a spread: goose, turkey, chicken, hare and various other delicacies, with rum punch to follow with the desert. There was a social programme afterwards, which was enjoyed by Sir George (the chairman), and every one of his guests. As reported above, John Peck Charville did the catering for this event, for 55 years. The following day, cottagers on the estate fetched their allotted foodstuffs from the custody of mine host Charville. Each received a ration of beef, with bread, vegetables and a quart of beer - all to be consumed at their own tables.

THE COLEORTON BEAUMONT CRICKET CLUB



Coleorton Beaumont Cricket Club 1904

The above photograph, sporting a team of gentlemanly looking players, was taken in 1904 with their president Sir G A H Beaumont is in the centre. Two Charville family members were in the team, John V Charville Sen'r (pub landlord) who was treasurer, and his son John T R Charville. Kelly's 1916 Directory for Leics and Rutland records JTR. Charville as Hon Sec. However, other records show T. Williams as **Senior Honorary Secretary**.

The names are, from left to right:-

Back Row: J. Robinson, T Lord, T Williams, J Williams, W Lord, JTR Charville Jn'r, J Ward, J V (Peck) Charville Sn'r, J Williams Sn'r.

Middle Row: J Williams, Thomas Williams, Sir GAH Beaumont, G Haywood, J Rice, E E Massey.

Front Row: G Kinns, J Haywood.

Details of the unfortunate death of Mr Thomas Lord (second from left on back row) is included in the history of Coleorton Colliery which appears on the website.

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 – 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 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 leveling 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:-
Cont'd overleaf

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. Deaston, run out.....	1—run out..... 6
W. Beakin, b Deane.....	4—b Beaumont..... 1
C. Merewether	4—b Deane
Sours, b Beaumont	5—b Beaumont..... 3
R. Bennett, not out	6—run out..... 8
Butler, b Beaumont	3—not out..... 6
Hackett, b ditto	0—b Deane
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
Total..... 67	Total..... 58
THE MARRIED.	
First Innings.	Second Innings.
Sir G. Beaumont, b W. Beaumont.....	8—c T. Deaston, 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
W. Heygate, b ditto	14—b w, b Bennett
Walker, c Hackett, b Beaumont	6—b Bennett..... 6
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
Hutton, b Beaumont.....	3—b ditto
Onion, b Bennett	3—c Deaston, b Bennett .. 0
A. Deaston, not out.....	0—not out..... 0
	Byes 2, 1 b 3, w 1
Total..... 101	Total..... 25

COLEORTON.

Programme of

CONCERT

To be given in the Schoolroom, by the

REV. W. E. TERRY'S

String Orchestra,

ON MONDAY, FEB. 4th. 1895.

ON BEHALF OF THE

COLEORTON BEAUMONT

Cricket Club.

DOORS OPEN at 6.30. TO COMMENCE at 7.

Admission : A few Reserved Chairs, (numb.) 2/-
Chairs, 1/6 ; Second Seats, 1/- ; Back, 6d.

Tickets may be had at the School-House, of the Members of the Club
of Mr. CHARVILL, Beaumont Arms, or of Mr. E. CUTHBERT,
Hon. Sec.

J. Hewes, Printer and Stationer, Coalville

A programme for a concert held in Coleorton School on behalf of "The Coleorton Beaumont Cricket Club" in 1895

COLEORTON WAKES WEEK – RECOGNISED AS THE HOLIDAY OF THE YEAR

The “Coleorton Wakes” used to be one of the biggest events of its kind for miles around. There were stalls, coconut-shies, and various other attractions, with a cricket match (presumably involving the “Beaumont Cricket Club”) on the Tuesday, which created a sort of cumulative interest from year to year. Ware’s travelling circus became a feature during later years. Coleorton Wakes had a religious association, the “Feast Sunday” was always set apart as a “camp meeting Sunday”, and this was the occasion for a large assembly of enthusiasts in the field opposite Coleorton Post Office (this would have been Kendricks’ Post Office which features in the previous book also). They sang and prayed and preached throughout the whole day, under a lovely setting of tall trees. To all intents and purposes, it was a “Nonconformist Rally”. It was something far more elaborate than the united open air services established on the Wake Field in more recent years (see following article)

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.*

LEICESTER DAILY MERCURY – SEP 8TH 1879

Coleorton Wakes week

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 and 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

LEICESTER CHRONICLE – SEPTEMBER 4TH 1880

The Wakes –

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 lightning.

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 – 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.

A past resident of the village, Mr William Stacey, contributed the following in a 1950 newspaper article :-

Life in these days was not all work (presumably referring to the early 1900's). There was for instance, the annual Coleorton Wakes - always the first Sunday after Aug 26th. These were held in the field behind "The Beaumont Arms", and the main attractions were swinging boats and small horses turned around by hand. There was much drinking in the Beaumont Arms, of which Mr. Charville was the landlord, and 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 more than a modicum of this stimulant, was beyond prophecy.

The first recollection of a fair in Coleorton, was in the " Pump Field" at the rear of the George Inn on Loughborough Road.

The following extract, was taken from an old issue of the Coalville Times - *One can hardly mention Coleorton Pubs without inclusion of "The Beaumont Arms". The fighting here became intense on "Wake Monday", and there was 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.*

The Coleorton Wakes were re-sited twice before being finally located, c.1950 in the field diagonally across the Loughborough Road from where the Beaumont Arms stood. It survived there for many years, and gave a great deal of pleasure to the locals (including the writer) with dodgem cars, guns, roundabouts, coconut shies and swinging - boats being the main attractions. The Church always held a Sunday night service on the dodgem car stand. Great prizes were on offer in those days, and could be won fairly and squarely. These mainly consisted of coconuts and glass ornaments and dishes, (known as Carnival Ware) etc.

THE COLEORTON WAKE IN RECENT TIMES

The Coleorton Wake was re-sited twice before being finally located, c.1945 in the "Wakes Field" sited diagonally across the Loughborough Road from where the Beaumont Arms stood.

It survived there for many years, and gave a great deal of pleasure to the locals (including the author) with dodgem cars, guns, roundabouts, coconut shies and swinging - boats being the main attractions, which were brought there by fairground operators

The Church always held a Sunday night service on the dodgem car stand.

Great prizes were on offer in those days, and could be won fairly and squarely for a sensible outlay. These mainly consisted of coconuts and glass ornaments and dishes, (known as Carnival Ware) etc.

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 united congregation of **about 400**, including the fair ground attendants. The fair was lit up as the congregation sang hymns unaccompanied.

THE SALE OF THE "BEAUMONT ARMS" "END OF AN ERA"

It is not known when the Beaumont Arms finally closed for business, but it and its land was sold to Marston Thompson & Evershed on the 8th of June 1940. Sir George Arthur Hamilton Beaumont Bart had died on the 2nd of October 1933. In his will dated the 21st of November 1931, he appointed Renee Muriel Bell, Isobel Frances Newton, and Henry Lushington Bolton as executors and they acted as his personal representatives / vendors at the sale. John (Jackie) Redburn moved to the Beaumont Arms on Feb 2nd 1948 and it eventually became a family farm again. They were there in 1992 when the cross-roads were re-designed. Sadly, modern houses now stand in this hallowed place

"The Beaumont Arms", "The George Inn" and "The Angel Inn" all became part of the Coleorton Beaumont's Estate. At the 1920 Beaumont Estate sale held at the Beaumont Arms, "The George", which was built at the end of the 18th century and originally known as the "Rose and Crown", was sold to "Salt and Company Brewers" for £1,600 and the Angel to "Marston Thomson and Evershead" for £1,300.