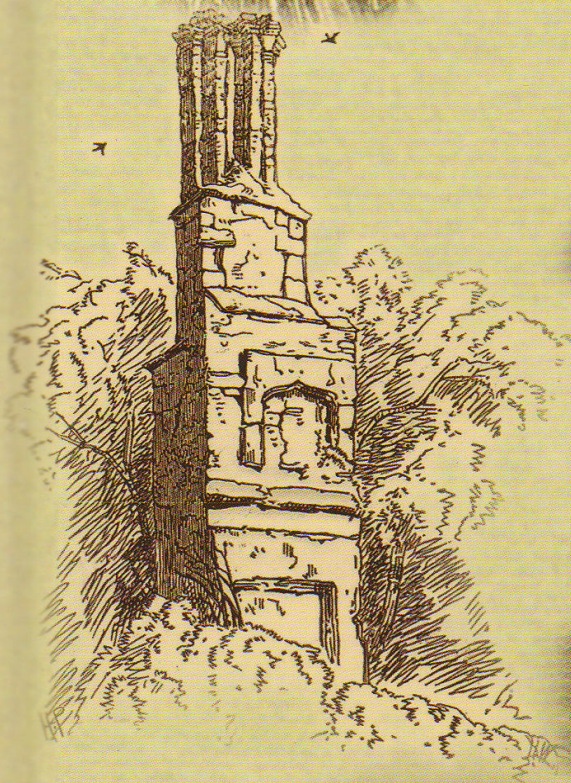


Colton
History Society
Document File
Volume I







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Bellamour Estate Auction

THE BELLAMOUR HALL ESTATE,

STAFFORDSHIRE.

To be offered for SALE BY AUCTION

AT THE

SWAN HOTEL, STAFFORD

On SATURDAY, the 4th JUNE, 1921,

At THREE o'clock p.m.

Auctioneers:

Messrs. WINTERTON & SONS,
St. Mary's Chambers,
LICHFIELD.

Land Agents:

Messrs. E. HEATON & SONS,
Endon,
Near STOKE-ON-TRENT.

Solicitors:

Messrs. MAY, HOW, CHILVER & MAY,
49, Lincoln's Inn Fields,
LONDON, W.C. 2.

By Instructions from H. L. HORSFALL, Esq.

STAFFORDSHIRE,

On the borders of Cannock Chase, in a picturesque and beautiful part of the County,
One Mile from Rugeley, Seven from Stafford, Eight from Lichfield, and
Three-and-a-quarter hours' journey from London by L. & N. W. Main Line.

Particulars, Plan & Conditions of Sale

OF THE

FREEHOLD RESIDENTIAL & AGRICULTURAL

PROPERTY

KNOWN AS THE

Bellamour Hall Estate,

Extending to an area of

391½ Acres,

Comprising The Manor or Reputed Manor of Colton; The capital stone-built Mansion distinguished as Bellamour Hall, standing in a well timbered Park, having Two Entrance Lodges, extensive Pleasure Grounds, Lawns and Ornamental Water and Boat House, and productive Gardens; The Home Farm and Plantations; a delightful Georgian Residence known as Colton House; Residence and Land called "Parchfields"; New House Farm; several Small Holdings, Dwelling Houses and Accommodation Lands, in or near the Village of Colton,

TO BE OFFERED FOR SALE BY AUCTION BY

Messrs. WINTERTON & SONS

At THE SWAN HOTEL, STAFFORD,

On SATURDAY, the 4th June, 1921, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon precisely

Either as a whole or in a number of convenient Lots as within described.

Copies of these Particulars and any further information may be obtained from—

THE AUCTIONEERS, St. Mary's Chambers, Lichfield;
Messrs. E. HEATON & SONS, Land Agents and Surveyors, Endon, near Stoke-on-Trent;
and from
Messrs. MAY, HOW, CHILVER & MAY, Solicitors, 49, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, W.C. 2.

STIPULATIONS.

TO BE DEEMED PART OF THE CONDITIONS OF SALE.

1. **THE WHOLE OF THE GROWING TIMBER** upon each Lot, and also the Mines and Minerals, will be included in the Sale. It is believed that the seams of Coal which are being worked at the Brereton Colliery, about two miles away, exist under the Estate, although at a greater depth from the surface.

2. **THE APPORTIONMENT OF THE TITHE** Rent-charge and the Land Tax has been made for the convenience of prospective Purchasers, and no legal apportionment shall be required.

3. **EXCEPT AS MENTIONED IN THE** Particulars of Lots 1 and 7, all such fixtures as belong to the Vendor only and are usually denominated as Landlord's fixtures, are included in the Sale. Those which are the property of the Tenants, whether mentioned in the Particulars or not, are excluded.

4. **THE CULTIVATIONS** of the various fields given in the Schedules are believed to be correctly stated, but Purchasers must satisfy themselves as to their accuracy, and no claim for compensation shall arise in respect of any land described as meadow or pasture which the tenant may have the right to plough up before the end of his tenancy.

5. **SUCH OF THE FENCES** as are marked with a T on one side thereof on the Plan are and shall be taken to be erected upon and form part of the Lot upon which such T is marked on the said Plan.

6. **SHOULD ANY DISPUTE ARISE** between the Vendor and Purchaser as to the boundaries of any of the Lots, or the Plan and Particulars, or the interpretation of any part thereof, the question in dispute shall be referred to the arbitration of the Auctioneers, whose decision shall be binding on all the parties, and the Auctioneers shall also decide how the cost of such reference shall be borne.

7. **THE PLANS AND QUANTITIES** have been compiled from the Ordnance Survey and are believed to be correct, but their accuracy is not guaranteed and no claim can be admitted nor any compensation allowed for any errors or discrepancies.

8. **THE VENDOR** reserves the right to hold a Sale or Sales of Furniture and other effects upon Lot 1 prior to the completion of the Purchase.

SUMMARY OF THE LOTS.

LOT	TENANTS	DESCRIPTION	AREA A. R. P.	ESTIMATED OR APPORTIONED RENTS £ s. d.
1.	In Hand	Bellamour Hall, Gardens, Pleasure Grounds and Plantations		*300 0 0
	Mr. G. R. Gregory ...	Part of Bellamour Home Farm, including the Homestead and two Cottages	156 3 7	185 0 0
	Messrs. C. C. & G. Mellor	Land near Bellamour Hall		126 0 0
2.	Mr. G. R. Gregory ...	Eva's Cottages, Buildings, and part of Bellamour Home Farm	57 3 14	115 0 0
	In Hand	Plantations		— —
3.	Mr. G. R. Gregory ...	Land fronting Uttoxeter Road	8 0 35	16 0 0
4.	Mr. G. R. Gregory ...	Land adjoining River Trent, forming part of Bellamour Home Farm	23 0 19	27 10 0
	In Hand	Plantation and Ozier Bed		— —
5.	Mr. William Preston ...	Wharf Cottage, Garden and Plantation ...	17 1 21	5 0 0
	Mr. G. R. Gregory ...	Part of Bellamour Home Farm		24 0 0
6.	Mr. G. R. Gregory ...	Field known as "Gosmoor Ends"	1 2 1	2 10 0
7.	Mrs. Sampson	"Parchfields," Buildings and Land	24 3 16	95 0 0
	Mr. John Grimley ...	Strip of Land from New House Farm ...		1 10 0
8.	Mr. John Grimley ...	New House Farm	58 2 37	130 0 0
9.	Mr. John Grimley ...	Water Meadows, adjoining River Trent ...	19 2 36	32 10 0
10.	The Derby Oxide and Colour Co., Ltd. ...	Two Enclosures of Land	2 3 10	9 0 0
11.	Colonel Carter	Colton House, Gardens, Pleasure Grounds and Land	16 2 39	102 10 0
12.	Mr. Ravenscroft	Village Smithy (Colton)	0 0 32	4 0 0
	Mr. J. Preston	Cottage and Garden adjoining		13 0 0
13.	Mr. Shuttleworth... ...	Elm Cottage and Garden (Colton)	0 0 17	11 0 0
14.	In Hand	Field of Accommodation Land (Colton) ...	3 1 32	*10 0 0
		Total ...	391 1 36	£1,209 10 0

*These are Estimated Annual Rental Values.

No Bid as a whole.

No Bid for Lot 1.

PARTICULARS.

Lot 1.

The Manor or Reputed Manor of Colton,

BELLAMOUR HALL,

Home Farm and Plantations,

Insured £208. 17. 0.

A very Compact and Attractive

Freehold Residential and Agricultural Property,

Situate near the Village of Colton, within One Mile of Rugeley Station, L. & N. W. Railway, comprising an area of

156 a. 3 r. 7 p.

Forming the Central Portion of the Estate and including the Mansion House, part of the Home Farm and Plantations.

BELLAMOUR HALL is a stately stone-built Mansion, standing upon a dry subsoil, surrounded by its Gardens, Pleasure Grounds and an Ornamental Sheet of Water (2 acres) and Boat-house, and is situated in a well-timbered Park and approached by two Carriage Drives with Lodge Entrances.

It contains, on the GROUND FLOOR, Entrance Hall 22 ft. × 15 ft., Vestibule, Study 16 ft. × 12 ft., Drawing Room 32 ft. × 21 ft., 10 in., Morning Room 32 ft. 6 in. × 22 ft., Library 21 ft. 10 in. × 21 ft. 10 in., Dining Room 40 ft. × 22 ft.—the height of these rooms being 14 ft. 9 in.—Housekeeper's Room, Store Room, Kitchen 22 ft. × 16 ft., Scullery, Larder, Dairy, Butler's Pantry, five small Bedrooms and two W.C's.

ON THE FIRST FLOOR are 11 Bed and Dressing Rooms, Workroom, Housemaid's Closet, two Bathrooms and two W.C's.

ON THE SECOND FLOOR eight Bedrooms and Boxroom.

IN THE BASEMENT are Servants' Hall, and extensive range of cellaring and heating apparatus.

Gas is laid on throughout the house, and the ground floor is heated with hot-water pipes.

THE STABLING, at a convenient distance from the House, comprises five Stalls and two Loose Boxes, two large Coach-houses and Saddle Room, with two Rooms and Lofts over the whole; Motor Garage for two Cars.

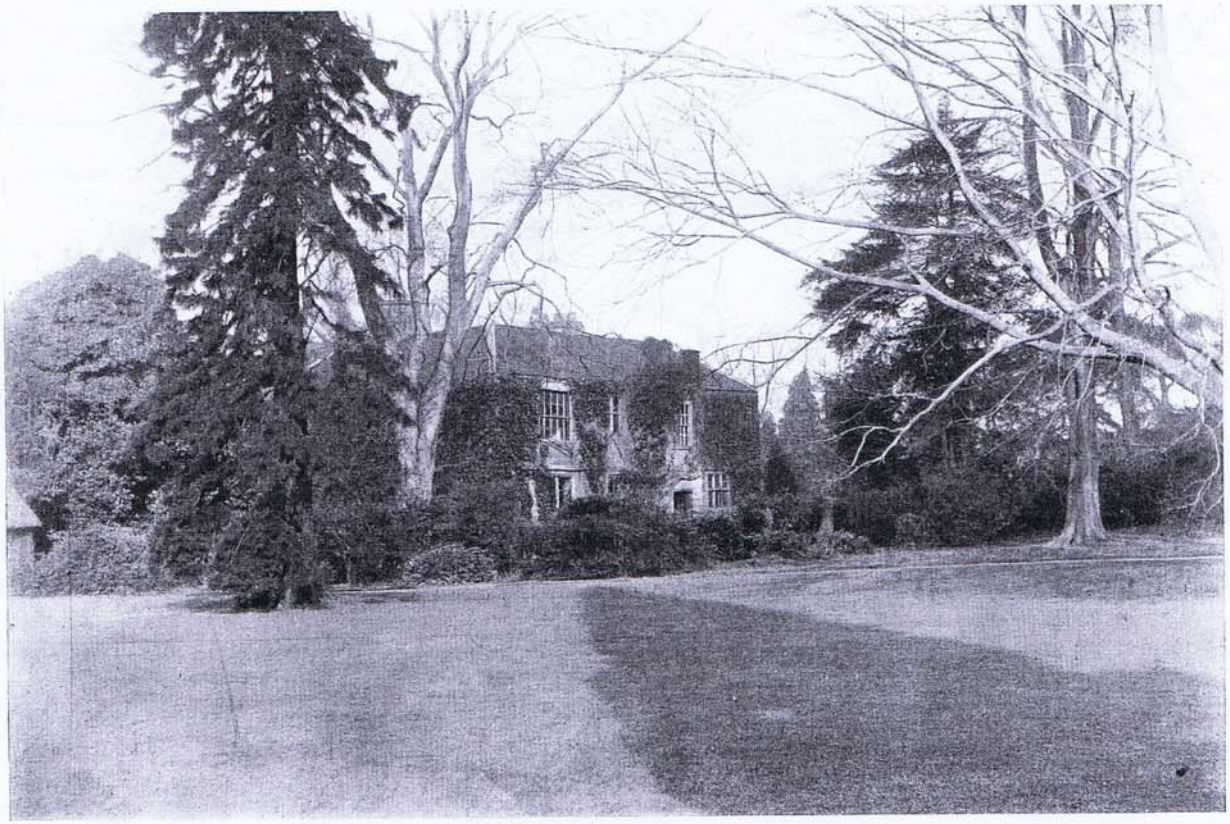
THE PLEASURE GROUNDS, which are fully matured and artistically laid out, include a fine expanse of Lawns stretching down to the Fish Pond and a charming Rhododendron Walk known as "The Dell."

On the North-East side is a capital walled Kitchen and Fruit Garden of a most productive character, containing two Peach-houses, two Vineries, Melon Pits and Fernery.

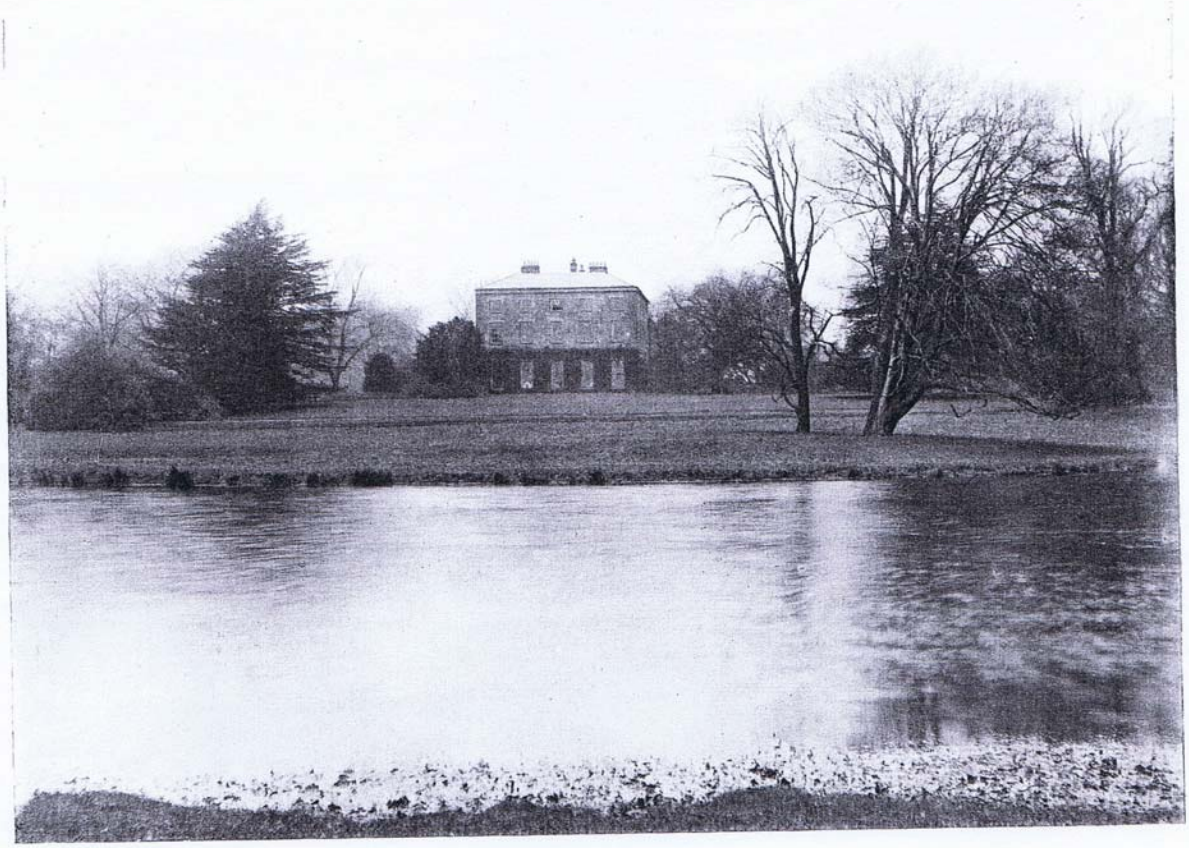
In a secluded part of the grounds stands "OLD BELLAMOUR HALL," dating from 1639, a very interesting stone-built structure, for some time past unoccupied, but which at a moderate expense might be restored.



BELLAMOUR HALL. View from the Grounds. (Lot 1)



"THE OLD HALL." In the Grounds. (Lot 1).



BELLAMOUR HALL. S. W. Front. (Lot 1).



BELLAMOUR HALL. Fish Pond and Boat House. (Lot 1).

Included in this Lot is the portion of the

Home Farm

and other lands surrounding the Mansion, occupied in part by Mr. G. R. Gregory and in part by Messrs. C. C. and G. Mellor, and consisting mainly of old turf land of the best quality.

It comprises a Farm-house and two Cottages immediately adjoining, the former containing Entrance Hall, House-place, Parlour, Kitchen, Scullery, Dairy, Pantry and seven Bedrooms, with outside Wash-house and Store Room over.

The two Cottages each contain Living Room, Kitchen and two Bedrooms.

THE FARM BUILDINGS include Milking Shed for 30 Cows with Mixing House in centre, four-stall Stable and Loose Box with Loft over, Barn and two Bays, Calf Houses, Bull Pen, Trap House, Hay and Corn Stores, Cart and Implement Sheds, Loose Box, Men's Mess Room, Piggeries, Fowl-house, Work Shops, etc.

SCHEDULE.

Name of Tenant	*No. on Plan*	*Description*	*Area* A. R. P.	*Total Area* A. R. P.
In Hand	531 ...	Bellamour Hall, Pleasure Grounds, Stabling, etc.	6 2 18	
	484 ...	The Dell and Shrubberies	3 0 18	
	Pt. 485 ...	Kitchen Garden	1 0 26	
	Pt. 486 ...	Orchard	1 0 22	
	534 ...	Fish Pond and Boat House... ...	1 3 32	
	532 ...	Paddock	4 0 30	
	536 ...	Colwich Lodge	0 0 36	
	Pt. 535 } 557 }	Rugeley Lodge	0 1 20	
	477 ...	Garden	0 1 21	
	483 ...	Plantation	0 1 6	
	533 ...	Boat House Spinney	1 1 25	
	Pt. 538 ...	Plantation	0 1 5	
	Pt. 553 ...	Ditto	0 2 23	
				21 3 2
Mr. G. R. Gregory ...	474 ...	Farm House and two Cottages (the two latter in hand)	0 2 20	
	Pt. 485 ...	Farm Buildings and Yard	0 1 28	
	Pt. 486 ...	Cart Shed and Rickyard	0 2 2	
	478 ...	Pasture	21 1 27	
	479 ...	Meadow	7 1 18	
	Pt. 481 ...	Arable	5 2 36	
	Pt. 537 ...	Pasture	16 2 0	
	Pt. 587 ...	Ditto	0 1 6	
	Pt. 588 ...	Ditto	1 2 0	
	Pt. 554 ...	Pasture	8 3 26	
	555 ...	Ditto	6 3 7	
	556 ...	Belt of Trees	0 1 0	
	Pt. 535 ...	Park (Pasture)	21 3 14	
				92 0 24
Messrs. C. C. & G. Mellor	560 ...	Pasture	17 1 2	
	529 ...	Pool	0 1 10	
	528 } 562 }	Plantations	0 3 27	
	559 ...	Pasture	11 3 32	
	558 } 583 }	Plantations	0 2 10	
	584 ...	Pasture	11 2 4	
	585 ...	Plantation	0 1 16	
				42 3 21
		Total...		156 3 7

	£ s. d.
Commuted Tithe Rent-charge	30 17 5
Land Tax	6 1 1

Vacant possession of Bellamour Hall and the fields in Messrs. Mellor's occupation may be had on the completion of the purchase.

The remainder of the Home Farm is let to Mr. Gregory with other lands on an annual tenancy.

Certain fixtures and planned furniture belonging to the Vendor in and about Bellamour Hall, of which a detailed list will be produced at the time of Sale, shall be taken by the Purchaser at the amount of a Valuation made by the Auctioneers.

Lot 2.

A Convenient Small Farm

extending to

57 a. 3r. 14 p.

now forming part of the Home Farm, situate adjacent to the road leading to Uttoxeter, comprising

Two Semi-detached Cottages,

Brick-built and tiled, known as

"Eva's Cottages,"

each containing Parlour, Kitchen, Pantry and three Bedrooms with detached Wash-house;

A Range of Out-buildings

comprising Stable for three Horses, Loose Box with Loft over, Barn and Bay, Tying for 12 Cows, Implement Shed and Loose Box and Piggeries; together with eight closes of excellent Land and two small Plantations.

SCHEDULE.

Name of Tenant	*No. on Plan*	*Description*	*Area* A. R. P.	*Total Area* A. R. P.
Mr. G. R. Gregory ...	425 ...	"Eva's Cottages," Outbuildings, Garden and Yard	0 2 29	
	424 ...	Croft	1 1 20	
	476 ...	Road	0 0 30	
	423 ...	Pasture	15 3 28	
	422 ...	Arable	7 3 35	
	418, 537	Meadow	8 3 19	
	165 ...	Ditto	1 2 28	
	167 ...	Ditto	8 1 22	
	168 ...	Ditto	6 0 28	
	415 ...	Pasture	3 2 8	
	417, Pt. 111	Road	0 1 32	
				55 0 39
In Hand	166 ...	Hell Hole Covert	1 1 28	
	419 ...	Barn Close Pit	1 0 27	
				2 2 15
			Total...	57 3 14

	£ s. d.
Commuted Tithe Rent-charge	23 7 11
Land Tax (apportioned)	2 17 0

Lot 3.

Two Enclosures of Valuable Grazing Land,

Situate near Lot 2, having a long frontage to the Uttoxeter Road and intersected by the Moreton Brook, comprising an area of

8 a. 0 r. 35 p.

There is an Open Shed in one of the fields.

£400
Sanders
£300
310
350
340
350
370
380
385
390
400

SCHEDULE.

Name of Tenant	*No. on Plan*	*Description*	*Area* A. R. P.
Mr. G. R. Gregory ...	429 ...	Pasture	4 2 21
	412 ...	Ditto	3 2 14
		Total...	8 0 35

Commuted Tithe Rent-charge	16/-
Land Tax (apportioned)	8/6

Lot 4.

£670
E M Radford
£400
410
420
430
440
450
460
470
490
500
550
560
570
580
590
600
610
620
630
640
645
650
655
660
665
670 Radford

Four Fields of Pasture and Arable Land,

with Plantation and Ozier Bed,

Situate between the Trent and Mersey Canal and the River Trent, comprising an area of

23 a. 0 r. 19 p.

and now occupied with the Home Farm.

SCHEDULE.

Name of Tenant	*No. on Plan*	*Description*	*Area* A. R. P.	*Total Area* A. R. P.
Mr. G. R. Gregory ...	598 ...	Pasture	4 2 14	
	597 ...	Ditto	3 2 11	
	Pt. 666 ...	Part of River Trent	0 2 19	
	595 ...	Arable	5 1 12	
	593 ...	Pasture	6 0 15	
	Pt. 594 ...	Part of River	1 1 28	
				21 2 19
In Hand	Pt. 548 ...	Plantation and Ozier Bed	1 2 0	
				1 2 0
			Total...	23 0 19

	£	s.	d.
Commuted Tithe Rent-charge	7	18	9
Land Tax (apportioned)	1	0	0

Lot 5.

Wm Preston all £530

A Desirable Small Holding

Comprising the Dwelling-house known as

"Wharf Cottage,"

Together with

Four Enclosures of Superior Land,

Having a total area of

17 a. 1 r. 21 p.

£200 M?
250
300
350
375
406
410
420
430
440
460
470
480
490
500

Situate adjoining the Trent and Mersey Canal, and bounded on two sides by the Canal and Railway.

The Cottage contains Parlour, Living Room, Pantry, Coal-house and two Bedrooms, with detached Scullery, Fowl-house and Piggery.

SCHEDULE.

Name of Tenant	*No. on Plan*	*Description*	*Area* A. R. P.	*Total Area* A. R. P.
Mr. Wm. Preston ...	549 ...	Wharf Cottage, Garden & Plantation	0 3 14	0 3 14
Mr. G. R. Gregory ...	Pt. 539 ...	Arable	4 2 0	
	Pt. 550 ...	Ditto	6 0 3	
	Pt. 590 ...	Ditto	5 2 1	
	Pt. 589 ...	Meadow	0 2 3	
				16 2 7
			Total...	17 1 21

	£ s. d.
Commuted Tithe Rent-charge	9 4 10
Land Tax (apportioned)	0 17 6

S10
S20
S25
S30
Morrall

Lot 6.

£40 Saunders
£40

A Piece of Meadow or Pasture Land,

known as

"Gosmoor Ends,"

Situate adjoining the Trent and Mersey Canal, numbered Pt. 601 on Plan, and containing

1 a. 2 r. 1 p.

as now in the occupation of Mr. G. R. Gregory.

Commuted Tithe Rent-charge	14/8
Land Tax (apportioned)	2/2



PARCHFIELDS (Lot 7).

Lot 7.

The Attractive Country Residence

called

PARCHFIELDS,

Situated at a short distance from Rugeley Station, and approached through an avenue of trees, together with the capital Garden, Farm Buildings and Agricultural Land, the whole extending to an area of

24 a. 3 r. 16 p.

as now or recently occupied by Mrs. Sampson.

The House contains on the ground floor three Reception Rooms, Kitchen, Pantry, Dairy, Larder and Scullery; on the first floor are four Bedrooms, Dressing Room, Bathroom and W.C., and on the second floor four Rooms, Boxroom and large Cupboard.

The Buildings are substantial and ample, and comprise three-stall Stable, another Stable for two Horses with Loft over, Loose Box, Coach-house, Tying for eight Cows and Fodder-bin, Barn and Mixing House, Cart Shed, Open Cattle Shed and Yard, Piggeries and Fowl-house.

A Cottage adjacent to the House contains Living Room, Kitchen and three small upstairs rooms.

The Land is all old turf, very productive and well shaded and watered.

SCHEDULE.

Name of Tenant	*No. on Plan*	*Description*	*Area* A. R. P.
Mrs. Sampson	622 ...	House, Outbuildings, Cottage, Garden, etc.	1 3 24
	647 ...	Avenue from Road	0 2 19
	620 ...	Pasture	4 0 10
	621 ...	Ditto	2 2 32
	623 ...	Ditto	5 1 24
	611 ...	Ditto	3 0 26
	577, 578	Ditto	5 3 26
	612 ...	Plantation	0 2 16
Mr. John Grimley ...	Pt. 625 ...	Strip of Land from New House Farm	0 1 39
		Total...	24 3 16

	£ s. d.
Commuted Tithe Rent-charge	2 10 9

Possession of this Lot can be given on the completion of the purchase, or earlier by arrangement. The purchaser must erect on this Lot and hereafter maintain a good and sufficient fence, to be approved of both as to materials and height by the Vendor or his Agent, to enclose the strip of land laid to this Lot from New House Farm (Part No. 625 on Plan) for the purpose of widening the Avenue.

Certain fixtures belonging to the Vendor in the Garden or elsewhere upon this Lot, of which a detailed list will be produced at the time of Sale, shall be taken by the purchaser at the amount of a Valuation made by the Auctioneers.

Lot 8.

New House Farm

A compact and very desirable Dairy Farm extending to

58 a. 2 r. 37 p.

Situated on the main road close to Rugeley Station and within half a mile of the centre of the Town, having an excellent House and convenient Buildings.

The House contains three Sitting Rooms, Kitchen, Scullery, Dairy, Pantry, six Bedrooms, Bath Room and W.C. Town water is laid on.

The Buildings comprise Milking Shed for 22 Cows and Hay Store, Barn and two Bays, two-stalled Stable and Loose Box, Trap House, Calf House and Cart Shed with Granary and Lofts over, and three Piggeries.

£3300 Enoch Evans, Walsall

SCHEDULE.

Name of Tenant	*No. on Plan*	*Description*	*Area* A. R. P.
Mr. John Grimley ...	627 ...	House, Buildings, Rickyard, etc. ...	0 2 9
	626 ...	Croft	2 1 21
	629 ...	Plantation	0 0 32
	646 ...	Pasture	5 1 15
	Pt. 625 ...	Meadow	6 1 19
	624 ...	Pasture	2 3 33
	609 ...	Ditto	8 0 0
	610 ...	Ditto	5 2 25
	579 ...	Meadow	2 1 31
	608 ...	Pasture	3 3 11
	582 ...	Meadow	3 3 11
	605 ...	Ditto	8 3 39
	606 ...	Arable	8 0 31
		Total...	58 2 37

2100
2200
2300
2400
2500
2600
2800
2850
2900
2950
3000
3050
3100
3150
3200
3250
3300

	£ s. d.
Commuted Tithe Rent-charge	13 2 10

Enoch Evans

50/2900

Lot 9.

£1050 Enoch Evans
£105
Enoch Evans.

A Valuable Tract of Water Meadows

Now forming part of New House Farm, situated between the Railway and River Trent, close to Rugeley Station, and approached by an Archway under the Railway, comprising an area of

19 a. 2 r. 36 p.

with an Open Cattle Shed and Yard in No. 644.

SCHEDULE.

Name of Tenant	*No. on Plan*	*Description*	*Area* A. R. P.
Mr. J. Grimley	643 ...	Meadow	12 1 26
	644 ...	Ditto	6 0 19
	Pt. 666 ...	Part of River Trent	1 0 31
		Total...	19 2 36

	£ s. d.
Commuted Tithe Rent-charge	7 18 9

50/950



COLTON HOUSE. North Front. (Lot 11).



COLTON HOUSE. South Front. (Lot 11).

Lot 10.

Two Enclosures of Land

Adjoining Lot 9, as now let on a Lady Day yearly tenancy to the Derby Oxide & Colour Co., Ltd., being Nos. 662 and 663 on Plan, containing an area of

2 a. 3 r. 10 p.

Together with a right of way for all purposes over the roadway (coloured red), constituting No. 668 on Plan.

£285
Colour Rook.
£285
files

	£	s.	d.
Commuted Tithe Rent-charge	1	5	3
Land Tax	0	2	5

Lot 11.

The Delightful Georgian Residence

£2300 W.S.

KNOWN AS

COLTON HOUSE,

£2000
2100
2200
2250
2300 WD.

Situated in the Village of Colton and standing in old-world gardens and grounds of much natural beauty, with Range of Stabling and other Buildings, excellent walled Kitchen Garden, Vinery and Greenhouse, Tennis Lawn, Fishpond and Plantation, and two closes of Land, the whole comprising an area of

16 a. 2 r. 39 p.

as now occupied by Colonel Carter.

The House is comfortably arranged and contains Entrance Hall, Dining Room, Drawing Room, Morning Room and Conservatory, Kitchen, Scullery, Larder, Pantry, Maids' Sitting Room, Lavatory and extensive Cellars.

On the first floor are five Bedrooms, Dressing Room, Bathroom and W.C.

On the second floor one large Bedroom with alcove and four smaller Bedrooms.

The Buildings, in an enclosed Yard adjacent to the House, comprise Stabling for three Horses, Harness Room, large Coach-house with Laundry over, Cow Shed for six, Cart Shed, Dairy and Game Larder, two Piggeries and Fowl-house.

In the Yard is also a four-roomed Gardener's Cottage.

SCHEDULE.

Name of Tenant	*No. on Plan*	*Description*	*Area* A.	R.	P.
Col. Carter	519 ...	"Colton House," Stabling, Gardens, Pleasure Grounds and Plantation	2	3	31
	520 ...	Meadow	5	1	14
	Pt. 497 ...	Plantation	3	2	7
	496 ...	Fish Pond	0	3	26
	Pt. 495 ...	Pasture and Shed	4	0	1
		Total...	16	2	39

	£	s.	d.
Commuted Tithe Rent-charge	3	3	10

Possession of this Lot will be given on the 25th October, 1921.

Lot 12.

The Village Smithy, Cottage & Garden

IN

Colton Village,

In the respective occupations of Messrs. Ravenscroft and J. Preston as quarterly tenants, comprising an area of

32 perches, or thereabouts.

The Cottage contains Parlour, Living Room, Back Kitchen, Pantry and three Bedrooms, and has detached Wash-house, Coal Shed and Piggery.

The Trade premises include the Blacksmith's Shop with two hearths, Pent-House and two Loose Boxes.

There is a good Garden.

Commuted Tithe Rent-charge	1/5
Land Tax (apportioned)	2/8

The owner of this Lot and his tenants are to have the right in common with the owner of Lot 13 and his tenants to the use of the Well and Pump on Lot 13, and each owner is to be liable for half the cost of the maintenance thereof.

The purchaser of this Lot is also to have access at all times over the site of the passage-way on Lot 13 between certain of the buildings on the respective Lots for the purpose of getting access to his back premises.

Lot 13.

A Detached House and Garden

CALLED

"Elm Cottage,"

Situate adjacent to the last Lot, and let to the Colton School Managers as quarterly tenants, and now in the occupation of Mr. Shuttleworth, comprising an area of

17 perches or thereabouts.

The House contains Parlour, Living Room, Scullery and three Bedrooms, with detached Wash-house.

Land Tax (apportioned) 2/8

The owner of this Lot is to be subject to the privileges conferred upon the owner of Lot 12 mentioned above.

Lot 14.

A Valuable Field of Accommodation Land

Numbered 491 on Plan,

Situate in the Village of Colton, with a frontage to the main road, and bounded on one side by the Moreton Brook, containing an area of

£260 Capt. Oldham

3 a. 1 r. 32 p.

£260 Neighbour

and now in hand.

	£	s.	d.
Commuted Tithe Rent-charge	1	1	2

CONDITIONS OF SALE.

1. The highest bidder shall be the Purchaser, the Vendor fixing a reserve price for each Lot, and reserving the right to bid up to such price by himself or his Agent, and also the right to consolidate, sub-divide and rearrange Lots.

2. No person shall advance less than the sum to be fixed by the Auctioneer on each bidding, or retract a bidding. And if any dispute arise, the Lot in dispute shall be put up again at the last undisputed bidding, or the Auctioneer may determine the dispute.

10% deposit Lot 4 plus fixtures

3. Each Purchaser shall at the close of the Sale to him pay to the Solicitors (hereinafter named as Agents for the Vendor and his Settled Land Act Trustees) a deposit of 10 per cent. on the amount of his purchase money, and shall sign an agreement in the form subjoined to these conditions. The Purchaser of Lot 1 and the Purchaser of Lot 7 shall, in addition to the amount of his bidding, pay for such of the Fixtures on the Lot purchased by him as are referred to in the Particulars at the amount of the Auctioneers' valuation, and the amount of such valuation shall for all the purposes of these conditions (including payment of the deposit) be deemed part of his purchase money.

Completion 29 Sept 1921

4. Each Purchaser shall pay the remainder of his purchase money on the 29th day of September, 1921, at the office, 49, Lincoln's Inn Fields, in the County of London, of Messrs. May, How, Chilver & May (the Solicitors of the Vendor), at which time and place his purchase shall be completed. And a Purchaser paying his purchase money shall, as from that day, be let into possession or receipt of the rents and profits, and pay all outgoings, and up to that day all rent, rates, taxes, and other outgoings shall (if necessary) be apportioned, and the balance shall be paid by or allowed to the Purchaser on completion. And if from any cause whatever (other than wilful default on the part of the Vendor) the completion of any purchase shall be delayed beyond the before mentioned day the remainder of the purchase money shall bear interest at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum from that day to the day of actual payment thereof.

7% interest.

14 days Abstract

5. Each Purchaser shall within fourteen days after the delivery of his abstract deliver to the Solicitors of the Vendor at their office aforesaid a statement in writing of all the objections and requisitions (if any) to or on the title or evidence of title, or the abstract, or the particulars, or these conditions. And subject thereto the title shall be deemed accepted. And all objections and requisitions not included in any statement delivered within the time aforesaid shall be deemed waived. And an abstract, though in fact imperfect, shall be deemed perfect except for the purpose of any further objections or requisitions which could not be taken or made on the information therein contained. And an answer to any objection or requisition shall be replied to in writing within ten days after the delivery thereof, and if not so replied to shall be considered satisfactory. And time shall be deemed in all respects as of the essence of this condition.

6. If any Purchaser shall take any objection or make any requisition which the Vendor on the ground of expense or otherwise is unable or unwilling to remove or comply with or if any question shall arise as to the Conveyance, and the Purchaser shall not withdraw such objection or requisition or waive the question within seven days after being required so to do the Vendor may by notice in writing delivered to such Purchaser or his Solicitor and notwithstanding any intermediate negotiation or litigation rescind the contract for sale. And the Vendor shall within one week after such notice repay to the Purchaser whose contract is so rescinded his deposit money which shall be accepted by him in satisfaction of all claims on any account whatever. And the Purchaser whose contract is so rescinded shall return forthwith all abstracts and papers in his possession which have been furnished by or on behalf of the Vendor.

Title commence with Will (15 Aug 1875) redeclared ~~22 Dec 1875~~ 10th May 1875 Mr T B Horsfall who died 22 Dec 78

7. The Title shall commence with the Will (dated the 15th day of August, 1873, and redeclared on the 10th of May, 1875) of the late Thomas Berry Horsfall, Esq., who died on the 22nd of December, 1878. If required by any Purchaser a Statutory Declaration will, at his expense, be furnished to the effect that the Lot purchased by him has for 12 years or upwards next preceding the day of Sale been enjoyed in accordance with the title deduced under such Will. And upon this evidence it shall be assumed (as is believed to be the case) that the Testator was at his death seised or entitled in unincumbered fee simple in possession. And no purchaser shall require the production of or investigate, or make any requisition or objection in respect of the prior title, whether the same shall appear to be in the Vendor's possession or power or not.

No recourse as to Manor of Colton

8. The Vendor shall not be required to show the boundaries extent, nature or constituents of the Manor or reputed Manor of Colton, or to furnish any evidence or information in relation thereto.

9. No further or other evidence shall be required of the identity of the Lot or Lots described in the particulars with the property to which title is shown by the abstract besides such evidence (if any) as may be gathered from the descriptions in the documents abstracted.

10. The several Lots are believed to be and shall be taken as correctly described, and any incorrect statement, error or omission found in the particulars, stipulations or these conditions, shall not annul the sale nor entitle any Purchaser to be discharged from his purchase, nor shall the Vendor or any Purchaser claim or be allowed any compensation in respect thereof.

11. The several Lots are sold subject to all quit, chief and other rents, rights of way, water, drainage, light and other easements (if any) affecting the same, and to any subsisting liability to repair party walls, fences or roads. The parts of Lot 1 which are numbered 528, 529, 560 and 562 on the Sale Plan are or may be subject to a condition that no building

shall at any time be erected thereon without the consent of the owner for the time being of Bellamour Lodge, and those parts of Lot 1 are sold and will be conveyed subject to that condition if and so far as the same is still subsisting.

Lots 5, 9 & 10 subj to
mare 10th June 1901
Lot 9 subject 2 Indentures
30 Dec 1893 &
25 July 1902
Lots 5 subj to
easement →

12. Lots 1, 5, 9 and 10 are sold subject to and with the benefit of the conditions contained in an Indenture dated the 10th June, 1901 (so far as they affect these Lots respectively), such Indenture being a Conveyance on Sale to the London and North Western Railway Co. Lot 9 is sold subject to and with the benefit of the conditions contained in two several Indentures, dated respectively the 30th of December, 1893, and the 25th of July, 1902, such Indentures also being Conveyances to the said Railway Co.

Lot 5 is sold and will be conveyed subject to the right (whether now existing or hereafter to be acquired) of the owner of Lot 1 to take and convey water from the Trent and Mersey Canal through or under Lot 5 to a watering place for cattle existing or to be constructed on the land numbered Pt. 588 on the Sale Plan, and to the further right for the owner for the time being of Lot 1 to enter upon Lot 5 for the purpose of cleansing, laying or relaying the pipe necessary for the purposes aforesaid, he paying reasonable compensation for the damage, if any, caused by such entry.

Tenancies –

13. Abstracts or copies of the leases, or of the agreements (if in writing) under which the tenants hold, and of the several Indentures mentioned in the last preceding condition, can be inspected at the offices aforesaid of the Vendor's Solicitors in ordinary office hours during a period of ten days next preceding the day of Sale, or in the Sale Room at the time of Sale. And each Purchaser shall be deemed to have notice of and to take subject to the terms of all the existing tenancies affecting the Lot purchased by him whether arising during the continuance or after the expiration thereof, and of the contents of the said several Indentures, and such notice shall not be affected by any partial or incomplete statement in the particulars or stipulations or conditions with reference to the tenancies or the said Indentures, and no objection shall be made on account of there not being an agreement in writing with any tenant. All cottage or other house property is sold subject to the Statutory rights (if any) of the respective occupiers, whether under the Increase of Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restrictions) Act, 1920, or otherwise.

Vendor sells as
tenant for life

14. The Vendor sells and will convey as tenant for life under the Settled Land Acts, 1882 to 1890, and no Purchaser shall require any covenant for title by the Vendor except the Statutory covenant implied by the Vendor conveying as beneficial owner with the usual proviso limiting the same so far as regards the reversion or remainder expectant on his life estate and the title to and further assurance of the premises after his death to the acts and defaults of himself and persons deriving title under him.

15. The Conveyance to a Purchaser shall be prepared by him and at his own expense, and the engrossment thereof shall be delivered at the office aforesaid of the Solicitors of the Vendor before the 10th day of September, 1921, for the execution by the Vendor and other necessary parties (if any). And the draft of such Conveyance (for perusal and approval on behalf of the Vendor and other necessary parties if any) shall be left at the said office ten days at least before delivery of the engrossment.

16. The several Purchasers shall take their Conveyances subject to the apportioned rents stated in the particulars, and shall not require the assent of any tenant thereto, nor require such rents to be otherwise apportioned. After the sale of any Lot the Vendor will (if required by the Purchaser of that Lot and so far as the law permits) concur with such Purchaser in giving notice to the Tenant to quit that Lot and the other premises (if any) held under the same Lease or Tenancy agreement. And the Purchaser or Purchasers of such other premises (if any) shall, if required, also concur in giving such notice to quit, or the Vendor may concur in his or their name or names and in his or their behalf.

to be determined by
10 Sept –
– 10 days before
to Quit:

17. Where any Lot appears by the particulars or plan to be offered for sale subject to an easement for the benefit of any other Lot, the Conveyance of the servient Lot shall be in terms made expressly subject to the easement affecting it, and proper remedies, if required for securing the same, shall be contained in the Conveyance of the servient Lot, or (at the option of the Vendor) shall be granted by the Purchaser thereof to and at the cost of the Purchaser of the dominant Lot, or of the Vendor if the dominant Lot be not sold.

Payment of duties?

18. Upon the death on the 8th of January, 1920, of Mrs. Lucy Martha Horsfall (the late tenant for life of the properties now offered for Sale), Estate Duty, and possibly Succession Duty, became payable or prospectively payable in respect thereof, and in respect of the timber, trees and wood then growing thereon. No Purchaser shall be entitled to require the said Estate Duty, or such parts thereof as remain unpaid, nor the Succession Duty (if any) to be discharged prior to the completion of this purchase, nor shall he require the Vendor or his Trustees or any other person to pay such duty or to enter into any agreement or covenant for the payment thereof, but the Vendor will, upon the request and at the expense of the Purchaser, use his best endeavours to obtain a Certificate under Section II. (1) Finance Act, 1894, that the Commissioners of Inland Revenue are satisfied that the full Estate Duty has been or will be paid in respect of the property agreed to be sold to the Purchaser.

Custody of
deeds –

19. After the Sale of all the Lots, or of all the Lots to which any set of documents relates, as the case may happen, the Purchaser whose purchase money is largest, or in case of equality the Purchaser of the Lot first sold, shall be entitled to the custody of such documents as relate to any other Lot, as well as to the Lot or Lots purchased by that Purchaser and do not relate to any other property besides that comprised in this Sale. But in respect of documents delivered to him which relate to the Lot or Lots of any other Purchaser, shall give to that other Purchaser (if he so requires) a Statutory acknowledgment of his right to production and to delivery of copies thereof, and also a Statutory undertaking for safe custody thereof. If any Lot be not sold the Vendor may, until the Sale thereof, retain all documents relating thereto and in respect thereof, or of any other documents retained he shall give to any Purchaser who may so require the before mentioned Statutory

acknowledgment (but not the undertaking). And every acknowledgment or undertaking given under this agreement shall be prepared and approved on behalf of all parties thereto at the expense of the person to whom it is given.

20. The Purchaser of any Lot which includes any house or other building which is insured against fire shall pay to the Vendor the proportionate part (as from the date of the contract) of the premium on any subsisting policy of Fire Insurance, and shall be entitled (so far as the policy or consent by the office permits) to the benefit of such insurance as from the date of the contract. But the Vendor shall not be bound to keep on foot any such insurance, or to give to any Purchaser notice of any premium being or becoming due.

21. If at any time after the Sale and before the date of completion any order shall be made for the execution by the Vendor of works upon any Lot in accordance with the requirements of the Local Authority in that behalf, the Purchaser of that Lot shall on completion repay to the Vendor the amount expended by him in complying with such order. And if any such order shall not have been complied with before completion the Purchaser shall (if required) enter into a covenant to indemnify the Vendor in respect thereof. But the Vendor shall, upon receiving notice of any such order, inform the Purchaser thereof and give him the option of complying therewith in lieu of the Vendor, and shall not expend any money for that purpose unless the Purchaser shall refuse or neglect to comply therewith.

22. If there is any variance between the "stipulations" above referred to and these conditions the provisions of these conditions shall prevail.

23. If any Purchaser shall neglect or fail to comply with any of the above conditions, his deposit money shall be forfeited to the Vendor, who may, with or without notice, resell the Lot or Lots in respect whereof default occurs without previously tendering a Conveyance to the defaulter at this Sale, and any resale may be made by auction or private contract at such time, subject to such conditions and in such manner generally as the Vendor may think proper. And if the Vendor thereby shall incur a loss by reason of diminution in price or expenses incurred, or both (after taking into account the deposit), the defaulter at this Sale shall pay to the Vendor the amount of such loss as liquidated damages. And on any such resale by auction the premises may be bought in, and all expenses consequent on an unsuccessful attempt to resell are to be forthwith paid to the Vendor by the defaulter at this Sale.

Memorandum.

BE IT REMEMBERED that at the Sale by Auction this 4th day of June, 1921, of the Property mentioned in the annexed Particulars of Sale

of

was the highest bidder for Lot and was declared the Purchaser thereof, subject to the above conditions, at the price of £

and has paid the sum of £ by way of deposit and agrees to pay to Henry Leeke Horsfall, Esq., the Vendor, or his Trustees according to the above conditions the balance of the said purchase money, and the Vendor and Purchaser hereby agree to complete the sale in accordance with the above conditions of sale.

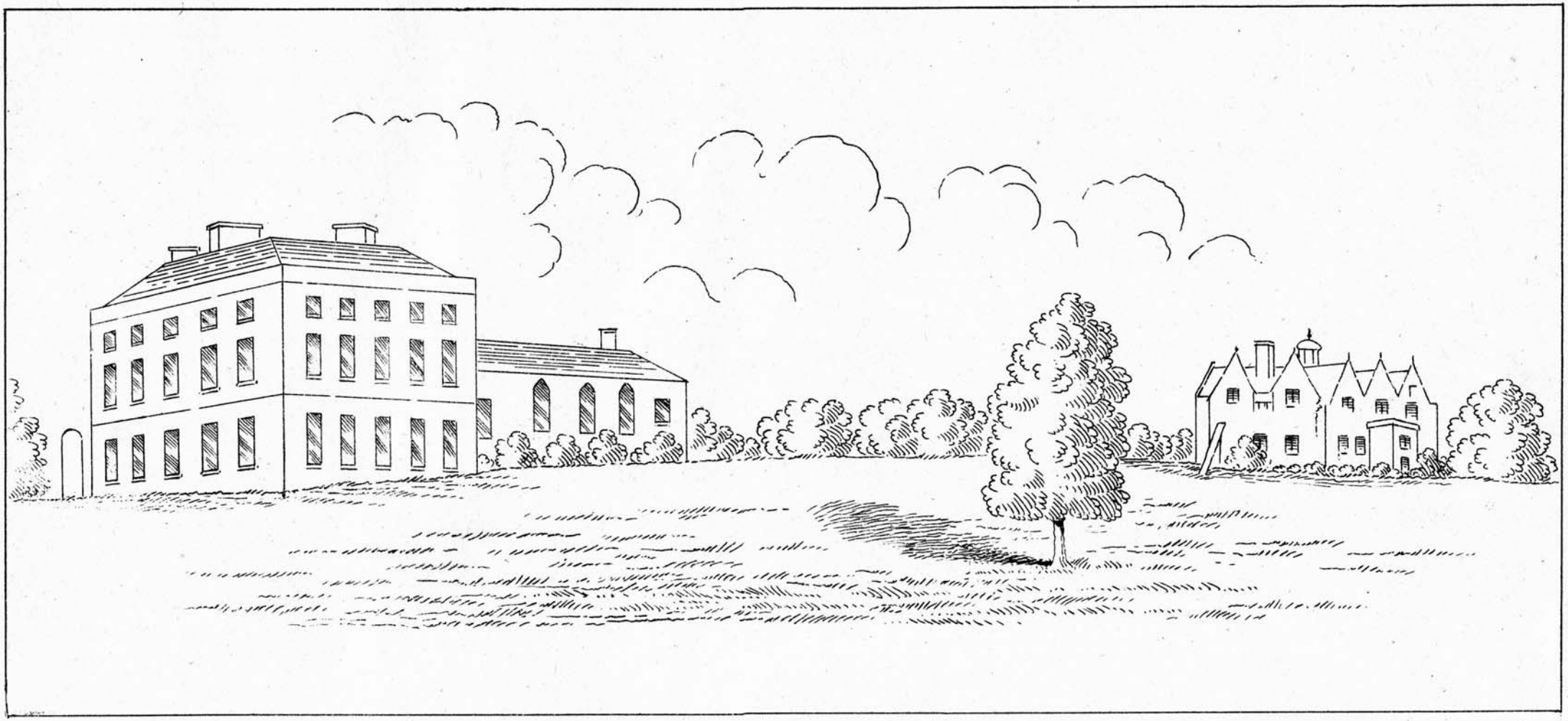
Purchase Money £

Deposit - - £

Balance - - £

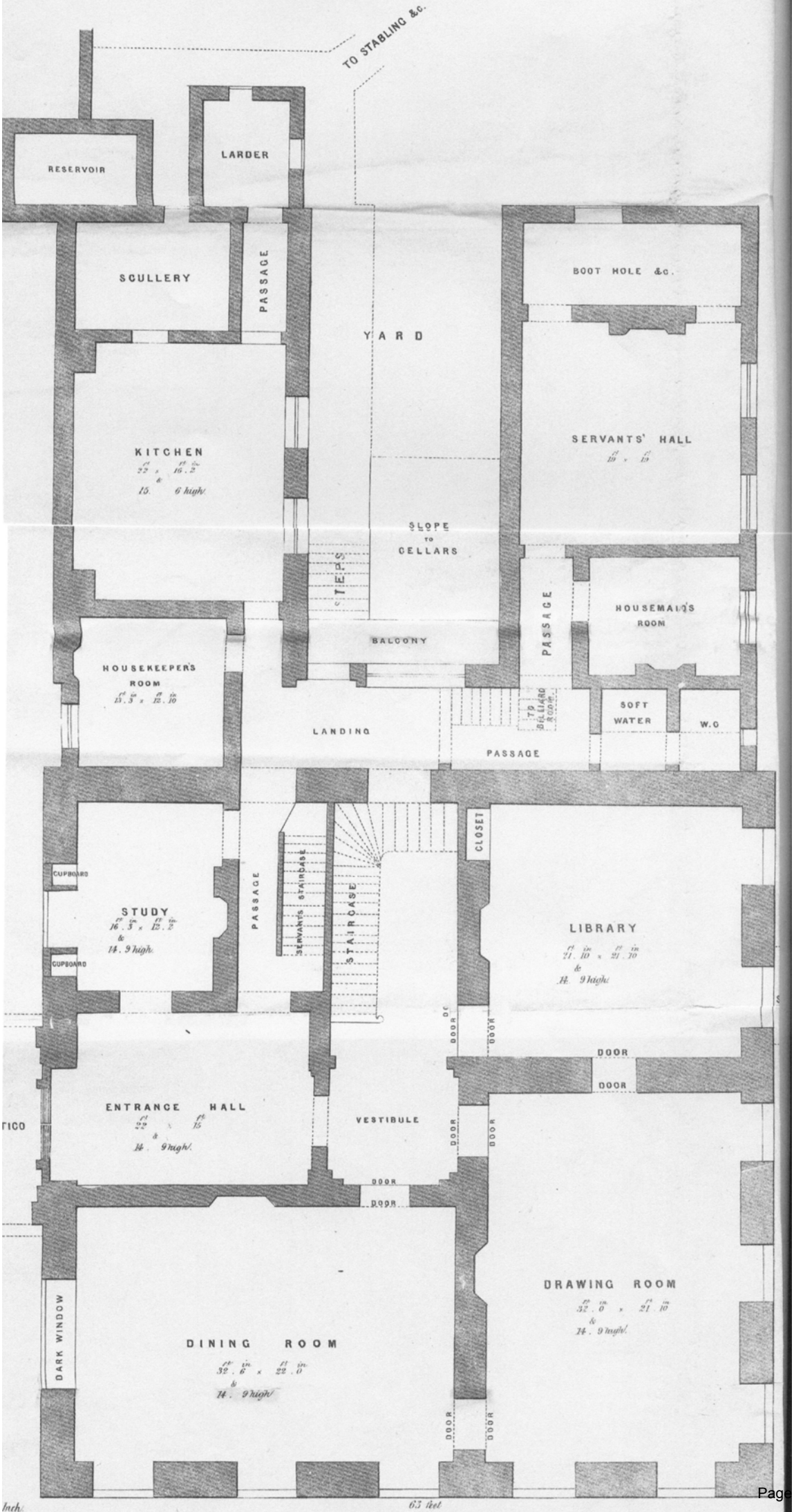
Abstract of Title to be sent to

Bellamour Hall Sketch's



Modern Bellamour, 1840.

Old Belamore, 1840.


TO STABLING &c.
RESERVOIR
LARDER
SCULLERY
PASSAGE
YARD
BOOT HOLE &c.
KITCHEN
22 x 16.2
15. 6 high
SERVANTS' HALL
19 x 19
SLOPE TO CELLARS
STEPS
PASSAGE
HOUSEMAID'S ROOM
BALCONY
HOUSEKEEPER'S ROOM
13.3 x 12.10
TO BILLIARD ROOM
SOFT WATER
W.C
LANDING
PASSAGE
CLOSET
CUPBOARD
STUDY
16.3 x 12.2
14. 9 high
PASSAGE
SERVANTS STAIRCASE
STAIRCASE
LIBRARY
21.10 x 21.10
14. 9 high
CUPBOARD
DOOR
DOOR
DOOR
DOOR
ENTRANCE HALL
22 x 15
14. 9 high
VESTIBULE
DOOR
DOOR
DOOR
DOOR
DRAWING ROOM
32.0 x 21.10
14. 9 high
DARK WINDOW
DINING ROOM
32.6 x 22.0
14. 9 high
DOOR
DOOR
63 feet

GROUND PLAN





Cecil Ravenscroft's Jottings

POST CARD

CARTE POSTALE

no. 1 of six photographs

K 1.

Views from Calton Rectory.
The Marston Brook is on the other side of the hedge.
The date is during the 1940 great winter, namely, January 30th.

Picture taken by Miss Gladys Bullock, who was on the domestic staff at the Rectory for many years.

Cecil F. Ravenscroft
Calton:
Nr. Rugeley, Staffs.

The arctic conditions set in on the afternoon of Friday, January 26th., 1940 and broke up towards the end of February.
Italian prisoners of war eventually cleared a way for traffic between Bellamour Harnett & the Trent Valley Railway Station, the drifts being in places 3 & 4 feet & more deep. The high wall of snow (frozen) they created in clearance gradually reduced, though it was two weeks into April before it finally disappeared. C.F.R.

POST CARD

CARTE POSTALE

No. 2 of size photographs.

K

2.

View from ~~front~~ north side of Bolton Rectory looking towards the Plantation opposite Bolton House.

January 30th during the great winter of 1940.

Photograph taken by Miss Gladys Bullock, who was on the domestic staff at the Rectory for many years. Lent by J. Mavenscroft, Bolton.

The arctic conditions set in on the afternoon of Friday, January 26th, 1940 and broke up towards the end of February.

Sherrasop Lane – leading from Stockwell Heath to Admaston Bank in the parish of Bolton – was blocked by snow. It was possible to negotiate the lane on top of the frozen snow – either along the lane itself or on top of the roadside hedges – the deep snow on which was frozen hard. The highest snow in the lane was 9 - 18 feet at the Admaston Bank end.

egk.

KODAK

POST CARD

CARTE POSTALE

no. 5 of see photographs.

K

5.

Following a month of frosty weather the arctic conditions set in on the afternoon of Friday, January 26th. & broke up towards the end of February, 1940.

Road from Bellamour Corner to Trent Valley Station blocked. Eventually a way was cut through by Italian prisoners of war.

The south side of St. Mary's Church, Colton, looking from the Rectory. Near the porch, covered in snow to a depth of several feet, is the grave of the late Thomas Berry Horsfall, & his first two wives, of the (now demolished) Bellamour Hall. (demolished 1924).

C. J. Ravenscroft

Picture taken on January 30th., during the great winter of 1940, of Mrs Elizabeth Bullock, who was on the domestic staff at the Rectory for many years.

KODAK

POST CARD

CARTE POSTALE

no. 6 of size photographs.

K

6.

C.J.K. walked on the tops of hedges thick with frozen snow, down the narrow Lane, & Sherracop Lane, parish of Colton.

Looking towards Colton Rectory. The top of the porch on the south side of S.V. Mary's Church can be seen in the photograph.

January 30th., during the great winter of 1940.

Cecil J. Ravenscroft, Colton.

Mrs. Rugeley, Staffs.

Following a month of frosty conditions complete arctic weather set in on the afternoon of Friday, January 26th. & remained until the end of February, 1940.

Picture taken by Miss Gladys Bullock, who was on the domestic staff at the Rectory for many years.

KODAK

POST CARD

CARTE POSTALE

No. 3 of size photographs.

K

3.

The arctic weather set in on the afternoon of Friday, January 26th & broke up towards the end of February, 1940.

Looking from the brook bridge towards the church, at Bolton, January 30th, 1940, during this great winter.

E.G.K.

Mr. Cecil J. Ravenscroft (who normally bicycled) walked to work around the road from Bolton to Rugeley for at least three weeks. Three or four vehicles remained stranded in the drifts (2-5 feet or more) for the same period. Eventually a way was cleared by using Italian prisoners of war.

Picture taken by Miss Gladys Bullock, who was for the domestic staff at the Rectory at the time, & for many years previously.

E.G.K.

KODAK

POST CARD

CARTE POSTALE

no. 4 of six photographs.

K 4

The south side of St. Mary's Church, Bolton, looking towards the Rectory.

In the middle, carrying several feet of snow, is the wheel of the late Thomas Berry Horsfall, of Bellamaer Hall & his first two wives.

E.G.K.

The arctic conditions set in on the afternoon of Friday, January 26th., & broke up towards the end of February, 1940.

Once or twice there were phenomenal showers of ice pellets.

The initial blizzard raged all Friday afternoon & evening (January 26th), throughout the night & all day on Saturday (27th).

Picture taken on January 30th., during the great winter of 1940, by Miss Gladys Bullock, who was on the domestic staff at the Rectory for many years.

Cecil J. Ravenscroft, Bolton.

KODAK

Ravenscroft

Photograph, 20th May 1962, by Miss Ruth B. Ravenscroft of Colton (aged nearly 16 years).

Lloyd's Cottages (a row of 4) (with gardens), High Street, Colton, near Rugeley, Staffs.

The site is just around the corner from High House (basement used as shop) at the entrance to High Street, & they almost adjoined High House.

The tenants at the time were (from left to right) — Mr. J. Thos: Griffiths (bachelor) (whose parents had been tenants way back prior to 1910), Mr. Regd: Lycett, wife & family, Mr. James H. Parr & wife (back to 1910 & maybe, some years prior to then) & Mr. & Mrs. Arthur H. Hibbs & family.

Lloyds Cottages were owned by the Lloyd* family who owned & lived at Arsley House opposite. Following Miss Lucy P. Lloyds' death in 1940 Mr. Richard Morrall purchased the row & some time afterwards he sold same to Lichfield Rural Distt. Council.

In the background can be seen Bank House (demolished about 1965) the home of the late Mrs. Eliza*

*both Yates (widow), & afterwards of the late Mrs. Hardcastle (widow) & her son-in-law, Mr. Wm. Eaton & his wife, Mrs. Jenny (Biss) Eaton.

Colton Hall & Colton Mill

BLO(O)R(E) SOCIETY

From C. Bollen Blore [redacted]
Sep 5 2008-

Dear fellow member,
Sorry you have had difficulties communicating with me!.....I have been sick for some months with two spells in hospital.
Unfortunately they can't do anything about my age! (94)!

However I am still interested in the Colton area as I have known a bit about it all my days even though I was born in LONDON .

I have prepared a photocopy of what we called COLTON HALL!
My Grandfather Simon Blore rented this house from the Earl of Lichfield's Estate, about the year 1891 with the attached 500 acres mixed arable, which he ran as a farm, making certain improvements, notably the construction of a running water system in the habitable rooms and the farm yard for a milk cooling enabling the milk to be sent by RAIL to more distant customers.
The system was a below surface brick chamber into which the water from what I always knew as Colton Brook to the East of the railway line. The system was self pumping using a hydraulic RAM!

A buried pipeline up the hill discharging into a 400 gallon tank in the loft of the Coach House and then a dstriubution system including a water closet among the bed—rooms.
The pipe line was buried TWO FEET below the surface, believed at time to be adequate. However after a severe frost (1894)//it burst and had to be replaced a foot deeper!

I know the date accurately because of my father's memory and because many years later I now a married man and wife were living in Bournemouth during the worst frost in that area for many years (40 was the general opinion and a burst occurred in our house and a buried water pipe burst in the wall plaster. \we actually heard it budrt and found th ribbon of ice sticking out of the wall.

I also enclose a section of an ordnance survey map showing the location of the building (permitted in case of a single copy for study or research)" I make the comment: -A House is not a farm!

Jumping ahead: A grandfather produced 11 (eleven) childen! (Nine boys and two girls) The youngest a boy,married a local girl Alice Radford from Colton, who in turn sadly produced a brain damaged son, 'Cyril Elijah' . He died at 16 and uncle Elijah Septimus Blore buried him in the churchyard of he new Church just before thee Stafford Road..... As Cyril son of Elijah od COLTON HALL. The incumbent of the church demurred that it should be Colton Hall FARM, as on the Ordnance map. Words ran high, my father Sampson Charles BLORE, took his brother side! AS FAR AS I KNOW, THE POSITION IS STILL UMCHANGED!

What a disgrace for the church! Two of her children so engaged in 'scrapping!'

From about the standpoint of the photographer and back away from the house the land fell away and formed a large circular depression say about 50 feet in diameter. An old employee told me that it used to be a large pond and that he had the job of gravel coating the path round. \Icannot confirm that,

But *am more sure of the next next bit:-*
The present building was in fact the servants quarters of the larger main house, reputed to have had 365 windows
But was burned down at some point in the past.
AND that in hot dry summers the foundations begin to appear I the turf. MOVES TO EXCAVATE WERE BLOCKED BY??

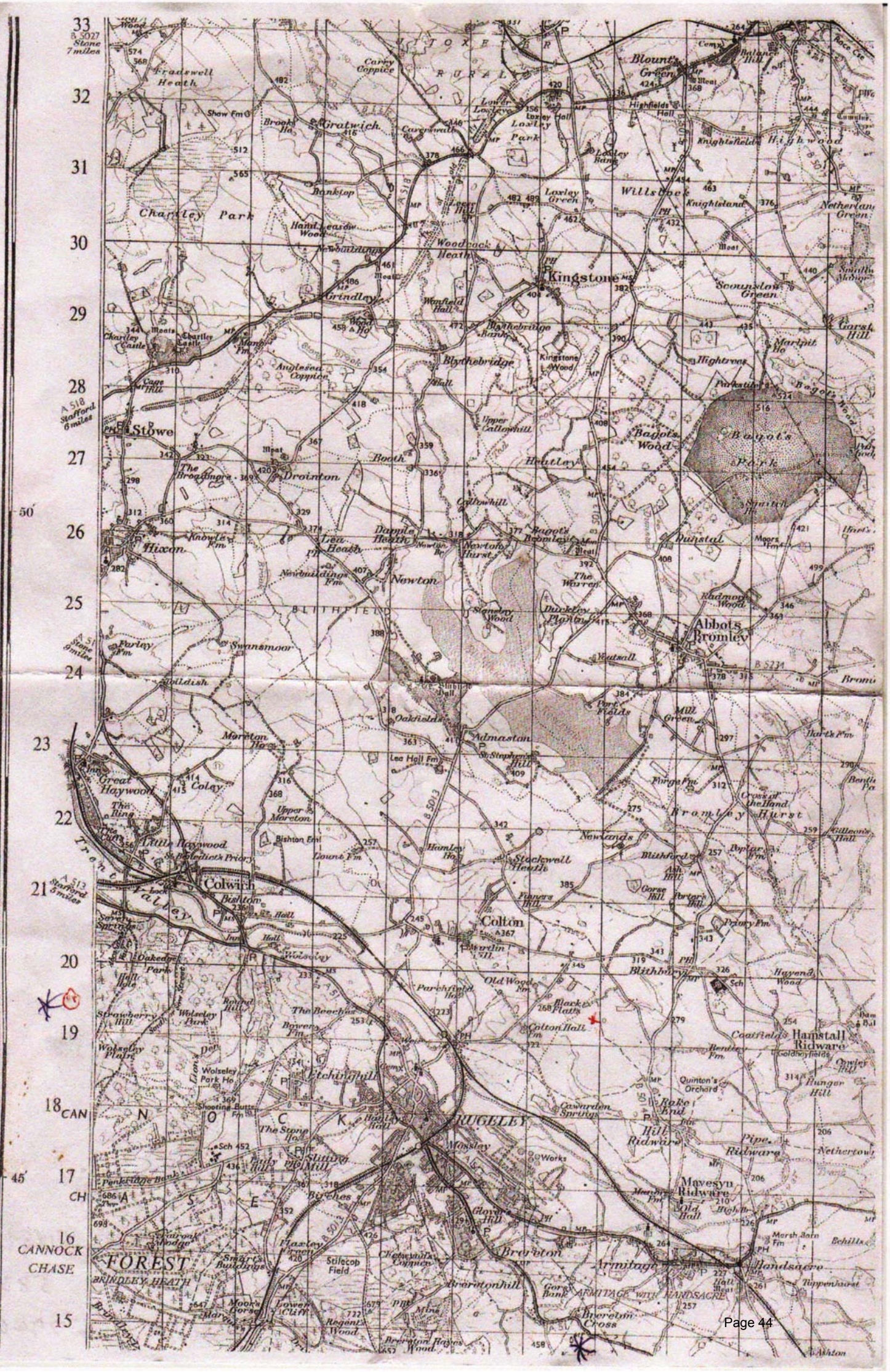
I AM TOLD THAT DRASTIC CHANGES ARE TAKNG PLACE....and it may well be that the building will have new uses but not farming

My father used to talk about Bellamour House but I cannot remember what he said. I did notice the branch off the Lane which then lost itself in the fields

One other item: Just once and once only... from a stance in the hall looking out from the conservatory I caught sight of the three spires of Lichfield Cathedral.....thus fixing the oreientation

P Bellamour House

NORTH



Kingstone
Blythebridge
Stowe
Drointon
Hixon
Newton
Abbots Bromley
Colwich
Colton
Great Haywood
Little Haywood
Trent Valley
Etchinghill
RUGELEY
Mossley
Brereton
Armitage
Handsacre
Hamstall Ridware
Mavesyn Ridware
Pipe Ridware
Blithbury
Bromley Hurst
Admaston
Bagot's Park
Bagot's Wood
Dunstal
Stockwell Heath
Newlands
Blithford
Hill Ridware
Rake End
Quinton's Orchard
Cawarden Springs
Brereton Cross
Brereton Hill
Stilecop Field
Flaxley Green
Lower Cliff
Moor's Gorse
Regent's Wood
Brindley Heath
Cannock Chase
Forest
Cannock Chase
Stafford 6 miles
Stafford 5 miles
Stone 7 miles
Stone 9 miles
Charlley Park
Gratwich
Blount's Green
Willsbock
Highwood
Knightsfield
Knightsland
Woodcock Heath
Grindley
Wanfield Hall
Blythebridge Bank
Kingstone Wood
Upper Callowhill
Callowhill
Booth
Heatley
Dapple Heath
Lea Heath
Newton Hurst
Newton
Newbuildings Fm
Swansmoor
Toildish
Oakfields
Moreton Ho
Coley
Upper Moreton
Bishton Fm
Lount Fm
Hamley Ho
Lea Hall Fm
Port Fields
Mill Green
Forge Fm
Cross of the Hand
Gorse Hill
Priory Fm
Old Wood Fm
Parchfield Ho
Black Flatts
Colton Hall
Bowen Fm
The Beeches
Round Hill
Wolseley Park
Wolseley Park Ho
Shooting Butts Fm
The Stone Ho
Slitting Mill
Birches
Glover's Hill
Cawarden Springs
Rake End
Hunger Hill
Coatfield
Goldhayfields
Ridware
Pipe Ridware
Nethertown
Marsh Barn Fm
Echills
Tippenhurst
Ashton
Hamley Hall
Stanley Wood
Duckley Plantn
The Warren
Yeatsall
Radmore Wood
Moors Fm
Squitch Ho
Marlpit Ho
Hightrees
Parkstile
Scounslow Green
Netherlands Green
Gorst Hill
Balance Hill
Highfields Hall
Loxley Hall
Loxley Park
Loxley Green
Loxley Bank
Lower Loxley
Carry Coppice
Caverswall
Banktop
Hand Leasow Wood
Newbuildings
Charlley Castle
Cage Hill
Anglesea Coppice
Stone Brook
Fradswell Heath
Shaw Fm
Brook Ho
Lower Hill
Cemy
Meat
Cumulus
Race Cse
Hall Hole
Oakedge Park
Strawberry Hill
Wolseley Plain
Lion's Den
Sch
Stone Hall
Lady Hill
Penkridge Bank
Cairoak Lodge
Smart's Buildings
Moor's Gorse
Regent's Wood
Brereton Hayes Wood
Brereton Cross
Gorsy Bank
Armitage with Handsacre
Mine
Works
Hall Meat
Ash Hill
Poplar Fm
Gillcon's Hall
Hart's Fm
Bentley Fm
Cowley Hill
Hayend Wood
Ashton



Conservatory



Page 45

COLTON MILL in A.D. 1617.

This indenture made the 10th day of October in the raigne of our Soveraign Lorde James by the Grace of God of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, Kinge, defender of the faith &c. , that is to say England France and Ireland the 15th and of Scotland the 51st between Sir Walter Aston of Tixall, in the County of Stafford KT, and Barronett and Dame Gartrude his wife, on the one part, and, Richard Ruggley of Hawkesyard in the said County of Stafford esqre and Marie his wife on the other part, where as the said Sir Walter Aston standeth seased in his demeasne as of ffee of and in the mannor of Colton in the foresaid Countie of Stafford. With the rights, members and appurtinances thereof within the said manor thereto and tyme out of mynde hath been a watercourse drawne from the river of Trente, which said watercourse hath also tyme out of myndo been of right belonging to the said mill and herewith used and occupyed, but in the regurd there came not at all tyme sufficient water to the said mill. They whose estate the said Sir Walter Aston hath in the said Manor and Mill, have of late tymes under the title of the ancestors of the said Marie erected a weare or dame on the said river of Trente, and in respect that the said river and soyle underneath the same dame standeth, was the inheretance of the ancestors of the said Marie, which said weare or dame was there first placed, and hath ever since been continued by the permission and under th tytle of the said Richard Ruggeley and Marie his wife, and of the ancestors of the said Marie.

Now this indenture witnessith that they, the said Richard Ruggeley and Marie his waife, for and in consideration of the rente and covenante in these presents specified, and reserved and of the grants hereafter ensuing have dimysed set and to farme lett and by these presents to demyse sett and to farme lett into the said Sire Walter Aston and Dame Gartrude his wife and their Assigns. The aforesaid weare or dame, and the playce and soyle whereupon the same standeth, and doe also for them and either of them, their assigns. Free licence liberty and authoritie for them and their assigns a free licence, liberty and authoritie for them and their assigns, and his and their workman and servents to come and goe to and from the said weare or dame in uppon and through the river Trente, with boat or otherwise, to repaire or amend the said weare or dame, to have and to hold the afore said weare or dame. The place and soyle whereupon the same standeth, and also the free liberty, licence and authoritie to repair and amend the same, as aforesaid unto the said Sir Walter Aston and Dame Gartrude his wife, their exetutors , administrators and assigned, from the date of these presents for and during the te m of one and twenty years, from thence next ensuing and fully to be compleate and ended, yealdinge and payinge thereof yearly at the feast of St. Michail the Arch Angel during the said terme unto the saide Richard Ruggeley and Marie his wife and the heirs of the said Marie. The yearly rente or summe of sixpence of lawful English money, and the said Richard Ruggeley and Marie his wife and either of them, so do covenante and grante to and with the said Sir Walter Aston and Dame Gartrude his wife, that they and their assigns, may ahve, hold and enjoy the foresaid premises by these presents granted without the lawful lett, truble or interruption of either of them the said Richard Ruggeley and Marie or of any other person or persons lawfully clayming by, from or under them or any of them. In consideration of which grant and demyse, they the said Sire Walter Aston and Dame Gartrude his wife, for them and their heirs doe give and grant to the said Richard Rugg ley and his wife Marie, and their assigns, to his, her and their fishermen nd servants free libertie to come into the South part of the said mill, commonly used for a stable, with his and their leapes teneyes and other engines for the taking of fis , and to set and pl ce the same in the ffludgates and skutgates (shutgates) of the said mill, and to the said mill belonging in the times of ffudde or any other tyme or tymes, as shall not be hurtfull or prigadical to the grynyng of the said mill, and the said Sire Walter Aston and Dame Gartrude his wife - for them and their heirs do demyse, grant and to farm lett unto the said Richard and Marie his wife, their executors and assigns the soale (soleie)

and absolute fittings of the said ffluddgate and skutgates and all the fish there to be taken have and to hold to them the Richard and Marie their heirs, from the date of these presents for and during the term of one and twenty yeares - and Sir Walter Aston and Gartrude his wife xx shall not cause or procure, or willingly assent unto that any ffish shall be taken at Colton Mill, except by the said Richard Ruggeley and Marie his wife, and by their servants and salmon ffishermen in witness whereof the parties above said to these present indentures alternateley and interchangeably have putt to their hands and seals the day and years above written.

YEAR 1617 AD.

[illegible] BRANCH LIBRARY

From a copy made by
Mr R. Buckley
Railway Cottages
Main Road
Little Haywood
Stafford.

1967 Proposal
&
1970 Document

Conservation Area



CONSERVATION AREA

COLTON



The cover map of Staffordshire was first published by Hermann Moll in 1724. It gives special emphasis to the roads, rivers and parkland. The County boundary differs from the present one, as parts now in Shropshire, Worcestershire and Warwickshire are included.

County map reproduced by permission of
the Trustees of the William Salt Library

STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING COMMITTEE
CIVIC AMENITIES ACT 1967

CONSERVATION AREA



COLTON

County Planning & Development Department Publication.

PURPOSE OF DESIGNATION

The rapid changes now taking place in town and village, whilst giving practical benefits, also threaten many beautiful and historical areas with destruction or despoliation. Such areas, often unique in character due to rich variation in types of buildings, trees and open spaces, form an important part of the national heritage.

In the past, individual buildings of architectural or historic interest have been protected by legislation, whereas attractive groups of buildings, often of little individual value, and areas of character, beauty or historic importance have been mainly unprotected.

The Civic Amenities Act, 1967, remedies the deficiency by enabling Local Planning Authorities to designate as Conservation Areas "areas of special architectural or historic interest, the character of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance."

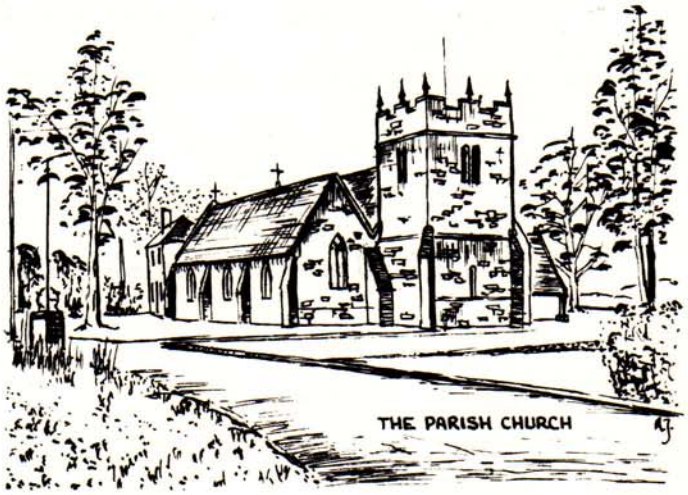
Potential Conservation Areas exist in many towns and villages, varying in size from complete centres to groups of buildings. Although often centred on historic buildings, they may include features of archaeological importance, historic street patterns, village greens or areas of particular character.

Staffordshire has been strongly influenced by the effects of the Industrial Revolution and subsequent growth of industry and population. The pressures resulting from this growth cause considerable problems in terms of visual environment, nevertheless many areas and settlements of good traditional character still remain in the towns, villages and country estates. Their preservation cannot be considered in isolation, without taking into account the natural growth and future needs of people, commerce and industry.

Conservation is the means by which existing character can be preserved and enhanced with due regard for other demands. Designation of the Conservation Area followed by detail design proposals will form the basis for positive action, but ultimate success will depend on active public interest and support.

CONSERVATION AREA · COLTON

Colton is a small peaceful linear village astride a minor road only one and a half miles north of Rugeley, just off the main road to Abbots Bromley and Uttoxeter. That part of the village included in the Conservation Area follows an east-west axis on flat ground forming part of the Trent Valley. Its overall pattern consists of a western open section dominated by the church and rectory, a central section between Colton House and Colton Lodge with tightened enclosure produced by the frontage development and high roadside walls, then a road junction abutted by a group of buildings dominated by High House, and finally an open area and ravine to the east overlooked by Aspley House set back on the hillside. Throughout the village there is a pleasing succession of enclosure and openness.



Notable on the western approach to Colton are the flanking stone walls first of Bellamour Hall and then of Bellamour Lodge, two of the large houses lying just outside the village, leading to the pinch point created by the narrow bridge over the Moreton Brook at which the village proper is reached.

At this point the entrance to the village takes the form of a large open space of "village green" character across which the road winds further into the closer built up central village street and around which are set the church, rectory and school in a rural tree-clad setting. Beyond this open space lies the Parish Church of St Mary, commanding fine views towards Rugeley across water meadows. Except for the late 13th to early 14th century south chapel, tower and west end of the south aisle, the church was largely rebuilt by G. E. Street in 1851. Many of the fittings are contemporary with the rebuilding. It

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Marking the entrance to the more closely defined village street and to the east of the rectory beyond a high brick wall is Colton House, certainly the finest secular building in the village. It is an impressive 18th century brick and stone building having Grade II* status in the Ministry of Housing and Local Government's list of buildings of architectural or historic interest. It has a two-storey centre block of five windows with dormers to the attic. The centre block projects slightly forward of the wings which are of two windows. These in turn connect to high quadrant walls which curve forward to screen the return side of the House. Because Colton House is sited close to the roadside, it makes the fullest contribution to the village scene unlike many great houses which are deliberately apart from their villages. The fine trees and the parkland (now sadly overgrown) opposite the main front are a testimony to the quality of the setting of the House in its heyday. To the north-east of Colton House is an interesting 19th century brick house, with gaily painted woodwork and terracotta detailing, set at right angles to the road, forming the entrance to the most confined part of the village street. This building is linked to the

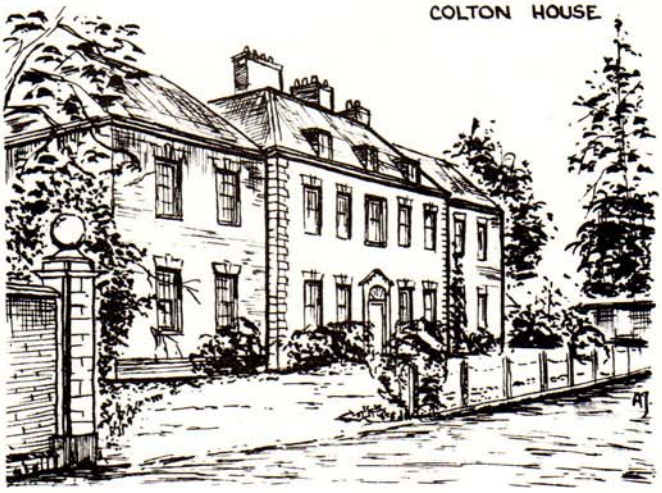


COLTON - HIGH STREET

High House and Malthouse

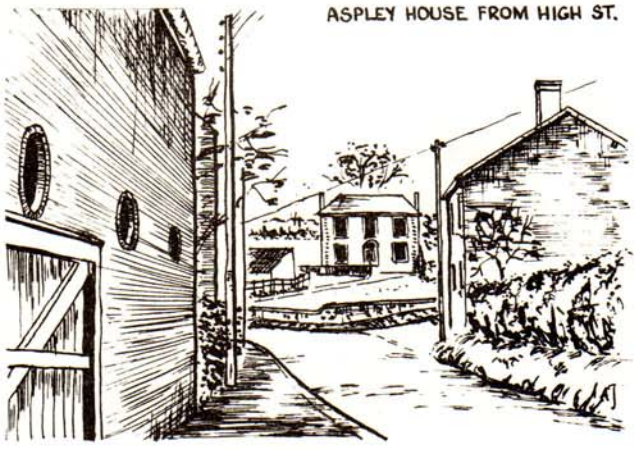
former Smithy to the east, and together with the boundary wall of Colton House opposite, which continues eastwards to the Almshouses, produces a well defined sense of enclosure. On the north side of the street set well back behind deep gardens is Williscroft Place, dated 1838, which consists of two blocks of four brick cottages each with a central tunnel passage. Nearby is "The Greyhound" P.H., and Colton Lodge, a well proportioned mid 19th century villa set in a large garden amongst mature trees.

COLTON HOUSE



At the bend in the road at this point there commences a considerable narrowing of the street which now runs between buildings close up to the roadside backed by steep banks. Rather hidden behind a hedge at an oblique angle to the kerb and at a higher level than the road is Malt House Farm. This is a good example of a Georgian vernacular brick building but with rather more embellishment than is usual, for it has a stone stringcourse, rusticated quoins and a four window front with carved keystones on the lintels. Almost abutting the Farm is a sturdy brick building, formerly a malthouse, with a series of circular ventilation holes, another vernacular feature. Opposite are two late 19th century brick cottage blocks with unusual hipped roofs. Their elaborate profiles contrast with the classical simplicity of Malt House Farm and the buildings together tighten the enclosure of High Street towards the east which is completed by a fine three-storey brick building called High House.

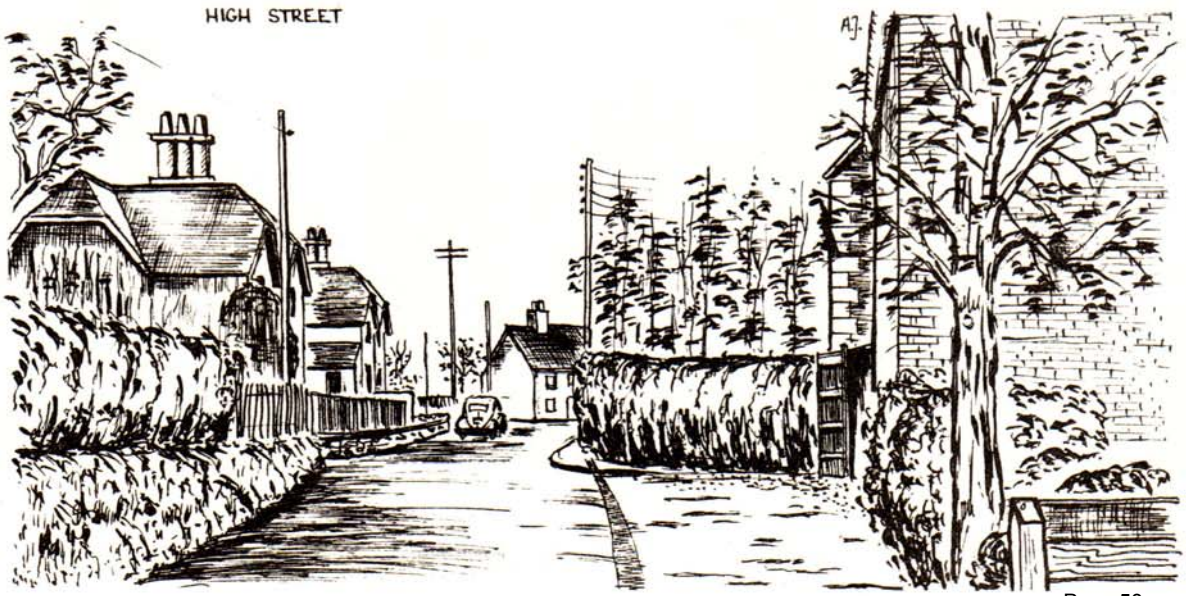
ASPLEY HOUSE FROM HIGH ST.



Breaking out from the tight enclosure at Malt House Farm, High

Street forks northwards to Stockwell Heath with the 19th century Aspley House up on the hillside between the roads forming a satisfactory focal point in the view. The white painted detailing of the window openings and round headed doorway stand out against the orange/red brickwork. The other branch of the fork south of Aspley House, Hollow Lane, climbs up the hillside between heavily wooded slopes and turns away out of view past a group of brick cottages of which one bears the date 1784.

Despite its small area, that part of the village which is included in the Conservation Area has a great variety of scenery and buildings which are unified by the consistent use of brick and tile as the main building materials and is enriched by the presence of two very important buildings, Colton House and the Parish Church. The individual character of the contrasting sections of the village should be perpetuated. At the same time, improvements are needed to remedy by simple maintenance the rather rough open ground north of the church, to remove some ugly overhead wires and fencing in a conspicuous position south of Colton Lodge and to improve the deteriorating condition of the apparently underoccupied Colton House. The designation of the Conservation Area should give encouragement to these improvements and to the maintenance of the character of Colton.



CONSERVATION AREA * COLTON

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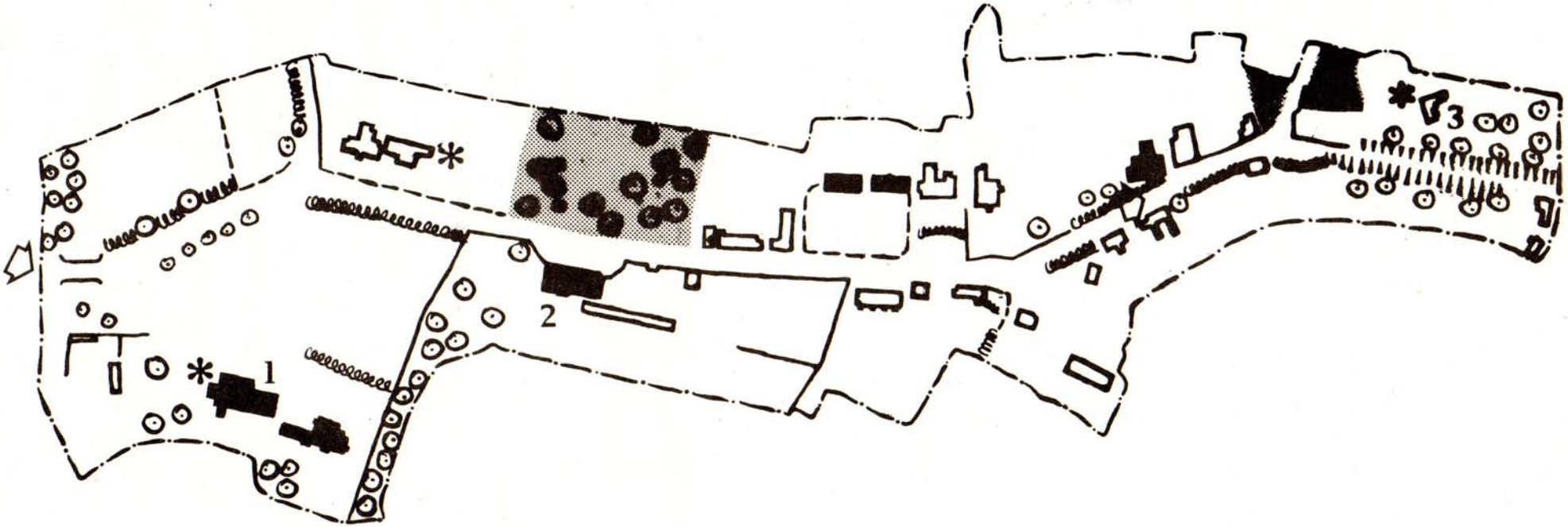

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2 Colton House.

3 Aspley House.

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DRAFT

STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING COMMITTEE
CIVIC AMENITIES ACT 1967

CONSERVATION AREA 27

COLTON



County Planning & Development Department Publication.

JULY 1970

CONSERVATION AREA · COLTON

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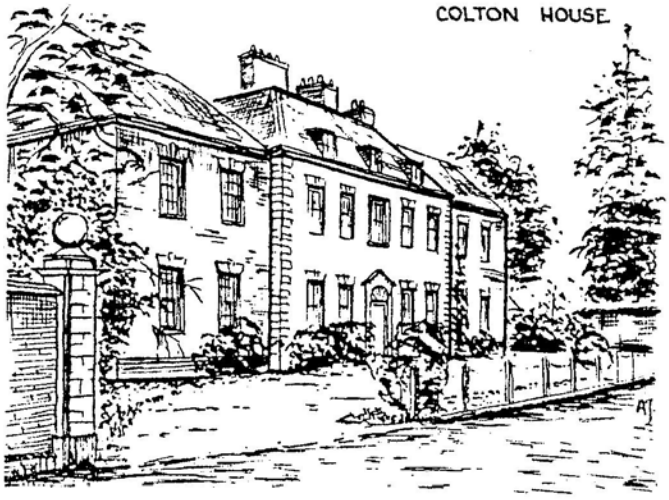
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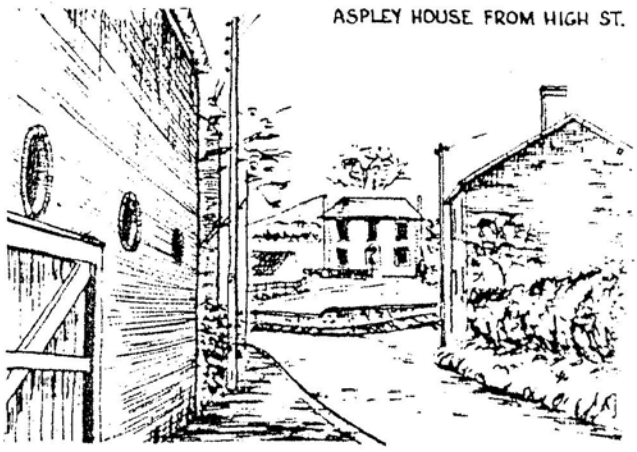
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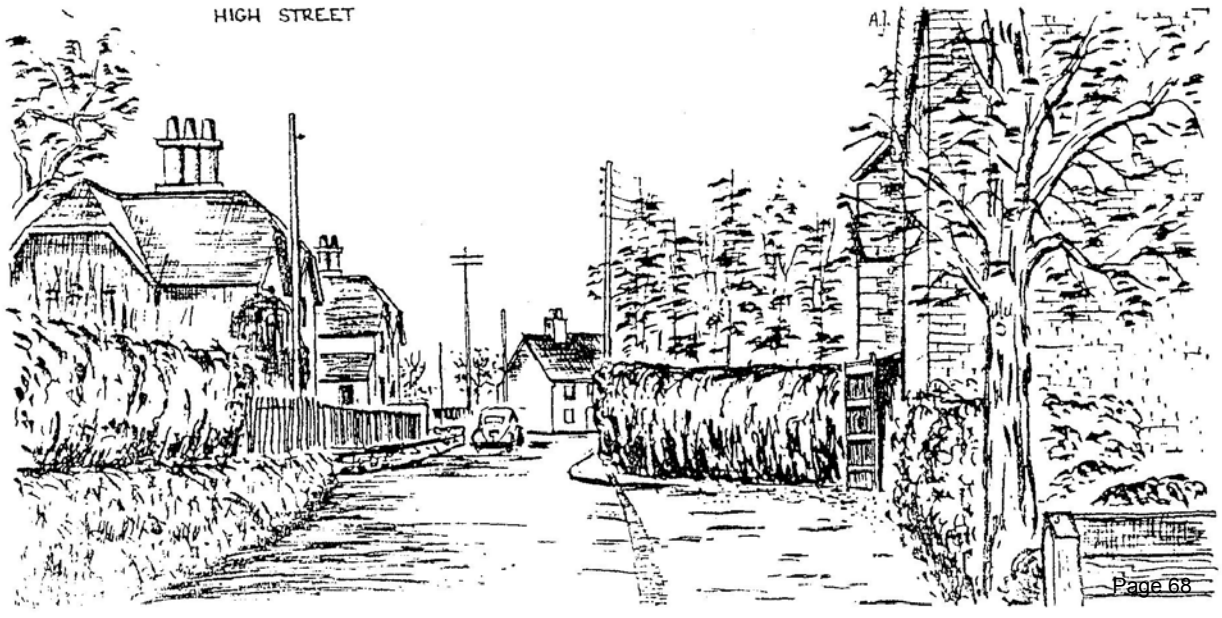

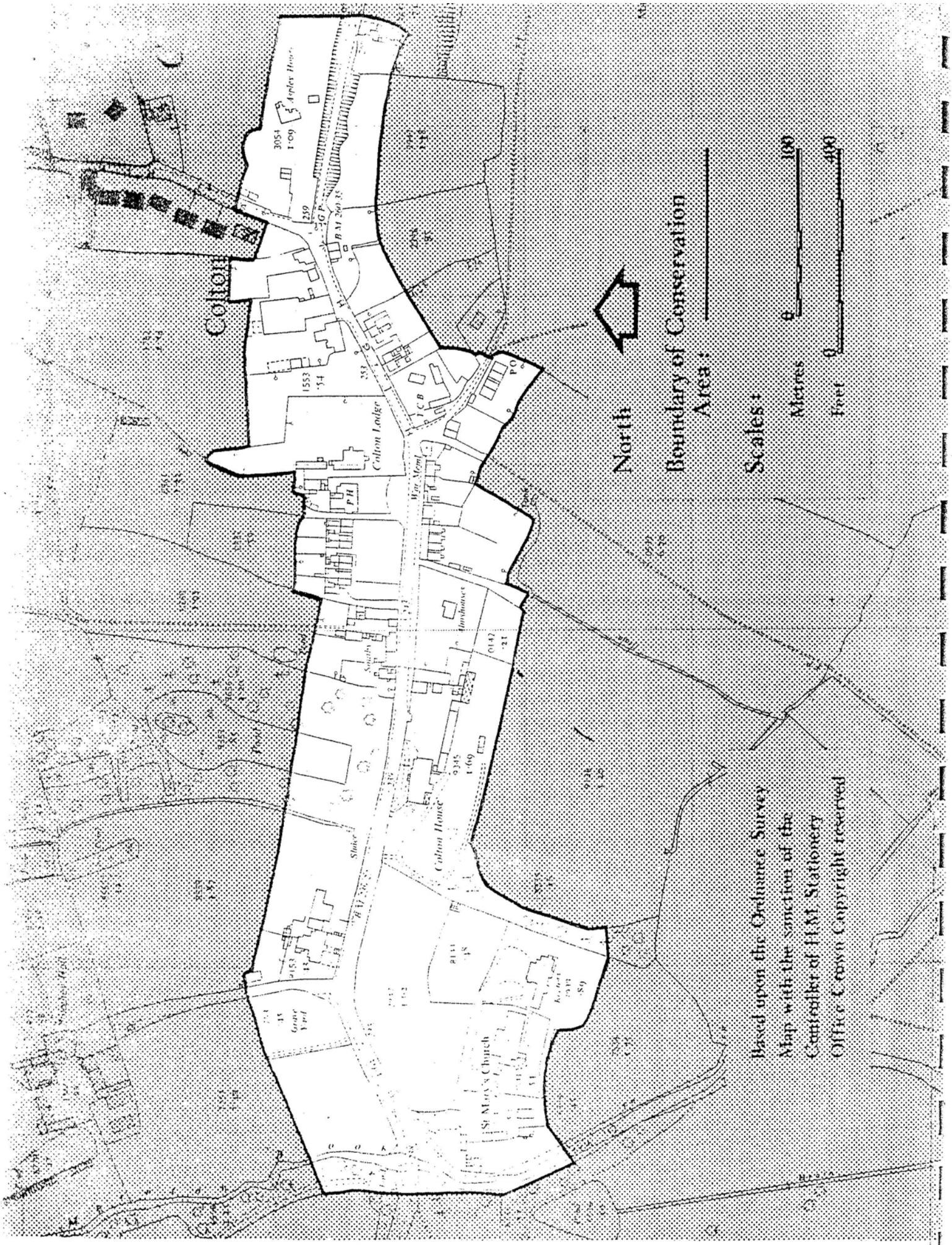

CONSERVATION AREA * COLTON

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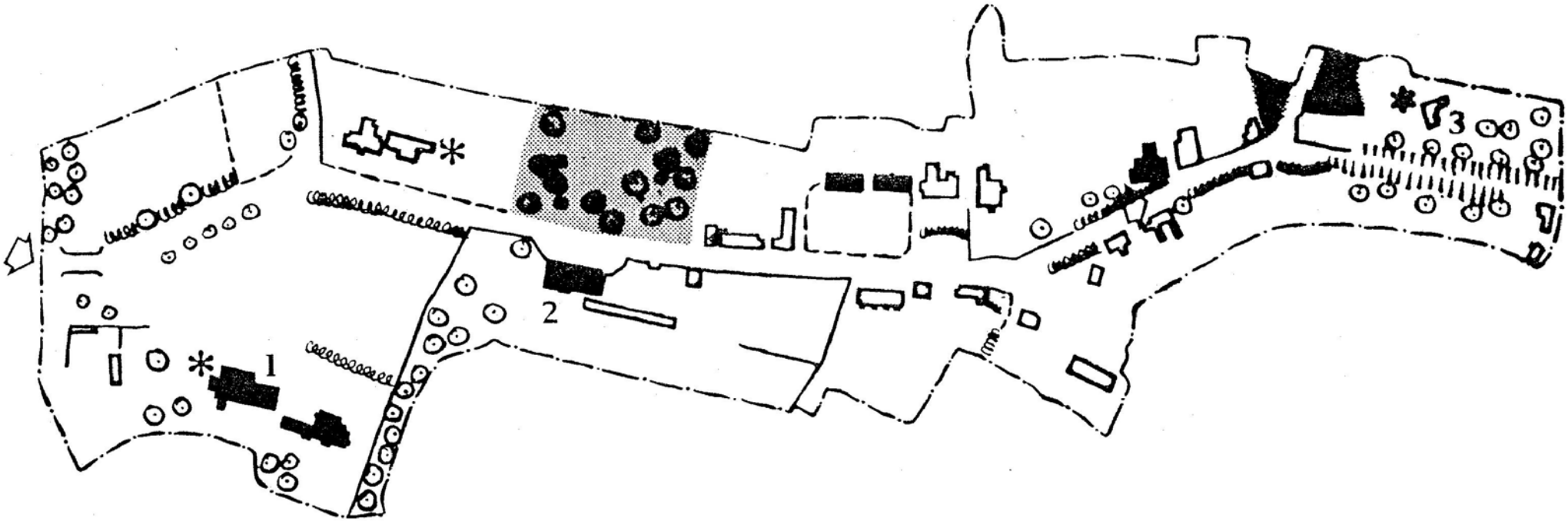

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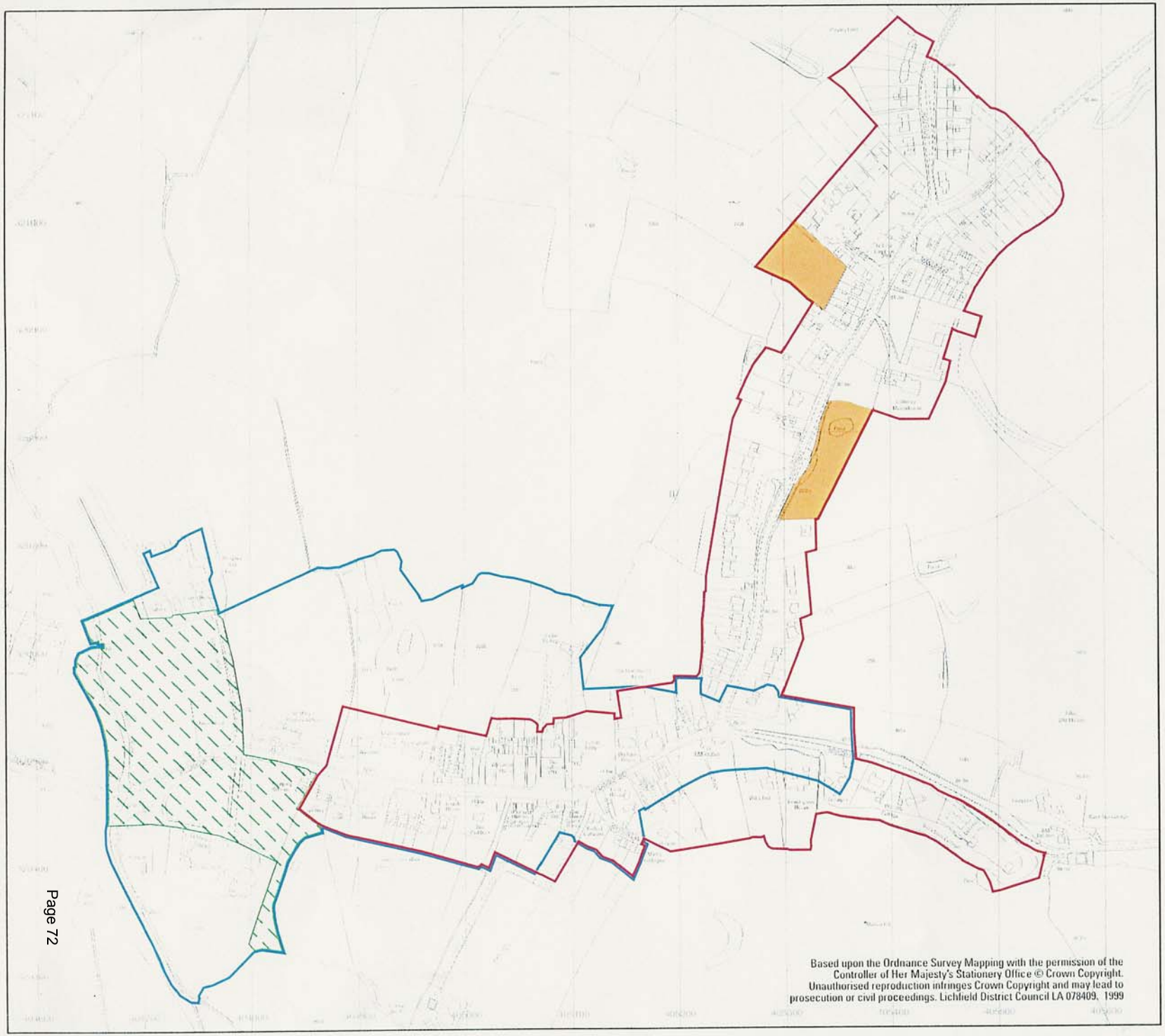

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Lichfield District Local Plan

COLTON INSET 7

- Inset Boundary
- Village Boundary
- Conservation Area C2, C3, C5, C6
- Protected Open Space C9
- Proposed Housing H1, NA6, NA6A

Scale 1:5000

Maps produced by Lovell Johns Ltd.,Oxford, England.

Coronation 1953

COLTON

CORONATION CELEBRATIONS

2nd June, 1953.

THE FOLLOWING EVENTS HAVE BEEN ARRANGED BY THE CORONATION COMMITTEE FOR YOUR ENTERTAINMENT AND EVERYONE IS CORDIALLY INVITED TO PARTICIPATE.

	Time
1 - Open Air Service at War Memorial	10 a.m.
2 - Start of Walking Match at War Memorial	10.20
3 - Football Match (Married v Single)	11 a.m.
4 - First Lunch	12.30 p.m.
5 - Childrens Sports	2.15
6 - Childrens Tea, and Presentation of Coronation Mugs by Mr. Goodin	3.30
7 - Adults Sports	4.10
8 - Presentation of Prizes by - Mrs. J.L. Taylor & Mr. Bloor	8.30 p.m.
9 - Dance in Reading Room	9.0
10 - Bonfire and Fireworks	10.30
11 - Dance continued	

SPORTS PROGRAMME

School Children 5 - 15 years

Event No.	Time p.m.	EVENTS	
1	2.15	100 yards Flat Handicap	- Boys
2	2.20	" " "	- Girls
3	2.25	Sack Race	- Boys
4	2.35	High Jump	- Boys
5	2.45	" "	- Girls

/Contd...

Event No.	Time p.m.			
6	2.55	Half Mile Flat	-	Boys
7	3.0	Tot s Race	-	Boys & Girls
8	3.10	Potato "	-	Girls
9	3.20	Childrens Tea Time		

SENIOR BOYS 15 - 20 years

10	3.40	100 Yards Flat "Heats"
11	3.45	High Jump
12	3.50	Half Mild Flat
13	4.0	Slow Cycle Race
14	4.10	220 Yards Flat

SENIOR GIRLS

15	4.20	100 yards Flat "Heats"
16	4.25	High Jump
17	4.35	Rounders Ball Throw
18	4.45	Needle Race
19	4.55	Potato Race
	5.0	Tea Time Senior Boys and Girls

Finals ADULTS

20	6.0	Finals Senior Boys and Girls "Heats"
21	6.15	Mens Yards for Years
22	6.20	" Half Mile
23	6.30	Slow Cycle Race
24	6.40	Mens 100 Yards "Heats"
25	6.45	Ladies 100 " "
26	6.50	Mens High Jump
27	7.0	Ladies " "
28	7.10	One Mile "Men"
29	7.20	Musical Chairs
30	7.25	Tug-of-War "Teams"
31	7.30	Finals of above "Heats"
32	7.35	Long Distance Football Kick
33	7.45	Tug of War Final.
		Walking Match.

- - - - - - - - -

CUP for BEST DECORATED HOUSE - OVER £12 IN PRIZES

Education Dept 1986

COLTON



STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
LOCAL HISTORY SOURCE BOOK L. 49

COLTON

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Drawings are by Joan Anslow, Archive Assistant (Education), and are based on contemporary photographs and illustrations. The drawing on the cover shows the school as it was about 1920.

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INTRODUCTORY NOTE

This is not a history of Colton: it is a collection of historical information about the village drawn from many sources. It grew out of work done in 1985 in co-operation with the school and a series of meetings with some of the older inhabitants who talked about the village in their younger days and willingly looked out photographs taken years ago.

In November 1985 examples of children's work, together with photocopies of sources and transcripts of reminiscences, were put out in the school and local people invited to browse among what was on show. Since that time further information about Colton has been found. This book is a selection from all that material.

Acknowledgment is made to the following for help in various ways:

D. Fowkes, B.A.,M.A.,F.S.A., and the staff at the County Record Office and the William Salt Library; Mrs. S.E. Armitage; Mr.& Mrs. D. Bradbury; Mrs. M. Corden; Mr. M. Deacon; Mr.& Mrs.N. James; Miss D. Jones; Mr.& Mrs. Jones; Mr. G. Mellor; Mr.& Mrs. T. Preston; Mr. C. Robinson; Mrs. H. Teasdale; Mr. G. Upton; Mrs. R. Williams; Mr. M. Williscroft; Colton Womens' Institute; and many other people in Colton.

Permission to include extracts from Probate Inventories of Thomas Lees (pages 7-9), Thomas Butler and John Webb (page 10) has been given by the *Staffordshire County Archivist.* The extracts from the parish records (pages 11-13 and 27) are included by permission of *St. Mary's P.C.C., Colton.* The map on page 14 is based on the Tithe Map of Colton in the Lichfield Joint Record Office, and that on pages 34-35 is reproduced by courtesy of the *Ordnance Survey.* Drawings on pages 25 and 26 are reproduced from *"Colton and the de Wasteneys Family" by Rev. F.P. Parker.* Extracts from School Log Books are included by permission of the *Governors and Headteacher of St. Mary's C.E. (A) Primary School.* Colton in 1924 (page 46) is reproduced by courtesy of *Kelly's Directory of Staffordshire, 1924.*

R.A. Lewis
County Inspector (History)

May, 1986.

HOW COLTON GOT ITS NAME

When the Saxons came to Britain they moved inland along the river valleys looking for good places to settle down, clear the land and farm. These places were often called *tons* which meant places surrounded with a hedge or fence.

Why do you think the Saxons put a hedge round their farms ?.

One of these *tons* was the beginning of Colton. Some people have suggested that the whole name means the farm where they kept colts but it is more likely that the head of the family which settled there was named Cola and Colton is simply Cola's farm. In the same way Admaston was Edmund's farm - but the spelling of the first half has changed over the last thousand years.

HOW COLTON GREW

Cola's family probably included friends and relations and perhaps servants. The farm prospered and grew into a village with its own church and water powered mill to grind corn into flour. The first written account of the village goes back to 1086 but also tells us something about what the village was like 20 years earlier. This account was the result of William the Conqueror and his council ordering a description of the whole of England to be made in 1086 and that this should include information about the country in the time of Edward the Confessor before William became King. This description is now called Domesday Book.

COLTON IN DOMESDAY BOOK

Part of Colton is held under Earl Roger by Azelin. There is enough land for 4 ploughs. On the lord's land there are 2 ploughs and 4 serfs. There is a priest and 14 villeins who have 3 ploughs. There are 17 acres of meadow and woods 1 league long and ½ league wide. It is valued at 40 shillings. In the time of King Edward it was held by Almund, a freeman.

Little Hay is part of Colton and is also held by Azelin. It was held by Almar, a freeman.

The rest of Colton is held by Geoffrey under Robert of Stafford. Here there is land for 6 ploughs. There is one plough on the lord's land. The 10 villeins and 1 serf have 3 ploughs. There is a mill that pays 12 pence a year as rent. There are 16 acres of meadow and woodland 1 league long and 3 furlongs wide. It is valued at 50 shillings. In the time of King Edward it was held by two freemen Ode and Ulvric.

Domesday Book's number of villeins and serfs means that number of families. If there were 5 people in each family you can work out roughly how many people lived in Colton in 1086. At the same date Rugeley had 9 families (45 people) and Great Haywood 14 families (70 people). Abbots

Bromley was worth 20 shillings a year, Rugeley 30 shillings, Great Haywood 40 shillings and Colton 90 shillings. Colton was a large village in 1086. In fact it was the largest place between Stafford and Lichfield.

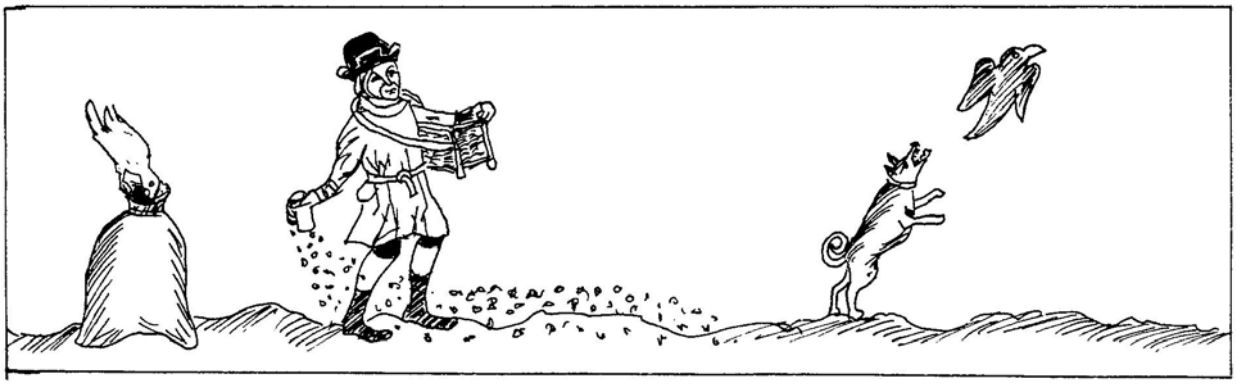
The four freemen of 1066 had all had their land confiscated by King William by 1086. The King had then granted their land to Roger of Montgomery, Earl of Shrewsbury and Robert of Toeni (or of Stafford) two of his Norman barons. They did not live in Colton but let Colton to Azelin and Geoffrey of Gastinois, two Norman knights. The knights had to serve the barons whenever they were needed. The barons and their knights could be called up for the King's army. Azelin's descendants were the Mavesyn family and the Gastinois' the Wasteney family - spelling can change names that much.

The daily work of the villagers remained unchanged by the coming of the Normans. The *villeins* had their own land to farm and had to work on the lord of the manor's land about one day a week and rather more at harvest time. For this they had no pay, it was in return for their land. The *serfs* had no land of their own except perhaps a garden. They worked for the lord, could not leave if they wanted to, and were entirely dependent on their lord.

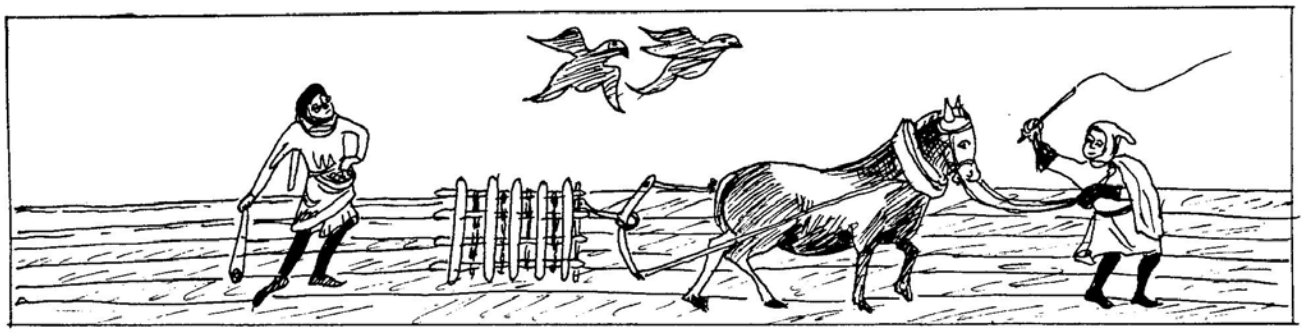
The villeins had to work together. The fields were divided into strips of an acre or ½ acre and each villein had so many strips. The strips were unfenced to save work and everyone shared in keeping good the hedge round the field. Everyone planted the same crop in their strips in the same field so the field would be ploughed, the crop harvested and the cattle turned into the field to graze after harvest by everyone at the same time. The pictures show villeins ploughing, sowing seed, harrowing, harvesting, and threshing.



Ploughing



Sowing seed



Harrowing



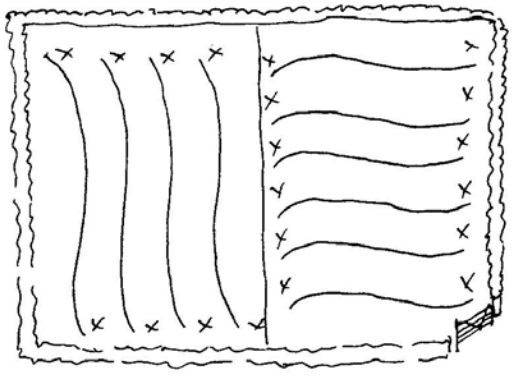
Harvesting



Threshing

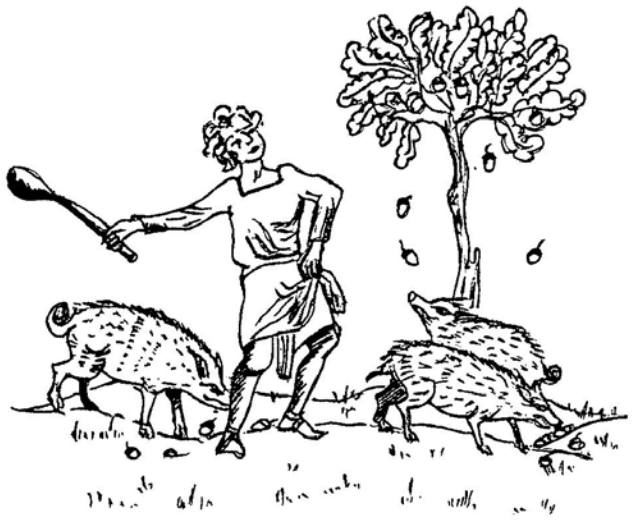
There were usually three fields one ploughed and sown in autumn with wheat, one ploughed and sown in spring with oats or barley or peas, and one left fallow with no crop so that the animals could graze on and manure it. It could also be ploughed over to kill off the weeds. The field that was fallow this year would be autumn sown next and spring sown the year after.

The picture below shows one field in strips. As the ploughman reached nearly the end of a strip he got ready to turn his team of up to 8 oxen and so each strip tended to be shaped ~ rather than straight. Look at the map of Colton in the 1920's on pages 34-5 and you can see some field boundaries still have the ~ shape.



Headlands to turn plough and team with boundary stones or posts for each strip.
The strips were each one day's plough -ing (about an acre).
Strips usually sloped down hill so that rain water ran off them.

We do not know which parts of Colton were included in these fields except by the clues of the shape of the boundary and a few deeds which mention strips in Hamley Field, Parch Field, Trent Field (near Bellamour) and a field next to the road to Colton Mill. The rest of the parish would be meadows (also divided into unfenced strips for hay) a-long the river, woods which be-longed to the lord of the manor but where there was firewood and beech mast and acorns to feed your animals,(but the lord had to be paid) and open commons where animals could graze on the rough grass.



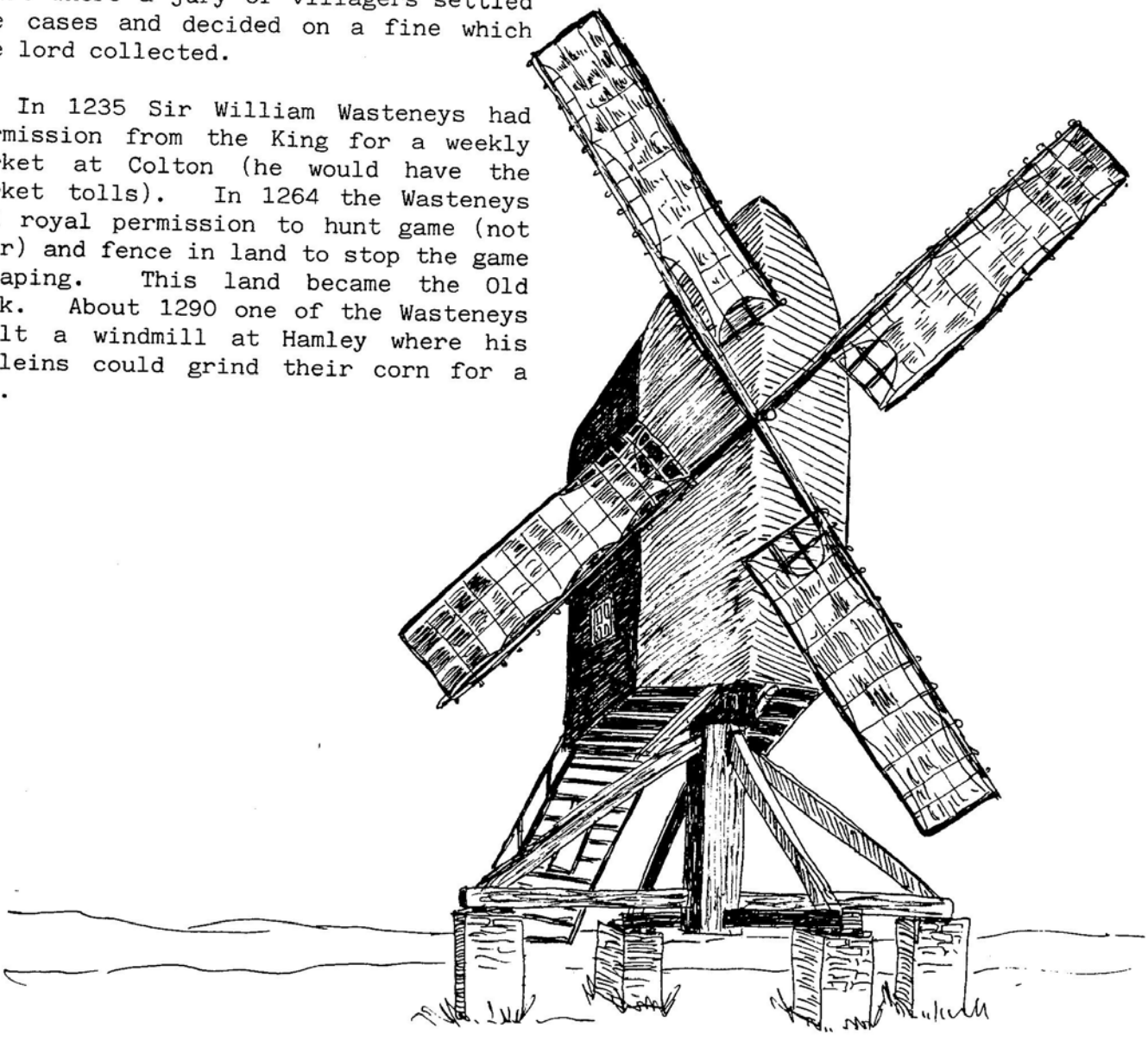
Knocking down acorns for the pigs.

villein who struck another after a quarrel, the two villeins who both claimed the same pig - all these came to court where a jury of villagers settled the cases and decided on a fine which the lord collected.

In 1235 Sir William Wasteneys had permission from the King for a weekly market at Colton (he would have the market tolls). In 1264 the Wasteneys had royal permission to hunt game (not deer) and fence in land to stop the game escaping. This land became the Old Park. About 1290 one of the Wasteneys built a windmill at Hamley where his villeins could grind their corn for a fee.

As the village grew more land was needed to grow crops and parts of the common were ploughed and made into new fields. These were also divided into strips for all who had shared in the work, and some strips for the lord of the manor who owned the common. The name Newland in Colton must be where one field was added. By 500 years ago Stockwell Heath and Hamley Heath were the only large commons left in Colton.

The lords of the manor were always looking for new ways of adding to their income from Colton. Each lord had his manor court where minor squabbles could be settled. The villein who did not mend his share of the hedge round a field, the



A LIST OF THE POSSESSIONS OF THOMAS LEES, HUSBANDMAN, MAY 1614

Thomas Lees was typical of the small scale farmers to be found in Colton at this time. We do not know where his house was except that it was in the northern part of the parish towards Admaston. The only unusual feature was that he and his wife grew flax and hemp to spin and make into cloth.

The values were, of course, in shillings and pence with 12 pence in one shilling and 20 shillings to a pound. It is not helpful to turn this into today's money but notice the value of one thing compared to another.

Some guesswork has gone into the plan of the house and occasionally into which room to put things in.

Some words will be strange and others have long forgotten meanings :- a **saucer** was a small dish for sauce; a **can** any vessel to hold liquid. A few words that are probably not in your dictionary are :-

blend corn - wheat and rye sown and harvested together.

bolting tub - a bin into which flour was sifted.

brundart - a metal grid to support a cooking pot over a fire.

cobiron - (see page 9)

cracke - a wooden rack for storing bread, cheese etc.

hatchell - a comb to comb the coarse fibres out of flax and hemp.

kercher - a handkerchief.

kimnel - a tub.

lea - a measure of yarn.

noggin - a small drinking mug: also anything made of coarse flax.

partlet - a woman's collar.

piggin - (see page 9)

pillow bear - a pillow case.

press - a cupboard or wardrobe.

ripplecomb - a comb to remove seeds from flax or hemp.

searce - a fine sieve or sifter, probably used with the bolting tub.

shoate - a young pig.

skillett - a saucepan.

strike - a measure for corn, about ½ bushel.

trencher - a flat wooden plate.

twinter - two winters old.

yerwindle - a yarn winder. (see page 9)

THOMAS LEES AND HIS WIFE.



2 hats, 2 doublets, 2 coats, 1 jerkin, 2 pair breeches, 1 cloak, 3 pairs stockings,

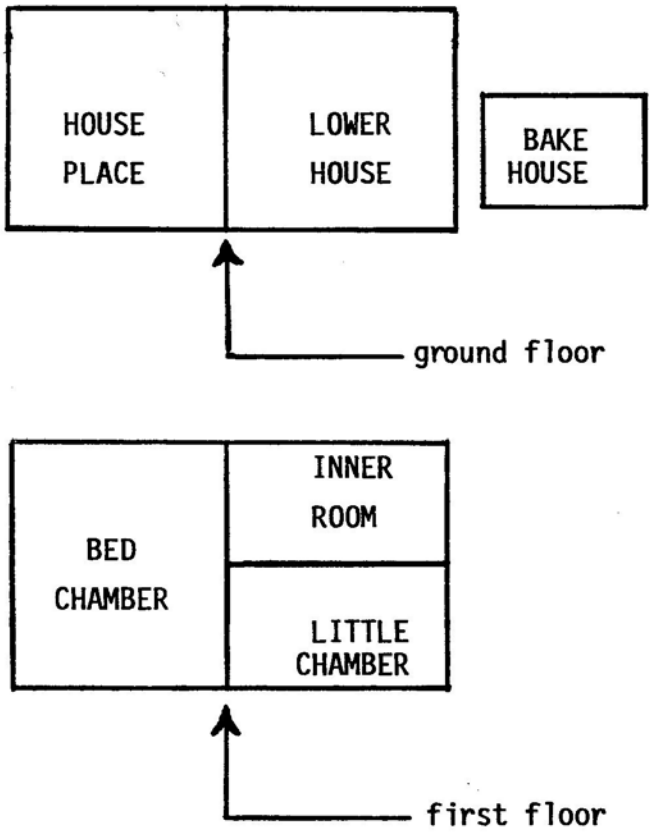
2 pair shoes .. .. 36s 4d.
4 shirts and 4 bands .. .. 9s.



1 hat, 3 gowns, 4 petticotes, 2 pair shoes, 2 pair stockings.
.. .. £3 13s 4d.
3 smocks, 3 kerchers, 4 aprons and 4 partlets .. .. 9s.

THOMAS LEES' HOUSE.





IN THE LOWER HOUSE

3 spinning wheels, 2 reels, 1 ripple-comb, 1 hatchell, 3 pair small cards, 2 pair yerwindles, 2 pair weights, ... **4s 6d**

6 lbs of woollen yarn spun and 5 lbs of coarse wool, ... **14s**

60 lea of yarn, hemp and flax, **12s 6d**

12 lea of noggin yarn, .. **3s**

6 lbs flax, ... **4s**

17 kinch of hemp, ... **24s**

IN THE BAKE HOUSE

1 kneading trough, 1 bolting tub, 1 cracke, 1 searce, 1 hair sieve, 2 other sieves, ... **8s 4d**

1 strike barley, 5 strikes malt, **24s**

4 sacks, ... **2s 6d**

IN AN INNER ROOM

1 chest, 1 old chair, 2 testles, 1 earthenware dripping pan, 2 earthern-ware platters, ... **3s 4d**

IN THE NEXT LITTLE CHAMBER

1 bedstead, 1 wool bed, 1 bolster, 2 pillows, 2 blankets, 2 double twill sheets, ... **29s 8d**

IN THE BED CHAMBER

1 old bedstead, 1 press, 1 coffer, 1 table, 1 old chair, .. **13s 6d**

1 feather bed, 2 bolsters, 2 pillows, 2 blankets, 2 coverlets, ... **£3 4s 4d**

Money in the house, .. **£4**

THE LINEN

7 pair sheets of the best sort, ... **48s 2d**

6 pair of coarse sheets, .. **24s**

2 table cloths, 2 towels, 3 pillow bears (cases), 8 napkins and 3 more coarse table cloths, ... **19s 4d**

IN THOMAS LEES' HOUSE PLACE (THE MAIN LIVING AREA)

A long table, a short table and a form, 10s
2 cupboards 26s 8d
6 new cushions wrought, and 3 old ones, 10s 6d
2 little stools 8d
1 brundart and certain painted cloths, 3s 4d
1 iron grate, 2 little spits, 2 frying pans,
1 pair of pot racks, 1 pair of cobirons,
1 dripping pan, 1 pair of tongs, 1 grid
iron, 1 iron pestle, 1 pair of bellows, 1
pair of pothooks, ... 10s 2d

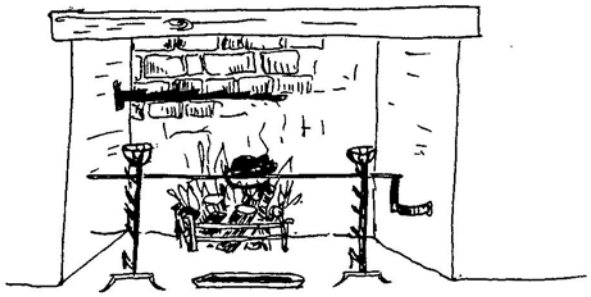
3 piggins, 1 churn, 1 noggin, 2 bottles,
2 cans, 3 wooden platters, 3 dozen trenchers,
7 meat dishes, 1 measure, 1 ladle, .. 15s 6d

11 pewter dishes, 4 saucers, 1 pewter
candlestick, 1 old salt cellar, 2 aquavita
bottles, 8 pewter spoons, ... 22s

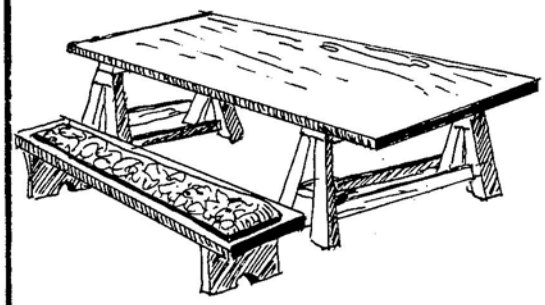
2 kimnels (tubs), 2 half strike measures,
2 gallon measures, 2 trestles, .. 6s 10d

1 old brass pot, 3 brass pans, 3 kettles,
2 skilletts, 2 skimmers, 1 broken brass
candlestick, ... 54s 8d

bacon and grease, ... 6s 8d



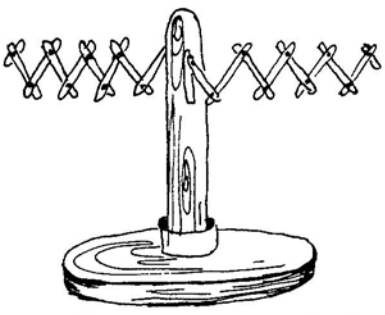
Fireplace with a spit supported by 2 cobirons. Meat on the spit would be basted with fat which had dripped into the dish below.



A long table with top supported by 2 trestles and a form to sit on.



a piggin.



a yerwindle or yarn winder.



A FAMILY AT DINNER.

This family are using stools. Thomas Lees had a long form with cushions to sit on.

THOMAS LEES' FARM

Wheat, blend corn, barley, hay, and straw in the barn £3 0s 12d
Winter corn and Lent corn in the ground £4 6s 8d
1 little parcel of hemp and flax on the ground 16d

4 hens and 1 cock 3s
1 gander, 2 geese and 2 goslings 2s 6d

4 oxen £18 3s 4d
2 twinter bullocks .. £ 4 16s 8d
5 cows and 2 sucking calves £15 3s 4d
1 twinter heifer 36s 8d
3 yearlings £3 6s 8d
1 weaning calf 7s 4d
5 sheep and 2 lambs 22s 6d
1 gray nag 51s 4d
manure about the house, 4s

FARMS AND FARMERS

By 1600 farmers all over England had found better ways of farming than having the land divided into long narrow strips. Farmers tried to buy or exchange strips so that they had several strips lying next to each other. This group of strips would then be fenced. Fields began to look much like the fields of today except that they were often smaller. This did not happen suddenly but slowly over more than a hundred years.

A few lists of animals and crops on Colton farms still survive, and tell us something about the crops grown and the type of farming practised. Two of these are given below. Some of the farming words are explained on page 7.

THOMAS BUTLER, August 1639.

Farm animals: 3 cows, 2 twinters, 3 yearling calves, 2 weaning calves, 2 pigs, 1 mare and a year old colt, geese and poultry.

Crops: Corn in the house and barn, hay, 1½ days work of barley, 3 days work of peas and oats, 3 days work of winter sown corn. *(A day's work was probably one strip in the open field which was not yet harvested).*

Implements: ploughs, carts and farm tools.

JOHN WEBB of the Old Wood in Colton, August 1705.

Farm animals: 14 cows and a bull, 8 bullocks, 32 heifers, 6 sterks, 4 mares and their foals, 8 pigs, 18 sheep. John Webb also had 30 cows, a bull and a bullock, 13 ewes and their lambs, 5 colts and a horse being fed on pasture by the River Dove.

Crops: in the barn, in ricks or waiting to be harvested; corn, barley, clover, hay, oats and beans. There was also straw and malt (for brewing).

Implements: a waggon, a wain, a cart, 3 tumbrels, 6 ploughs, 2 horse harrows and 1 ox harrow, harness for 6 horses and 12 oxen, and various farm tools.

Small areas of the parish, like Stockwell Heath, remained unfenced as common grazing land where any parishioner could graze animals. In 1792 a special Act of Parliament allowed these areas also to be turned into fields and fenced in.

Farms were becoming fewer and larger. A typical farm in 1851 was Newlands which had 184 acres. The 1851 census gave the names of the family and of the farm workers who lived in on the farm. These would be hired annually for a year.

Thomas Green	farmer aged 30	born at Longton.
Margaret Green	his wife aged 36	born at Forsbrook.
Elizabeth Green	their daughter aged 1	born at Colton.
William Boston	farm servant aged 20	born at Abbots Bromley.
William Harvey	farm servant aged 14	born at Colton.
John Haywood	farm servant aged 12	born at Blithbury.
John Degg	farm servant aged 40	born at Blithbury.
Sarah Watkin	farm servant aged 18	born at Abbots Bromley.
Hannah Haywood	farm servant aged 18	born at Abbots Bromley.

FOR THOSE IN NEED

For many years each parish in England looked after its own poor folk. Everyone paid a poor rate and each year two local people were elected as overseers of the poor to see that this money was spent wisely. Many of the accounts of the overseers of the poor for Colton still survive among the church records. Poor people unable to support themselves were paid a few shillings each week and additional payments were made for special needs. These extracts show a few of these payments.

1726	*Paid Widow Short while she was ill. .. ..*		*1s*	*0d.*
	Paid Phoebe Taylor for looking after Widow Short 8 days in her illness.		*2s*	*6d.*
	Paid for a load of coals for Hannah Short.		*9s*	*0d.*
	Paid Thomas Taylor for croping (making) Hannah Short's shoes and for her two sons each a pair with heels.		*1s*	*8d.*
1729	*Paid Frances Dixon for two pairs of stockings for Short's children. .. ..*		*1s*	*6d.*
	For two aprons for Short's children.		*1s*	*2d.*
	Paid at a meeting about setting Short's children apprentices (This was probably spent on drink for the overseers and the people who had agreed to take on Short's children as apprentices)		*1s*	*0d.*
	Paid Frances Dixon for making four children's shirts.		*1s*	*0d.*
	Paid Mrs. Bamford for thread and mending Elvas' clothes.		*1s*	*0d.*
1768	*Paid John Hayward for Mary Dean's board and lodging.*		*4s*	*6d.*
	Paid Sarah Jackson for bread for Catherine Robinson.		*2s*	*0d.*
1797	*Paid the Doctor's bill for Massey's child. .. ..*		*4s*	*0d.*
	For Massey's child's funeral expenses.	*£1*	*0s*	*0d.*
1784	*Paid for attendance and washing in Edward Wood's illness. .. ..*		*16s*	*0½d.*
1801	*Lent William Gaunt to bury his child. .. .. ..*		*12s*	*0d.*
1726	*Paid for a lock for Betty Tooth's door. .. .. ..*			*6d.*
1780	*Paid John Salt for thatching and springles. .. ..*		*3s*	*6d.*
	Paid for ten thraves of straw.		*16s*	*0d.*
	Paid John Bradbury for helping the thatcher 2 days.		*1s*	*8d.*
1801	*Seventeen people paid regular amounts each week. The smallest 1s 0d., the largest 5s 6d. The total each week was .. ..*	*£1*	*18s*	*3d.*

Sometimes it was not clear whether a person in need really was the responsibility of Colton or whether they should be given money from the poor rates of other parishes. Rules were drawn up. For example if a man worked for a full year in the parish, or owned or rented a house there above a certain value, or had been apprenticed in Colton, he was said to have gained a settlement in Colton. A woman gained a settlement in the same ways but also by marrying a man with a settlement in Colton. Children also gained a settlement from their parents.

During your life you would probably gain settlements in several parishes if you moved from place to place. The parish where your most recent settlement was had to support you if you were too ill or too old to support yourself. Sometimes people had to make a sworn statement (or examination) before a magistrate in order to decide whether they should be supported out of Colton's poor rate.

1768 Paid for my journey to Blithfield with Mary Deans for her examination. .. .. .. 1s 0d.

1729 For going with Job Short to Stafford for his examination. 1s 0d.
For a horse for him to ride. .. .. .. 1s 0d.

These statements are almost the only evidence for brief biographies of ordinary people two hundred years ago. People who lived in Colton all their lives would not have to make a statement if they were in need because there was no doubt about their settlement. Only those who moved from parish to parish appear in these brief lives.

Job Short when examined said that he was born at Colton and lived there with his parents until he was 13 years old. He was then sent to work for John Gillman of Abbots Bromley and stayed with him for 3 years. He was then hired by John Collier of Colton for a year. He was then bound apprentice for seven years to Joseph Whitehurst of Wolverhampton to learn the trade of toy making but after 2 years he bought himself out of his apprenticeship. He went to work for John Cotton of Rickerscote near Stafford for a year. Since that time he has not gained a settlement anywhere.

14th April 1729. Job Short  his mark.

Joseph Turner when examined said that he was born at Leigh in Staffordshire and lived there till he was 17 when he hired himself to John Reeves of Colton for a year for 50 shillings and then to Phillip Turner of Sherral Lodge in Barton for a year for £4. He then enlisted in the Third Regiment of Old Buffs commanded by General Howard and served for 12 years in the army before being discharged. He then enlisted with the East India Company and served in India for 11 years and now resides at Colton.

31st December 1764. The mark of  Joseph Turner.

Mary Deans, widow, when examined said that she has been told that she was born at Draycot in the Moors in Staffordshire. When she was 16 she was hired by Benjamin Stone of Draycot as a servant for a year. She was then hired by Robert Maxwell Esq., of Wood Eaton (?) in Staffordshire but only stayed 10 months. She then went as a servant to Lord Aston at Tixall Hall for a year and then as a maid to the Duchess of Norfolk in Arlington Street, St. James' in London at six guineas a year. She stayed there three years.

She left London to marry John Deans a servant to Anthony Cope Esq., of Colton. John Deans told her he had been with Mr. Cope for 3 years and they lived with Mr. Cope for another 3 years after they were married. Her husband then went as servant to Mr. Talbot of Hoar Cross for a year at £10 a year. He next took a public house at Little Haywood on lease for 14 years at a rent of 30 shillings a year. After about 9 years her husband died and she sold the remainder of the lease of the public house to Maurice Seabridge.

She now lives at Colton with her two children : Richard aged 8 and William aged 6.

Mary Deans

25th April 1768.

William Hand when examined said that he was born at Beckbury in Shropshire where his father was a joiner and carpenter. He lived there learning his father's trade until he was 19, when he left home, and tramped up and down the country as a journeyman carpenter but never stayed in one place for a full year or rented a house worth £10 a year or did anything to gain a settlement. He is now living at Colton.

William Hand

30th May 1774.

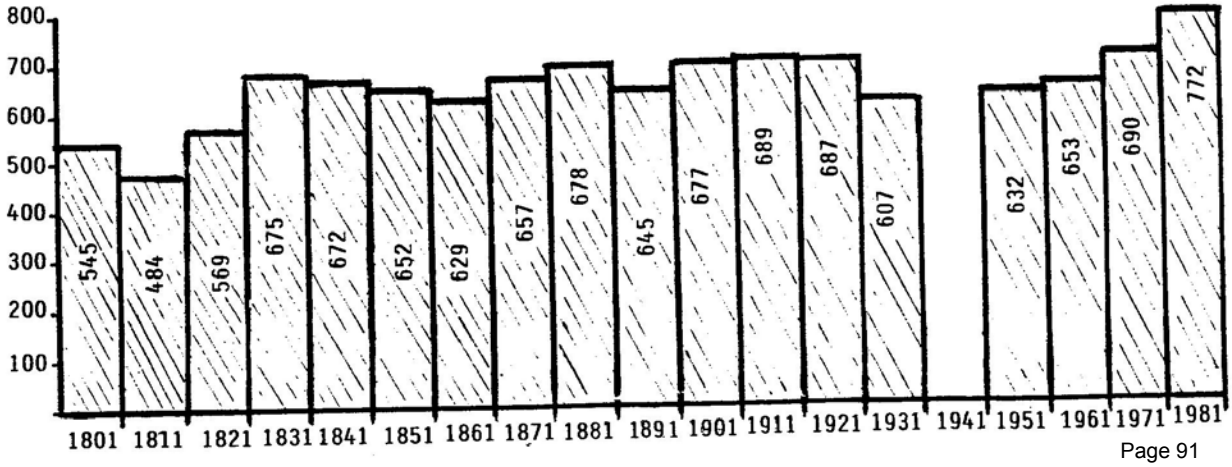
THE PEOPLE OF COLTON

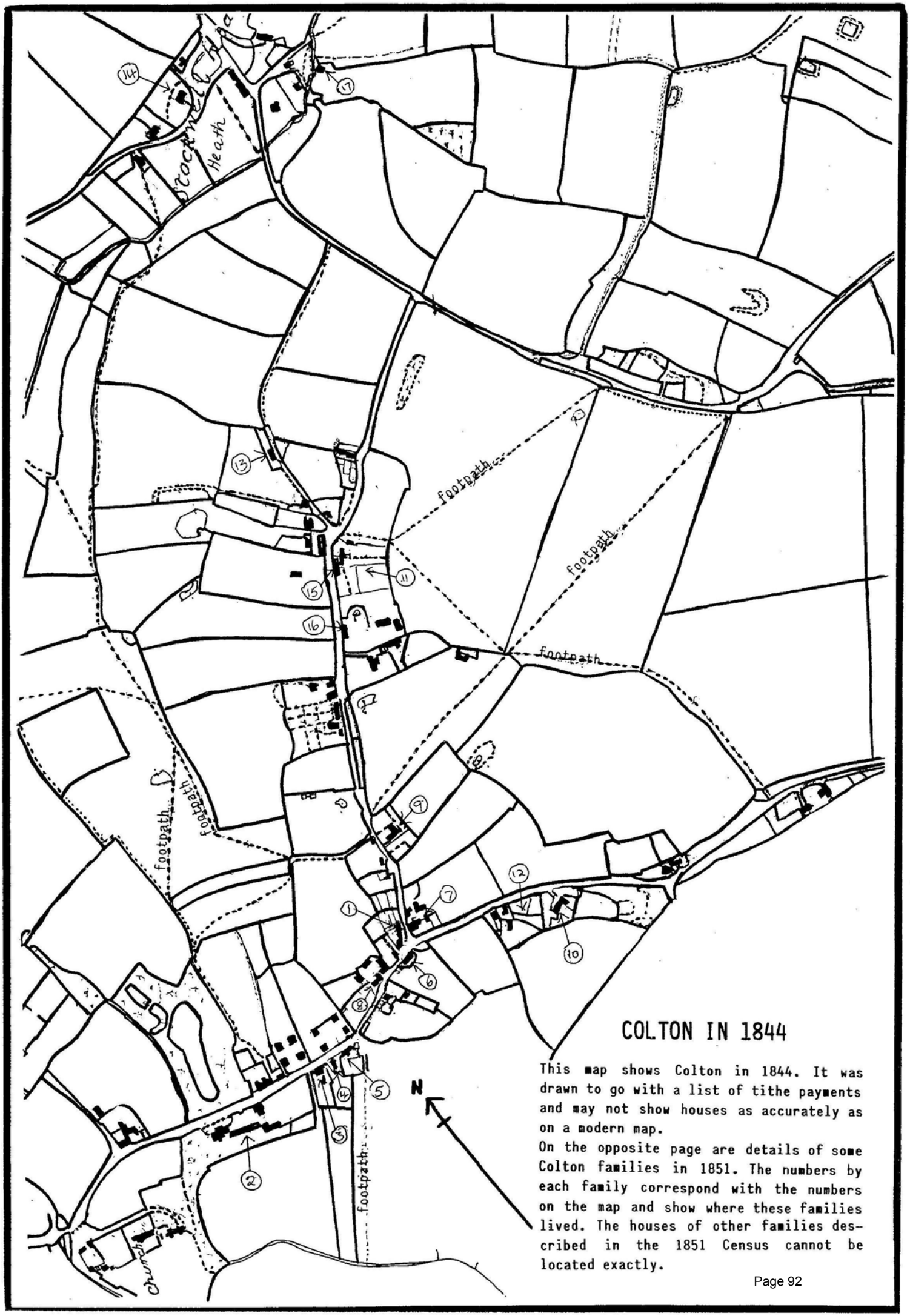
In the Middle Ages Colton had been the largest place between Stafford and Lichfield. From about 1600 other places began to grow more quickly than Colton and by 1801 the number of people living at Rugeley had risen to 2,080, at Abbots Bromley to 1318, at Colwich to 723, at Colton to 545. More recent changes are shown below. Can you think why the number of people living in different places changes at different rates ?

1901 Rugeley 7327; Abbots Bromley 1318; Colwich 1449; Colton 677

1981 Rugeley 25312; Abbots Bromley 1572; Colwich 4292; Colton 772

The first census of all places in England made by the government was in 1801. Since that time a census has been taken every ten years except in 1941. The diagram below shows the population of Colton in each census.





COLTON IN 1844

This map shows Colton in 1844. It was drawn to go with a list of tithe payments and may not show houses as accurately as on a modern map.

On the opposite page are details of some Colton families in 1851. The numbers by each family correspond with the numbers on the map and show where these families lived. The houses of other families described in the 1851 Census cannot be located exactly.

SOME COLTON FAMILIES

1 **THOMAS COPE, SHOEMAKER.**
His wife, Harriet.
His sons George, John & William all at school.
His daughters, Sophia & Harriet.

2 **COLTON HOUSE ACADEMY.**
Richard Hill Boarding School Master.
His wife, Frances.
His son Richard, assis.schoolmaster
His younger son Alfred, a pupil at the school.
His daughter, Elizabeth.
Eleven boarders & two servants.

3 **JAMES HAYWARD, INNKEEPER, (WIDOWER.)**
His son, Charles a Railway Clerk.
His daughter, Emma.
His married daughter Mary Anne Lloyd.
His married daughter Ellen Shaw & her baby Mary (aged 3 months).

4 **JOSEPH WILLISCROFT, FARM LABOURER.**
His wife, Sarah.
His daughters Mary, Jane & Fanny.

5 **HENRY LENTON, SCHOOLMASTER.**
His wife, Susannah.
His son Henry, at school.
His daughter Catherine, at school.

6 **WILLIAM HAYWOOD, BRICKLAYER.**
His wife, Mary.
His son George, a farm labourer.
His son William, at school.
His daughter Martha, at school.

7 **HENRY PARKER, FARMER OF 25 ACRES (Employing 1 farm labourer, unmarried.)**
His mother, Mary.
His sister, Mary Anne.

8 **JOHN YATES, CORN MERCHANT & AUCTIONEER.**
His wife, Sarah.
His son, Richard.
His daughter Belinda, at school.
His widowed daughter, Catherine King.
Her 3 children Francis, Mary & Henry.
Elizabeth Holding, Charwoman aged 38
Matilda Holding, Servant aged 19,
Harriet Parrot, Servant aged 19.

9 **ELIZABETH WILLISCROFT & HER HUSBAND, a Farm Labourer.**
Their daughters Lucy & Sarah, at school.
Their son James, aged 2.

10 **GEORGE BRADBURY, FARM LABOURER, (WIDOWER.)**
His daughter, Mary.
His daughter, Eliza.

11 **JOHN DEAVOLL, FARM LABOURER.**
His wife, Margaret.
His grand-daughter, Hannah Deavoll, at school.

12 **ALEXANDER DEAKIN, FARM LABOURER.**
His son John, aged 14, a farm servant.
His son Samuel, at school.

13 **JAMES GRANT, BUTCHER.**
His wife, Miriam.
His son Simon Richard, at school
His daughter, Jane.

14 **THOMAS BRADBURY, FARM LABOURER.**
His wife, Mary.
His grand-daughter Martha, at school.

15 **RICHARD RADFORD, BLACKSMITH.**
His wife, Sarah.
His son, Richard, also a blacksmith.
His Grandchildren, Anne Radford & John Nash, both at school.

16 **HENRY HOLLAND, FARMER OF 300 ACRES, (Employing 7 men.)**
His wife, Anne.
Ellen Degg, Dairymaid & Servant girl, aged 11.
Edward Churchill & a boy aged 11, living-in farmworkers

17 **GEORGE WILLISCROFT, FARM LABOURER.**
His mother, Sarah, a school teacher.

BELLAMORE

The Astons were not a wealthy family. When Sir Walter Aston returned from Spain his second son, Herbert, who had acted as his father's secretary in Spain, courted Catherine Thimelby the daughter of a Lincolnshire gentleman. Catherine's father at first refused to allow the marriage because Herbert Aston was not rich enough to support his daughter.

Sir Walter gave his son a small estate in Colton and Herbert's friends and relations (his older brother's wife had inherited large estates) gave or lent money for a new house for the couple. In 1639 Herbert and Catherine were married and called their home Bellamore (Italian for good love) partly to honour his wife and partly to remind them of the help received in building the house. The later spelling Bellamour has only been used for just over a hundred years.



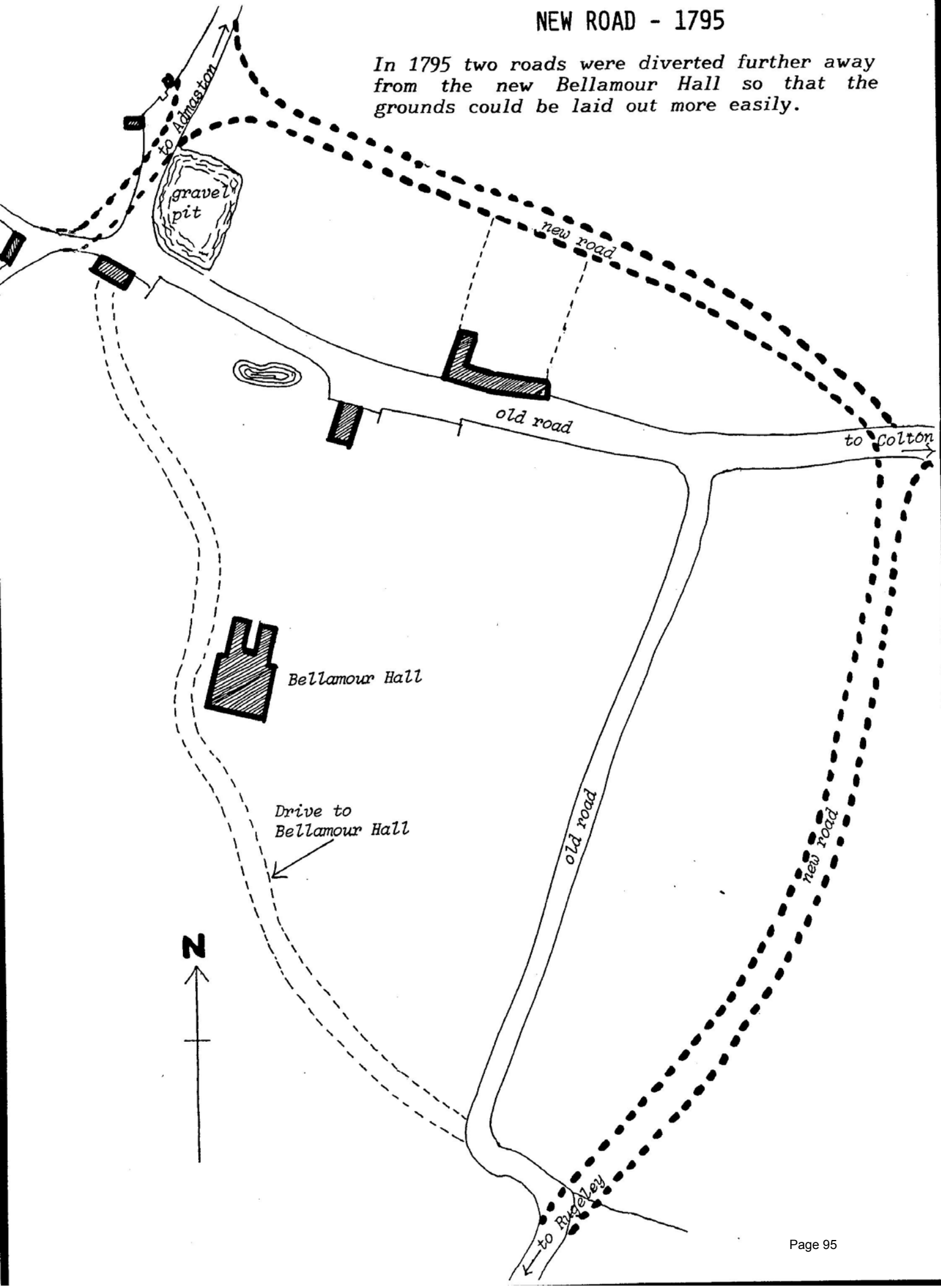
Bellamore before 1795.

Herbert and Catherine were Catholics at a time when Catholics might be persecuted but were usually left alone. They lived quietly at Bellamore where they had 8 children. Catherine's aunt was the superior of a Catholic nunnery in France and their daughters were sent abroad to be educated there. Catherine died in 1655.

In the late 1670's Catholics became increasingly unpopular largely because people were afraid of what might happen when King Charles II died and his brother James, a Catholic, became King. When Titus Oates, a thoroughly unpleasant clergyman, accused the Catholics of plotting to kill King Charles, and the magistrate before whom he had first made these charges was mysteriously murdered, Oates was surprisingly believed by many people. His accusations became wilder - the Catholics had set fire to London (the Great Fire of London) - there was a secret Catholic army and Lord Stafford was to be Paymaster for it. Others added to the accusations.

NEW ROAD - 1795

In 1795 two roads were diverted further away from the new Bellamour Hall so that the grounds could be laid out more easily.





Mr. Dugdale in Staffordshire reading several letters relating to the Plot.

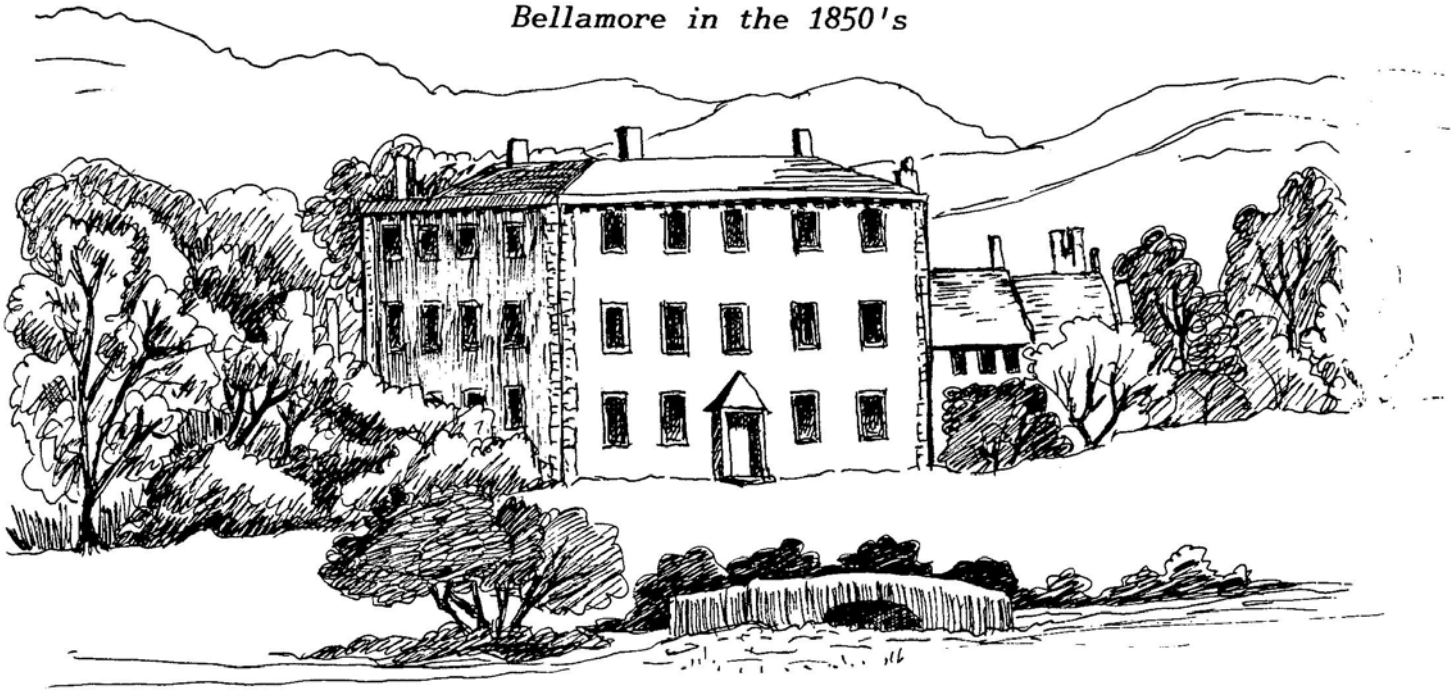


Dr. Oates discovers the Plot to the King and Council.

In particular Lord Stafford had visited the Aston's at Tixall for Rugeley races. The Aston's had a dishonest steward named Dugdale and Dugdale claimed that Lord Stafford and the Aston's had plotted at Tixall to kill the King. Dugdale said he had been offered £500 to do the killing and a free pardon from the Pope. Lord Aston and Lord Stafford were thrown into prison and Herbert Aston was lucky to escape, for Dugdale claimed that the plotters had sometimes met at Bellamore. Oates and Dugdale had invented the plot but Lord Aston spent 6 years in prison and Lord Stafford was executed because they were believed. In all some 35 people were sentenced to death for treason before Oates was discredited. Herbert Aston must have thought himself lucky to be allowed to go on living quietly at Bellamore.

Herbert Aston died in 1689 and his son, John, in 1724. Both are buried in the churchyard at Colton but have no monument now. John had no children and Bellamore became the property of a relative who married into the Blount family but did not live there.

Bellamore in the 1850's



About 1795 a new stone house was built for Edward Blount who set about laying out the park round the house with shrubberies, trees and a lake. The road from Rugeley to Colton was moved further away from the house, and entrance drives built from the Rugeley and Colwich roads. The 1795 house was added to a few years later. The farm land was also improved. In 1823 when the Blounts sold the new Bellamore it was described as "fit for a family of the first consequence". The sale catalogues description is on the next page.

THE ENTRANCE

UNDER A PORTICO, SUPPORTED BY COLUMNS, WITH STONE STEPS,

LEADING TO

A LOFTY PAVED HALL;

A GENTLEMAN'S DRESSING ROOM; AN INNER HALL, PAVED;

WITH

A capital STONE STAIRCASE, Iron Balustre and Mahogany Handrail, Walls Stuccoed,

Arches over the Doors, &c.

A NOBLE DINING PARLOUR,

Walls Stuccoed, Marble Chimneypiece, Cornice and Frieze, Metal Sashes to the Floor;

A lofty Drawing Room,

Stuccoed Walls, finished with Gilt Mouldings, Statuary Marble Chimneypiece, Metal Sashes to the Floor;

Capital Oak Floors and Double Mahogany Doors to these Rooms.

A LIBRARY,

The Walls Stuccoed, Marble Chimneypieces, and Windows to the Floor.

A VIRANDA in Front of this and the Drawing Room, with Trellis Work, Creepers, &c. opening to a FLOWER GARDEN, laid out in Parterres of Flowers and Shrubs.

HOUSEKEEPER'S ROOM, AND STORE ROOM.

ON THE FIRST FLOOR,

THREE CAPITAL BED CHAMBERS, AND DRESSING ROOMS;

TWO SMALLER BED CHAMBERS,

With Marble and Wood Chimneypieces;
A WATER CLOSET;

A BILLIARD ROOM; AND ANOTHER BED CHAMBER ADJOINING;
FOUR ROOMS FOR SERVANTS, WITH PLASTERED FLOORS.

UPPER STORY,

TWO SPACIOUS NURSERY APARTMENTS,

With Marble and Wood Chimneypieces;
SEVEN BED CHAMBERS, WALLS STUCCOED, CLOSETS, &c. ROOMY LOBBIES, HOUSEMAID'S CLOSETS, &c.

A SECONDARY STAIRCASE.

THE OFFICES:

SERVANTS' HALL, Knife and Shoe Room;

BUTLER'S PANTRY AND SLEEPING ROOM, AND ROOM FOR PLATE; THREE SLEEPING ROOMS FOR MEN SERVANTS;

A capital KITCHEN; Scullery, with Plenty of Water; LARDER, &c.

SPACIOUS ROOMY CELLARS FOR WINE, ALE, BEER, COAL, AND WOOD, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES,

All Arched, upon which the Edifice is erected.

Detached Offices,

A STABLE YARD, WITH A COACH HOUSE FOR THREE CARRIAGES,

GRANARY over, intended for SERVANTS' ROOM;

TWO TWO-STALL STABLES, A THREE-STALL STABLE, A BOX STABLE, AND YARD.

The new owner was James Oldham Oldham, a retired Indian judge. This family is remembered in several stained glass windows in the church. Mr. Oldham built Bellamour Lodge (the present spelling had come into use) for his daughters in 1851.

After Mr. Oldham's death in 1857 Bellamour Hall was sold to Thomas Berry Horsfall. Mr. Horsfall was a Liverpool merchant, born in Everton in 1805, Mayor of Liverpool in 1848 and M.P. there in 1853.

Mr. Horsfall was married four times. His fourth wife, Lucy, was 41 years younger than he was and is said to have first come to Bellamour with Mr. Horsfall's son. Lucy had four daughters all of whom lived in Colton and died unmarried. Mr. Horsfall died in 1878, his wife in 1920, and his youngest daughter in 1957. Bellamour was sold in 1920.



Thomas Berry Horsfall.

Mr. Horsfall built the village school in 1862, the Reading Room and Library (now the Village Hall) and he gave the village the new churchyard. He was also one of the founders of the hospital in Rugeley and gave money to many causes in Colton. The family vault is on the south side of the church.

These are a few memories of the family from the people in Colton.

"Every villager was allowed 2 books from the Library. One with a red label (a novel or story) and one with a white label (a religious book)."

"Every summer Lucy Horsfall gave a garden party in the park. The children were invited for tea and to enjoy the swings. The parents for tea and dancing to the band of the Rugeley Volunteers. Each mother had a gift from Mrs. Horsfall: one year it was an umbrella, another six dinner plates edged with blue and gold."

"The housekeeper at Bellamour Hall used to weigh the potato peelings and if they were too heavy for the number of potatoes the scullery maid had it stopped out of her wages."

Bellamour Hall burned down about 1930, it had been left empty for some years.

PAGE BOY AT BELLAMOUR HALL

"My uncle, a footman to the Horsfalls of Bellamour Hall, told me they wanted a page boy, I went for an interview, I rang the door bell and that was the first time I saw the Butler. He told me to come inside. We climbed a magnificent staircase, oil paintings hung on the walls all round us: they were wonderful.

At the top of the stairs was a large landing. There sat Mrs. and Miss Horsfall; this was a sight I shall never forget. Mrs. Horsfall reminded me of a picture of Queen Victoria we had at home, even down to her clothes. I was a little frightened. Then Miss Horsfall spoke, "Have you brought the letters we asked for ?". One was from the schoolmaster, Mr. Andrews, the other from Rev. Burrow. They read these carefully, then asked about my parents, were they Church of England, etc, and my early life. Miss Horsfall stood up and shook hands. I had got the job.

Mr. Farley, the Butler, gave me a letter to take to Keys' tailor shop for a dark grey ready made suit. I was to start in two days and bring shirts, black boots etc. The Horsfalls would supply a livery for special occasions.

The Butler put me through my paces - how to lay the table, how to serve at lunchtime, I had to carry trays of food from the kitchen to the dining room, ring the gong in the hall when lunch was served, look after drinks, take away used plates. All knives and silver had to be taken to the Butler's pantry where I had to wash them one at a time with a sponge and nothing else. When dry they were put in the safe.

The safe was about 12 feet by 9 feet and the door three inches thick, all made of steel. It stood in the room next to the Butler's room. A collie was trained to guard it at night and the Butler kept a gun in his room for extra protection.

My day started about 6.30 a.m. I had to take trays to the kitchen for early drinks. The Ladies' Maids took trays to the ladies' bedrooms and I took one to the Butler. I made fires for the ladies and in the servants' Hall. It was then time to get the table ready for breakfast. After that I had my own breakfast in the kitchen with the other servants except that the Butler,Housekeeper and Ladies' Maids ate in the Housekeeper's room and were waited on by the House Maid. Next I took the ladies shoes to the cellar to be cleaned and while I was there put the knives in the cleaning machine.

In the next cellar Amis Thornes would be turning a large wheel to pump water up to the tanks in the roof which supplied the house with water. He did this every morning. About 7 a.m. I used to take the post bag, made of leather with a lock on it, to the post box in the big wall - it is still there today.

At 10.00 a.m. I would go to the cellar. Some of the rooms there I never entered but I did enter the wine cellar and a large room where a full sized billiard table and other games tables were kept. It was my job to keep them clean. The games room was seldom used except when Mr. Harry was home. He sometimes brought his friends and the Butler and myself would be kept busy serving drinks. When the party had finished I would stay behind to clear away the used glasses and empty bottles. I was never allowed to take the bottles away until the Butler had checked on how much had been consumed. Now and again the visitors would stay for late dinner which meant extra work for all the staff. When they were ready to leave I would go to the stables and inform the Coachman to take the carriage to the front of the house. It was a long ride to Stafford Station where the express train for London would be caught. The Butler always had a tip but the amount remained a mystery.

One day I shall never forget. We had all had special training on how to wait at table for 3 or 4 days. The kitchen staff had extra help and instruction on how to prepare meals from a London Hotel. A Royal Princess was coming to Rugeley by train to open a soldiers' club over Keys shop. Then she and her ladies maid travelled to Bellamour for lunch. All the staff had been assembled

in the great hall for inspection before her arrival. It was the first time that I had worn my page boy's uniform,and all my buttons were bright and shining. The ladies of the houses were dressed in their finery and awaited our guests on the front steps. When she arrived she walked past all the staff and then went into the drawing room.We all went quickly back to our work remembering all of our training. I beat the dinner gong and the ladies proceeded into the dining room. The meals were always begun by saying grace and within half an hour it was all over and the party left for Stafford. The trip had been kept secret due to the war and only the staff had been informed and the police had been posted.

Every Sunday the ladies would go to church taking some of the staff, the family had their own pews. Mrs.Horsfall had a bath chair with shafts and a pony to take her, I would walk at the side of her until we reached the church. When the service had ended they would return to the Hall where lunch was being prepared.

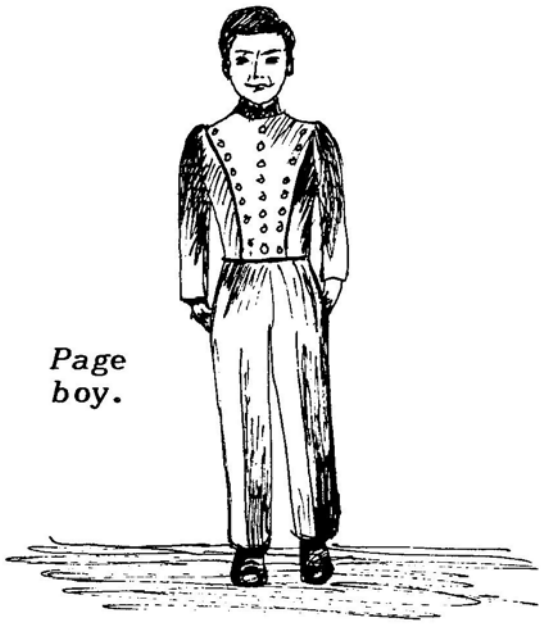
Every two weeks I had time off duty after lunch to visit my family, but before I left I had to finish all my work. I would run nearly all the way to my home in Rugeley and would arrive about three o'clock, but I had to be back at the Hall by six so that the Butler could have his evening off.

Sometimes the Butler was cross with me and made me do jobs that would make me late arriving home. One particular morning the fires would not light because the sticks were damp. At lunchtime the fire in the servants' hall had gone out and the Butler said I must light it again before I had my lunch. Two of the other servants got up to help and had words with the Butler. He became angry and locked me in the bedroom to prevent me going home, but I managed to open the window and climb down a tree into the yard so that I was able to see my parents after all.

Every three months pay day would finally arrive. My wages were £3 for the full three months. This money was taken home to my mother.

I was told one morning to get ready as I would be needed to go into town on the coach as acting Footman. I put on my livery clothes including my silk top hat with cockade. The coach was then driven to the front door where I jumped down and opened the carriage door for the two ladies to get in. I climbed back on to the box until we reached the lodge gates where I had to alight to open the gates to allow the coach to pass. Then we were away to Rugeley Market Square where again I opened the door for the ladies. Their shopping was carried out at Burnell's Grocery shop in Rugeley Market Place (the Cabin Public House in 1978). The coach stood outside the Fire Station and when the ladies were ready to leave one of the shop assistants and myself would carry their purchases back to the coach.

Eventually I left because I wanted more money for my mother and that was the end of my page boy career."

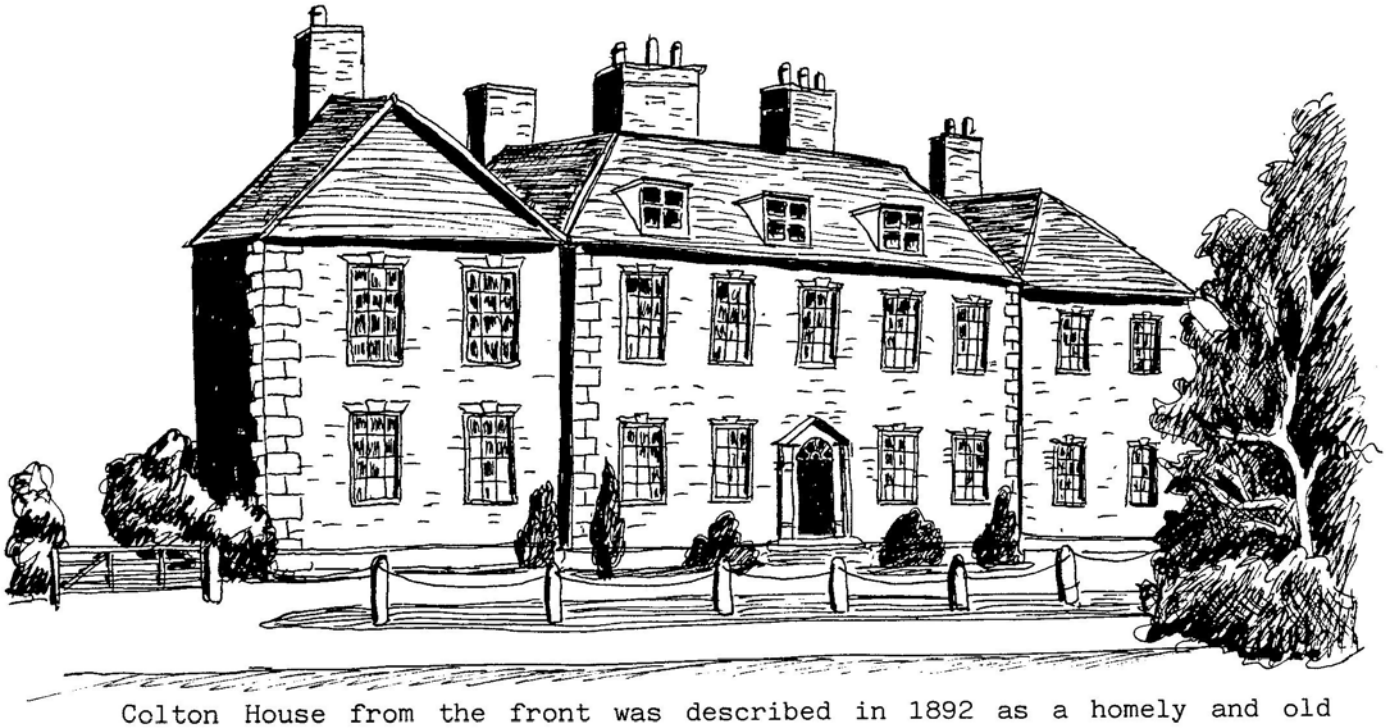


Page boy.

STAFF AT BELLAMOUR HALL - 1916

Butler
Head Gardener and three others
Coachman and stable boy
Blacksmith and odd job man
Page Boy - acting footman
Housekeeper
Cook
Kitchen maid
Two house maids
Four ladies'maids
Farm hands (three)
Woman helper to clean up
Lodge keeper, was also head gardener

COLTON HOUSE



Colton House from the front was described in 1892 as a homely and old fashioned red brick house separated from the road by posts and chains. It was built in the style fashionable in the early eighteenth century and probably dates from about 1730.

William Piggott lived there in the 1770's and kept a pack of harriers in the grounds. Lady Blount lived here until the new Bellamore was built. In 1795 the Blounts sold the house to a West Indian planter and merchant John Heylinger Burt who died when his ship disappeared on a voyage back from the West Indies. Later, it was a boys' boarding school kept by Mr. Mills. It was eventually bought by Thomas Horsfall who let it to Frederick Bonney.

Bonney's father was the Headmaster of Rugeley Grammar School and his uncle and brother were both farming in Australia. Bonney, a keen photographer, had himself gone out to Australia where he took some of the earliest pictures of aborigines. When he returned to Colton he filled Colton House with pictures and curiosities from his travels.

Bonney was also a keen gardener and he set about improving the gardens at Colton House. In 1892 a visitor wrote *"The extensive vinery and greenhouses are the admiration of visitors. The splendid show of flowers and plants all the year round are a credit to the owner and his head gardener. The show of chrysanthemums each year is not easily forgotten."*

Bonney was also a bird lover and walked around with bird seed in his pocket and many of the birds in the garden would feed from his hand.

Each year he made arrangements for a May Queen to be elected by the children. On May Day all were invited to his home where refreshments were provided. A Maypole was erected on the lawn and the school children sang and danced round it.

Bonney left Colton before the 1914 War and Colton House had a succession of tenants. The Horsfalls sold it in the 1920's.

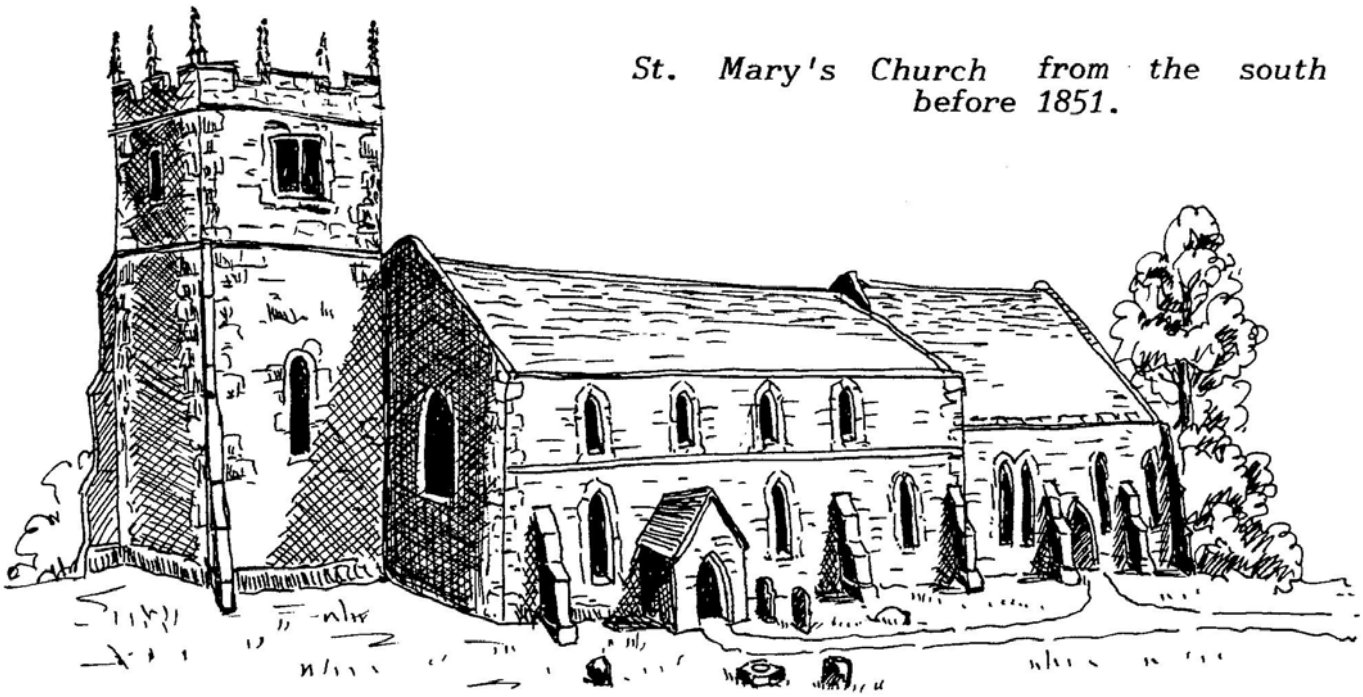
In World War 1939-45 it was taken over first by the Royal Engineers and later by American troops. Since 1945 houses have been built in the old stable-yard and the grounds.

COLTON CHURCH

In 1086 Domesday Book mentions a priest at Colton but nothing is known about the church where he held services. The oldest part of the present church is the tower which was probably built about 1200 but has been much altered in later years. At ground level its walls are four feet thick and some people think they were the foundations of an older tower.

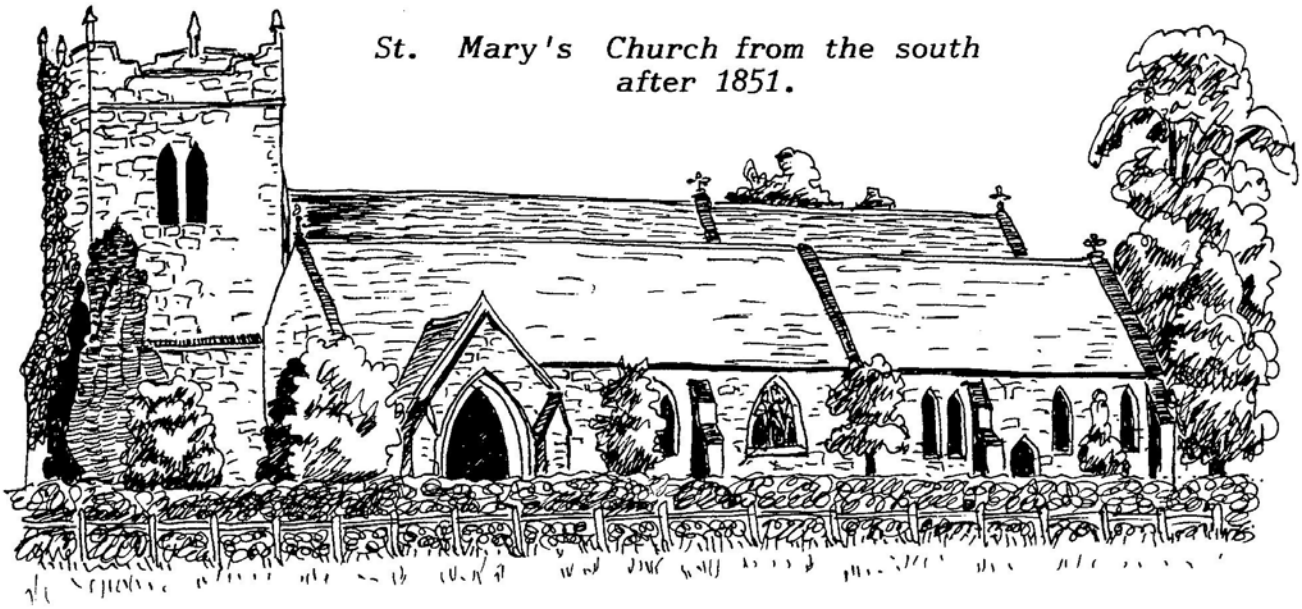
The old church seems to have been neglected in the later seventeenth century. Repairs in 1704 were followed by more extensive building work in 1799 when repair had become urgent. A bill among the records kept at the church, records that Thomas Gardner made a survey of the building, as a result "an old wall" was taken down, a new window made on the south side, a window at the west end blocked up, new cast iron window frames with bars put into parts of the church, new doors made, a new pulpit and clerk's desk bought and a new ceiling put up in the church. The tower roof was also taken down and renewed.

These repairs left the church with its north aisle demolished because it had become unsafe and, an unsightly brick wall with iron window frames on one side of the nave and a nave roof made of slate that looked odd compared with the rest of the church. The church in the early nineteenth century is shown in the drawing below.



St. Mary's Church from the south before 1851.

By 1851 it had been decided to rebuild much of the church. Miss Oldham from Bellamour offered a large gift towards the cost and the rest of the money was raised by public subscription. Mr. Street, the architect, retained only the tower and south chapel or aisle and rebuilt the rest incorporating some features of the old church into the new. At the same time Street designed a new font, pulpit, lectern and seating. The church as it was after 1851 is shown on the next page.



St. Mary's Church from the south after 1851.

During this work several wall paintings were found in the south aisle. These were thought to date back to about 1400. At that time scenes from bible stories and the lives of saints were often painted on church walls. In later years clergymen wanted plainer churches and these paintings were covered over with plaster or whitewash. Before the paintings at Colton were destroyed drawings were made.

There were three scenes.

1. Adam and Eve being expelled from the Garden of Eden. Only part of the picture survived in 1851. You may like to guess what was shown on the missing part.



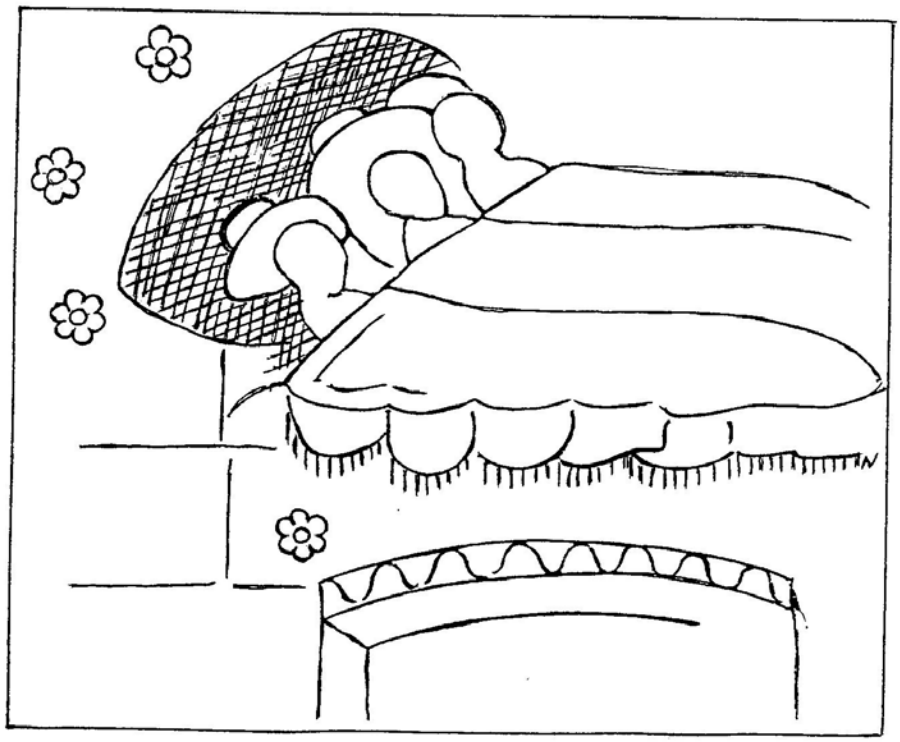
2. Elizabeth, mother of John the Baptist, meeting Mary, the mother of Jesus, before Jesus was born. You will find the story is St. Luke's Gospel.

3. St. Nicholas saving three poor women by throwing bags of gold through their window at night so that they each had a dowry and their father was able to find a husband for each of them. St. Nicholas is the patron saint of children and he can be identified from other saints by the child's face on the top of his crook.

He was also the patron saint of pawnbrokers. The three bags of gold were shown as three golden balls which became the usual sign outside a pawnbroker's shop.

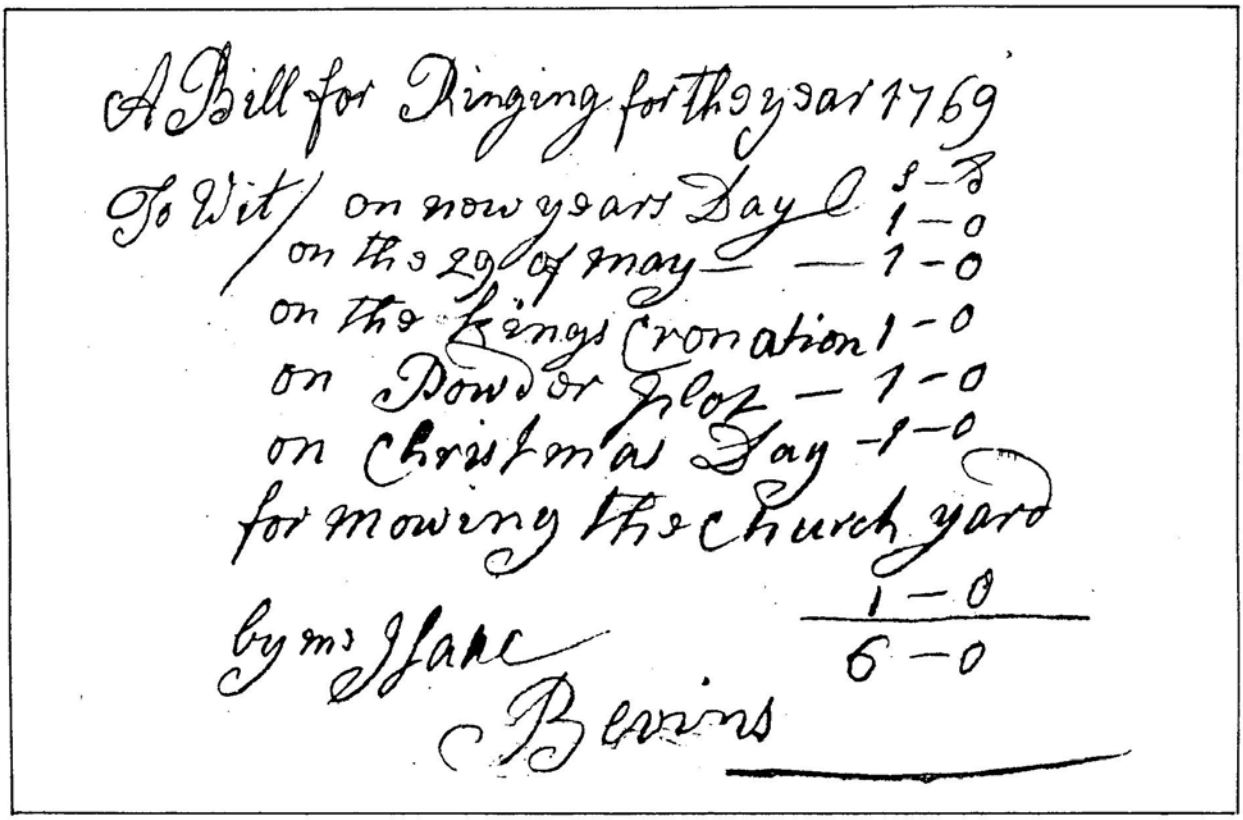
The two parts of the painting which survived in 1851 are shown below.





The church has not changed its appearance very much since 1851 although repairs have had to be made at times. In 1923 part of the tower was rebuilt after damage by sand bees and ivy had made it unsafe. In 1934 candles were replaced by electricity to light the church. In the 1960's there were extensive roof repairs and the churchyard was laid out with a new driveway. Gravestones were also removed and relaid on the western side of the church.

Try reading Isaac Bevin's bill to the Churchwardens of Colton in 1769 and work out what was being celebrated on these five occasion's.



A Bill for Ringing for the year 1769

To Wit/ on new years Day	1-0
on the 29 of may	1-0
on the kings Cronation	1-0
on Powder plot	1-0
on Christmas Day	1-0
for mowing the church yard	1-0
	6-0

by me Isaac Bevins

"Before the 1939-45 War the village ladies made garlands to go round the pillars and the porch doorway in the church. They were trained by the Rector's two sisters, the Misses Harriet and Eleanor Parker. For Christmas we used Holly and Ivy; for Easter Yew and Box; and Wheat, Oats and Rye for Harvest Festival. These latter garlands are still made every year by our decorating squad, and we lend them to Brereton Church for the next Sunday. Years ago they were sent to a Bath Church by train, until it was bombed in the war, when the custom stopped. The farmers were most generous with their corn."

A parishioner remembers.

COLTON SCHOOL



This photograph shows those pupils of Colton School who had not been absent a single day during 1894. This photograph was taken by Frederick Bonney.

The first school in Colton goes back over 200 years to 1764. In that year people in the village subscribed towards a school for 20 poor children from the parish to be taught to read, to write, to keep accounts and to know the Church of England catechism. Pupils were provided with books, paper, quills and ink, only if their parents could not afford to buy them. The pupils were to go to church every Sunday with the schoolmaster who was *"to see their behaviour is decent and regular"*.

In 1821 John Spencer on behalf of his brother gave £500 to pay for another 20 poor children to go to the school. In 1830 a report on the school said :-

"The boys and girls are taught in one room, boys at the bottom and girls at the top. The master and his son teach the boys, his wife and daughter teach the girls. They are all instructed in Reading, Writing, Arithmetic and the Church catechism. The girls are also taught to sew and knit".

Another school had been founded in Colton by Thomas Webb some time after 1818. Here poor girls were taught reading, knitting and sewing.

The two schools gradually began to work together. By 1851 one was a boys school and the other a girls school. In 1862 it was decided to build a single new school on a site given by Mr. Horsfall. This school would take any child from Colton from the age of 2 and teach him or her reading, writing, spelling, English grammar, arithmetic, history, geography and useful subjects, as well as instructing them in the Church catechism.

The school remains in the 1862 buildings with improvements and with additions opened in 1964. Pupils over the age of 11 were transferred to Colwich in the late 1930's and more recently to secondary school in Rugeley.

These are a few extracts from the school log books.

15 June 1863. Scale of payment changed by the Trustees. Labourers are to pay 2d per week for the first child and 1d per week for other children in the family at school.

1863. Arithmetic Examination Class 2 (pupils aged about 11) included these questions :-

(1)
```
  8 9 6 8 4 7
    6 9 8 9 7
  6 8 4 9 2 3
  1 8 9 6 8 9
  7 6 8 4 3 5
+ 1 2 3 4 5 6
```

(6) 7 3 0 6 0 9 8 4 x 8 =

(8) 6 9 8 6 9 8 4 x 7 2 9 =

(11) 1 3 5 8 6 7 ÷ 7 9 =

21 Dec. 1863. Many children absent begging wheat for St. Thomas' Day. *(On St. Thomas' Day it was a custom in many villages for poor people to beg from door to door. This was called "going a-gooding" or Thomasing.)*

29 May 1864. Holiday in the afternoon - Oak Bough Day. *(Anniversary of Charles II escaping after the battle of Worcester by hiding in an Oak tree. Often called Oak Apple Day).*

1 Nov. 1876. Rector gave the children half holiday as it is the custom in the village for the children to go round the houses of the nobility for apples on All Saints Day.

1 March 1867. Burial of Mrs. Horsfall. Black ties given to allthe boys and Mrs. Harland distributed black ribbons to the girls. Half day holiday.

8 Dec. 1871. Dinners sent from Bellamour Hall for the first time this winter.

14 March 1867. Made enquiries about the Aults who had been absent for a week and found that they had no shoes to come to school in.

5 Sept. 1870. Opened school. Only 24 present the rest absent on various work such as Threshing, Cow & Pig tending, Nursing younger children, Minding the House etc.

23 April 1866. Most of those absent scaring birds returned to school.

3 Oct. 1870. Many still away potato and acorn gathering.

25 June 1873. Many older children absent in the hay fields.

3 June 1874. Rugeley Horse Fair prevented many who had to come from that direction being here owing to the number of horses on the road.

27 May 1877. Yesterday was the Colton annual club feast when the members, headed by a band, perambulate the parish. Attendance therefore thin.

10 May 1895. School closed 1.30 p.m. so that children could attend the May tea party in the Reading Room. 111 present. Mr. Tingay of Rugeley provided the tea for 6d ahead.

6 Nov. 1866. Warned the boys not to play "shinnie" in the village street. *(Shinnie was like hockey played with a ball or stone and sticks.)*

3 June 1895. School closed for another 2 weeks on account of measles epidemic. The school is being thoroughly cleaned. The old well is closed up and a new one has been sunk.

23 Jan. 1913. The Rector has arranged for Manton of Rugeley to bring the Station children to school in his brake each morning while the weather is bad. The path across the fields is very bad, part of it being constantly under water.

15 Jan. 1914. The elder children are now leaving school as soon as they can get away. There is a great demand for domestic servants and the girls are spoken for long before they are 13 years of age. The boys are wanted on the farms as many men have enlisted for the War.

22 March 1916. Children allowed outside this morning to see a regiment of soldiers march past.

8 Sept. 1916. Children have brought 4 dozen bottles to school. These will be sent to Rugeley and sold; the proceeds will be devoted to helping 16 prisoners of war.

19 Oct. 1917. The children have subscribed 16 shillings towards comforts for the wounded soldiers at Ravenhill Hospital, Rugeley. More than a ton of chestnuts have also been gathered for the war effort.

21 Aug. 1918. The children were taken out this afternoon to gather blackberries to be made into jam for the troops. (74 ½lbs of blackberries sent off on 23 August. During the blackberrying season 4½ cwts. were collected by the children).

16 Sept. 1920. Arrangements have now been made for taking gardening. Mr. Horsfall has agreed to let the managers have the land at a nominal rent. The Headteacher has made out a new timetable which includes gardening as one of the subjects.

29 Aug. 1921. At the Colton Flower Show the school garden was awarded 1st prize for parsnips, celery, leeks and stocks, and 3rd prize for carrots. The prize money (10 shillings) was spent in buying a football for the boys.

14 June 1920. The three oldest girls who attend Cookery classes at Colwich every Monday morning arrived back at school at 9.30 a.m. have been prevented from getting to Colwich by some men on the road.

Aug. 1925. Central Heating installed. Previous to this there were two small open firegrates in the large hall, one firegrate in the classroom and one small stove in the north room.

Sept. 1936. Water laid on for first time. Two taps, one in the cloakroom at the side of the north room and one in the cloakroom for the girls.

26 Oct. 1944. Dentist at School. He required several buckets of hot water which had to be supplied by a householder in the village, Mrs. Goodall, her husband carried them to the school.

20 Sept. 1926. Homework has been started by request of many scholars in Class I (top class). It is given twice a week. One parent has stated if homework rubbish is taken home he will fireback it.

16 Feb. 1927. The Managers have bought the school an H.M.V. gramophone, the latest portable model price £7. Records such as folk dances and nursery rhymes bought out of school funds. (The was the first gramophone in the school.)

25 Oct. 1929. On Monday there commenced hot drinks of malted milk at a charge of ½d a beaker. Every child has a drink at break time and all those who stay at dinnertime can be supplied too. Messrs. Horlicks of Slough have loaned the apparatus.

July 1935. At the end of this term this school becomes a Junior mixed school and the older children are being transferred to Colwich Central School. A bus will take the older children to Colwich every day at 8.45 a.m. and they will have to take their luncheon. The number of children next September will be 60.

24 May 1920. Empire Day. Special lessons on the Empire and its flag were given to the children. At the close of the morning session the children assembled in the yard and as they marched past the flag, saluted it. Half day holiday in the afternoon.

28 July 1923. A party of 21 school children went to Rhyl for a day. Only 2 had previously seen the sea.

30 Oct. 1923. In the afternoon the school started at 1 o'clock and finished at 3.15 p.m. on account of a circus visiting the village.

29 July 1930. Britain's newest airship R.100 went over Colton at 6 a.m. on its voyage to Montreal. Many children got up early to see it. It was a splendid sight flying very low on account of the heavy rain clouds. Most people were awakened by the noise of the engines.

21 Jan. 1940. 33° of frost. The thermometer registered 1° below zero Fahrenheit.

26 & 29 Jan. 1940. A terrific blizzard started this afternoon (Friday). Those who lived a long way off were sent home at once. The blizzard raged on and off from Friday to Monday morning. The snow is about 3 ft. deep. Even milk cannot be fetched from farms. Holly bushes bent flat to the ground. On Monday not a single child turned up for school.

Soldiers billeted at Colton House helped to clear snow off the railway. Colton Road was impassable to all traffic for 10 days until it was cleared by soldiers. Snow was piled 6 feet deep on each side. The first mail got through from Rugeley on Tuesday when a postman managed to walk here about 4 p.m. The first newspapers did not arrive until Friday night (2nd February). There was a shortage of coal, food was scarce,especially meat. Potatoes became unobtainable for farmers would not open the clamps. School did not reopen until 12th February.

8 Feb. 1946. School closed on account of deep floods. Water is up to the school wall. The plantation pool above the school is overflowing onto the road which is like a river. At Rugeley Trent Valley station the water is 3 to 4 feet deep. All roads round Colton are impassable.

22 Dec. 1927.



School closed to enable staff to decorate a large Christmas Tree, which had been cut down by the Headteacher, and to prepare food etc for the party to school children at 4.30 p.m. After tea the children delighted their parents and friends by songs, carols,recitations and country dancing. The Christmas Tree was lit by candles. Father Christmas gave away the presents which consisted of Ingersoll crown watches (19),many work baskets, Lott's bricks and good books especially annuals of 3/6d and 5/- value. *(There are similar entries in the log books for other years.)*

21 Dec. 1946. The first school Christmas party since 1938. There were jellies, bread and margarine, potted meat sandwiches and slab cake. The Lichfield Rural Food Officer allowed ½lb of margarine, ¾lb sugar, ½lb tea and 3 pints of milk. The Headteacher's wife "found" the extras.

THE SLEEPING BEAUTY

Edward Sharratt was the eldest of a large family from Hill Ridware. He was brought up in Colton by his aunt, Mrs. Williscroft, who kept a shop in the village. He went to Colton school and is one of the pupils shown in the photograph on page 28, Ted did well at school and eventually became a pupil teacher at Colton. That meant that he continued his own education at the Technical College in Stafford one day a week and taught at Colton the rest of the week under the Headmaster's supervision. When he was 18 he won a place at Saltley Teachers' Training College and eventually became a Headmaster in Walsall.

He returned to Colton whenever he could. At Christmas 1903 he organised the children in a pantomime "The Sleeping Beauty". It was given in a brick building at the back of Malt House Farm which had a large room on the first floor reached by an outside staircase. Local people lent chairs and everyone paid 2 pence to see the children. Music was provided by Harry Upton on his violin.

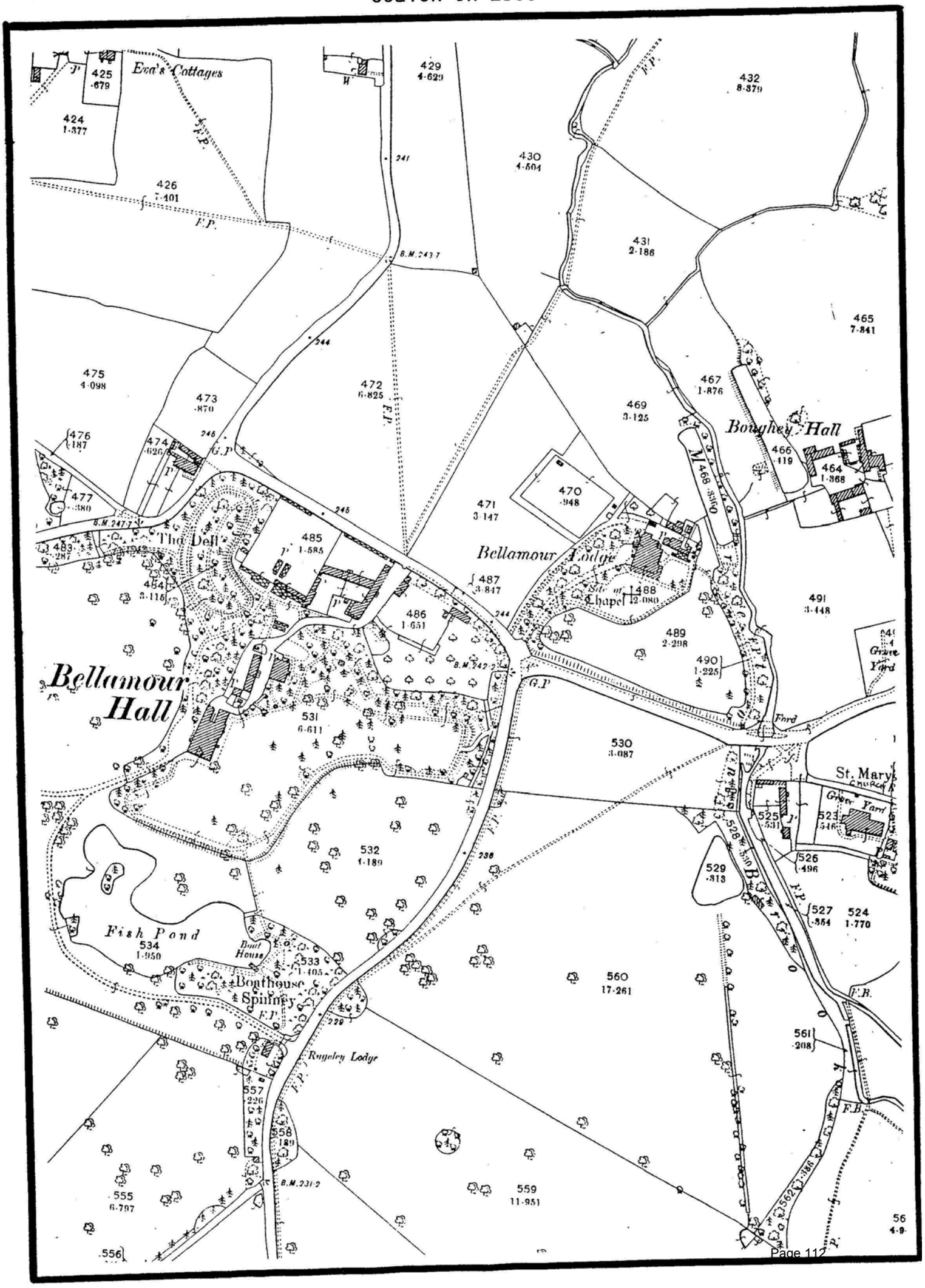
MAY DAY

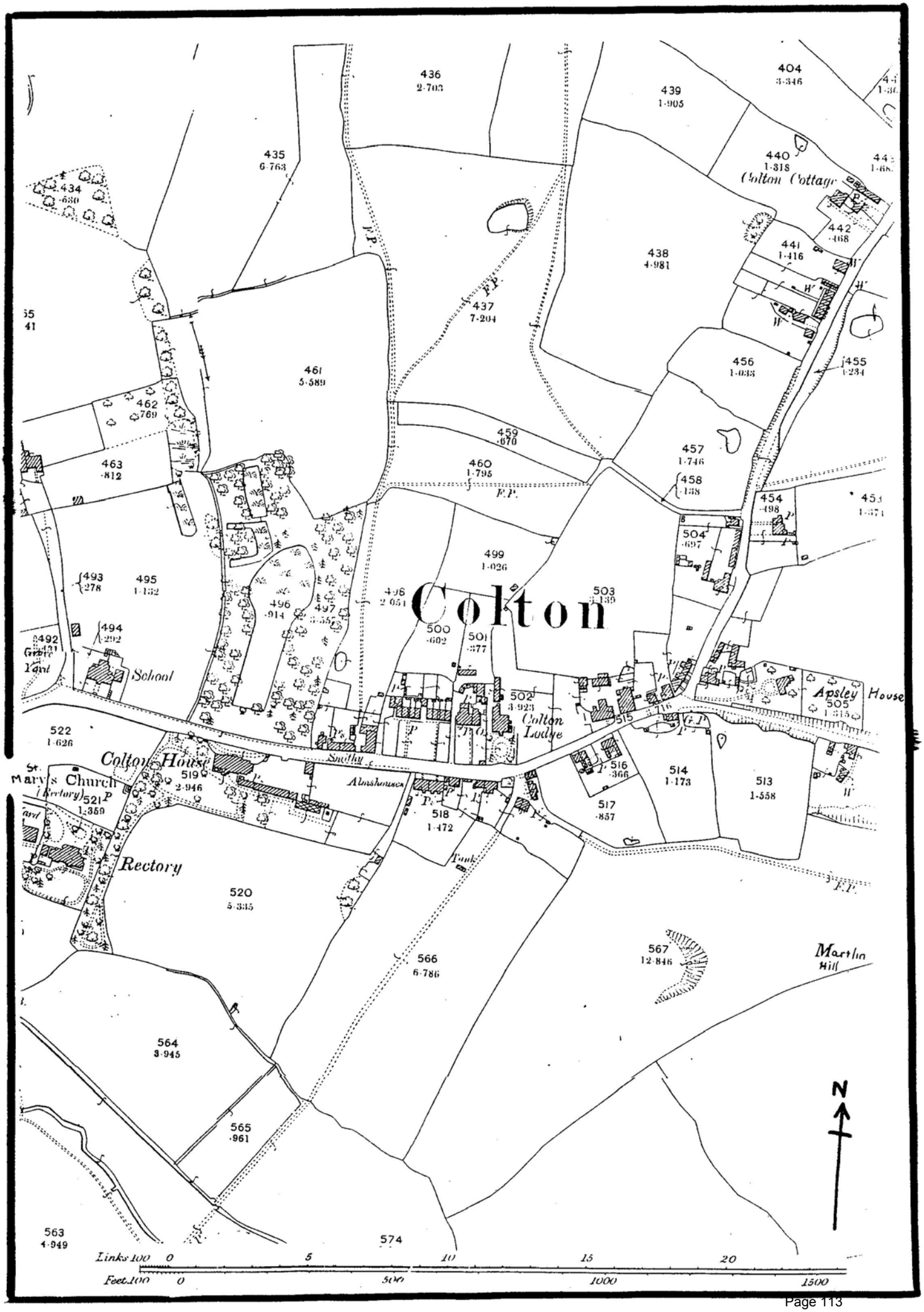


Every year the children at Colton school voted for their May Queen. It had to be a different girl each year. The night before May Day the boys gathered greenery and may blossom for garlands. The girls, all in their best white dresses and wearing garlands over one shoulder, walked in procession with the May Queen. Some of the boys dressed as tradesmen - a sweep, a butcher etc - others wore their best clothes and a garland over their shoulder and they walked behind the girls.

The procession went to Mr. Bonney's Colton House where a Maypole had been set up on the lawn and the children took part in maypole dancing watched by all the village people. Afterwards the children went in procession to Bellamour Hall for a tea party.

COLTON IN 1900




Colton
Colton Cottage
Colton Lodge
Apsley House
Colton House
School
Rectory
Almshouses
Smithy
Tank
Martha Hill
St. Mary's Church (Rectory)
436 2·703
439 1·905
404 3·346
435 6·763
440 1·318
442 ·468
441 1·416
438 4·981
437 7·204
456 1·033
455 1·284
461 5·589
462 ·769
459 ·870
463 ·812
460 1·795
457 1·746
458 ·138
454 ·498
504 ·697
499 1·026
493 ·278
495 1·132
496 ·914
497
498 2·651
503 ·139
500 ·602
501 ·377
494 ·292
492
502 3·923
505
515
516 ·366
514 1·173
513 1·558
517 ·857
522 1·626
519 2·946
521 1·350
518 1·472
520 5·335
566 6·786
567 12·846
564 3·945
565 ·961
563 4·949
574
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Feet 100 0 500 1000 1500
N

CORONATION DAY

PROGRAMME,

Thursday, June 26th, 1902.

SERVICE IN CHURCH

AT 11 A.M.

(With Shortened Form of Authorised Service).

Children's Tea 3-15 p.m.

Knife & Fork Tea for Women

In the School, at 4 p.m.

Knife and Fork Tea for Men

In the School at 5 p.m.

N.B.—All are requested to bring their own Knives and Forks.

SPORTS

At Bellamour (by kind permission of Mrs. Horsfall), 5-45 p.m.

Entrance Only by the Garden Door in the Wall of Bellamour Hall.

No Competitor shall receive more than one First and Second Prize.

No Race shall be run unless Four persons at the least compete. The Committee reserve to themselves the right to make any alterations they may consider necessary.

Bonfire & Rockets on the Martlin Hill

With Singing of the NATIONAL ANTHEM, at 10 p.m.

N.B.—Admission is strictly confined to Persons residing in the Parish to whom Tickets are issued.

I REMEMBER .....

* * Before the Second World War most farmers were tenant farmers of the big estates - Shrewsbury, Blithfield, Sandon. Lord Bagot had to sell land and farms to pay death duty.

* * The rents used to be about 29/- an acre, these days land is £90 an acre to rent.
1920's.

* * Most farms were general farms, ploughland did not pay after First World War, so farmers kept cattle and sheep and grew corn (oats) to feed the stock. They didn't grow much barley. It was a good yield to get one ton from an acre, now an average yield is 2½ tons, or even up to 4 tons an acre if a lot of fertilizers and sprays are used. The milk yield wasn't so good, if a cow gave 5 gallons a day she was a special beast, now they mostly give 10 to 12 gallons. A farm was doing very well to produce 100 gallons a day, nowadays that is a minimum. There were no inspectors in those days. Milk from Manor Farm was taken to the Trent Valley Station in 17 gallon churns to catch the 6.00 p.m. train to London for the next morning's milk deliveries. You could buy a good cow for £18-£20, now they cost anything from £500-£1000 each. *1920's.*

* * Everything was horsedrawn, we had 3 pairs of horses and a waggoner. Sometimes, when I was young, when I had to open and close a gate and fasten it up, the horse would up and take the cart off home without me, and I'd have to walk ! We employed 6 farm labourers, they earned about 30/- a week, working dawn till dusk, with a 30/- bonus "harvest money" for the season.
1920's.

* * Our best hayfield was New Close, about 21 acres. We cut it with 2 horses and a binder. First a 6 ft. lane had to be cut all round the field, scythed by hand and tied up by hand, so as not to waste any. It took 2 days to harvest, with 2 men stooking up. Some hay was carted loose and put in a barn or ricked in the field. At harvest time we had about 12 men - you needed a "football team" to thresh in comfort. They all had to be provided with breakfast, dinner and tea.
1920's.

* * Water was always a problem on Manor Farm. There was a pump for drinking water which was very pure. Hot summers were a worry, we had to cart gallons of water from the brook for the cattle. The milk lorry would take the milk and bring a load of water back for us. We had to cart water for the steam thresher from the brook in a horse and float. Sometimes we took the cattle down to the brook at Bellamour to water them.
1920's.

* * During the Second War, men were away, and farming quickly became more mechanised. We could buy a tractor then for a few hundred pounds, now they are £12,000.

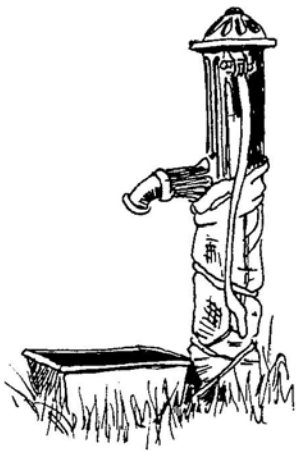
* *



Dollying the washing.

There was a row of 5 or 6 two bedroomed cottages called "Chatterpie Row" in the High Street. It was so named because the folks who lived there spent a lot of time sitting outside having a gossip. One family brought up 8 children in one of these cottages. The women fetched soft water in buckets from pools in the fields opposite to do their washing. When piped water was brought in in the early 1930's the rents went up by 6d a week.

* * We had one pump to serve 6 cottages in Martlin Lane. It had a bluestone trough and drain, and iron railings round 3 sides to stop people walking into it in the dark. It had to be strawed and bagged in winter to stop it freezing. We primed it with water and pumped the handle until water came out of the spout. It never ran dry because the water ran down from the Martlin field. The water was used for drinking and washing, but we kept a rain barrel for soft water to wash clothes; because it saved on soap. Mother used Hudson's soap powder and yellow bar soap, she kept the soap warm and dry so that it lasted longer. She used a dolly tub and set up a regular thumping rhythm, then it was all mangled. Ironing was done with flat irons, held on to the black range with a poker through the handle.



1910.

* * There was another row of houses called "Lloyd's Cottages" which belonged to Mr. Lloyd of Aspley House. He turned one family out for not paying their rent. They had nowhere to go, so they lived in some farm buildings until Mr. Lloyd relented and allowed them to go back home.

1920's.

* * We walked everywhere. My Grandma and her friend would walk to Wolverhampton and back pushing prams, to visit a relative. Thirty four miles all told.

1920's.

* * If anyone was ill in the village, the Tanyard (Rugeley) would put bark down on the road outside to deaden the noise of vehicles. *1920's.*

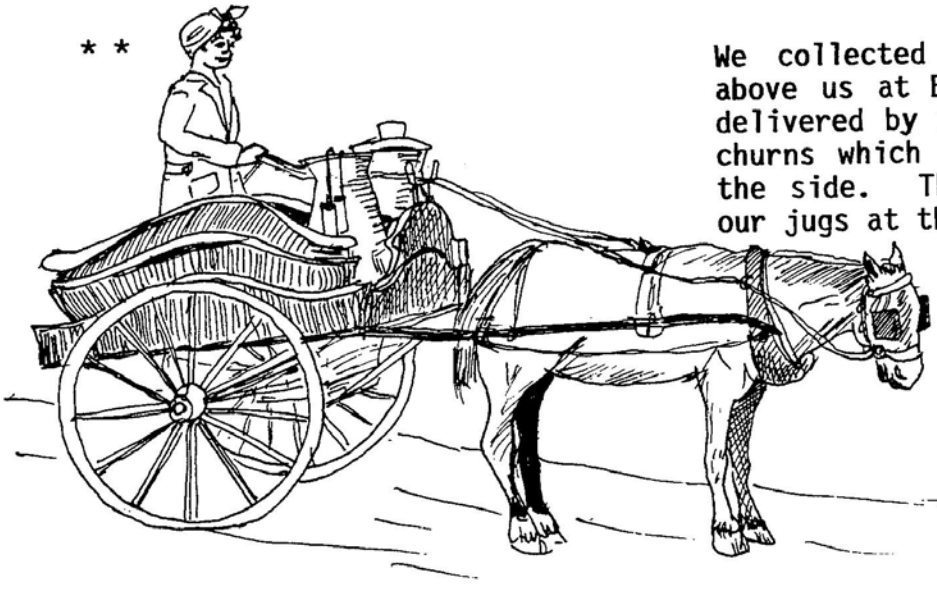
* * Diphtheria was a hazard in those days. Sick children were taken to Curborough Isolation Hospital in a varnished wood framed ambulance. Then the Health people would disinfect the house and affected clothing would have to be burned.

1920's.

* * Mrs. Mary Williscroft kept a tiny shop in her house, at first in a cottage opposite the High House, then in 1913, she moved over the road and the village shop stayed there till 1961. She, and her daughter after her, sold general groceries, and eventually newspapers.

* * We collected our milk from the farm above us at Bank Top. Later milk was delivered by pony and trap in special churns which had measures hooked over the side. The milk was measured into our jugs at the door.

Up to 1950's



LICHFIELD RURAL DISTRICT
LOCAL FOOD CONTROL COMMITTEE.

IMPORTANT.

TEA, BUTTER AND MARGARINE

will **NOT** be sold at this shop on **MONDAYS** and **TUESDAYS** until further notice, except to Sailors and Soldiers on leave.

THOMAS MOSELEY,
Executive Officer.

LICHFIELD RURAL DISTRICT.
FOOD CONTOL COMMITTEE
Sugar for Jam. (Summer Fruits. 1919.)

Order List.

Name of Retailer ~~Biddle Stores~~ M. Williscroft
Address ~~Brook Square~~ Colton
~~Rugeley~~ Rugeley

We whose signatures and address below declare that we require the Sugar now ordered for the purpose of preserving Fruit for Domestic use, and undertake that we will not use the Sugar obtained for any other purpose nor sell it to any other person.

Signature of Customer.	Address.	Quantity ordered. in lbs
J. Upton	High House. Colton.	24
J. Worrall	Bank Top. Colton	12
E. Meddings	Williscroft Place Colton	12
M. Williscroft	Cypress Cottage Colton	12.

FOOD IN 1914-18

During the 1914-18 World War food was in short supply. The shortage continued into 1919. These two documents have been carefully kept by the family of Miss Williscroft who kept the village shop at that time.



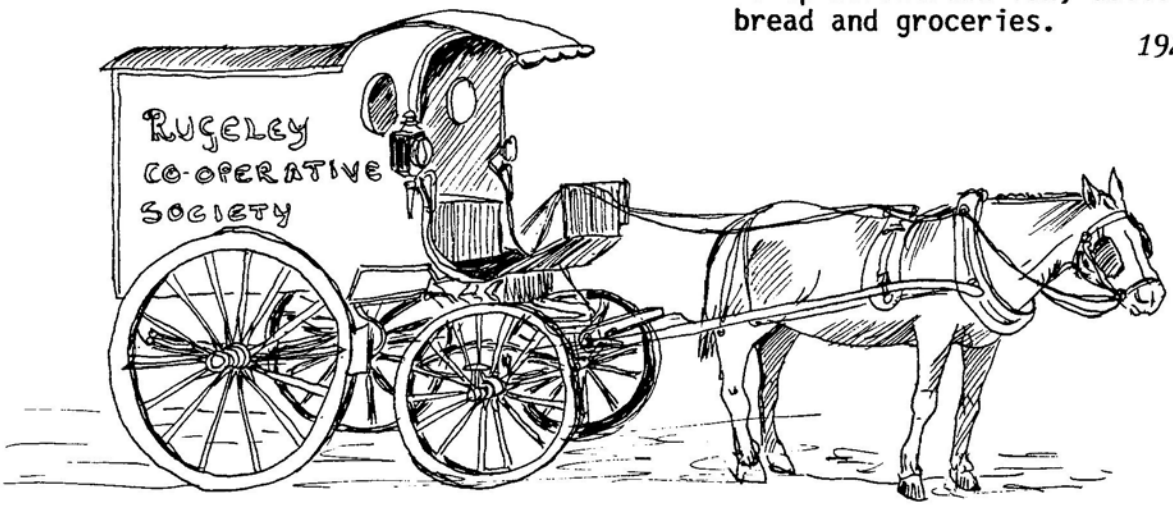
This picture of Williscroft place and the butcher's shop was drawn from a faded newspaper cutting. It would be interesting to see the original photograph if it still exists.

* * James Degg had a lock-up butcher's shop in Colton which he opened on Tuesday and Friday afternoons and Saturday mornings. Smiler Threadgold would bring the meat in a horse and float from Rugeley. Three or four of us lads would cadge a ride back with him to the Trent Valley Station. There we'd wait for the Midland Red solid tyred bus to come, and we'd have a penny ride back to the pinfold. This was a real treat.

1920's.

* * Charlie Dilly came round the village every Saturday with the Co-op horsedrawn van, delivering bread and groceries.

1920's.



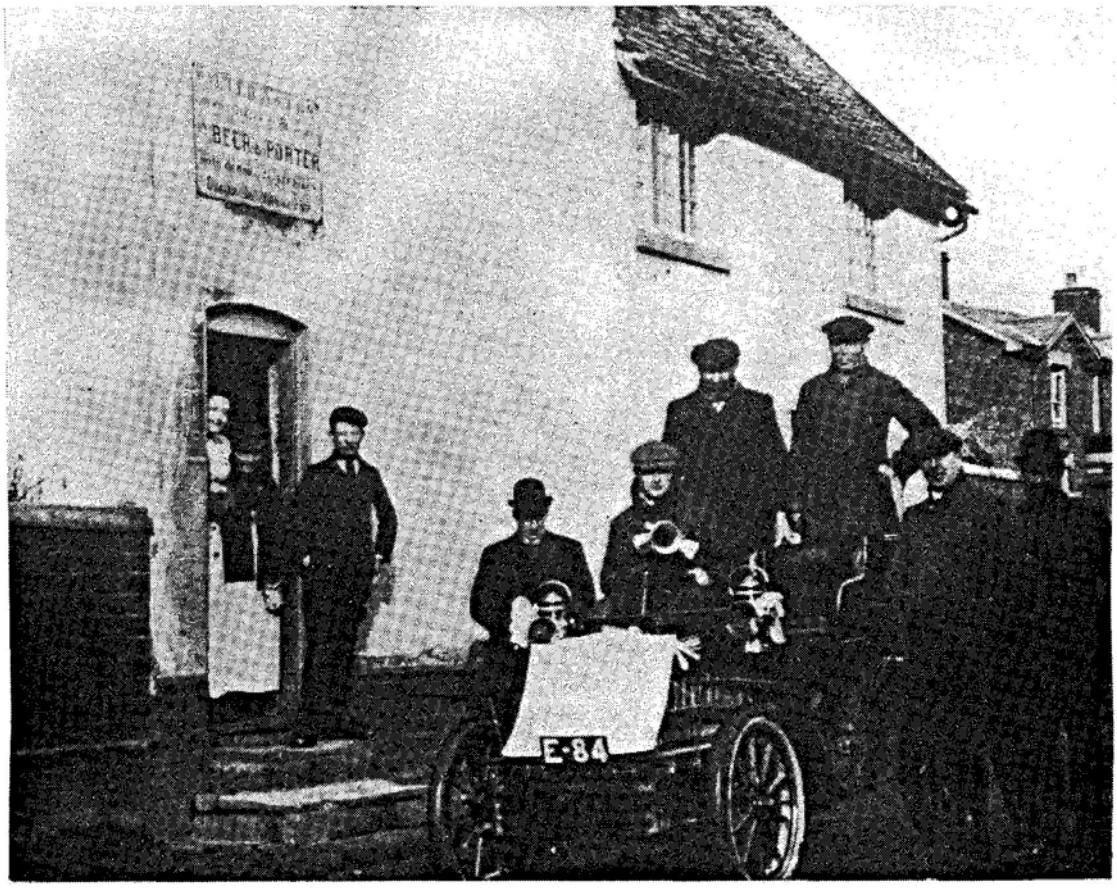
* * The chickens from Boughey Hall Farm used to lay their eggs in nests round the base of elm trees up the drive to the farm. I used to go and look for them after school and take them to the farm. My reward was a chunk of homemade black treacle toffee.

1920's.

* * Us kids roamed the fields for miles in the school holidays. We would swim in the brook in deep water by Bloor's meadow. *1920's.*

* * We treated the grounds of Bellamour Hall as our playground, we never did any damage but occasionally got chased away by the farmer. It was a child's paradise. *1920's.*

* * There were not many cars around when I was a lad, there was grass and weeds growing in the village street and we played in it quite safely. Mr. Broughton the schoolmaster was the first person to own a car in Colton, his and the doctor's were the only cars we ever saw. *1920's.*



Outside the "Old Dun Cow"

* * We loved to watch the beer being delivered to the "Greyhound" by a steam driven lorry from the breweries at Burton. *1920's.*

* * The road at Bellamour Corner was widened in the 1920's, there used to be a grass triangle with trees on it. They surfaced it with duck-stones which were broken up by men wielding hammers which had flexible hazel handles. While they were working on this a machine was invented and put in use to break the stones. It was so noisy you could hear it up the top end of the village.

* * The men in the village worked as farm labourers, in the Tanyard in Rugeley, at the tin factory by the Trent Valley Station where they made tin trunks, and the colour works. Some worked down the pit, either Cannock or Brereton. They all walked to work to Rugeley, Brereton, even to Tackaroo, (north of Hednesford). Some had to leave at 5.00 a.m. *1920's.*

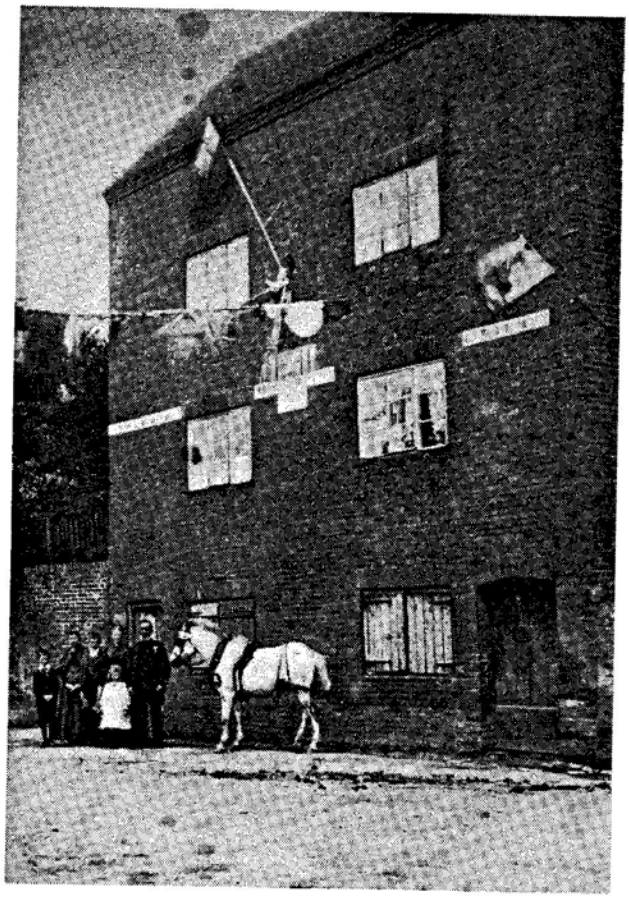
* * My grandfather was a lengthsman, there were three in the Colton area. They kept the grass verges tidy and trimmed and mowed the grass. Grandfather worked from the Trent Valley Station to the parish boundary at Admaston. The roadsides have never looked so cared for since. Their foreman travelled on a motorbike and one day a deer jumped over the wall at Shugborough and landed straight on him and the bike. He was badly injured, road hazards were different in those days.

1900's.

* * The shortest way to Rugeley was to walk over 9 fields coming out by the Fog Cottages. In 1902 the Rev'd. Parker, at his own cost, improved and repaired this footpath, laying down blue bricks and erecting irongates and turnstiles in the place of wooden gates at the several gateways.

* * My grandfather kept a shop in the High House, which is 18th century, built with old ships' timbers. He would get out of bed at midnight or very early morning if anyone rattled the shop shutters, just to sell them 10 Woodbines or whatever. He had cards of 2d bottles hanging round the shop, some had Brilliantine in, olive oil, that sort of thing. One day he sold a child camphorated oil instead of Brilliantine by mistake, and her father who had sent for it had rubbed it into his hair before he realised.

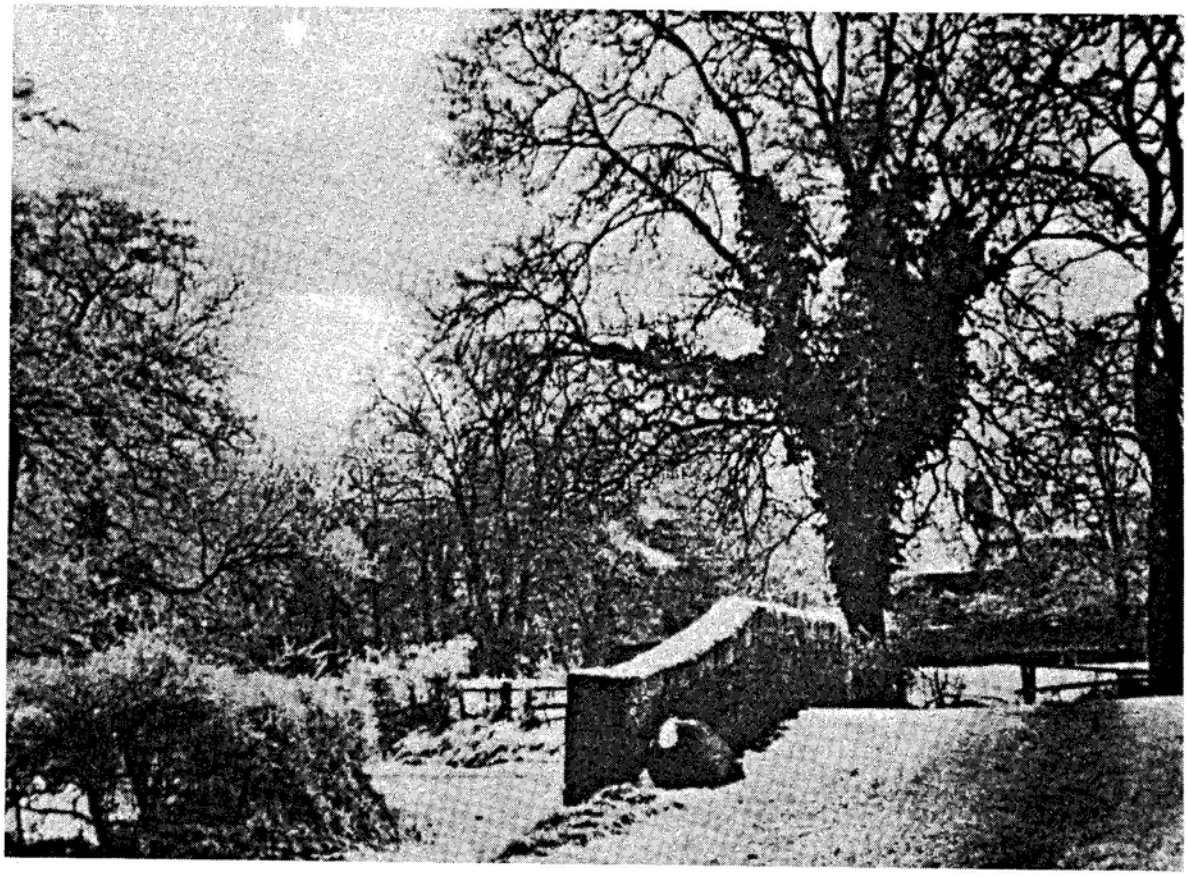
1910.



The High House decorated for Queen Victoria's Jubilee in 1897. The Upton family are seen here with Tommy, their horse.

* * The Upton family lived in the High House. They had a trap pulled by their horse, Tommy. Sometimes he nodded off to sleep as he walked along. The family had a cocoa tin with holes bodged in the lid, full of sand.They would shake this over his rump,and off he would go again.

1897.



Colton bridge over the brook.



The ford through the brook beside the bridge.

* * Charlie Yates had a slaughter house in the village High Street. One day a bull escaped and wandered about, chasing the men as they came home from work. *1920's*

* * There was no real poverty in the village, no-one starved, we all had big gardens and grew vegetables, but we had very little money for any luxuries. *1930's*

* * George Mellor at the Manor Farm used to make fine homemade wine, his speciality was mangold wurzel, from a secret recipe. One special occasion everyone congregated at the farm,ther'd be bikes strewn about and under hedges in the middle of the afternoon. You could drink as much as you liked without effect as long as you stayed indoors. As soon as fresh air hit you, you fell over ! *1920's*

* * For the coronation of George VI in 1937,the school was gaily decorated with red, white and blue garlands, union jacks, red ensigns and white ensigns.
There were sports in the "Barcroft" field at 2.30 p.m, Tea in the school at 4.30 p.m. Plenty to drink and plenty to eat. Each child was given a coronation mug of George VI and a beaker of Edward VIII (ordered and delivered before the abdication).
There was a bonfire, and a glorious one, on the Martlin Hill at 10 p.m. There were a few fireworks. All day the weather was dull and cloudy.
Any people of the parish, above school age could go and have a meat tea at the Reading Room from 4 p.m. on Coronation Day.

* * I remember the 1930's as a very happy time. Few of us in the village had much money, but life was peaceful and quiet. The vehicles were all horsedrawn, and the farms used horses not tractors. The war changed everything.

* * One of the church bells was cracked. When they were rung they went "ding - dong - FLOP !" *1940's*

* * We took the polished leather seats from our dining chairs into the Martlin field and made a slide down the side of an old marl pit. Some times we used an old tin tray to slide on. We had to be careful to avoid the thistles. *1940's*

* *



Brass boots.

Granny lived in a cottage up the High Street. The living room was small, with a black leaded grate, and a beamed ceiling. It was furnished with a scrubbed -top table covered with a chenille cloth, 4 plain wooden kitchen chairs, a hard, horsehair settee, and a home bodged rag rug in front of the fire. The over mantel was covered in Staffordshire pottery, and brass boots in graduated sizes. A kettle holder, a spill holder and a taper box were hung at the side of the fireplace. Granny always wore a black skirt with a dark blouse, its high collar fastened with a brooch. She didn't smile much, and her hair was severely dressed in a bun. *1940's*

* * My uncle worked at the tanyard in Rugeley. His working clothes smelt strongly, and his hands were hard and brown. The tanyard was in Bryans Lane, and animal skins were cured and tanned into leather there. *1940's*



"The Pinfold in about 1910, there was a small spinney of trees which were cut down when the war memorial was put there after the first world war. I remember the ceremony when the memorial was dedicated, there was a band."



The Pinfold in 1986.

COLTON IN 1924

COLTON is a village and parish, on the north bank of the river Trent, 2 miles north from Rugeley, but the Rugeley station on the Trent Valley section of the London, Midland and Scottish railway is within this parish, which is 9 miles south-east from Stafford, in the Lichfield division of the county, hundred of South Pirehill, petty sessional division and county court district of Rugeley, union of Lichfield, rural deanery of Rugeley, archdeaconry of Stafford and diocese of Lichfield. The church of St. Mary, rebuilt, with the exception of the old tower and south chancel, in 1851, after designs by Mr. G.E. Street R.A. is an edifice of stone, with an eleventh century foundation and showing thirteenth century work, consisting of chancel, nave, aisles, south chancel, south porch and an embattled western tower, with pinnacles, containing 3 bells, the earliest dated 1704; there are several stained windows and 410 sittings: entrance gates have been erected by the parishioners to the memory of Miss Ellen Oldham. A brass plate, on dove marble, was erected in memory of men of the parish who fell in the Great War, 1914-1918. The register dates from the year 1647. The living is a rectory, net yearly value £300, including 50 acres of glebe, with residence, in the gift of Miss C.E. Landor, and held since 1922 by the Rev. Dudley Raphael Studdert Holmes, of Durham University. An additional burial ground was given to the parish by T.B. Horsfall esq. M.P. of Bellamour Hall, who also built the present schools. There are eight almshouses, erected in 1884 by Mrs. Harland,in memory of Miss Oldham, and at Stockwell Heath are other almshouses for the poor of the parish. In the village is a reading room. The parish clerk has an ancient endowment of about £20 yearly and a house; the other charities amount to about £10 yearly. Bellamour Hall, the property of Henry Leeke Horsfall esq. is a mansion of stone on the west side of Colton. Henry Leeke Horsfall esq. who is lord of the manor and Lord Bagot are the chief landowners. The soil is strong marl and medium loam, the subsoil being clay, with a large proportion of meadow land. The area is 3,730 acres of land and 32 of water; rateable value, £10,335; the population of the civil parish in 1921 was 687 and of the ecclesiastical parish in 1911, 618.

By a Local Government Board Order, which came into operation March 25, 1885, a detached part of Colwich, in Stafford union, was amalgamated with this parish.

The Newlands is an outlying portion of the parish,standing on an eminence, near the Lichfield and Uttoxeter road, 2 miles north-east,in Uttoxeter county court district.

Lee Lane is a hamlet,1½ miles north.

Hamley Heath is in this parish. 1 mile north.

Parish Clerk, Mrs. Alice Beasley.

Post Office - Miss Ellen Tipper, sub-mistress. Letters through Stafford. Rugeley, 2 miles distant, is the nearest money order and telegraph office.

Colton Church of England School(mixed) built in 1862, a school for girls and an infants' school, united by the Charity Commissioners, with an endowment of £100, and holding together 193 children; the three schools are comprised in a single building; Ernest Broughton, master.

PRIVATE RESIDENTS.

Beasley Mrs. Colton villa.
Holmes Rev. Dudley R. Studdert (rector), Rectory.
Newton Mrs.
O'Keeffe Maj.Jn.Mark,Colton cottage
Oldham Capt.Charles Skinner Dansey Oldham B.A.,J.P.Bellamour lodge.
Timmis Mrs. Colton lodge.
Webb Henry, Boughey hall.

COMMERCIAL

Archer Samuel, farmer, Lee lane.
Bates Alfred, Railway inn.
Blore Elijah & Son, , farmers, Colton hall.
Blunn Henry & Co.,tin trunk manufacturers.
Cooke Sid. Ltd.,dec.tin plates.
Cooper John, farmer, Blithford.
Gregory Rt.Geo.farmer,Parchfield
Grimley John,farmer,Parchfield.
Houldcroft John T.farmer,Newlands farm.
Jones William Edwd.beer retailer
Kent Horace,Farmer,Crabtree farm
Lowndes Geo.Hy.farmer,Lount farm
Lowndes Wm.farmer,Oldwood farm.
Mellor Clement Chas & George, farmers,Manor farm.
Norman Sarah (Mrs),farmer,Stockwell Heath.
Reading Room (Rev.D.R.S.Holmes,)
Richardson Thomas,shopkeeper.
Upton Al.Ernest,assist.overseer.
Webb Henry,farmer,Boughey hall.
Williscroft Mary(Mrs),shopkeeper
Wint John,farmer,Hamley house.
Yates Charles,farmer,Hamley cot.
Yates Samuel,farmer,Malt house.

THE POST OFFICE

* * The four Martlin Cottages were built in the early 1900's by Mr. Parker, the Rector, because there was a shortage in the village of family houses at a reasonable rent. The cottage nearest the Martlin field was the village Post Office between 1938 and 1963. A red post box was put into the kitchen wall, the postman could open it from the outside, the village postmaster and postmistress could unlock it from inside their kitchen. The office counter was in the living room, with a curtain to draw across to afford privacy when the family were having a meal. As a child I was allowed to date stamp the letters in time for the postman to collect them to take them to Stafford to be sorted. Villages don't have their own date stamps now. Plenty of gossip was swapped over that counter, with the stamps, pensions, allowances, and National Savings Stamps. The post-master kept a large dog in case of burglars, and if the telephone rang it would knock the receiver off and bark at it.



The Post Office in the 1950's. The post box is just visible set in the kitchen wall. Mrs. Connie Deacon the postmistress is examining the post with Miss Nellie Rotchell, the postwoman. Miss Rotchell reckoned the distance she had walked round the village delivering post was equal to "twice round the world".

THE SECOND WORLD WAR REMEMBERED

* * On the Saturday before war was declared on the Sunday, a squadron of Royal Engineer Territorials arrived and were billeted in Colton House. Because my parents kept the Post Office we soon got to know the soldiers. I remember one of the soldiers knocking on our door one night, he was on a charge because he could not get a shine on his boots. He'd brought his kit with him, I showed him how to heat a spoon handle in the fire in the old black range, and melt the polish into his boots. It took two hours, but it got him off his charge, his boots were like mirrors.

* * In 1944 the Yanks came to Colton House, a great source of fascination to us children. There were also coloured Americans stationed out Admaston way, they drove lorries about at very high speed. One very hot Whit Sunday the brook was full of village children playing and paddling under the bridge.

Some coloured soldiers came and washed their lorries in the brook then went off to the Dun Cow. They roared back down the village, and one lorry hit the big boulders protecting the bridge, bounced and smashed off one parapet, somersaulted, and killed two of the men. Not one child was hurt, it was a miracle how they missed us all.

* * Whit Monday 1944. About 2.45 p.m. an American army truck driven at an excessive speed by a coloured soldier down the village crashed into the parapet of Brook Bridge and overturned. Two negroes seriously hurt. *(School Log Book).*

* * Some of the soldiers in Colton have since become very well known. Harry Secombe and Spike Milligan were stationed here, my auntie Linda washed their socks. One of the Davies brothers played snooker on the small table in the Dun Cow, and had crowds watching him.

* * When the Americans were about I remember their vehicles passing us on the way to school and they would throw us sweets. On rationing, I remember the joy of a few sweets, and that we had a cake from Mrs. Upton's shop about once a month, I was allowed to eat it all, and how I enjoyed it !

* * Later on E.N.S.A. used to come to entertain the troops, and the village children would go as well. They occasionally had a mobile cinema, we stood outside the back of a large van with a screen inside showing films. It certainly livened up the village.

* * I used to run errands for the soldiers, one day I earned £3 in two hours, more than my dad earned in a week at the tanyard in Rugeley.

* * There was an Italian prisoner of war camp in Wolseley Road, and the P.o.W's were issued with bicycles to get out to work on the outlying farms. I've seen hundreds of them cycling up the Colton Road in their dark brown battledress sewn with brightly coloured patches. I had a five gear racing bike and I would wait for them at the top of the village and race with them down the High Street.

* * There was a lot of strips of silver foil dropped all over Colton during the war, it was used to baffle radar, but I don't know why we got it.

* * We had several bombs and landmines dropped on the village so we slept under the kitchen table: one night my father was in the Greyhound and heard bombs whistling down, but no explosions. They couldn't see anything in the dark, next day the bomb disposal squad came and found signs in the football pitch, Little Martlin field, behind the Rectory and in a farmyard over Bellamour way. They dug them out and steamed out the explosives, they were time bombs. They never found those in the field behind us. Colton is built on a river of running sand, and the bombs just disappeared. I used to take soldiers jugs of cocoa, and sit and watch them pumping water out of the crater. We plastered up our windows in case the bombs went off.

* * We put up a new kissing gate one morning in the Little Martlin field, and when we came back to the village we found the field blocked off and a notice "NO WAY - UNEXPLODED BOMBS" we had been working right by them unknowingly. They have never been exploded, they sank in the marshy ground.

* * Two land mines fell one night. One exploded ½ a mile up the Blithbury Road, blew up a massive oak, and broke windows in the houses around and in the Trent Valley Station. Debris was scattered over a large area. The crater was there for years, the farmer ploughed round it. The other land mine hung from a tree by its parachute, it was a long cylinder. They dismantled that one.

* * I remember the schoolmaster's wife and daughter going to all the village houses, singing a couple of songs, and rattling a collection tin for "Salute the Soldier" week. They sang "The Kerry Dancers" and "The Cornish Floral Dance" at my aunt's house.

THE WAR YEARS FROM COLTON SCHOOL LOG BOOK

3 Sept. 1939. Sunday: War was declared on Germany because Hitler would not withdraw his troops from Poland. Head Teacher attended meeting at Lichfield about arrangements for children to be evacuated from areas likely to be bombed.

6 Sept. 1939. 73 evacuee children expected from West Bromwich. None arrived. The Head Teacher is the billeting officer. He has also been appointed Head Air Raid Warden for the district.

14 May 1940. Tuesday in Whit Week. Orders transmitted by B.B.C. that school to reopen as it is in a receiving area for evacuees.

2 June 1940.



Evacuees from Westgate-on-Sea, Kent, detrained at Lichfield and went by bus to Frog Lane School there for medical inspection. Afterwards they came on to Colton by bus. They arrived at 8.35 p.m. and were received by the Head Teacher supported by his wife and others of the parish. By 10.00 p.m. all the children were billeted.

4 June 1940. 68 evacuees from St.Saviour's C.E. School at Westgate and their teachers all attended this school. The two schools were kept separate under their own teachers. 38 Colton children. There are 10 more children at Hamstall Ridware School and 9 at Mavesyn Ridware from the same school.

10 June 1940. All children at Colton to be grouped into one school but separate registers to be kept. This was on the order of the County Education Office. Additional furniture promised. *(This arrangement did not work and on 9 July the schools were again separated but in the same building).*

25 June 1940. First Air Raid sirens at 1.25 a.m. All clear at 2.35 a.m. Head Teacher up as he is Head Warden. It is three days since Germany granted an Armistice to France.

25 Nov. 1940. (Monday) Admitted Elizabeth Shaw aged 5. Her home has been bombed in Birmingham.
12 delayed action bombs fell in Colton parish on Friday evening. 5 fell on Wilmour Farm fields, 1 in Lunt farm fields, 1 behind the Church, 1 in Martlin fields and 3 on Martlin Hill. None has exploded yet. Another bomb was discovered 30 yards behind Wilmour Farm this morning.
Walter and Edward Law have removed to Cheslyn Hay until the delayed action bomb close to their house has been exploded.

18 Dec. 1940. The bombs at Wilmour Farm are being dug up by the Disposal Bomb Squad of the Royal Engineers.

17 Feb. 1941.



The assistant architect called and brought a stirrup pump for fire fighting at the school.

20 Feb. 1941. The Mayor and Mayoress of Margate visited the school in their chains of office. The Mayor spoke to all the children.

10 July 1941. After the holidays the Colton teachers are to take over the teaching of the evacuees. Many have gone home and their teachers are returning to Margate to supervise their education there. *(By September 1941 only 20 evacuees left in Colton. One teacher, Miss Browning remained at Colton).*

6 April 1943. All children went to the Reading Room to see films presented by the National Savings Committee. They were most instructive.

10 April 1943. Rugeley and District National Savings "Wings for Victory" week. The Head Teacher collected from children, parents and friends £300 in saving certificates.

22 April 1944. National Savings "Salute the Soldier" week. School savings from children, parents and friends £3,366 - 3 - 0.

29 Aug. 1944. School reopened. 5 official new evacuees from Harrow and Wembley and 1 private evacuee from Worcester Park. These have all come on account of the flying bomb menace to London.

8 & 9 May 1945. V.E. (Victory in Europe) Days. School closed for 2 days. Tea for the children was given on the lawn at Bellamour Lodge by the kindness of Mrs. Morley - bread and butter, Hovis, Malt bread, salmon sandwiches, custards and cake, with fruit drinks or milk or tea. Impromptu sports took place with saving stamps for prizes.

I REMEMBER THE EVACUEES

* * We children were glad to have evacuees as they had first hand experience of bombings and air raids and shelters. We had only experienced odd hit and run raids on the railway and incendiaries on the marshes. We thought that they were very brave and experienced. We admired them as they had come such a long way from their homes, all the way by train, without their parents. Westgate seemed to be miles away to us. They had very few clothes and hardly any toys; so whether we liked it or not, our Mums shared or gave away our precious toys and favourite clothes. I felt quite peeved at seeing one small boy wearing my blue shirt; although I had outgrown it.

They brought along new games and new skipping rhymes. Marbles suddenly achieved popularity, everyone of the boy evacuees had a pocketful; soon we did too. We all played in the gutter, sitting on the pavement edge.

They were horrified and frightened by the pitch blackness in the country at night. Only one shop, no chip shop, no cinema, no buses, this seemed awful to them. The shop did quite well selling dolly mixtures, sweet-cigarettes, liquorice string and kali to the children. Their tastes in that direction were the same as ours.

They hated walking, as we had no buses. There was a bus 3 days a week, but it was always breaking down somewhere or never turning up. They wouldn't go trailing and walking the fields and hedgerows like we did, as they were frightened of the bears, wolves, large bulls (bullocks really) which they were quite sure inhabited every copse and thicket. They believed that every adult they saw in a field was there to shout at them and order them away. Depending upon the adult (friendly or otherwise) we were either polite or rude and then ran off. They could all run much quicker than we could under these circumstances, as they were genuinely scared.

They were horrified by the village sanitation consisting of lavatory pits or buckets up or down the garden (depending on the gradient.) This did cause problems, as they wouldn't go out in the dark with a candle or flashlight to go to the lavatory. Consequently there were wet beds.

We felt really sorry for the evacuees, as we hated the dark too, especially when mice or rats ran over your feet as you sat and the cows rubbed and stamped at the rear and the paper was damp or there was none ! At that juncture we used to holler for help and the back door was left open a crack whilst Mum came with 2 or 3 sheets of paper.

On the whole it was the older women who were the most kind to the evacuees. They turned out of their own beds and slept on the couch or floor in the kitchen. They sympathised and listened to them and willingly fetched down the zinc bath and filled the copper with water so that their evacuees could have a weekly bath. They always managed to find a penny or two for them to spend at the shop. When we complained about less pocket money (we didn't care about the baths !) we were grumbled at, as the evacuees had no mums and dads or their own homes or houses; so they deserved a bit extra !

However, a few evacuees were confined to the scullery for their meals and had only a hard chair to sit on, they were treated as inferiors in every way, because they were "dirty".

The evacuees gave us kids an insight into the life of a child from a seaside town. They weren't interested in the seaside and spoke little of it. We all played happily together and were genuinely sorry when gradually they began to go to other places.

PLAYGROUND RHYMES FROM THE 1940's

Nebuchadnezzar the King of the Jews
Bought his wife a pair of shoes
When the shoes began to wear
Nebuchadnezzar began to swear
When the swear began to stop
Nebuchadnezzar bought a shop
When the shop began to sell
Nebuchadnezzar bought a bell
When the bell began to ring
Nebuchadnezzar began to sing
Doh ray me fa me
My teachers barmy
He joined the army
When he was 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and so on.

This was a skipping rhyme, where words are underlined the rope was turned twice while you jumped once. This was known as doing "bumps", at the end of the rhyme you kept doing bumps one after the other until you tripped up and were out. The two who managed least number of bumps had to turn the rope.

Ickitty pickitty I so lickitty
Umba lara jig
Every man that has no hair
Ought to wear a wig
Ickitty pickitty I should think
Red, white, blue and pink.

These were recited when throwing 2 or 3 balls against a wall (2 bally or 3 bally).

Its raining its pouring
Old Hitler said to Goering
I've left my pants
In the middle of France
And I can't get home till morning.

Playground chant.

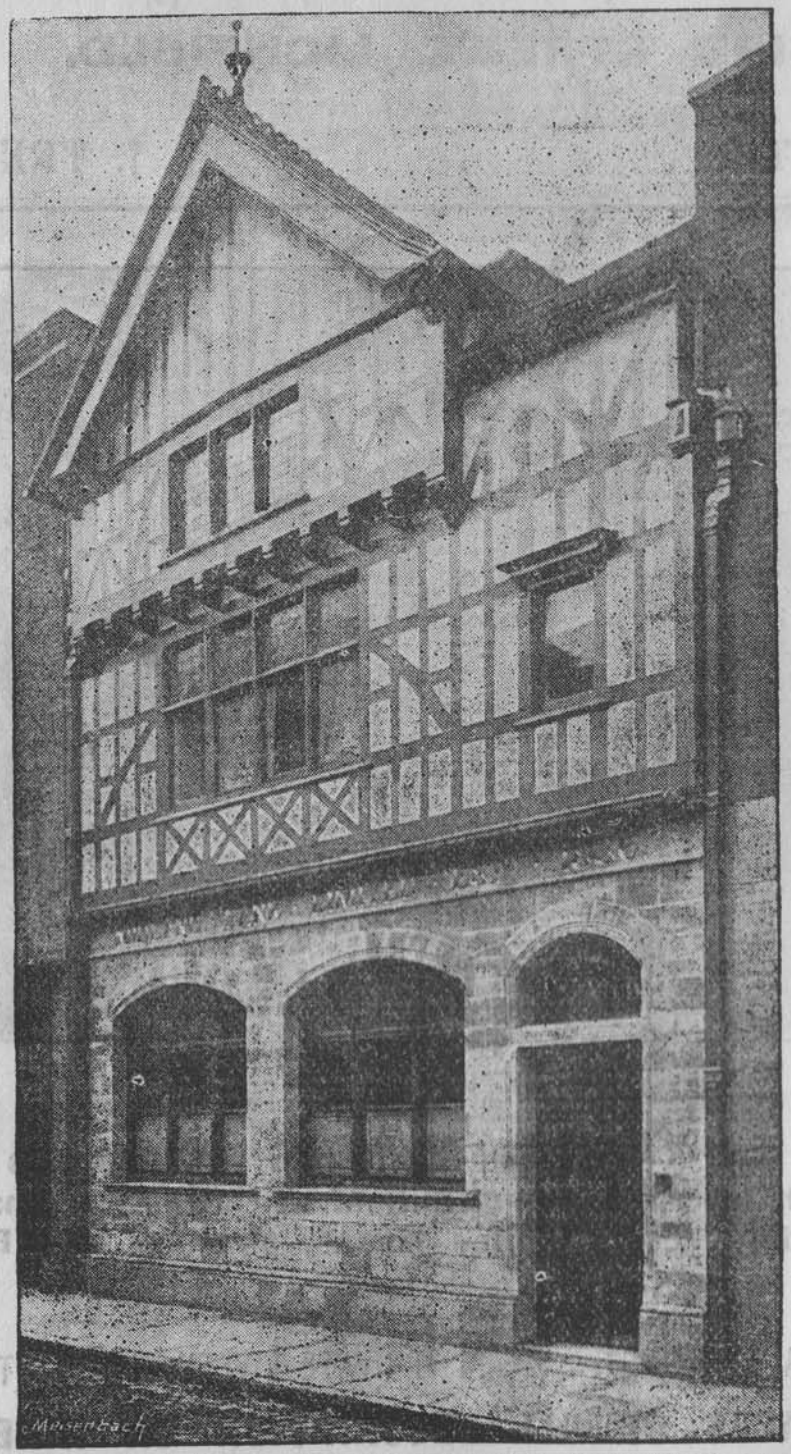
Gazetteer & Sketch of Colton
1851 & 1892

THE LONDON & MIDLAND BANK, LIMITED.

Established over Half-a-Century.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL ... ... £6,000,000.
Capital Paid Up ... ... £818,200.
Reserve Fund .. .. £600,000.

EVERY DESCRIPTION OF BANKING BUSINESS TRANSACTED.



EVERY DESCRIPTION OF BANKING BUSINESS TRANSACTED.

LICHFIELD BRANCH. (OPEN DAILY.) MARKET STREET.
Attendance at Chasetown every Tuesday morning, from 11 to 1 o'clock.

—o—

CURRENT ACCOUNTS OPENED UPON MOST FAVOURABLE TERMS.
ADVANCES MADE TO CUSTOMERS UPON NEGOTIABLE SECURITIES.
DEPOSITS RECEIVED AT LIBERAL RATES OF INTEREST.

SKETCHES

IN AND AROUND

Lichfield and Rugeley,

COMPRISING

A DESCRIPTIVE & HISTORICAL ACCOUNT

OF ALL THE

TOWNS & VILLAGES

IN THE DISTRICT, TOGETHER WITH THE

PRINCIPAL COUNTRY SEATS.

AS WELL AS OF ALL THE

CHURCHES IN THE LOCALITY.

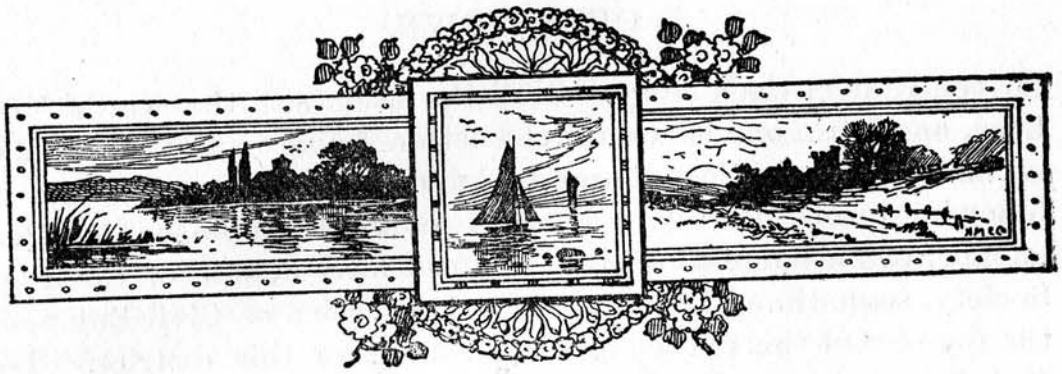
BY ALFRED WILLIAMS,

Author of "LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL."

LICHFIELD:
EGGINGTON & BROWN, BIRD STREET.

RUGELEY:
H. J. PASCOE, BROOK SQUARE.

1892.



COLTON.

BY some historians Colton has been described as "a long straggling village," and by others as "a pleasant rural place in a low situation," but all have admitted that it is a village of considerable interest, possessing several features which upon historic and local grounds demand attention. The earliest mention of Colton, or Coltone, is found in the Domesday Book of 1085, when it appears to have been in the possession of a Saxon lord named Coltone de Goisfriedus, while a free man named Almund, also held a manor there. From his hands the manor passed into the possession of a Saxon lord named Azeline, who held other manors in various parts of the county. Colton in early days was described as a place of marsh, swamp, and bog, the residence of the lord himself being a wretched edifice roughly built of timber, and devoid of anything like comfort. The fact that in the Domesday Book the word "Presbyter" is attached to Colton, shows that in those early days the Saxons possessed a church in this village, of which one "Gilbert" was the priest. The place is supposed to derive its name from Col, a word in the Celtic language signifying "holy," this village as well as Colwich and others having the same prefix, being in the neighbourhood of Druidical worship.

Amongst those who have held high positions in the village, have been many families whose names are still borne in remembrance. The Gastenoys or Wasteneys were descendants of Hardulphus de

Gastenoys, who, according to Erdeswick, held possession of the whole or at least half of the village. In 1168 the Wasteneys allied themselves with the Mavesyns, and later still we find that in the 9th Edward II. Sir William Wasteneys and Anselmus le Marshall were joint lords thereof. From thence the property descended to other members of the same family until it came into the possession of Thomasine, daughter of Sir Thomas Wasteney, who married Sir Nicholas Gresley. By this marriage the lady is said to have brought great wealth into the Gresley family, the manor of Colton being tranferred to the house of Drakelow. Finally Sir George Gresley, Bart., in the reign of James I., sold Colton to Sir Walter Aston, knight of the bath and baronet, afterwards Baron of Forfar, who left it to his son Walter, Lord Aston, who had formerly served as ambassador to Spain. His fifth lineal successor, James, left two daughters, the younger of whom married the Hon. Thomas Clifford, and the elder Sir Walter Blount, Bart. These shared the estates, Clifford taking Tixall, and Blount an estate about Colton. The estate ultimately passed into the hands of the Earl of Lichfield.

The old hall, which was the home of the lords of the manor for many years, was an ancient house of considerable size, said to have contained no less than eighty rooms, fifty-two of which were bed-rooms. Through the carelessness of a servant, so it is said, a fire broke out in the mansion, in the latter part of the reign of Charles I., and the old hall was reduced to a heap of ruins. It was not re-built, and it is related that at the beginning of the present century a portion of the ruin, which went by the name of the chapel, was used as a joiner's shop. The present building known as Colton Hall Farm covers some portion of the ancient site.

Boughey Hall Farm stands on the site of the ancient building formerly known as the Grange, which belonged to the priory of St. Thomas, and was given by Rowland Lee to Robert Fowler, his godson. From him it descended to George Fowler, his son, who sold it to Sampson Boughey. The latter had a son George, who inherited the property and died in 1617. He was succeeded by his son Sampson, who died in 1658, leaving three sons and five daughters. The property eventually passed to these five daughters, who held it in equal shares. Finally the youngest daughter married Sir Simon Degge, judge of the Welsh Court, who bought up the property of the other sisters, and thus became possessed of the whole—it is said for the sum of £750. Of Bellamour Hall and Colton House we shall have more to say later on.

There are several old buildings in the village, including the old

schools, one at the entrance to the church yard, and another further along the village. The present schools are of a mixed character, nearly opposite the church and near the cemetery, the head master being Mr. Ovenden. At the other end of the village, on the way to Stockwell Heath, is still to be seen the old chapel formerly belonging to the Wesleyans, but long since closed, and now used as a dwelling house. There are eight alms-houses on the right of the main street, erected in 1884 by Mrs. Harland, and a Reading Room, which was founded by the late Mr. Horsfall, to whom also may be credited the erection of the present school buildings. In fact the memory of this gentleman will ever be revered in the village as that of one who spared no trouble or expense on behalf of the inhabitants, and who engaged in a variety of movements having for their object the well-being of the community, not only of Colton but of the surrounding district.

In connection with a village of this character many legends have of necessity been handed down to posterity. In 1271 it is said to have been the scene of a murder, the crime having been committed by John, the chaplain of Coltone, who in all probability officiated at the chapel which formerly stood on the site now occupied by Bellamour Lodge. It is alleged that he killed Christina, the wife of Nicholas de Colton, while interposing between the latter and a stranger residing at her house. Whether the lady was accidentally killed or not, John is said to have fled from the pursuing hands of justice, and was consequently out-lawed, his goods being confiscated. As was usual at that time when an assassin escaped the village was made to suffer, and upon this occasion it is stated a heavy fine was exacted. A murderer is also said to have sought sanctuary in the church, which was a source of further trouble to the villagers. A pleasing feature still kept up in the village is the May Day fete, when the children of the school choose a May Queen, and dance around the May pole, singing appropriate songs. For some time past this observance has taken place in the grounds of Colton House by the kind permission of the occupier, F. Bonney, Esq.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH.

One of the oldest churches in the vicinity of Rugeley is that which stands in the quiet and sequestered little village of Colton. When the church of St. Mary's was built is uncertain, but the fact that it has undergone repeated restoration, and that the older portion of the sacred edifice now assumes an appearance of decay,

proves that many centuries have elapsed since the religious requirements of the villagers demanded its erection. One thing is certain, that either the older portions of the present building were standing during the time of William the Conqueror, or that an older church then occupied a position in the village, probably on the site of the present one. The more reasonable supposition is that the present old tower was the original one, and that the church dates from some period anterior to the conquest. In the year 1805 William I. ordered a survey to be made of all lands and estates in the kingdom, and in the book compiled for this purpose styled the "Domesday" Book, which is still preserved as an antiquarian curiosity, mention is to be found of "Gilbert, the Priest of Colton." This survey was completed in 1086, and it is only reasonable to suppose that the Priest of Colton at that time possessed a church in which to carry out the observances of christian worship. Whether this early shepherd possessed a large flock is uncertain, but there are several reasons for believing that Colton contained a fair number of inhabitants, and that there was plenty of scope at that period for clerical labour. There are, however, no very ancient monuments or inscriptions about the building, such as are to be found at other places, to prove its antiquity.

Previous to the year 1190 there are no authentic records upon which to found a history of the building. In that year, however, we find that Gilbert de Mavesyn held the position of Priest, having probably been presented to the living by the Mavesyn family, who at that time were possessed of considerable power and influence. More than a century later we find the living held by Thomas de Bradewell, in 1303, and from this time the list of "Priests," "Parsons," and "Rectors" continues in a fairly unbroken line. There is a list of rectors, as far as they are known, affixed to the wall of the South porch, and from this may be gained some interesting particulars. It shows that one rector, the Rev. Christopher Hunt, held the living for 59 years, namely from 1592 to 1651; also that there were three clergymen rejoicing in the name of John Taylor, one being appointed in 1683, another in 1708, and a third in 1738. Altogether the list contains 46 names, besides the names of those who held the gift of the living. One of the earliest of these latter was Gerald de Colton, after whom the patrons consisted of members of the Gresley family from 1361 to 1558, then the Blounts, the Yates, and Lord Aston until 1651, and finally the Rev. C. S. Landor.

There is one point to be considered in regard to the older portions of the building which cannot be ignored.

Its style of architecture is that known as Early English, or Gothic, and as this came into vogue at the beginning of the 13th century or latter part of the 12th, the church would appear to date from about the same period. But the structure has been so repeatedly restored that it is quite possible for some vestiges of an older building to have become mixed up with a more modern style, and for the present church to be the outgrowth of successive alterations and repairs. This view is supported by the fact that traces of Norman work have been observed in the foundations of the tower, and this being so the building may date from the beginning of the eleventh century. Whatever may be the date of its erection, however, great alterations have taken place in regard to its design, and its original builders would hardly have been able to recognise it in its present form. Amongst the alterations effected have been the addition of low buttresses to the tower, with embattled parapet and pinnacles. The height at the present time is only 36 feet, while its outside measurement is 19 feet. It is consequently somewhat dwarfish in size, and bears upon it the stamp of age to an extent which is calculated to create serious doubts as to whether it will not be advisable at some not very distant period to either strengthen it, or replace it by a new tower. The ivy which lovingly encircles this ancient structure adds to its picturesque appearance, and renders it a noticeable object to visitors entering the village either from the main road or from the fields.

The Church, we are told, originally consisted of a tower north aisle, south porch, chancel and north chancel aisle, or chapel. This arrangement was changed when the Church was re-built in 1851 by the conversion of the former aisle and chapel into the present nave and chancel and the addition of a new north aisle. This change, however, was accompanied by the inevitable result of spoiling or destroying much that was curious and interesting about the building. The pulling down of the original north aisle about 1704 considerably injured the character of the building, the old stone work being replaced by a brick wall, plastered over, containing round-headed windows, while a slated roof of common design still further interfered with its appearance. The church was brought to its present state under the direction of Mr. Street, the eminent architect, and through the energy of the then Rector, the Rev. Abdiel Seaton, aided by the liberality of Miss Oldham, of Bellamour. The oldest parts of the building, left standing, are therefore the tower and the south chancel. The former retains its belfry windows upon three sides, each having two pointed openings

separated by a plain shaft and spanned within by a round-headed arch, in the Early English style.

The bells are three in number, and bear upon them the following inscriptions: 1, G. Hedderley, *fecit*, God save His Church;" 2, "C. and G. Mears, founders, London, 1852, *Laus Deo*;" 3, "John Woolums, Nicholas Balmford, and W. Burdeng, D.H." The second bell is of modern make, having been presented by Miss Oldham. There were formerly some curious frescoes in the south aisle, on the walls and above the priest's door. These, however, were destroyed when the plaster of the walls was removed in 1851, but not until drawings had been carefully taken. One of these represented a figure of St. Nicholas, wearing a mitre and bearing in his hand a pastoral staff, and the other pictured the three youths, who, as the story goes, were murdered on their journey to Athens, by an innkeeper of Myra, and afterwards restored to life by St. Nicholas. The frescoe represented the three youths sleeping in one bed, and was probably painted about the 14th century. Other frescoes represented the expulsion of Adam and Eve from Paradise and the tree of life, and the salutation to Elizabeth. The hand of the restorer, however, wiped them away for ever, and only the drawings remain as a memento of their former existence.

As at other churches, the register forms no guide to the age of the church, the one at St. Mary's dating only from April 25th, 1647. There are doubtless many interesting facts which might be related with regard to the church, but most of them are forgotten. It is interesting, however, to note that in 1263, a murderer took sanctuary here, in the person of one Nicholas, son of William de Colton, who, having stabbed Adam, the son of Hereward, in a brawl, fled hither for refuge, which he claimed according to law from the first hour to midnight. The villagers would have ensured his arrest, but he was assisted to escape at the instance of the Lord de Colton, and the villagers had to pay a heavy fine in consequence.

Upon entering the church by the south porch attention is directed to the stone font, with oak cover, which was designed by Mr. Street in memory of the Rev. C. S. Landor. The old font was a simple pillar of stone without moulding or ornament of any kind, and was destroyed with other relics. The length of the church, excluding the tower, is 86 feet 6 inches, and its width 45 feet 4 inches. The flooring is of plain tiles, while Minton tiles have been effectively used in the chancel. The sittings, choir stalls, lectern, &c., are of oak, together with the roof, the pulpit being of stone. The gothic arches are without ornamentation, while the windows are all of

stained glass, generally plain, with the exception of a few to be more particularly described. At the west end of the nave is the entrance to the tower, around the walls of the basement being some old tablets, very dingy looking, one being in memory of John Pegge, who died in 1766, aged 79 years, formerly living at Newlands, in the parish of Colton, and another to the Rev. John Taylor, the first rector of that name, who died in 1708. In the south aisle is a tablet to the memory of the Oldham family—James and Elizabeth, and Riland Wolsley Oldham, their grandson, aged 26.

At the east end of the south aisle is the chapel of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which contains a stained glass window, in memory of the Rev. A. Seaton, for 25 years rector of Colton, who died Sept. 17th, 1874. The colouring of this window is fairly good and bold in design, but one or two of its features exhibit somewhat peculiar ideas on the part of the artist. For instance, the cloud upon which some angels are reposing appears to be somewhat too substantial in character, but people hardly go to stained glass windows now-a-days for the natural, whatever opinion might prevail on the subject in mediæval times. The large east window in the chancel is somewhat showy, and is to the memory of Mr. James O. Oldham, of Bellamour, erected by his daughter, Miss Ellen Oldham, in 1858. There are other windows of a memorial character, including one to Elizabeth Jean, wife of J. O. Oldham, who died September, 1849; another to Harriet Lucy Seaton, October 8th, 1857; another to the Rev. Charles S. Landor and Catherine, his wife, erected by their daughters, E.S.L., and C.M.L., and one at the end of the north aisle to Mr. James O. Oldham, erected by the inhabitants of the parish. The pretty window by the Communion rail, at the north side is considered the best specimen of stained glass in the church, and was the work of Messrs. Burleston and Grylls, of London. The other windows, to the memory of the Oldhams, were by Wailes, of Newcastle. The windows, we would mention, are gothic in style, in accordance with the general character of the building.

On the right of the chancel and occupying a portion of the Lady Chapel is the organ, a very fair instrument of good tone, possessing two manuals and 16 stops. The altar is beneath the large triplet-lancet Early English window, consisting of holy table, with curtains at the back, while on the right is an Early English piscina with cusp ornamentation. An interesting feature of the chancel consists of the three carved oak misereres, or stall seats, formerly intended for the relief of infirm clergy during long services, where much standing was required. They were originally in use at Tenby Church, Pembrookshire, and

after being brought to this part of the country, were found in the summer house of a carpenter, from which ignominous position they were rescued by the Rev. A. Seaton. Another interesting feature is worthy of notice in the shape of the wire gates to the south porch, which were placed there in 1883, by the people of Colton, in memory of Miss Oldham. The church, which will seat 350 persons, is lighted in the evening by candles, when occasion requires their use. During the last 120 years only four rectors have held the living, the Rev. John Landor being appointed in 1767, the Rev. Charles Savage Landor in 1806, the Rev. Abdiel Seaton in 1849, and the present rector, the Rev. F. P. Parker, in 1874. Services are held as follows: Sundays (summer), 11 a.m., and 6-30 p.m.; (winter), 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Holy Communion, 1st Sunday in the month at 12, and every Sunday at 8-30 a.m.; Wednesday and Friday, and Saints Days at 11 a.m. The services are partly choral, the choir being surpliced, and trained by the Misses Parker who also preside at the organ. The hymnal in use is "Hymns Ancient and Modern." The Rector is assisted each Sunday at one of the services by the Rev. E. E. Harding, Vice-Principal of the Lichfield Theological College. The living is set down at £450, including a residence and about 45 acres of glebe, and the church-wardens are Mr. F. Bonney, peoples' warden, and Mrs. Harland, rector's warden. The parish clerk is Edward Radford.

In the church yard on the south side of the church lies the socket of the ancient cross, while on the north side, resting against the wall, is a specimen of the old stone mounting block, used by those old inhabitants who were wont to repair to their destination on horse-back. In the new burial ground, which was the gift of the late Mr. Horsfall, of Bellamour, is a very fine church yard cross, erected to his memory by his wife after a design by Mr. Street.

There are many old tombs in the churchyard, but none of any special note, most of those which would at the present time be regarded with interest having succumbed to the influence of time and the weather. Amongst the latter is preserved the record of a tomb-stone of a mason, decorated with the compass and square in basso-relievo, beneath which was the following epitaph: "Sacred to the memory of James Haywood, who died May 4th, 1804, in the 55th year of his age." This was followed by the lines.

"The corner-stone I oftentimes have dressed,
In Christ, the Corner Stone, I now find rest;
Though by the Builder he rejected were,
He is my God, my Rock, I build on here."

There are other curious and interesting features connected with the old church at Colton, which might be dwelt upon at considerable length, but we have said sufficient to show that the church affords considerable scope for archæological research and study, and that much yet remains of its past history to be unravelled.

BELLAMOUR.

The large estate at Colton, known as Bellamour, belonged, some centuries back, to a family of the name of Aston, the same, we presume, which formerly lived at Colton Hall. The name of Aston is frequently met with in local histories, and some members of the family appear to have been of considerable repute. In 1628 we find a Sir Walter Aston residing at Colton Hall, and a few years later there was a Sir Arthur Aston, who is described as a brave commander of the royalist troops in the reign of Charles I., who greatly distinguished himself at the battle of Edge Hill, and was governor of Drogheda in 1649, when the town was taken by Cromwell. Lord Aston, in 1651, held the right of presentation to the living of Colton, which remained in the family for many years, but it was earlier in the century that Herbert Aston fixed his residence at Colton, after his marriage, and erected the old mansion known as Bellamour Hall. This was in the year 1638, and it is said that he derived possession of the property from his father, "his house being in a great measure finished by the benevolence and affection of his friends,'. who chose to designate it by the appellation of "Bellamour," the French for "good love." So taken was Mr. Aston with this name that he appears to have adopted it in its English form as a pet name for his young wife, who seems to have well merited the encomiums passed upon her character. He had the misfortune to lose her in 1658, living himself until 1689. This loving pair are buried at Colton, but no inscription is to be found recording their memory.

Who were the next tenants is uncertain, but in 1796 we find that Lady Blount, who had probably held possession of the estate for some time, caused a larger house to be built close by the old mansion for her second son, Edward Blount, this being the present hall, or rather that portion of the same which is built of stone. This gentleman, however, appears to have required additional accommodation, for he shortly afterwards caused numerous alterations to be made, including the erection of a new wing, which is constructed of brick and faced with stucco. Lady Mary Blount was, in 1805, unfortunately burnt to death while on a visit to her

youngest son at Basford, a spark from the fire igniting her dress, and causing the terrible accident. Twenty years after this the property passed into the hands of Mr. James Oldham Oldham, a retired Indian judge, whose name is still venerated in the village of Colton, and is not likely to be speedily forgotten. In Colton Church are to be seen several stained glass windows to the memory of the Oldham family, the large east window being erected by Miss Helen Oldham to the memory of her father, and another window in the north aisle by the inhabitants of the village. There is also a window in memory of Mrs. Oldham, and a tablet to Mr. and Mrs. Oldham and their grandson.

At the death of Mr. Oldham, in 1857, the property was purchased by Mr. T. B. Horsfall, M.P. for Liverpool, from June, 1853, to November, 1868. It may be mentioned that Mr. Horsfall was returned for Liverpool in 1853, in the Conservative interest, by a large majority, as he was also at successive elections, each time standing at the top of the poll. Previous to being elected for Liverpool he sat for the Borough of Derby, for a short period. During his life-time he made considerable additions to the estate, and greatly improved its general appearance. In the village itself he was greatly esteemed and beloved for the interest he took in the welfare of the inhabitants, and the large amount of good he accomplished both publicly and privately. The village schools were erected at his expense, and were also endowed by him, while the new Cemetery adjoining was presented by him to the village as a free gift. The Reading Room further along the village, which is a very commodious building, was also built by Mr. Horsfall. He also took a very active part in the erection of the District Hospital at Rugeley, and it was largely through his instrumentality that this noble and useful institution was raised. Not only did he head the subscription list with a handsome donation of £250, but he entered his name as an annual subscriber, and in every way exerted himself to render it a building worthy of the neighbourhood. He likewise took a very active part in the formation of the local company of Volunteers. There were many other ways in which he displayed his interest in the welfare of Colton and Rugeley, and his name will ever be held in the highest respect all over the district. Mrs. Horsfall and her family have, since the decease of the late owner, continued to reside on the estate, and we are not saying too much when we state that the interest taken by the lady in question in all that pertains to the benefit of the villagers generally is thoroughly appreciated by the inhabitants.

There is not very much to dwell upon in describing the hall and its surroundings. The estate is a large one—consisting of about 500 acres, but nearly four-fifths of this appears to be farmed off, reducing the space actually reserved for the park, pleasure grounds, and gardens to about 100 acres. The lake running through the grounds also takes up considerable space, but there is plenty of room left for the requirements of the owner. The park is situate to the south of the village of Colton, and on the north bank of the Trent, and comprises some fine old trees, well laid-out shrubberies, and a broad stretch of meadow land. From the hall a very fine view is to be obtained of the surrounding country, the prospect being very picturesque, while the situation must be very healthy.

It is approached by lodge gates at different sides of the park, the more pleasant route being from the lodge in Colton lane. Upon making for the hall by this entrance the visitor's attention is first directed to the stone mansion erected by Lady Blount, which is square in form, with large windows of plain but imposing appearance. The style of architecture is of Grecian simplicity, a lofty porch being supported by doric pillars. There is nothing in the way of ornamention, but there is an air of massiveness about the structure which cannot fail to impress beholders. Adjoining it is the brick wing added by Mr. Edward Blount, which is a trifle more varied in design, and accords well with the remainder of the mansion. At the back of this is the old mansion—that originally erected by Mr. Herbert Aston, and now occupied by Mr. Morrall, the steward of the estate, whose thirty-four years' service in the employ of the Horsfall family has justly entitled him to the respect of all who know him.

The old mansion, with its gabled roof, its ancient porch, and what remains of its mullioned windows, is an exceedingly interesting object. Although enlarged and improved some years after its erection, it can hardly be called an extensive mansion, but it possesses a genuine appearance of antiquity, and numerous cracks in the wall betoken its gradual decay. It would appear that it was at some time or other used as a private chapel, the porch being furnished with side seats, over the entrance being inscribed the text, "The Lord bless thee and keep thee." The old hall is almost hidden by the foliage which shelters it from the wind and from prying observation, and, judging by its position, it must be delightfully cool in summer and correspondingly warm in the winter. The well-ordered flower and kitchen gardens, together with the green houses, are all well worthy of inspection, while a stroll about

the park in fine weather cannot but impress the visitor with the natural beauty of the position and the charming character of its surroundings. Bellamour Lodge, close by, should also be mentioned as having been built by Mr. Oldham, in 1851, for his daughters, and now occupied by Mrs. Harland, the house being of modern style and the grounds tastefully laid out.

COLTON HOUSE.

Although forming a portion of the Bellamour estate, Colton House and the adjacent grounds possess an individuality of their own which cannot fail to strike the beholder. The house itself faces the high road, and is at present occupied by F. Bonney, Esq., a prominent member of the Rugeley Bench of magistrates. It cannot, however, boast of any great antiquity, dating probably from the reign of Queen Anne. It is one of those old-fashioned places of residence which are to be found scattered about the country, but which have a homely appearance about them such as cannot but excite a cheering influence upon those who come across them. It has a wide frontage, and is separated from the road by those old-fashioned posts and chains which were more common a century ago than at the present time.

Previous to the erection of the present building, the site is supposed to have been originally occupied by a roughly built timber house, in which resided a Saxon lord, named Azeline, a man of considerable consequence, and lord of no less than four different manors, including that of Colton, or Coltune, as it was called at the time of the Domesday survey. At that time the property is said to have been uninclosed and to have chiefly consisted of swamps, marshes, and bogs. The lord's house was protected by a ditch and wooden palisade, the residence being of very primitive design and naturally devoid of anything like comfort. It is described in ancient records as standing in a field not far from the church, and the site of the same is considered to have been most probably that upon which the present erection now stands. Colton House, in 1777, belonged to Mr. William Pigott, a gentleman of good family, who is said to have kept his harriers there. Some years later it was occupied by Lady Blount during the building of the newer portion of Bellamour Hall, and in 1795 it was purchased by Mr. John Heyliger Burt, high sheriff of Staffordshire in the 45th of George III., who in 1805 sold it to Mr. Horsfall. Mr. Burt was the owner of a plantation in the West Indies, and had three

children, one of whom married the late Count Moltke. It was subsequently occupied at different periods by the Rev. C. S. Landor, Miss Catherine Herbert, and others.

About forty years ago the house was occupied by Mr. Mills, who carried on a boy's school here for some time, it being subsequently occupied by Mrs. and the Misses Hill, who resided here for a number of years. Later on it was rented by the present occupier, who during his occupancy of the same has greatly improved the general appearance of the house and grounds which are now regarded with considerable interest by all who visit them. The house itself is commodious and handsomely furnished, while it possesses an air of homely comfort not always to be found in old mansions of this description. At the further side of the house are coach-house, stables, and other offices, while at the back are extensive grounds, beautifully laid out, and presenting a constant round of attractions.

Mr. Bonney is well known all over the district for his great love for flowers, and his gardens in the summer time are regarded with the greatest amount of interest by an almost countless number of visitors. The extensive vinery and greenhouses are the admiration of all who pass through the same, while the splendid show of plants and flowers all the year round not only redound to the credit of the owner, but also reflect highly upon the care and attention bestowed upon the cultivation of the same by the head gardener. Every year the show of crysanthemums is one which once seen is not easily to be forgotten, the large variety, and the perfection to which the plants have been brought, forming a picture upon which the eye is never weary of resting. Mr. Bonney is very justly proud of his collection, and those who have been favoured with an inspection of the same, have been loud in their praises of its beauty. The lawn opposite the conservatory is shaded by some fine old trees, which abound on that side of the ground nearest the Rectory in rich profusion.

A noble avenue stretches along the right of the ground for some distance, forming delightfully shaded walks, and which passes by the designation of "The Wilderness." Here the song of the birds is at times almost deafening, and a naturalist might here find constant food for contemplation and research. Beyond the extent of the gardens the meadows stretch away in the distance, the view being pleasant in the extreme and bounded only by the distant hills. On the other side of the roadway, which runs through the property, is alarge extent of ground known as the "Plantation,"

and here fishing is to be had in the lake, besides some very pretty walks which may be taken commanding a capital view of the house. This piece of ground originally went by the name of the Dovecote field, and it is certainly a great improvement to the property.

We might mention that Colton House since it has passed into the possession of the present occupier, is a veritable museum of curiosities. Mr. Bonney's Australian experience has borne fruit the enjoyment of which he is always ready to share with his friends and neighbours. His show of pictures and photographs is unique, so far as they relate to aboriginal life and adventure, and he is never weary of exhibiting the same and recounting facts and stories connected with each replete with interest. His collection of curiosities is equally profuse and worthy of examination, while the pleasure of inspection is enhanced by the description and enthusiastic explanation with which each article is accompanied.

Some people may be inclined to consider the quiet and seclusion of Colton House to be slightly monotonous, but Mr. Bonney has been used to the seclusion of bush life, and being an ardent lover of nature is able to thoroughly appreciate the wealth of natural beauty which he is able to encourage and increase around him. Every year the children of the village are permitted to visit the grounds, and are regaled with refreshments on the lawn beneath the spreading branches of the lofty trees which shield the back of the house from the wind, and it is almost needless to say that they heartily appreciate the kindness shown them on such occasions. Colton House is therefore celebrated more on account of the changes and improvements which have been effected by the present occupier, and from the beauty of its grounds, than from any historic interest which may attach to it. Everyone visiting the village will notice the large red brick house facing the roadway, but they will hardly dream of the interest which attaches to it, and which is only perceptible upon closer inspection. Mr. Bonney is justly very popular in the village which he has made his home, and whatever may be the future of Colton House, its existing characteristics will not be readily forgotten.

The Free School, which formerly existed in this village, was founded and endowed partly with money subscribed by the neighbouring gentry, and partly with some parochial levies raised for the purpose, which produced a sum of £350. The amount thus collected was laid out in 1764 in the purchase of the school house

with three acres of land at Colton, and 19 acres of land at Uttoxeter. A further sum of £500 was given towards the school in 1820 by John Spencer, Esq. The master also had the interest on £80 produced by the sale of timber on the school land. The annual income of the school was £50, and forty children were educated in the same. The Girls' Free School was endowed in 1801 by Thomas Webb, with the "Wheels" public-house and another dwelling in Colton, the lease of which expired in 1861. In reference to the old Inn above alluded to, authorities have differed respecting its actual name. So far as we can learn it was first called the "Two Wheels"—some say the "Three Wheels"—and afterwards the "Bell Inn." Its actual site was just past the private grounds of Colton House, whereon the Oldham alms-houses were erected by Mrs. Harland in 1884, the old Inn being pulled down to make room for them.

It is interesting to learn that the site of the old stocks still exists, although the stocks themselves have long since disappeared. They stood by the side of the high road, on a spot which is now backed by the garden wall of Colton House, and close to the site of the old Inn. An old resident of the village still remembers them as being there half-a-century ago, they being constructed to hold two men. All that now remains of them are some stone blocks, upon which probably the wood-work rested. The last constable in charge of these stocks was one Fisher, who was a resident of the village. There are doubtless many other interesting memorials connected with the village which would well repay the labour of anyone in bringing to the light, and would prove highly interesting

THE HISTORY OF COLTON –

SKETCHES IN AND AROUND LICHFIELD by ALFRED WILLIAMS.

By some Colton has been described a LONG STRAGGLING VILLAGE and by others as a pleasant rural place in a low situation, but all have admitted that it is a village of considerable influence, possessing several features which upon historic and local grounds demand attention. The earliest mention of Colton or Coltone, is found in the Domesday Book of 1085 when it appears to have been in the possession of a Saxon lord named Coltone de Goisfriedus, while a free man named Almund, also held a manor there. From his lands the manor passed into the possession of a Saxon lord named Azeline, who held other manors in various parts of the County. Colton in early days was described as a place of marsh, swamp and bog, the residence of the lord himself being a wretched edifice roughly built of timber, and devoid of anything like comfort. The fact that in the Domesday Book the word PRESBYTER is attached to Colton shows that in those early days the Saxons possessed a church in this village, of which one GILBERT was the priest. The place is supposed to derive the name from Col, a word in the Celtic language signifying "holy". This village as well as Colwich and others having the same prefix, being in the neighbourhood of Druidical worship.

Amongst those who have held high positions in the village, have been many families whose names are still borne in rememberance. The Gastenoys or Wasteneys were decendants of Hardulphus de Gastenoys, who according to Erdeswick, held possession of the whole or at least half of the village. In 1108 the Wasteneys allied themselves with the Mavesyns and later still we find that in the 9th Edward II, Sir William Wasteney and Anselmus le Marshall were joint lords thereof. From thence the property descended to other members of the same family until it came into the possession of Thomasin, daughter of Sir Thomas Wasteney, who married Sir Nicholas Gresley. By this marriage the lady is said to have brought great wealth into the Gresley family, the manor of Colton being transferred to the house of Drakelow. Finally Sir George Gresley Bart in the reign of James I sold Colton to Sir Walter Aston, knight of the bath and baronet, afterwards Baron Forfar, who left it to his son Walter, Lord Aston, who had formerly served as ambassador to Spain. His fifth lineal successor James left two daughters the younger of whom married the Hon. Thomas Clifford, and the elder Sir Walter Blount, Bart. These shared the estates,Clifford taking Tixall and Blount an estate about Colton. The estate ulitmately passed into the hands of the Earl of Lichfield.

The old hall which was the home of the Lords of the Manor for many years was an ancient house of considerable size, said to have contained no less than eighty rooms, fifty two of which were bedrooms. Through the carelessness of a servant, so it is said, a fire broke out in the mansion in the latter part of the reign of Charles I (1645-8) approx.and the old hall was reduced to a heap of ruins. It was not re-built and it is related that at the beginning of the 19th century a portion of the ruin which went by the

name of the chapel was used as a joiners shop. The present building known as Colton Hall Farm covers some portion of the ancient site.

Boughey Hall Farm stands on the site of the ancient building formerly known as the Grange, which belonged to the Priory of St. Thomas and was given by Rowland Lee to Robert Fowler, his godson. From him it descended to George Fowler, his son, who sold it to Sampson Boughey. The latter had a son George, who inherited the property and died in 1617. He was succeded by his son Sampson who died in 1658 leaving three sons and five daughters. The property eventually passed to these five daughters who held it in equal shares. Finally the youngest daughter married Sir. Simon Degge judge of the Welsh Court, who bought up the property of the other sisters, and thus became possessed of the whole – it is said for the sum of £750. Of Bellamour Hall and Colton House we shall have more to say later on.

There are several old buildings in the village, including the old schools, one at the entrance to the church yard, and yet another further along the village. The present schools are of a mixed character, nearly opposite the church and near the cemetery, the head master being Mr. Ovenden. At the other end of the village, on the way to Stockwell Heath is still to be seen the old chapel formerly belonging to the Wesleyans, but long since closed, and now used as a dwelling house. There are eight alms-houses on the right of the main street, erected in 1884 by Mrs. Harland and a Reading Room which was founded by the late Mr. Horsfall, to whom also may be credited the erection of the present school buildings. In fact the memory of this gentleman will ever be revered in the village as that of one who spared no trouble or expense on behalf of the inhabitants, and who engaged in a variety of movements having for their object the well-being of the community,not only of Colton but of the surrounding district.

In connection with a village of this character many legends have of necessity been handed down to posterity. In 1271 it is said to have been the scene of a murder, the crime having been committed by John, the chaplain of Coltone, who in all probability officiated at the chapel which formerly stood on the site now occupied by Bellamour Lodge. It is alleged that he killed Christina. the wife of Nicholas of Colton, while interposing between the latter and a stranger residing at her house. Whether the lady was accidently killed or not, John is said to have fled from the persuing hands of justice, and was subsequently out-lawed, his goods being confiscated. As was usual at that time when an assassin escaped the village was made to suffer, and upon this occasion it is stated a heavy fine was exacted. The murderer is also said to have sought sanctuary in the church, which was a source of further trouble to the villagers. A pleasing feature still kept up in the village is the May Day fete, when the children of the school choose a May Queen and dance around the Maypole singing appropriate songs. For some time past this observance has taken place in the grounds of Colton House by kind permission of the occupier F.Bonney Esq

THE FREE SCHOOL.which formerly existed in the village, was founded and endowed partly with money subscribed by the neighbouring gentry, and partly with some parochial levies raised for this purpose, which produced a sum of £350. The amount thus collected was laid out in 1764 in the purchase of the school house with some three acres of land at Colton and 19 acres of land at Uttoxeter. A further sum of £500 was given towards the school in 1820 by John Spencer. The master also has the interest on £80 produced by the sale of timber on the school land. The annual income of the school was £50 and forty children were educated in the same. The girls Free school was endowed in 1801 by Thomas Webb, with the "Wheels " public house and another dwelling in Colton, the lease of which expired in 1861. In reference to the old Inn above alluded to, authorities have differed respecting the "Two Wheels" some say the "Three Wheels" and afterwards the Bell Inn. Its actual site was just past the private grounds of Colton House whereon the Oldhams almshouses were erected by Mrs. Harland in 1884, the old inn being pulled down to make room for them.

THE STOCKS: It is interesting to learn that the site of the old stocks still exists, although the stocks themselves have long since disappeared. They stood by the side of the high road, on a spot which is now backed by the garden wall of Colton House, and close to the site of the old Inn. An old resident of the village still remembers them as being there half-a-century ago, they being constructed to hold two men. All that now remains of them are some stone blocks, upon which probably the woodwork rested. The last constable in charge of these stocks was one Fisher, who was a resident of the village.

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From a book SKETCHES IN AND AROUND LICHFIELD AND RUGELEY Written by Alfred Williams PRINTED in 1892.

St. Mary's Church.
Colton.

One of the oldest churches in the vicinity of Rugeley is that which stands in the quiet and acquestered little village of Colton. When the church of St. Mary's was built is uncertain, but the fact that it has undergone repeated restoration, and that the older portion of the sacred edifice now assumes an appearance of decay, proves that many centuries have elapsed since the religious requirements of the villagers demanded its erection. One thing is certain, that either the older portions of the present building were standing during the time of William the Conqueror, or that an older church then occupied a position in the village, probably on the site of the present one. The more reasonable supposition is that the present old tower was the original one, and that the church dates from some period anterior to the conquest. In the estates in the kingdom, and in the book compiled for this purpose styled "Domesday" book, which is still preserved as an antiquarian curiosity, mention is to be found of "Gilbert", the "Priest of Colton". This survey was completed in 1086, and it is only reasonable to suppose that the Priest of Colton at that time possessed a church in which to carry out the observances of christian worship. Whether this early shepherd possessed a large flock is uncertain, but there are several reasons for believing that Colton contained a fair number of inhabitants, and that there was plenty of scope at that period for clerical labour. There are, however, no very ancient monuments or inscriptions about the building, such as are to be found at other places, to prove its antiquity.

Previous to the year 1190 there are no authentic records upon which to found a history of the building. In that year, however, we find that Gilbert de Mavesyn held the position of Priest, having probably been presented to the living by the Mavesyn family, who at that time were possessed of considerable power and influence. More than a century later we find the living held by Thomas de Bradewell, in 1303 and from this time the list of "Priests" "Parsons" and "Rectors" continues in a fairly unbroken line. There is a list of rectors, as far as they are known, affixed to the wall of the south porch, and from this may be gained some interesting particulars. It shows that one rector, the Rev. Christopher Hunt, held the living for 59 years, namely from 1592 to 1651, also that there were three clergymen rejoicing in the name of John Taylor, one being appointed in 1683, another 1708 and a third in 1738. Altogether the list contains 46 names, besides the names of those who held the gift of the living. One of the earliest of these latter was Gerald de Colton, after whom the patrons consisted of members of the Gresley family from 1361 to 1558. Then the Blounts, the Yates, and Lord Aston until 1651, and finally the Rev. C. S. Landor.

There is one point to be considered in regard to the older portions of the building which cannot be ignored.Its style of architecture is that known as Early English or Gothic and as this came into vogue at the beginning of the 13th century or latter part of

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the 12th the church would appear to date from about the same period. But the structure has been so repeatedly restored that it is quite possible for some vestige of an older building to have become mixed up with a more modern style, and for the present church to be the outgrowth of successive alterations and repairs. This view is supported by the fact that traces of Norman work have been observed in the foundations of the tower, and this being so the building may date from the beginning of the 11th century. Whatever, may be the date of its erection, however, great alterations have taken place in regard to its design and its original builders would hardly have been able to recognise it in its present form. Amongst the alterations effected have been the addition of low buttresses to the tower, with embattled parapet and pinnacles. The height at the present time is only 36 feet, while its outside measurement is 19ft. It is consequently somewhat dwarfish in size, and bears upon it the stamp of age to an extent which is calculated to create serious doubts as to whether it will not be advisable at some not very distant period to either strengthen it or replace it by a new tower. The ivy which lovingly encircles this ancient structure adds to its picturesque appearance, and renders it a noticeable object to visitors entering the village either from the main road or from the fields.

The church, we are told originally consisted of a tower, north aisle, south porch, chancel and north chancel aisle or chapel. This arrangement was changed when the church was re-built in 1851 by the conversion of the former aisle and chapel into the present nave and chancel and the addition of a new north aisle. This change, however, was accompanied by the inevitable result of spoiling or destroying much that was curious and interesting about the building. The pulling down of the original north aisle about 1704 considerably injured the character of the building, the old stone work being replaced by a brick wall, plastered over, containing round-headed windows, while a slated roof of common design still further interfered with its appearance. The church was brought to its present state under the direction of Mr. Street the eminent architect, and through the energy of the then Rector, the Rev. Abdiel Seaton, aided by the liberality of Miss Oldham, of Bellamour. The oldest parts of the building, left standing, are therefore the tower and the south chancel. The former retains its belfry windows upon three sides, each having two pointed openings separated by a plain shaft and spanned within by a round-headed arch, in the Early English style.

The bells are three in number, and bear upon the following inscriptions 1.G. Hedderley *fecit,* God save His church. 2. C and G Mears, Founders London 1852,*Laus Deo; 3.* John Woolums, Nicolas Balmford and W. Burdeng, D.H. The Second bell is of modern make, having been presented by Miss Oldham. There were formerly some curious frescoes in the south aisle, on the walls and above the priest's door. These, however, were destroyed when the plaster of the walls was removed in 1851, but not until drawings had been carefully taken. One of these represented a figure of St. Nicholas, wearing a mitre and bearing in his hand a pastoral staff, and the other pictured the three youths, who, as the story goes, were murdered on their journey to Athens, by an innkeeper of Myra, and afterwards restored to life by St. Nicholas.The frescoe represented the three youths sleeping in one bed and was probably painted about the 14th Century. Other frescoes represented the expulsion of Adam and Eve from paradise and the tree of life, and the salutation to Elizabeth. The hand of the restorer, however, wiped them away for ever, and only the drawings remain as a memento of their former existence.

As at other churches, the register forms no guide to the age of the church, the one at St. Mary's dating only from April 25th 1647. There are doubtless many interesting facts which might be related with regard to the church, but most of them are forgotten.

It is interesting, however, to note that in 1263 a murderer took sanctuary here, in the person of one Nicholas, son of William de Colton, having stabbed Adam, the son of Hereward, in a brawl, fled hither for refuge, which he claimed according to law from the first hour to midnight. The villagers would have ensured his arrest, but he assisted to escape at the instance of the Lord de Colton, and the villagers had to pay a heavy fine in consequence.

Upon entering the church by the south porch attention is directed to the stone font, with oak cover, which was designed by Mr. Street in the memory of C.S.Landor. The old font was a simple pillar of stone without moulding or ornament of any kind and was destroyed with other relics. The length of the church excluding the tower is 86ft 6" and its width 45ft 4". The flooring is of plain tiles, while Minton tiles have been effectively used in the chancel. The sittings, choir stalls, lecturn etc. are of oak together with the roof the pulpit being of stone. The gothic arches are without ornamentation while the windows are all of stained glass, generally plain with the exception of a few to be more particularly described. At the west end of the nave is the entrance to the tower, around the walls of the basement being some old tablets very dingy looking, one being in memory of John Pegge, who died in 1766 aged 79 years, formerly living at Newlands in the parish of Colton and another to the Rev. John Taylor the first rector of that name who died in 1708. In the south aisle is a tablet to the memory of the Oldham family- James and Elizabeth, and Riland Wolsey Oldham their grandson aged 26.

At the east end of the south aisle is the chapel of the Blessed Virgin Mary which contains a stained glass window, in memory of the Rev. A. Seaton for 25 years rector of Colton who died Sept. 17th 1874. The colouring of this window is fairly good and bold in design but one or two of its features exhibit somewhat peculiar ideas on the part of the artist. For instance, the cloud upon which some angels are reposing appears to be somewhat too substantial in character, but people hardly go to stained glass windows now-a-days for the natural whatever opinion might prevail on the subject in mediaeval times. The large east window in the chancel is somewhat showy and is to the memory of Mr. James O, Oldham of Bellamour erected by his daughter Miss Ellen Oldham in 1858. There are other windows of a memorial character, including one to Elizabeth Jean, wife of J.O. Oldham who died Sept. 1949 another to Harriet Lucy Seaton Oct. 8th 1857 another to the Rev. Chas. S. Landor and Catherine his wife, erected by their daughters E.S.L. and C.M.L. and one at the end of the north aisle to James O. Oldham erected by the inhabitants of the parish. The pretty window by the communion rail at the north side is considered the best specimen of stained glass in the church and was the work of Messrs. Burleston and Grylls, of London. The other windows to the memory of the Oldhams, were by Wailes of Newcastle. The windows we would mention are gothic in style in accordance with the general character of the building.

On the right of the chancel and occupying a portion of the Lady Chapel is the organ, a very fair instrument of good tone, possessing two manuals and 16 stops. The altar is beneath the large triplet lancet. Early English window, consisting of holy table, with curtains at the back while on the right is an Early English piscina with cusp ornamentation. An interesting feature of the chancel consists of the three carved oak misereres, or stall seats. Formerly intended for the relief of infirm clergy during long services, where much standing was required. They were originally in use at Tenby church, Pembroke and after being brought to this part of the country were found in the summer house of a carpenter, from which ignominious position they were rescued by the Rev. A. Seaton. Another interesting feature is worthy of notice in the shape of the

wire gates to the south porch, which were placed there in 1883 by the people of Colton, in memory of Miss Oldham. The church which will seat 350 persons is lighted in the evening by candles, when occasion requires their use. During the last 120 years only four rectors have held the living the Rev. John Landor being appointed in 1767, the Rev. Charles Savage Landor in 1806, the Rev. Abdiel Seaton in 1849, and the present rector the Rev. F. P. Parker in 1874. Services are held as follows:- Sundays (summer) 11a.m. and 6-30p.m.: (winter) 11a.m. and 3p.m.. Holy Communion 1st Sunday in the month at 12, and every Sunday at 8-30a.m. Wednesday and Friday and Saints Days at 11a.m. The services are partly choral, the choir being surpliced and trained by the Misses Parker who also preside at the organ. The hymnal in use is "Hymns Ancient and Modern". The rector is assisted each Sunday at one of the services by the Rev. E.E. Harding. Vice-Principal of the Lichfield Theological College. The living is set down at £450 including residence and about 45 acres of glebe, and the churchwardens are Mr. F. Bonney, peoples warden, and Mrs. Harland rectors warden. The parish clerk is Edward Radford.

In the church yard on the south side of the church lies the socket of the ancient cross, while on the north side resting against the wall is a specimen of the old stone mounting block, used by those old inhabitants who were wont to repair to their destination on horse back. In the new burial ground which was a gift of the late Mr. Horsfall of Bellamour, is a very fine church yard cross erected to his momory by his wife after a design by Mr. Street.

There are many old tombs in the churchyard but none of any special note, most of those which would at the present time be regarded with interest having succumbed to the influence of time and the weather. Amongst the latter is preserved the record of a tomb-stone decorated with the compass and square in basso-relievo, beneath which was the following epitaph "Sacred to the memory of James Haywood, who died May 4th 1804 in the 55th year of his age. This was followed by the lines:

"The corner stone I oftentimes have dressed,
In Christ the Corner Stone I now find rest,
Though by the builder he rejected were
He is my God, my Rock I build on here "

HISTORY,

GAZETTEER, AND DIRECTORY

OF

STAFFORDSHIRE,

AND THE

CITY AND COUNTY OF THE CITY OF LICHFIELD,

COMPRISING, UNDER A LUCID ARRANGEMENT OF SUBJECTS,

A General Survey of the County of Stafford,

AND THE DIOCESE OF LICHFIELD;

WITH SEPARATE

HISTORICAL, STATISTICAL, & TOPOGRAPHICAL

DESCRIPTIONS OF ALL THE

BOROUGHS, TOWNS, PARISHES, VILLAGES, HAMLETS,
MANORS, AND LIBERTIES, IN THE

FIVE HUNDREDS OF THE SHIRE;

SHEWING THEIR EXTENT AND POPULATION,

Their Agriculture, Mines, and Manufactures; their Markets and Fairs; their Eminent Men; the Lords of the Manors and Owners of the Soil and Tithes; the Patrons and Incumbents of the Church Livings; the Antiquities, Public Charities and Institutions; the Civil and Ecclesiastical Jurisdictions; the Names and Addresses of the principal Inhabitants; the Mediums of Public Conveyance; the Post Office Regulations; the

SEATS OF THE NOBILITY AND GENTRY;

MAGISTRATES AND PUBLIC OFFICERS;

AND A VARIETY OF OTHER

COMMERCIAL, AGRICULTURAL, & BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION.

IN ONE VOLUME, WITH A MAP OF THE COUNTY.

BY WILLIAM WHITE,

AUTHOR OF SIMILAR WORKS FOR MANY OTHER COUNTIES.

(SECOND EDITION.)

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[ENTERED AT STATIONERS' HALL.]

1851.

The BENEFACTIONS for yearly distribution among the poor parishioners, are as follows:—£10 per annum left in 1702, by *Sir Walter Bagot;* the interest of £50 left in 1798 and 1818, by the Rev. Walter Bagot and Louisa Bagot; £2. 12s. yearly, out of Marchbarn Farm, in Armitage parish, left in 1592, by *Thomas Russell;* £3. 5s. a-year, out of land at Bromley, left by *Dorothy Hawkes,* in 1704; the interest of £30 left by *Edward Clarke and others;* and 2A. 1R. 26P. of land, called Potter's Green, in Abbot's Bromley, left by *Elizabeth Bailey,* in 1735, to the poor of Newton, and those of St. Michael's parish, Lichfield. The moiety belonging to Newton, is now let for £2. 7s. 6d. a-year.

Marked 1 *reside at Admaston,* 2 *Booth,* 3 *Dapple heath,* 4 *Newton,* 5 *Newton hurst,* 6 *Oakfields, and* 7 *St. Stephen's hill.*

POST-OFFICE at T. Beckett's, *Admaston.* Letters desp. 6½ p.m., *via* Rugeley.

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Hon. & Rev. Hervey Charles Bagot, M.A., *Blithfield Rectory*

1 Allen Thomas, blacksmith
1 Beckett Thos. & Mrs., Free school
Buchan Wm., gardener, Hall
4 Cope Wm., farm bailiff to Lord B.
4 Cooke Thos., tailor & parish clerk
1 Mendham Wm., shopkeeper
Sharp James, butler, Hall
4 Spooner John, shoemaker
1 Tunnicliff Thomas, wheelwright

FARMERS.

5 Allen Margaret
4 Brandrick Jas.
4 Bridgewood Wm
4 Burgess Edw.
2 Darlaston Thos.
4 Dennis Thos.
7 Dicken Thos.
6 Hollis Thos.
1 Kent John
3 Lees James
5 Oldfield John
Webb
4 Shipley Thos.
4 Tunnicliff Jno.
2 Woodings Jas.

COLTON, a long straggling village, about a mile E. of Colwich Station, and 2 miles N. by E. of Rugeley, gives name to a highly cultivated parish, pleasantly situated on the banks of the Trent, and one of its tributary streams. The parish is in Lichfield Union, though more than 8 miles N.W. of that city. It contains 3870 acres, 672 souls, and a number of scattered houses, extending 1½ mile N. and S. of the church. The soil is a fertile loam, with a good proportion of meadows, and belongs to Rd. Greene, Esq., J. O. Oldham, Esq., the Earl of Lichfield, Lord Bagot, T. G. Whitgreave, Esq., and a number of smaller owners. J. O. Oldham, Esq., is lord of the manor, and resides at *Bellamour Hall,* a handsome mansion with sylvan grounds, on the north side of the Trent, near Wolseley Bridge. The *Manor House Farm* belongs to Lord Bagot, and is occupied by Mr. H. W. Holland, who, in 1849, gained the first prize of the North Staffordshire Agricultural Society, for the best cultivated farm in the district. His house has lately been rebuilt, and is now one of the best farm-houses in the county. *Colton Hall,* now a farm-house, belongs to the Earl of Lichfield, and was rebuilt after being burnt down about 120 years ago. The *Church* is a small ancient edifice, dedicated to St. Mary, but the nave was rebuilt of brick in 1798, and the whole fabric is about to be restored and enlarged at the cost of about £2600, raised by subscription. The *rectory,* valued in K.B. at £5, and in 1831 at £461, is in the patronage of the Rev. C. W. Landor, and incumbency of the Rev. Abdiel Seaton, M.A., who has a good residence. One moiety of the corn tithes belongs to Richard Greene, Esq. Here is a *Wesleyan Chapel,* built in 1838. The parish *wake* is on the nearest Sunday to September 19th. The *parish clerk* has a house and 5½A. of land, left at an early period by an unknown donor.

NEWLAND is a small village on a lofty eminence, 1½ mile N. of Colton, and a little to the west of it is the hamlet of *Lea Lane.*

The FREE SCHOOL at Colton, was founded and endowed, partly with money subscribed, and partly with parochial levies raised for the pur-

pose, producing together the sum of £350, which was laid out in 1764, in the purchase of the school house, with three acres of land at Colton, and 19 acres of land at Uttoxeter. The land is now let for about £28 per annum, of which £1 is distributed to the poor, as the interest of £25, left by Mary Taylor, in 1755; and the rest is paid to the master, together with the interest of £500, given about 1820, by John Spencer, Esq., in compliance with the wishes of his late brother, Francis Spencer, Esq. The master has also the interest of £80, proceeding from a fall of timber on the school land, making the total yearly income nearly £50, for which he educates about 40 boys. Here is also a GIRLS' FREE SCHOOL, which was endowed in 1801 by *Thomas Webb*, with the "Three-Wheels public-house," and another dwelling in Colton, held on leases, which will expire in 1861, at rents amounting to only £5. 15s. per annum. The mistress is allowed £18 a year for teaching 20 girls to read, knit, and sew.

The *Benefactions* to the poor amount yearly as follows:—20s. out of the Three-Wheels public-house, left by *John Webb;* £2. 12s., being half the rent of Marchbarn farm, in Armitage parish, left by Thomas Russell, in 1592; 52s. yearly, out of Tinker close, by Thomas Taylor, in 1676; and 54s. out of Upper Crabtree Flat, by Thomas Butler, in 1680.

Marked 2 are at Bellamour, 3 Launt Farm, 4 Lea Lane, 5 Newland, 6 Old Wood, and 7 Hanby Heath.

Arnold Edw., joiner and builder
Brown Mrs. || Garner Mary, school
Garner Francis, shopr. & par. clerk
Grant Jas., cow leech & beerhouse
Grant Jas., jun., butcher, *Post Office*
7 Grant John, butcher & cattle dealer
Hayward James, vict. Bell
2 Hayward Geo., bricklayer & beerhs
Heycock Sarah, shopkeeper
Hyslop Wm., travelling tea-dealer
2 Johnson Mr John || Myatt W., bhs
Lenton Thos., schoolmr. & collector
Mills Rd. & Son, bdg. & day school
Norman Samuel, shopkeeper
Oldham James Oldham, Esq., *Bellamour Hall*
Seaton Rev Abdiel, M.A., rector
Sharrod Josh., corn miller, &c.
Tipper Samuel, wheelwright
Turner Wm., gent., *Old Wood*
Webster John, station clerk
Yates John, sen., maltster and corn merchant

BLACKSMITHS.

Radford Richd.
Radford Thos.

FARMERS.

4 Birch John
Dicken Thos., jun. *Colton Hall*
4 Greaves John
4 Green Thos.
Harris George, Boughey Hall
3 Harvey Fras.
7 Hinckley Thos.
Holland Henry Walter, *Manor House*
3 Holland Mrs.
7 Myatt Robert
7 Nichols Edwd., *Hanby House*
Parker Henry
6 Richards Thos.
5 Woolley John
Yates John, jun.

SHOEMAKERS.

Bevans John
Cope Thomas
Hill Wm.

TAILORS.

Taylor George
Taylor Samuel
Yates Wm.

COLWICH is a small village, beautifully situated on the Stafford road, 3 miles N.W. of Rugeley, on the north bank of the river Trent, near Wolseley Bridge and *Colwich Railway Station*, at the junction of the North Staffordshire and Trent valley lines. Nothing can be more delightful than the scenery which this part of the county exhibits. The river here flows through a vale of the richest verdure, adorned with a variety of elegant villas, among which are the charming seats of *Shugborough and Wolseley*. To use the words of Pennant, the vale is here "prodigal in its beauties, and spreads at once every charm that can captivate the eye." The *parish of Colwich* is on the north-east bank of the Trent, except Shugborough and Wolseley, and comprises about 8800 acres of land, and 2124 inhabitants, resident in the villages and hamlets of *Bishton, Colwich,*

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Finest Cape Stein	20s.	1s. 8d.
Rich Cape Burgundy	22s.	1s. 10d.
Bucellas, Mountain and Lisbon	36s.	3s. 0d.

West and East India Madeira, Claret, Champagne, &c., of the Finest Vintages, at various Prices, depending upon the Quality.

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Ginger	1s. 4d. and 1s.	Raisin	1s. 4d. and 1s.
Elder	1s. 4d. and 1s.	Orange	1s. 4d. and 1s.
Cowslip	1s. 4d. and 1s.	Red Currant	1s. 4d. and 1s.

British Champagne, of the Finest Quality, 24s. per Doz.; 2s. per Bottle.

Page 160

p69).

Colleswayne's Lake Large vanished lake close to another expanse of water called The Marsh, also vanished, which lay under the area of Nelson Place, Newcastle-under-Lyme (NM p157) (VCH vol 8 p3) (NUL p158).

Collets Brook Forms boundary between Staffs and Warws. Runs S from Canwell.

Collins Brook At Trentham. Mentioned in John Ogilby's 'Britania' road atlas.

Collyhole House WNW of Coltstone, Ipstones (TOI p11). Has also appeared as Collymoor (1834 OS map), and Colley Hole.

Collyhole Brook Rises N of Ipstones. A tributary of the Churnet.

Colomoor House in Botteslow township (HBST p526), which stood to the S of Berry Hill County High School. Occurs on the 1834, 1890, 1879-1937 OS maps and has appeared as Colamoor.

Colshaw Small dispersed hamlet on high ground above the upper of Dove 1.25m ENE of Flash. In Hollinsclough township in Alstonefield ancient parish. The family of John Lomas (1747-1823), a pedlar and wholesale dealer, who argued successfully against a proposal to abolish licensed hawkers and pedlars in the House of Commons in 1785, were living in Colshaw in the later 1740s. In 1785 John Lomas moved to Hollinsclough village (VCH vol 7 p38) (MH 1996 pp156-165), where he had built a Methodist chapel (L pp19,20). Mary Brunt of Colshaw died in 1782 aged 104 (W p744). Has also appeared as Calshaw (W p744).

Colt Is a DB berewick (SSAHST 1970 p34). It is present day Littlehay 0.5m N of Colton. Referred to as Coltune in CWF. Erdeswick and Chetwynd failed to recognise it (CWF p3). Here was possibly a lost village (SSAHST 1970 p34).

Coltham Area 1.5m NNE of Willenhall, in the area between Straight Road and the Wyrley and Essington Canal, and stretched from Lane Head to Coppice Lane (SNW p19). The name Coltham or Cotham Bush appears in the court rolls in the C18. The name is preserved in Coltham Road (HOWI p187).

Colton Ancient parish and village on Moreton Brook not far from the Trent 8.5m ESE of Stafford.

EARLY. The four large Ice Age boulders in Colton may be by Brook Bridge (ES Dec 4 1993 p21).

600 to 1600. The parish **church**, Blessed Virgin Mary, S of Bellamour Way, was established before 1086. Some portions of the present church date from the early C13 (A Brief History of Colton Church). The parish is not listed in the Papal Return of 1291 but was almost certainly in existence by then (SHC 1916 p200). The parish wake was on the nearest Sunday to 19 Sept in the mid C19 (W p413). Chetwynd following Erdeswick failed to notice that Colton is entered twice in DB; the two writers only mentioning the manor (Coltune) held by Geoffrey (the Wasteney's ancestor) of Robert de Stafford, which became known as the de Colton, or Church estate and subsequently the 'Mareshall and Griffin' manor (CWF p3). The other manor (Coltone) was held by Azeline (or Ansell) de Mavesyn of Earl Roger de Montgomery; of which the small estate of Colt (Little Hay) formed a separate part (SHC 1914 p153 note). The **name** has also appeared as Colastun (SPN p36), and Colton (1698) (Illustrated Journeys of Celia Fiennes edited by Chris Morris, 1984, p149). It is of Anglo-Saxon origin and means 'the charcoal town' (DUIGNAN) because of its proximity to Cannock Chase, where the wood came from to make it. Or is 'Cola's farmstead' (SSE 1996 p12) (SPN p36). Or 'colt tun' (SSE 1996 p12). Erdeswick and others have thought perhaps from Celtic 'col,' meaning holy (SOS p52) here druids worshipped (LTM Oct 1971 p34). Or is from the forest-root 'coll' (NSFCT 1908 p138). No doubt that col in Colwich and Colton are the same. Rev FP Parker also believes that the explanation is either col, a Saxon thane, or hill inclosure or farm. 'Ascending the coll' is an expression used in West Dorset. It is said to be derived from an old British word having its synonym in the Latin collis a hill, a Norse word is colla. Whence Col-Kirk is to 'the church-on-the-hill. Colwich lies below Haywood Hill and Colton lies below Martlin's Hill (CWF p204). William de Wasteneys was granted a charter on May 1 1241 to hold a **market** here on Fridays. The market had ceased by 1500 (NSJFS 1971 p51). The earliest reference to Colton as a **borough** is in 1275 and the last in 1361-2 and then borough status lapsed (NSJFS 1972 p68) (SL p147). The **stocks** stood at the NE corner of Colton Hall garden wall. The stone foundation of the stocks could still be seen in c1897 (CWF p183). The **pound** adjoined the entrance of the field path to Rugeley and was still known as the 'pinfold' in c1897 (CWF p183). There was possibly a windmill at SK 041207 on the evidence that to the W of the village was a field called 'Windmill Field' on the 1834 OS map (CWF p153) (WBJ P18).

1600 to PRESENT. **Customs**. Until the end of the C19 it was the custom in Colton for the women to rise early on St Thomas' Day (Dec 21) and go round the parish to receive at each farmhouse from a pint to three pints of corn, which they exchanged for flour at the mill. The custom ceased when the mill became a 'plaster' mill. Brand notices the practice in Warws as called 'corning' (CWF p183). Rev FP Parker wrote in 1897 that within the last 20 years some of the inhabitants used to put flowers on the doorstep of their houses on May Day (CWF p183). In the later C17 Dr Plot noted an **oak** tree growing in an hedgerow between Colton and Blithfield which was planted as an acorn by Ralph Bate. It grew very quickly and Ralph Bate saw it in his lifetime bear two feet square of wood at the butt end. Where the first 10 feet was sawn into boards it contained nearly a ton of wood (NHS p210). **Persons and visitors**. Erdeswick or Harwood say Colton was the birthplace of the distinguished philosopher, **William Wollaston** (SOS p53), whilst others say he was born in Coton Clanford (see) on March 26 1650 (GNHS p110) (W p406), or 1659 (SHOS vol 1 p430). **Robert Eyres Landor** (1781-1869), poet and playwright, was curate of Colton (VFC p81). The death of **John Landor**, the seven year old son of the rector of Colton, in March 1782 may have been foretold by an ominous encounter by the canal bridge on the road between Colton and Rugeley. The boy was ill at Rugeley Grammar School. On their way from Colton to Rugeley to care for him a nurse accompanied by the family groom met with a woman carrying a dead child in a bundle, which was shaped like a coffin. The woman, who wore a brown cloak, knew them but she was unknown to them. She asked to see the rector so that he could bury her child. The woman then disappeared and subsequently did not see the rector about burying her child. The next night John Landor died (GLS pp78-79). For the case of **Mary Peate** of Eccleshall, who fell ill in Colton parish and was taken to Colwich parish where she died and her burial became chargeable to Colwich ratepayers, see Colwich.

Colton Hall S of Colton. Built in c1730 (BOE p107), and is believed to occupy the site of Colton Old Hall (see). In 1777 it belonged to William Piggot; Lady Blount also lived here at one time and in 1795 it was owned by the sheriff of Staffs. Later still it became a boys school (LTM Oct 1971 p35). Frederick Bonney nephew of Charles Bonney lived at Colton Hall (AR p63p). Has also appeared as Colton House. An old dovecote, belonging to the manor, stood, c1897, nearly opposite to Colton Hall close to the wall of the present school yard (CWF p175).

Colton Old Hall Colton. May have stood on the site or incorporated the original Saxon timber-built manor house (not Colt Manor House alias Littlehay) (LTM Oct 1971 p35) (TSW p48) (SVB p59). There was a murder at Colton manor house in 1271. A priest named John, chaplain of Colton (perhaps serving the chapel on the site of Bellamour Lodge), is alleged to have killed Christina, wife of Nicholas de Colton, while interposing in a quarrel between her and a stranger residing at the house. It is not known whether the lady was killed accidentally or not, but John fled from the scene and went uncaptured and was outlawed (CWF pp39-40) (SHC vol 4 p211) (HOA p186) (CCBO p66). For several centuries Colton Old Hall was the Staffs seat of the Gresleys of Drakelow, Derbys. The lower half of the hall was constructed of masonry whilst the upper part was of timber. It is said the hall had 80 rooms, of which 52 were bedrooms. It was sold by Sir G Gresley to Sir Walter Aston in James I's reign. Here the younger members of the Aston family resided during their father's second embassy in Spain. Sir Walter himself resided here in 1628; some of his letters to Lord Conway are dated from Colton Old Hall. The hall burnt down in Charles I's reign through the carelessness of a servant. From the Astons William Chetwynd purchased the site in 1658 (COI p170). A new house, Colton Hall (see), appears to have been built on the site in c1730.

Colton Hills Small range of hills rising to 608.1 feet high (HOWM p6). In Penn ancient parish. The name is preserved in Colton Hills Special School which is nearly 1.25m ENE of St Bartholomew's at Penn. Mander, who could only find the name occurring in recent times, has a theory about how the area was named (WA vol 2 no 1 p36). However, 'Col' in Welsh means hill or ridge (PPTP p37).

Colton Old Park A medieval deer park enclosed out of forest, 1m NE of Colton. The park pale is still evident. In existence by 1349 (NSJFS 1962 p76). Rev Parker refers to a park enclosed by the De Wasteneys in or by Henry III's time. From the De Wasteneys it passed to the Gresleys and from them to Sir Walter Aston in 1610 and was conveyed by Walter Aston 2nd Lord Aston to Sir Harvey Bagot (CWF p164). Shirley notes one deer park at Colton (EDP p179).

Colton Park A medieval deer park enclosed out of forest, 1m S of Colton. In existence by 1359 (NSJFS 1962 p76). Shirley notes one deer park at Colton (EDP p179).

Colts Moor Area which seems to have been held by Hulton Abbey as part of their grange at Upper Bradnop in medieval times (VCH vol 7 p171). Coltsmoor Farm is 1.25m N of Bradnop and is built on former waste land, enclosed in the later C18 (VCH vol 7 p171). Formerly in Bradnop township in Leek ancient parish.

Coltsmoor Former house under 0.25m W of Stanley. Formerly in Stanley town-

Bell Bridge Bridge on Ryknild Street over the Coventry Canal 0.5m S of Fradley.

Bell Brook A brook running under the pavement in Bellbrook street in Penkridge (PVH p21).

Bellbrook A street in Penkridge. On W side of Bellbrook is an early C19 lock-up listed Grade II by DoE. Also some stocks, perhaps of C18 origin, listed Grade II.

Bell End Former small hamlet S of Rowley Regis church, in Rowley Regis parish. The name, which appears as Taking Bell End in the 1851 census, is preserved in a street called Bell End between Hawes Lane and Mincing Lane (Birmingham A-Z). Another account says Bell End lay at the bottom of Portway Road (HORV p7) to the N of Rowley Regis church.

Bellman's Cross At Shatterford, in Upper Arley parish.

Bell's Hollow Red Street. Preserved in a road name between A34 and Crackley Bank.

Belmont Chapel House To ENE of Belmont Hall at SK 005498. Built in 1789 (NSFCT 1906 pp168-9) or in 1790 (F p306) as a chapel by John Sneyd of Belmont Hall (1743-1809) after a dispute he had with the patron of the living of Ipstones. The dispute was resolved before the building was finished and it hardly ever, or never, served as a chapel. Fisher Lyttleton, patron of the living of Ipstones had promised John Sneyd's son the living on the death of the incumbent, Parson White. Perhaps, as Raven adds, because Sneyd had paid for Ipstones church. But White outlived the son and at White's death Lyttleton offered it to his nephew Mr Walhouse. This enraged Sneyd and he started to build an alternative chapel. But Walhouse did not want the living, and Lyttleton consented to Sneyd's choice, a Mr Carlisle, his son's tutor (NSFCT 1906 pp168-9. 1916 p136). The residence was restored in the 1980s. (DoE II) (LGS p154) (STM June 1965 p44ps of before restoration. Oct 1966 p31p) (BOE p157) (SMCC p9 il) (MR p196) (NCSS pp213-214). At the second sharp bend past the chapel the grass plot on the left is reputedly haunted by someone murdered there. It is said the only way to get a horse past the spot at night is to put a sack or covering over its eyes (TOI pp44,166).

Belmont Hall Over 1m W of Ipstones, in Ipstones parish. The name means 'a fair mountain' (HLSP p49). Built by John Sneyd (b1743) of Bishton Hall in 1770. He died here in 1809. His grandson, Thomas (d1883), was living at Belmont in the 1840s (SNEDE) and in 1851 (W p18); other accounts, perhaps erroneous, have the hall built by Ralph Sneyd in 1770 (NSJFS 1968 p98), on the site of a house built by John Sneyd of Bishton in the late C15 (NSFCT 1906 p168). The greater part of the hall was demolished in c1806. The beautiful chimney-piece was taken to Ashcombe and placed in the Museum Room there (NSFCT 1906 p167). (TOI pp44,166 p of facing p36) (MR p196p). In 1876 the hall was occupied by Mrs Kinnersley, possibly the same as Mrs Sneyd-Kinnersley who was living at the hall in 1884. The hall remained the property of the Sneyds to at least 1912. It was occupied by Samuel Hall in 1892; unoccupied in 1899; occupied by Mrs Scarratt in 1916; by Miss Slack in 1924 (trade directories). It is reputedly haunted by a young woman. Her appearance to any member of the family who may inhabit the hall is said to presage the death of some member of the family within a year. She is said to be very beautiful, of melancholy mien and quite harmless if people will not cross her path (TOI p166) (OL vol 2 pp300-301) (SMCC p10) (ES Sept 16 1936 p5). There were nine pools in the grounds. Belmont Gardens were in c1806 considered among the seven finest in England. John Sneyd was awarded the gold medal for planting the greatest number of firs in a year (NSFCT 1906 p167) (TOI p10).

Belmont Woods At the entrance to Belmont Woods was a sort of urn monument to the memory of Rev William Sneyd (1794) erected by his cousin (NSFCT 1906 p168). In woods at Belmont a Mr Sneyd found the very rare Lily of the Valley plant or Convallaria Majalis (SHOS vol 1 part 1 p102. vol 1 p66).

Belmot Former hamlet on the edge of Needwood Forest 1.5m SSW of Tutbury. There was a hamlet at Belmot in medieval times (ANS p9). Has appeared as Bellmot (maps of Plot and Bowen), Bellmot Lodge (SHOS vol p94), Belmont (Smith's map) and Belmott Green (OS map 1834). At Belmot Green there were some eight acres of common land, known as Belmot Common, remaining in the 1950s (OSST 1956-59 p15).

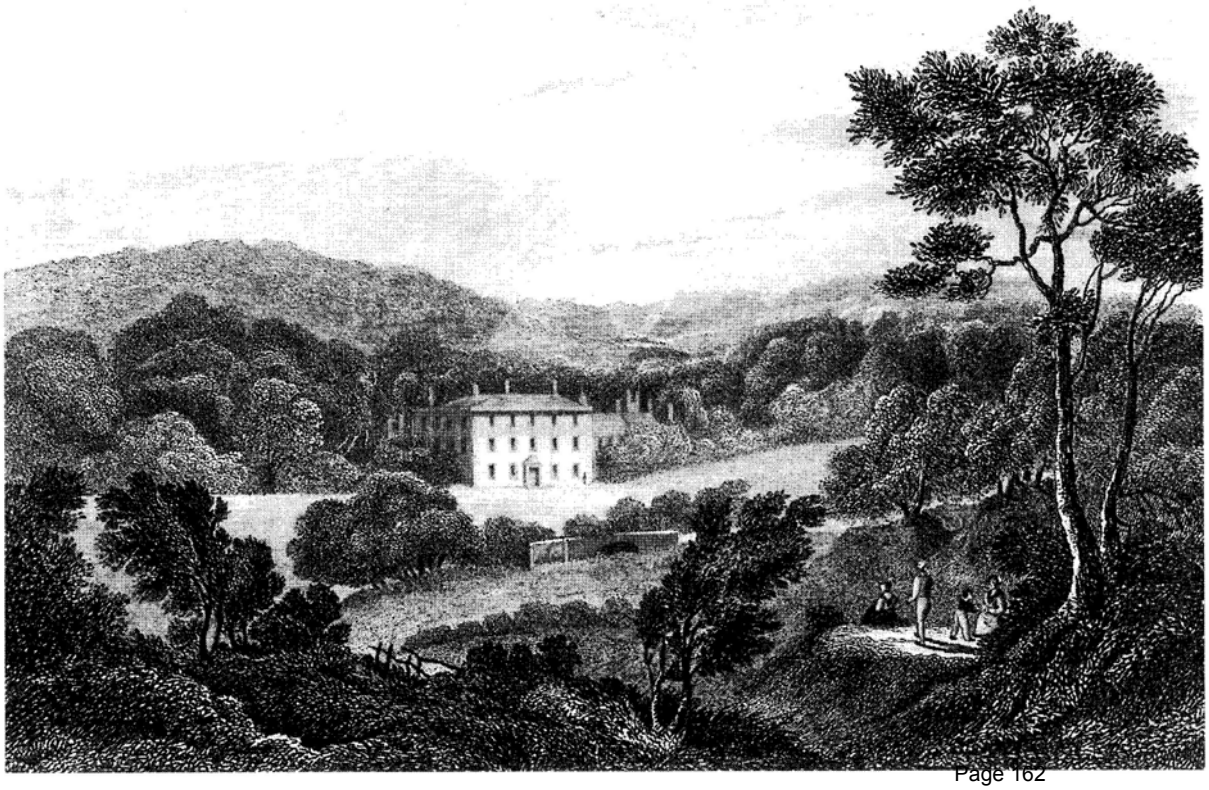
Belmot Gate The name, appearing on Bowen's map SW of Belmot in the area of the present Belmot Farm, is from a former entry into Needwood Forest (ANS p8). Has also appeared as Tutbury Gate (VCH vol 2 p350 see map).

Belper Row A row of cottages at Darby End first settled by natives of Belper, Derbys (TB Sept 1974 p19).

Belsize House Corner of Bradford Street and Cross Street (KES p219) (SGS p176) (SNWA p62), or Bradford Place, Walsall. By the late 1850s the house was the residence of Rev Jerome Clapp Jerome, a native of Appledore, Devon, who entertained one Klapka, an exiled Hungarian general, here. Rev Jerome made the name Klapka the middle name of his son, the novelist, Jerome K Jerome, who was born here on May 2 1859. Rev Jerome suffered financial losses in a coal mine disaster at Norton Canes in 1860, thereafter JK Jerome appears to have been brought up in London, but the novelist is generally associated with Walsall (see). Belsize House became a museum to Jerome in 1984 or 1985. In 1989 Walsall borough council refused to hand over to the museum Jerome's writing desk, which it possessed and kept in the mayor's parlour (The Correspondent Oct 15 1989) (MR p358).

Belt View Farm Over 0.5m ENE of Bednall. The name may be from the Beltaine fires of the ancients (SMM p174). See Tar Hill.

Belvide Reservoir Constructed NW of Brewood for the Shropshire Union Ca-



Pl. 17. Bellamour Hall

Watercolours by Gwendoline Horsfall 1890's







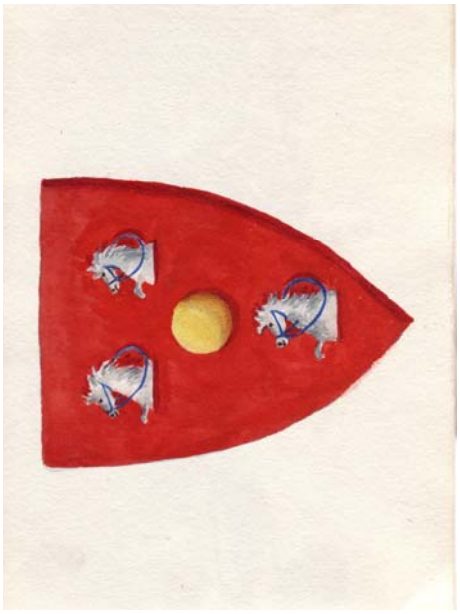






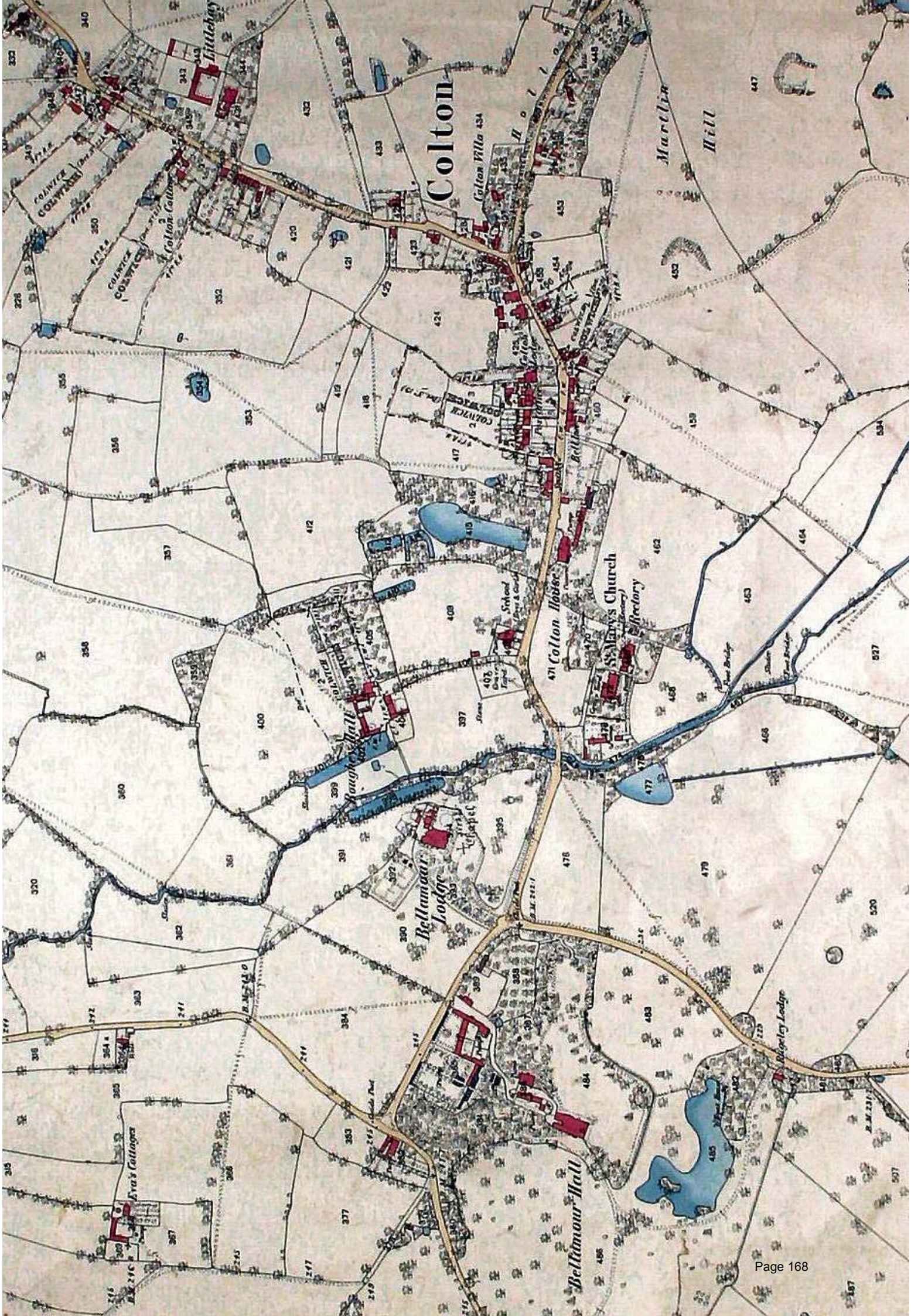








Maps

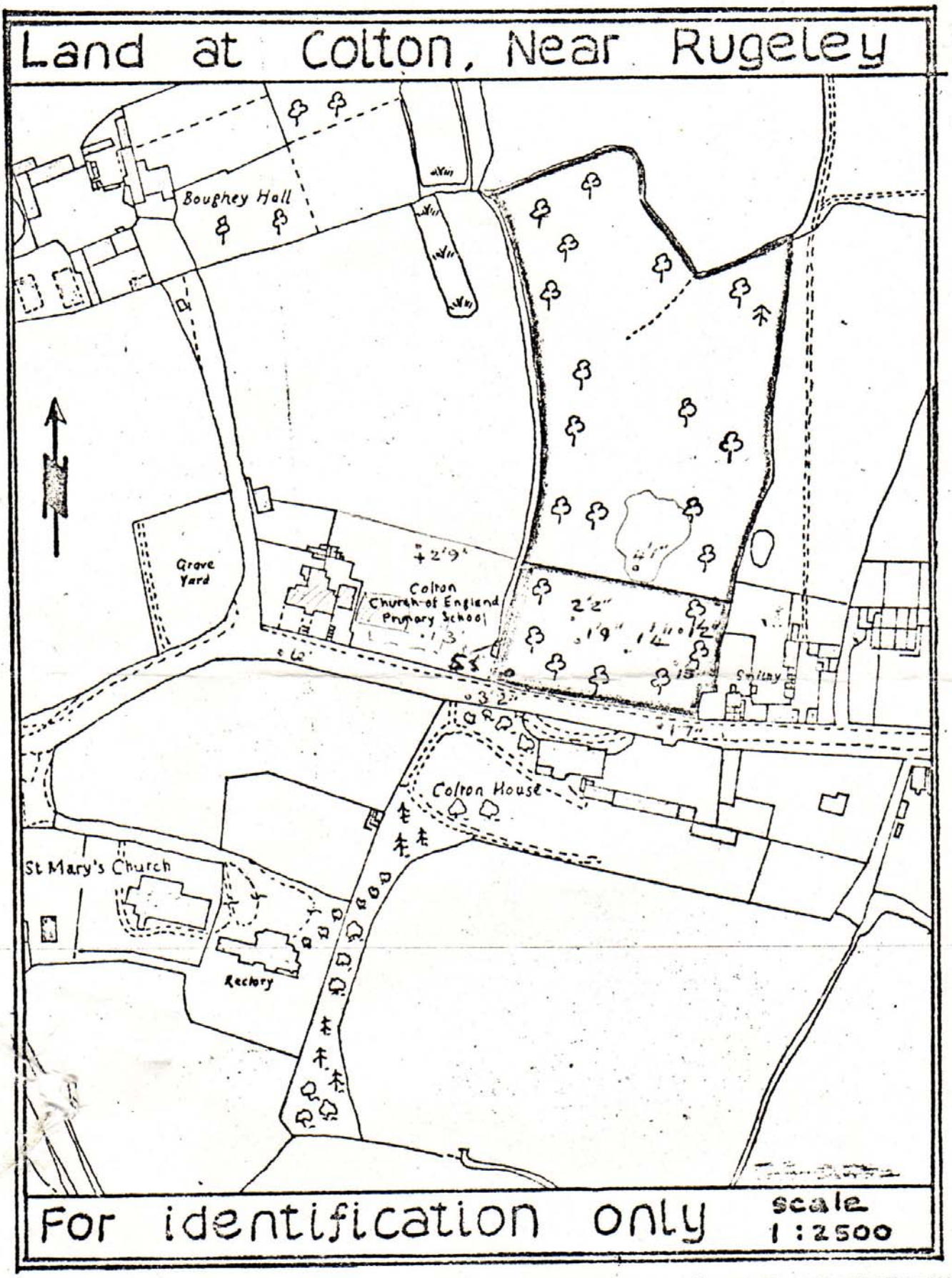

Colton
Colton Villa
Martlin Hill
Colton House
St Mary's Church
Rectory
Bellamour Lodge
Bellamour Hall
Eva's Cottages
Rugeley Lodge



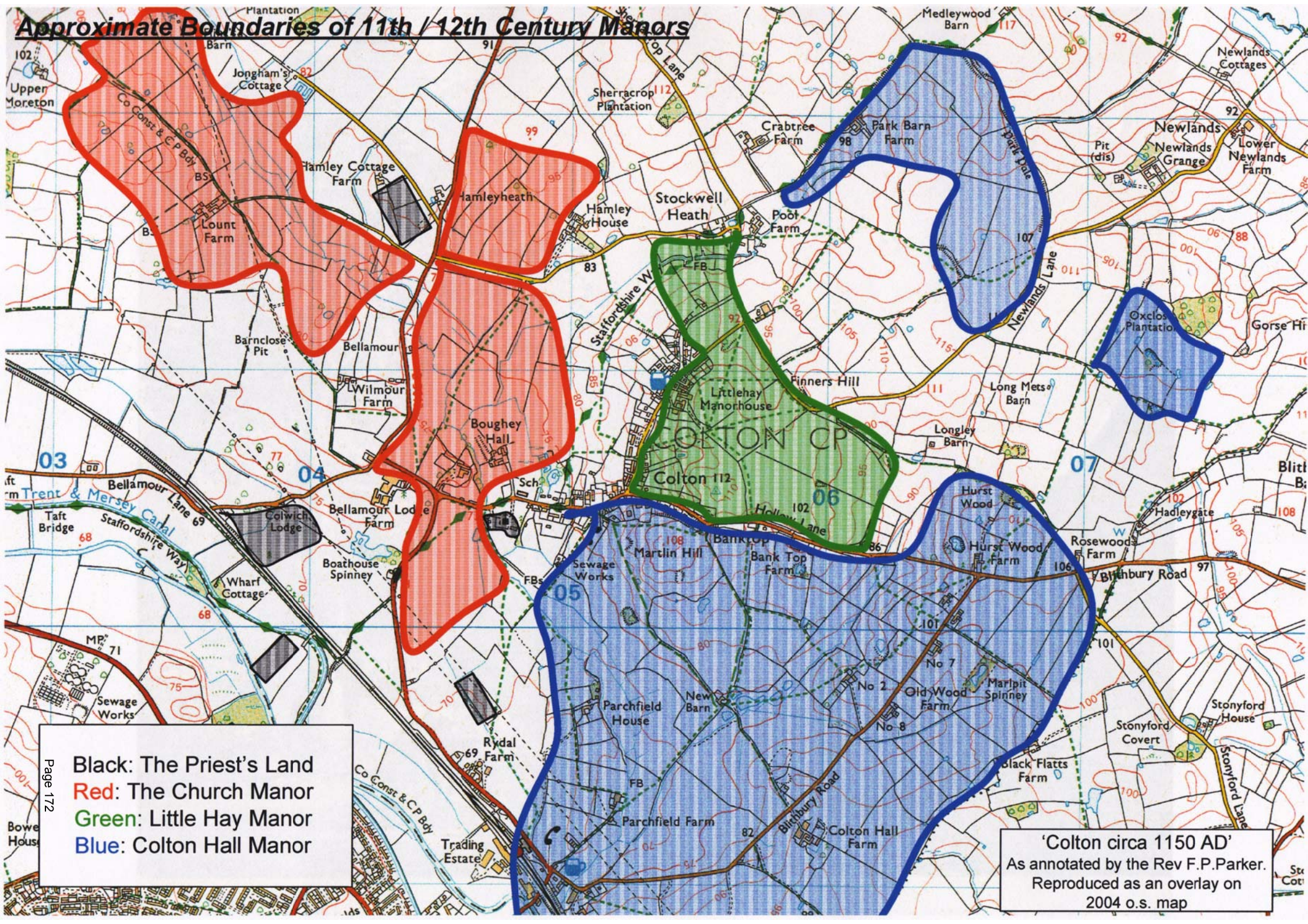
COLTON PARISH, 1845 A.D.


Colton
Colton Cottage
Littlehay
Colton Villa
Colton Lodge
Post Office
Bell Inn
Colton House
School
(Boys & Girls)
Bellamour Lodge
Chapel
Rougher Hall
St. Mary's Church
(Rectory)
Rectory
Martlin Hill
Hollow
Rugeley Lodge
Foot Bridge
Guide Post
Sluice
Well
COLWICH
B/H 1924
B/H

Land at Colton, Near Rugeley

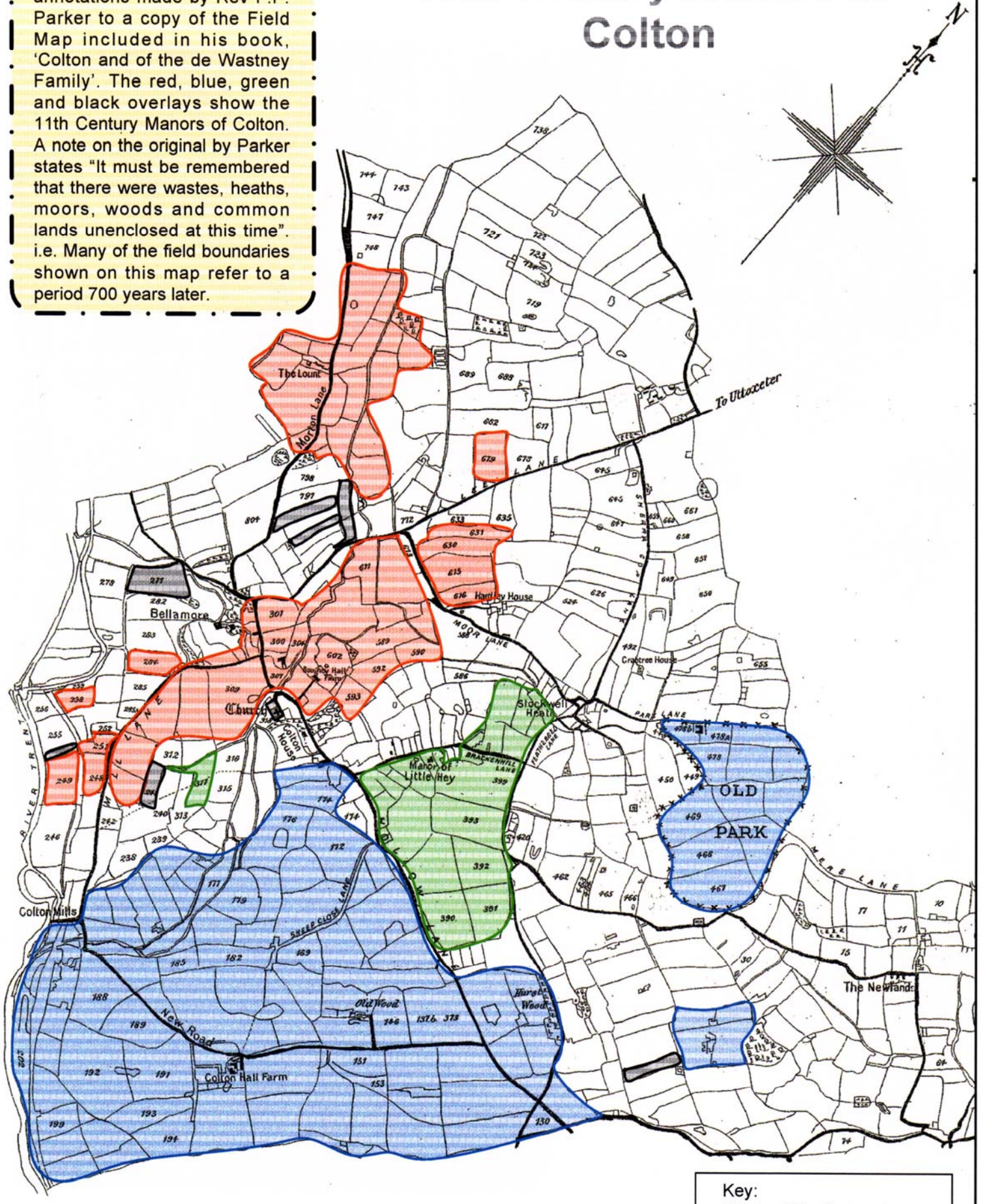


All Figures Below Datum Line Except Where Shown "+".


Approximate Boundaries of 11th / 12th Century Manors
Black: The Priest's Land
Red: The Church Manor
Green: Little Hay Manor
Blue: Colton Hall Manor
'Colton circa 1150 AD'
As annotated by the Rev F.P.Parker.
Reproduced as an overlay on
2004 o.s. map
COLTON CP
Colton 112
Upper Moreton
Jongham's Cottage
Sherracrop Plantation
Crabtree Farm
Park Barn Farm
Medleywood Barn
Newlands Cottages
Newlands
Newlands Grange
Lower Newlands Farm
Pit (dis)
Hamley Cottage Farm
Hamleyheath
Hamley House
Stockwell Heath
Pool Farm
Lount Farm
Barnclose Pit
Bellamour
Wilmour Farm
Staffordshire Way
Finners Hill
Littlehay Manorhouse
Long Mets Barn
Longley Barn
Oxclose Plantation
Gorse Hill
Boughey Hall
Bellamour Lodge Farm
Bellamour Lane
Trent & Mersey Canal
Taft Bridge
Colwich Lodge
Boathouse Spinney
Wharf Cottage
Martlin Hill
Bank Top
Bank Top Farm
Sewage Works
Hurst Wood
Hurst Wood Farm
Rosewood Farm
Hadleygate
Blithbury Road
Parchfield House
New Barn
Parchfield Farm
No 7
No 2
No 8
Old Wood Farm
Marlpit Spinney
Stonyford House
Stonyford Covert
Stonyford Lane
Black Flatts Farm
Colton Hall Farm
Rydal Farm
Trading Estate
Co Const & C P Bdy
03
04
05
06
07

11th Century Manors of Colton

This is a reproduction of the annotations made by Rev F.P. Parker to a copy of the Field Map included in his book, 'Colton and of the de Wastney Family'. The red, blue, green and black overlays show the 11th Century Manors of Colton. A note on the original by Parker states "It must be remembered that there were wastes, heaths, moors, woods and common lands unenclosed at this time". i.e. Many of the field boundaries shown on this map refer to a period 700 years later.



COLTON PARISH, 1845 A.D.

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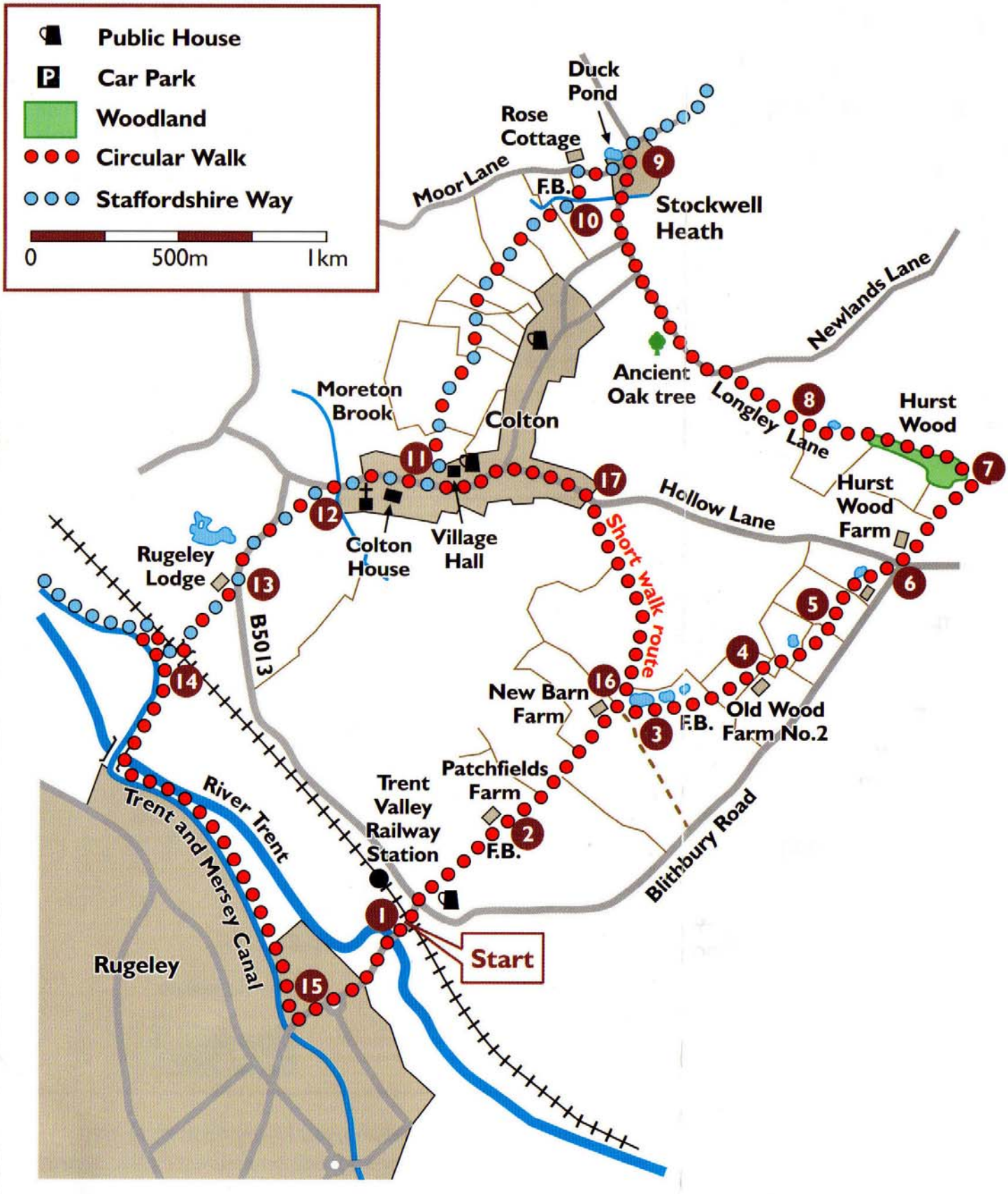
Public House
Car Park
Woodland
Circular Walk
Staffordshire Way
0
500m
1km
Duck Pond
Rose Cottage
Moor Lane
F.B.
Stockwell Heath
Newlands Lane
Ancient Oak tree
Longley Lane
Hurst Wood
Moreton Brook
Colton
Hollow Lane
Hurst Wood Farm
Rugeley Lodge
Colton House
Village Hall
Short walk route
B5013
New Barn Farm
Old Wood Farm No.2
Patchfields Farm
Trent Valley Railway Station
River Trent
Trent and Mersey Canal
Blithbury Road
Rugeley
Start


In Colwich Parish
Hamley House
In Colwich Parish
In Colwich Parish
In Colwich Parish
In Colwich Parish
Not within the District
Not within the District
Not within the District


In Colwich Parish
Not within the District
Not within the District
Not within the District
Not within the District
Not within the District
In Colwich Parish
In Colwich Parish
In Colwich Parish
In Colwich Parish
Bellamour
Bellamour Wharf
Church

May Bannister's work

The History of Colton

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COLTON

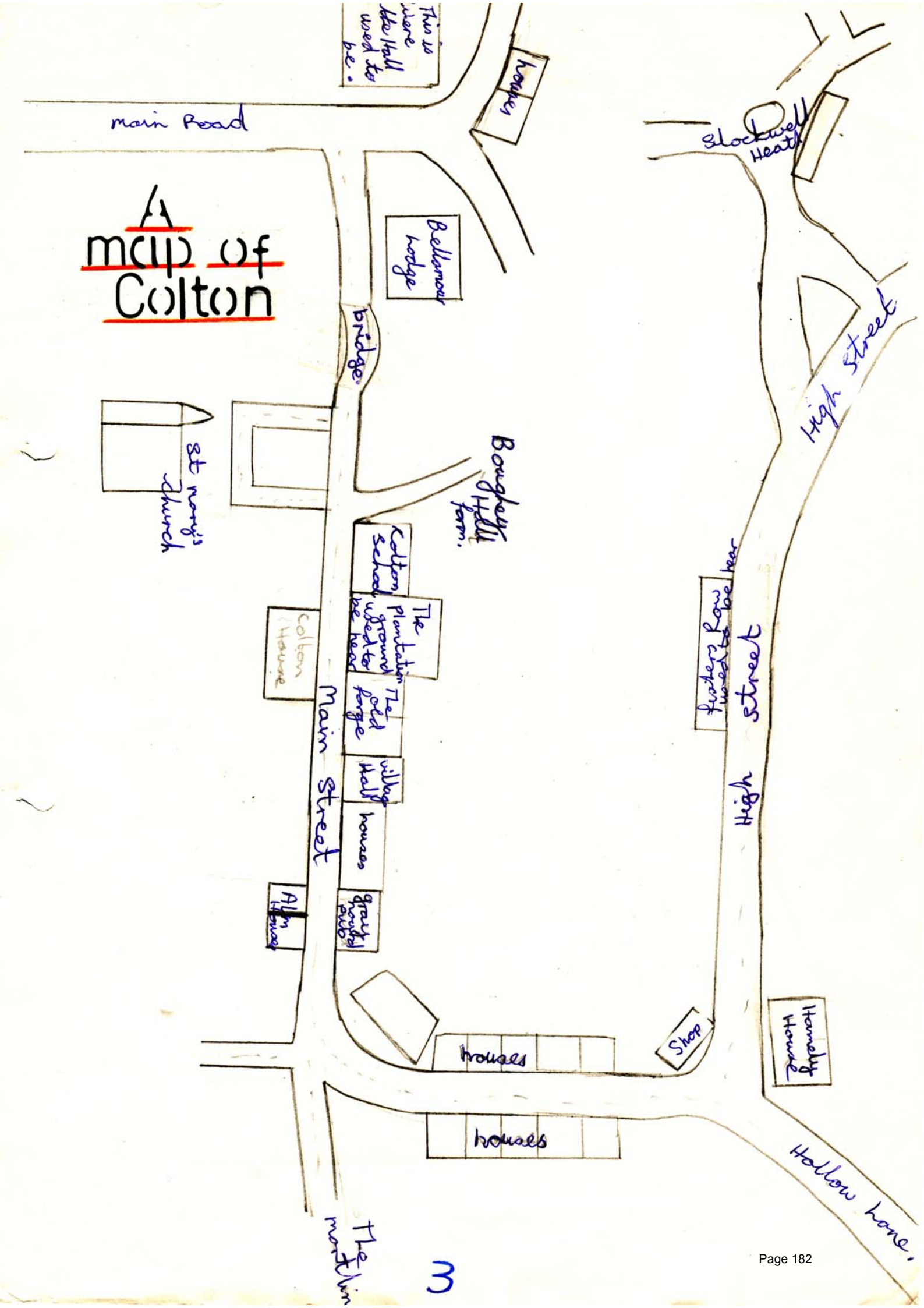
In this part of Staffordshire there are many English villages which, though they are nearly all being "developed", still manage to keep at least some of their old world charm. Colton is no exception, it has grown rapidly and is still growing but it is still a community, as it has been in it's various ways all through its history. New people have moved into the area, and young people and children make up at least two thirds of the population. There is a modernised school and a modernised village pub, a playing field for children, but Colton remains an attractive English village, and it's a very friendly place.

Colton is roughly two miles north of Rugeley and east of the B5013, it lies in the extreme north-west of Lichfield Rural District and includes the hamlet of Stockwell Heath. It covers 3,764 acres.

The surrounding countryside is pleasant, mainly agricultural, with the river Trent to the south, and river Blythe which flows from Blithfield Reservoir - to the north.

The purpose of this project is to show development and changes in a country village from the 17th Century to the 20th Century.

The conclusion is that Colton is now surrounded by green belt agricultural land so it is unlikly for it to be further developed except from the infil of the odd bits of land.


A map of Colton
main Road
houses
Slockwell Heath
Bellamour Lodge
bridge
High street
St mary's church
Boughey Hall farm.
Colton School
The plantation ground used to be hear
Colton House
Main street
The old forge
village Hall
houses
Allen House
gray hound pub
Fisters Row used to be hear
High street
Shop
Hamely House
houses
houses
Hollow Lane.
The martlin
3

The Parish Church of St Mary The Virgin
Colton
NEAR RUGELEY. STAFFORDSHIRE

DIOCESE OF LICHFIELD



COLTON CHURCH — TOWER AND NORTH AISLE.

Flower Festival

19th and 20th AUGUST, 1967

The church will be open for inspection from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. each day Evensong at 7p.m. conducted by The Rector, the Revd - A - Stanley Towlson -

an offprint from colton Parish church. 4

COLTON CHURCH.

Colton church is mentioned in the "Doomsday Book" During this long period of time the building has changed in form and character, though not in its essential purpose. Visitors may see traces of "Norman" work in the base of the Tower; examples of "Early English" architecture, especially the South chancel Alterations, undertaken, under the supervision of the famous Victorian architect G.E. Street, in 1851. Successive generations have supported and maintained the fabric of this ancient Parish church, listed by the Ministry of Housing and local Government as a building of special architectural and historic interest, and it may now be seen to better advantage from the spacious towns surrounding the church.

A flower festival of church Decoration is being held on Saturday and Sunday 19th and 20th August, 1967, and we hope that many visitors, on private excursions or on coach outings, will want to come and see the flowers. Having done so, and looked at the church, and perhaps prayed in it, as many have done for about a thousand years, they might like to contribute to its needs. The particular need of the moment is for funds for essential roof repairs, now in progress.

The church will open from 10 am to 10 pm (Evensong at 7 p.m.) each day

ST MARY'S CHURCH. COLTON.

One of the oldest churches in the viccinity of Rugeley is that which stands in the village of colton.

When the church was built is uncertain. The church, we are told, originally consisted of a tower north aisle, south porch, chancel and a north chancel when the church was rebuilt in 1851.

The church was brought to its presents state under the direction of Mr. Street, the eminent architect, then the Rector then the Rev. Phadiel Seaton, aided by the generosity of miss oldhom of Bellamour.

CORN PLATING IN COLTON

Corn plaiting is to this day done, for the decoration at hoovest time in Colton church.

About a week before Harvest festival some of the menbers of the community go out to gather or collect the corn. They call on local formers and gather or collect the corn. They call on local formers and gather what they want from the fields, or take away the sheaves that have ben put to one side for church decorating. The wheat, barley and oats acquired, is taken to the village hall.

Then the next day about a dozen women - usually menbers of the mothers Union - collect in the hall, each one equipped with an apron, a ball of string, and a pair of old sessors. The tables are arranged about the room with chairs for the workers to sit on. Corn is every where, first of all the corn has to bee sorted out, (only the best peices are used) and cut into lengths of about 12 inches little bundles of the wheat, barly and oats are put on each table, and the experienced people begin the work. The less experienced people keep all of the

plaiters supplied with the corn.

To make a plait you take seven pieces of oats and tie them together with a piece of string attached to which is a label giving the length required for the finished article, and directions about where it is to be placed in church. When the seven pieces have been tied together one twist of the plait is made, at each movement one peice of barley is added, until seven pieces have been used. Seven pieces of wheat of wheat are then used like the barley, then the oats, and sequence is repeated until the plait is the required length. It is then finished off as it was begun with seven pieces of oats, this time however, the oats are placed the opposite way round, to cover the stalks at the end of the plait, and make a neat finish.

Pieces of plaited corn are put around the archways, church doorways. pillars screens and pulpit etc. as desired. with berries and flowers corn plaiting makes a lovely way of decorating.

This has been done for many many years and has always been done this way.

THE FREE SCHOOL.

The free school, which formerly existed in this village, was founded and endowed partly with money subscribed by the neighbouring gentry, and partly with some parochial levies raised for the purpose, which produced a sum of £350. The amount collected was laid out in 1768 in the purchase of a school house with three acres of land at colton, and 19 acres of at Uttoxeter. A further sum of £500 was given towards the free school in 1820 by John Spencer Esq. The master also the interest on £80 produced by the sale of timber on the school land The annual income of the school was £50, and forty children were educated in the same.

The Girls' free School was endowed in 1801 by Thomas webb, with the "Wheels public house and another dwelling in colton, the lease of which expired in 1861. In reference to the old inn above alluded to, authorities have differed respecting its actual name. Its act of site was just past the private grounds of colton House where the Oldham alms houses were erected by Mrs Hovland in 1884, the old Inn being pulled down to make room for them.

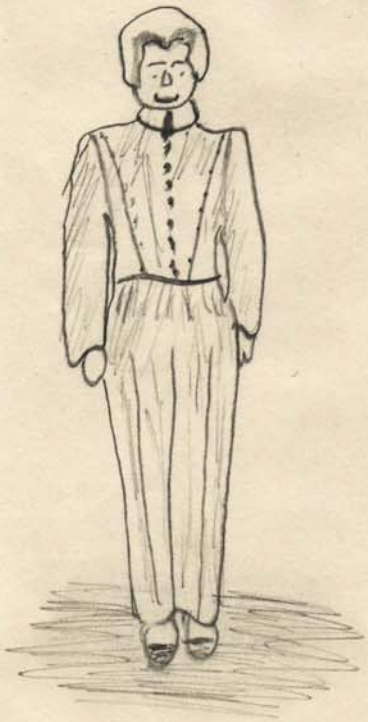
BELLAMOUR

Bellamour is Italian meaning "Good love" Lady Blount - a descendant of another Norman family the le Blonds - built another Hall in 1796 for her son, for some time the original hall was used as a chapel, and the other part was used as a store - then later it became a school - now this day only a broken wall and window frames are left.

The "new Hall" was purchased in 1824 by Mr. J. Oldham, who in 1851 built Bellamour Lodge for his daughter Mr. Oldham died in 1857 and the property was sold to Mr T.B. Horsfall, who is still remembered by older members of the community - especially for his gift to the village in 1921 of the Reading Room. The "new Hall" was demolished in the 1920s, now only Bellamour Lodge remains, and farm buildings stand where the two grand houses and their lovely gardens used to be. The estate consisting of about 500 acres.

In 1770 Sir Walter Blount owned the farm known as the Newlands and it was occupied by one man Thomas Hicken.

staff at Belsimour Hall - 1916.



Butler.
Head Gardener and three others.
Coachman and stable boy.
Blacksmith and odd job man.
page Boy - acting footman.
Housekeeper.
Cook.
Kitchen maid.
Two house maids.
four ladies maids.
farm hands (three).
Woman helper to clean up.
Lodge keeper, also was
head gardener.

Page Boy At Bellamour Hall

My uncle, a footman to the Horsefalls at Bellamour Hall, told me they wanted a page boy. I went for an interview. I rang the bell and that was the first time I saw the Butler. He told me to come inside. We climbed a magnificent staircase, with paintings hanging on the walls all round us; they were wonderful.

At the top of the stairs was a large landing. There sat Mrs and Miss Horsefall, this was a sight I shall never forget. Mrs Horsefall reminded me of a picture of queen Victoria we had at home, even down to her clothes. I was a little frightened.

Then miss Horsefall spoke, "Have you brought the letters we asked for?"

"One from the schoolmaster, Mr Andrews, the other from Rev. Burrow".

They read these carefully, then asked about my parents, were they Church of England, etc. and my early life.

Miss Horsefall stood up and shook hands. I had got the job.

Mr. Farley, the Butler, gave me a letter to take to keys tailor shop for a dark grey ready made suit. I was to start in two days and bring shorts, black boots etc. The Horsefalls would supply a livery for special occasions.

The Butler put me through my paces how to lay the table. how to serve

at lunchtime, I had to carry trays of food from the kitchen to the dinning room, ring the gong in the hall when lunch was served look after drinks, take away used plates. All cutlery and silver had to be taken to the Butler's pantry where I had to wash them one at a time with a sponge and nothing else, When dry they were put in the safe.

My day started about 6.30 am I had to taken trays to the kitchen for early drinks. The ladies maids took trays to the ladies bedrooms and I took one to the butler, I made fires for the ladies and in the servants Hall It was then time to get the table ready for breakfast.

After that I had my own breakfast in the kitchen with the other servants

One day I shall never forget. We had all had special training on how to wait on at table for 3 or 4 days. The kitchen staff had extra help and instruction on how to prepare meals from a London Hotel. A Royal princess was coming to Rugeley by train to open a soldiers club over keys shop The she and ladys would travel for lunch at Bellamour.

We awaited the guests that day on the front steps. When she arrived she went past all the staff into the drawing room. We all went

quickly back to our work remembering all of our trainning. I beat the dinner gong and the ladies proceeded into the dinnig room. meals always begun by saying grace. within half an hour it was all over and the party left for Stafford.

Every two weeks I had time off duty after lunch to visit my family but before I left I had to finish all my work. I would return, running nearly all the way to myhome Rugely and would arrive about 3 o.clock but had to be back at the hall by six, so the butler could have the evening off. Sometimes the butler would be cross and make me do jobs and I would arrive home late.

Every three months pay day would finally arrive. My wages were £3 for the full three months. This money was taken home to my mother

Eventually I left because I wanted more money for my mother and that was the end of my page boy career.

THE GHOST OF BELLAMOUR HALL.

The story of the ghost at Bellamour hall. There is a ghost at Bellamour hall, he was a tall gentleman he used to wear a deerstalker hat and a grey suit with baggy trousers and brown boots, he was good looking apparently.

He used to go into peoples bedrooms and wake people up. He was not a frightening ghost - he was quite gentile. He used to tap people on the shoulder to wake them up, then beckon them to follow him downstairs. Then he used to open the bureau drawer - looking for something he wanted in the library, then he used to go down some more stairs and out into the garden, and stand by the well, He then used to move all the boots and shoes, he carries his own boots in his hand, he had got a thing about footwear. He used to wake people up nearly every night clattering about with the footwear he also used to walk up and down the stairs in a bewildered sort of way.

The people that lived there had him exorcised and he never come back again.

COLTON HOUSE.

Colton House, was built during the reign of Queen Anne or George 1st was once an impressive residence too. It was occupied in 1777 by a Mr. William Piggot "a gentleman of good family was said to have kept horses there". Lady Blount lived there also while the "New Hall of Bellonour" was being built (17.96) and the High Sheriff of Staffordshire was occupant during the "45" of George III" Mr. Horsefall bought the house in 1805, and later it became a boys school. In 1880 Mr. Bonney lived there, and it was during his time that the gardens and grounds reached their peak of beauty.

Mr. Bonney was the celebrated naturalist who spent years in Australia studying the Aboriginal people He become used to the seclusion of bush life and was an ardent lover of nature. He kept a museum of curiosities, pictures and photographs relating to his studies and travel, and he was a very kind man, popular with people in the village.

Children were welcomed to the grounds at the Colton House once a year, and Mr. Bonney gave them tea on the lawn, the May-day Celebrations used to be held there also

COLTON HOUSE.

This gentleman loved flowers and birds, and during his time "Dovecot field" was a pleasure to behold, with its pretty walks through the plantation of trees and fishing lake Somewhere was an avenue of trees, and the glasshouses were filled with grape vines, figs, and chrysanthemums of all kinds and all different colours. Colton House and grounds at that time was said to have been a "Naturalist's paradise This first "Colton House" was surrounded by bogs and swamps - the High Street was once a river - and a deep ditch was dug, a wooden palisade erected as protection for this primitive residence which afforded so little comfort.

Colton House now has a grade two status in the Ministry of Housing and local government's list of buildings of historical and architectural interest, and we hope it will be conserved.

The Bell inn and The wheels.

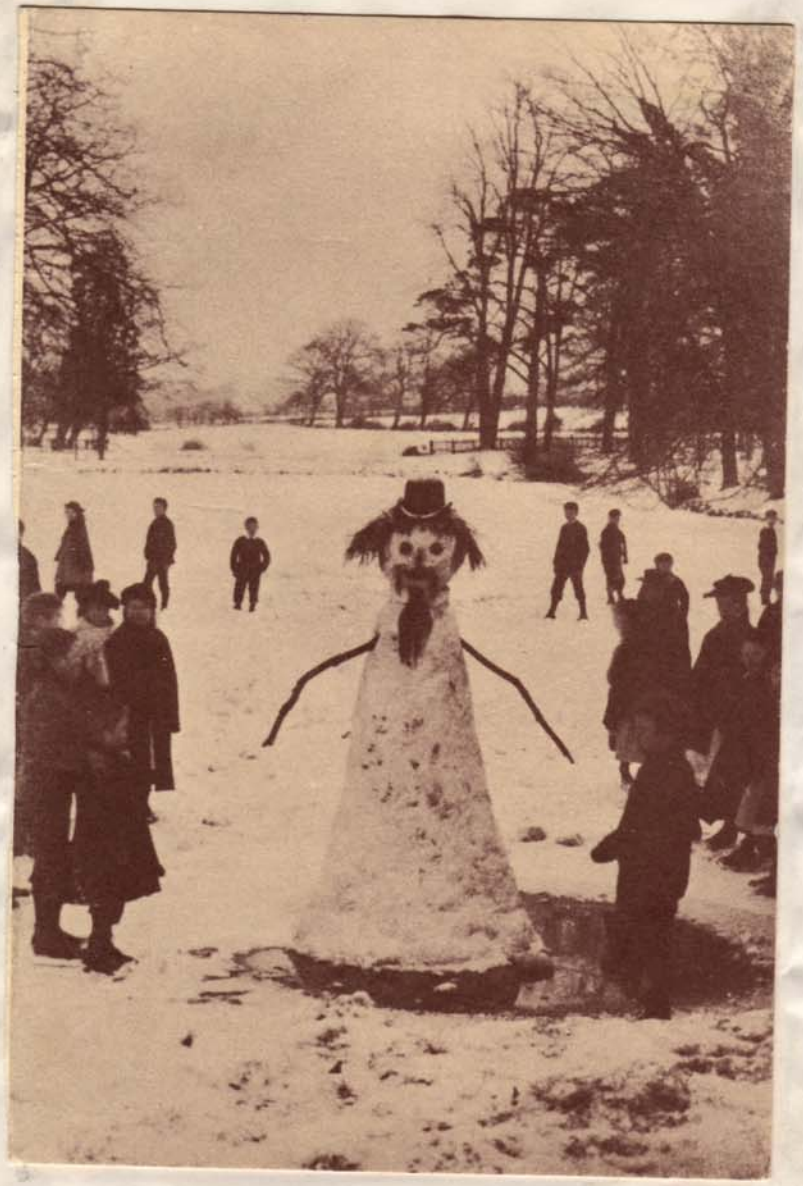
Hanley House. The alms Houses, oldhom cottage, crabtree farm, chatterpie row, williscroft Row.

Hanley House was built about 1707 and has been altered from time to time, there was probably an earlier dwelling on the same site. There is a curious well, and an old window blocked up in one of the outbuildings. Mentioned fairly early in Coltons history are the hows, Crabtree farm colton cottage - a chapel on Steven's hill - chatterpie Row, williscroft Row, and two or three cottages. The were two black-smiths shops in the village, and a public house called the Bell Inn once stood where the Oldhom's Cottages are today. There was a public house called "The wheels". In 1830 the village stocks were still there, made to hold two people and stood by the old Inn (the Bell), by the garden wall of Colton House.

The last constable in charge of the stocks was a man called Fisher who did live in the village.

There are eight alms-houses on the main street, on the right - erected in 1884 by Mrs. Harland, and a Reading Room which was founded by the late Mr. Horsfall.

The Plantation In Colton C. 18888.



Children Of The Age C.18888.



20

COLTON

"The English village is a relic: it is even a miraculous relic'." as said G.K. Chesterton. In this part of Staffordshire there are many English villages which, though they are nearly all being "developed", still manage to keep at least some of their old world charm. Colton is no exception, it is growing rapidly now but it is still a community, as it has been in various ways all through its history. Roads are now being widened and paths have been made on either side of them. New houses are growing almost like mushrooms overnight, new people have moved into the area and young folk and children make up at least two thirds of the population. We have a modernised school, and a modernised village pub, a playing field for the children, street lighting and main sewerage, but Colton remains an attractive English village, and it's a friendly place.

My friends who live in town have often asked me "What do you do in the country, surely you must get bored." Not in Colton! We have the Produce Guild, Women's Institute, Mother's Union, Old People's Welfare, a Youth Club, Football Club and Car Club and there are two public houses, the Greyhound and the Dun Cow. Something is going on every day, there is no need for anyone to feel bored or lonely, as long as they are prepared to join in with village interests and activities. We also have an active Parish Council which looks after us very well.

Colton is roughly two miles north of Rugeley and east of the B5013,it lies in the extreme north west of Lichfield Rural District and includes the hamlet of Stockwell Heath. It covers 3,764 acres and has - or had until recent years - a population of 560. The population was static for many years but I'm sure it's growing now. The surrounding countryside is pleasant, mainly agricultural, with the river Trent to the South and River Blythe - which flows from Blithfield Reservoir - to the north.

The earliest evidence of man's occupation of the area is of Celtic origin. "Col" is a Celtic word meaning "holy", and Colton was at one time a centre of Druid worship. Sutton Coldfield - which is really not far away - was possibly the chief seat of the Arch Druid of Britain, Colton in those far off days, was almost inaccessible, thickly wooded, remote - a fitting place for the exercise of Druidisms esoteric and occult practises.

Colton is mentioned in the Survey taken in 1086 by William the Conqueror, when the King's Commissioners visited most of his new dominions. The officials interviewed the sheriff, the chief land-owners, the representatives of the hundreds, with priest, reeve and six villeins from each township in every shire. These men were asked to describe the condition of the land, the name of each manor and town, names of former holders, the extent of the hides, the number of ploughs which each employed, homagers, the villeins, cotters and serfs, the number of free men and soke men. The extent of wood, meadow and pasture land, and mills and fisheries if any; and the increase or decrease of the value of each holding since the time of Edward the Confessor.

Their report became the recognised authority on all matters concerning rating and tenure of lands, and has been known ever since as the Domesday Book. This book was a register for final appeal, by which sentence and judgement could be given in cases of dispute.

The Staffordshire Domesday tells of a free man called Almund, who, in the days of Edward the Confessor held a manor in "Coltone" which passed at the time of the Survey into the hands of a Saxon Lord named Angeline. This man held four manors in the hundred of Pinehill; Cote, Coltone, Ridware and Locksley, under Roger de Montgomery, who led the centre forces of William's army at the Battle of Hastings, and was afterwards made Earl of Shrewsbury and Arundel. Angeline's tenure is thought to have been for military service against the Welsh. The Earl was the chief lord of those marches in Wales, and it is certain that the Marvesyns held land in Colton, shortly afterwards by that tenure.

This, however, was not the only Colton mentioned in the Survey! Referring to the possessions of Robert de Stafford, there was another township called"Coltune" which had formerly belonged to the free men Odo and Uluric, but was then held by one Goisfrid (Geoffrey). It has been suggested that both lordships may have been included in Colton. There are aguments in favour of both "Colton" and"Coltune" but "Coltone" seemed to be the most likely because of the position of the estate adjoining Mavesyn Ridware which Angeline is known to have held. Nicholas de Mavesyn granted land to his brother Gilbert in King John's time and the same Nicholas held other land in Colton which might well have been the Newlands.

On the other hand the Barons of Stafford were over-lords in Colton in later times. The mill is mentioned and the name Goisfrid occurs in early deeds, Tixall was shared by Odo and Uluric and Colton was divided during the reign of Edward 1st. The different spelling of the name however is against such an explanation, and from early days Colton people inclined to the "Coltone" side.

Agelines estate was estimated at one hide, covering about 100 acres, including waste and woodland. It sufficed to employ six teams of oxen, the demense land employing one team. Ten villeins and one serf occupied four plough lands, there was a mill on the Trent (valued at 12 pence per year), and sixteen acres of meadow-land. There was a large wood about one mile wide and a mile and a half long, which took the line of "Ashley Hay, Moorhay, Old and Hurst woods, including those of Little Hay Manor." "All this was valued at 50 shillings. Goisfrid's property also mentioned one hide and must have covered much the same area....We shall never know.

The land was unenclosed except for a few strips of grass near the Lord's house, and the whole village was managed as one common farm. Roads as we know them had not been thought of; instead there were rough tracks and footpaths. Swamps and bogs were numerous, and left their traces in what later became known as parish land. The bogs followed the course of the Drimble Hole at Stockwell Heath and the marshed flats - thickets and coppices were numerous besides the woods already mentioned.

The Lord's house in Angeline'stime stood in the field adjoining the church, this field was known as "Castle Croft" (sometimes called"Powers Croft" from an owner of that name). In those days the lord built his Church as near as possible to his own dwelling. On Ageline's estate his church and his house would probably have been of wattle or some equally perishable material with a thatched roof. This was more or less how things were in Colton within 20 years of the Norman Conquest.

Ageline's family quickly came to an end, the whole of his

Ridware estate, including part of Colton, passing either by marriage or conquest, into the hands of the Mavesyns (Malvoisyms). The founder of the English line of which family, had been a following of the Conqueror and who's name occurs on the Battle-roll of Hastings. Third in descent from this man was Hugh-de-Mavesyn, who established himself on a rough steep hill at Blythbury adjoining Colton. Here he founded St. Giles Priory by the river Blythe in 1130-1149; now only Priory Farm is left to remind us of the ancient religious house that once stood there. Mavesyn Ridware still bears his name, because he subsequently went there to live. Contemporary with this man's successors in Ridware was Robert de Mavesyn who held land in Colton, he was a distinguished soldier and bore arms in the conquest of Ireland. He left two sons, Nicholas and "Gilbert the Priest".

The history of Colton is blank for a period of eighty years after the Domesday Survey until the year 1168, when the De Wastineys, who were known in Colton for so many years were first mentioned. The family originated from Leicester, and the name "Hardolph" de Wastiney was thought to have belonged to the founder of this long line of de Wastineys in Colton. This is born out to some extent by the fact that in 1290 Sir Edmund de Wastineys passed on the name of "Hardolph" to his eldest son.

In 1240 Sir William de Wastineys obtained permission from King Henry lll to hold a weekly market on Friday (at his manor in ColtonO. This market (held on land known as the "martlin) marked a turning point in the importance of the village, and pieces of land changed hands as well as livestock and more ordinary goods. From the first the de Wastineys appear to have been friendly with their neighbours the Mavesyn of Mavesyn Ridware - the families who were both among the Conqueror's followers. In 1267 the names Bagod, De Wastineys, and Wormeley appear together in Patent Rolls.

The Patent Rolls of 1250 mention an assize of novel decision, brought by Robert, son of John de Admaston, against James de Blithfield, his son John and others, touching a certain hedge which they pulled down in Colton - probably on the Admaston and Blithfield side of the Parish. The sherrif of Stafford was therefore ordered to look at it. This was possibly the occasion on which "Sherra Cop" lane, as the road dividing the two parishes is called, got it's name. One of the Blithfield deeds mentions this name as the "Path of the Sherrif" - "Cop" is of course the "top of the hill" - over which the road runs.

In 1264 the de Wasinteys estate in Colton was valued at one Knight's fee, the proportion of arable land was constantly changing as new families moved into the place - and waste land was gradually taken in and cultivated with the consent of the Lord of the Manor. Most of the Colton lands were by now in the hands of this family. The chief exceptions were "The Grange" - commonly known as Baughy Hall Farm - but then belonging to St. Thomas' Priory; the Launt, lands of which were partly held by the Gryffen family, certain meadows by the Trent, the Glebe, and a few smaller holdings.

Like most men of his time Sir William de Wastineys was fond of hunting and it is possible that he enclosed a park. In 1269 there is further reference to land changing hands in Colton, and there were evidently some disputes over it. Colton was now entering upon evil times, perhaps because of the confusion brought about by the Baron's wars. A spirit of lawlessness prevailed. Sir William

was considered to be a most oppressive Sheriff, causing people great suffering in exhorting money from them for the Exchequor, and generally the scene was an unhappy one.

In 1263 Nicholas, some of William de Colton, stabbed Adam son of Hereward, in a brawl at Dutton. The murderer fled for his life to Colton Church. In 1271 the village itself was the scene of a dreadful murder, when John, Chaplain of Colton, serving probably the chapel on the site of Bellamour Lodge, killed Christina, wife of Nicholas de Colton whilst interposing between him and a stranger residing at her house. John fled from justice but was outlawed and had all his goods confiscated. This was the second murder in less than ten years in which Colton people were involved. Lawsuits were frequent in the 1279; and in 1287 three virgates of land were let yearly for "one sparrow hawk", an uncommon way of acknowledging that hawking was an ordinary sport.

The Patent Rolls of 1300 record an action about common lands in Colton, between John de Wastineys and John Gryffen of Colton, numerous similar cases are recorded, but I have mentioned this one because Gryffen is a name that has been known from Colton's early history - and is known in the village today! Incidentally the name "Johnny Banistuer" crops up frequently in early history too - perhaps one of the family ancestors!

In 1365 Thomasine de Wastineys, heiress to the Colton Lordship, married Sir Nicholas Gresley representative of an ancient Derby family who's ancestor Nigel came to England with William 1st. Her eldest son by this marriage succeeded to all the de Wastineys lands. Thomasine, "Mistress of Colton" was evidently well loved by the people of the village as affectionate reference is made about her in old writings. She restored Colton Church and decorated the south chancel walls with frescoes, the life of Nicholas, her husband's patron saint, being one of the subjects portrayed.

Sir Thomas Gresley (her son) was an important man. He represented Derbyshire in Parliament in 1401, 1415 and 1418 and became High Sherriff of Staffordshire in 1439, after representing this county in 1434. Sir John was one of the principle gentry in Staffordshire, he died in 1489 leaving the property to his son Thomas, who, unlike his father took little part in public life. George Gresley second son of Sir Thomas succeeded to the estates, including the Colton property - he died in 1548.

Colton Hall was the home of this illustrious family, who lived so lavishly and loved to entertain. They lived there for many years until it passed into the hands of Sir Walter Aston. It was an ancient house of considerably size, containing 80 rooms - 52 of which were bedrooms. Here younger members of the Aston family frequently resided during their fathers second absence in Spain, and here Sir Walter was himself living in 1628. It was a great loss to Colton that this grand old house was burned down through the carelessness of a servant, in the later part of Charles 1st's reign (1730). The Astons had an older residence, Tixall Hall, so Colton Hall was never rebuilt, the house having been built of timber little remained after the fire. In its heyday it was undoubtedly a magnificent place, surrounded as it was by a park with extensive woods - possibly Ashley-Hay and Hazelhurst - between the lower part of the park and the Trent Swans were kept there, for many years adding to the beauty of the place, which even the building of the

railway failed to destroy. That it was valuable hawking ground we can gather from the name "Herns" or "Herons" field, where a small brook formerly ran. The Hurst wood was on both sides of the river - in Long Hurst and Booth Hurst meadows. (the mending of the park paling was mentioned in the steward's roll of 1362). The farmhouse, as we know it today was built in 1851, and for a time it was owned by the Earl of Lichfield.

The Grange, and Lount estates are mentioned in A.D. 1284 when Edward 1 granted to the Monks of the Priory of St. Thomas-a-Becket adjoining Tixall, the right of free warren over all their demense lands, including Colton. In 1535 the Grange and lands, were worth 100 shillings and eight pence (annual rent); after the dissolution of the religious houses that were granted in 1540 with the other estates of St. Thomas' Priory, to Roland Lee, whom the King raised to the See of Coventry and Lichfield. Bishop Lee is generally known for one act in his life - that of the marriage of Henry V111 to Anne Boleyn! He was Lord President of Wales and put down, with a strong hand, robbers which infested the Welsh marches, Bishop Lee left his Colton property in 1543 to his nephew and namesake Rowland Fowler, from whom it passed to George his son.

George Fowler sold the Grange and its lands to Samson Boghay or Baughey - from whom the property took its present name of "Baughey Hall Farm". Immediately behind Baughey Hall farm house in 1879 there was a huge oak tree measuring 26 feet in girth at the lowest point, and 21 feet at the height of one yard from the ground. It was probably there at the time of the Conquest, and it remained until the beginning of the present century - 850 years.

A mill on the Trent was mentioned in the Domesday book, valued at 12 pence yearly with 16 acres of meadow. In 1269 land in Colton is described as "Mill Acre", and in 1362-3 in an account of John de Caldwell the steward of the De Wastineys Colton property, mention is made of a 3d rent being charged for half an acre of land in "Wyndmillfield". In 1617 Richard Ruggely and Marie his wife agreed to Sir Walter and Lady Gertrude Aston's having the right to use the water of the Trent and dam it if necessary for working their mill. Richard and Marie however, kept the sole rights for fishing in that part of the river. Another mention of the mill was made in 1654 when as part of an agreement over tenure, a yeoman farmer had to promise to grind all his corn and malt at the mills of Gertrude Lady Aston.

Bellamour Hall was built by Sir Walter Aston's son Herbert, who had acted as his fathers secretary when Sir Walter was Ambassador in Spain. Herbert married Catherine daughter of Sir John Thimelby, Bart, of Irnham in Lincolnshire, on his return from Spain. Sir Walter, who's fortune had been diminished by the Civil War, could only make over to his son a small property in Colton. On this land Herbert Aston built a house for his wife, and because of the generous help of many friends in the building of it, the house was named "Bellamour Hall - "Bellamour" in Italian meaning "Good Love". (1634) Lady Blount - a descendant of another Norman family le Blonds - built another Hall in 1796 for her son, and for a time the two buildings stood side by side, the difference in architecture of the houses being quite remarkable. Part of the original hall was used as a chapel and the remainder as a store - later still it became a school - now only a broken wall and window frames are left.

The "New Hall" was purchased in 1824 by Mr. J. Oldham, who in 1851 built Bellamour Lodge, for his daughter. Mr. Oldham died in 1857 and the property was sold to Mr. T.B. Horsefall, who is still remembered by older members of the community - especially for his gift to the village in 1921 of the Reading Room. The "New Hall" was demolished in the 1920s, now only Bellamour Lodge remains, and farm buildings stand where the two grand houses and their lovely gardens used to be.

In 1770 Sir Walter Blount owned the farm known as the Newlands, and it was occupied by one Thomas Hicken. In ancient writings "The Newlands" is referred to as a small village and a deed of gift in 1326 tells how the property passed from "Ralph the Miller of the Newlands via his son William, to Walter de Colton". In 1350, John Chechelok of Newland, gave Alice, widow of William, son of Ralph, one piece of land and one selion; other exchanges of land took place in the same period and up to 1409.

Colton House, built during the reign of Queen Anne or George 1 was once an impressive residence too. It was occupied in 1777 by a Mr. William Piggot "a gentleman of good family said to have kept harriers there". Lady Blount lived there while the "New Hall of Bellamour" was being built (1796), and the High Sherriff of Staffordshire was the occupant during the 45th of George 111". Mr. Horsefall bought the house in 1805, and later it became a boys school. In 1880 Mr. Bonney lived there and it was during his time that the gardens and grounds reached their peak of beauty. Mr. Bonney was the celebrated naturalist who spent some years in Australia studying the Aboriginal people. He became used to the seclusion of bush life and was an ardent lover of nature. He kept a Museum of curiosities, pictures and photographs relating to his studies and travel, and he was a very kind man, popular with people in the village.

Children were welcomed to the grounds of Colton House once a year, and Mr. Bonney gave them tea on the lawn, the May-day celebrations were also held there. This clever and genial gentleman loved flowers and birds, and during his time "Dorecat field" was a pleasure to behold, with its pretty walks through the plantation of trees and fishing in the lake. Birds song in springtime was said to be"quite deafening". Somewhere there was an avenue of trees too, and the glass houses were filled with grape vines, figs and crysanthemums of all kinds and colours. In fact Colton House and grounds at that time was said to be a "naturalists' paradise". The site it occupies is supposed to have been originally occupied by the roughly built timber house in which lived the Saxon Lord Ageline. This first "Colton House" was surrounded by bogs and swamps - the High Street was once a river- and a deep ditch was dug, also a wooden palisade erected as protection for this primitive residence, which afforded so little comfort. Colton House now has a grade two status in the Ministry of Housing and Local Governments' list of buildings of historical and architectural interest, and we hope it will be conserved.

Hamley House was built about 1707 and has been altered from time to time, there was probably an earlier dwelling on the same site. There is a curious well, and an old window blocked up in one of the outbuildings. Mentioned fairly early in Colton's history are the Laws, Crabtree Farm, Colton Cottage - a Chapel on Steven's Hill - Chatterpie Row, Williscroft Row and two or three cottages. There were two blacksmith's shops in the village and a public house called the Bell Inn once stood where Oldham's Cottages are today.

There was a public house called "The Wheels" - I cannot discover how many? Even in 1830 the village stocks were still there, made to hold two people and sited near the Old Inn (the Bell), by the garden wall of Colton House. The last constable in charge of these stocks was a man named Fisher who lived in the village.

The Manor of Littlehay, (the small enclosure possibly identical with the half hide mentioned in Domesday as belonging to Almar the Saxon), used to extend Blithfield, and is styled "a fourth part of the Manor of Colton", in 14th century writings. In 1322 Robert, son of William - grandson probably of William de Wastiney, sold Little Hay Manor to Richard de Blithfield. A marriage between Elizabeth, daughter of Richard de Blithfield to Sir Ralph Bagot carried Little Hay together with Blithfield into the hands of the Bagots. There is mention in old writings of the "Marl Pits" particularly the one at Finner's Hill.

Little Hay formed part of the dower of Beatrix wife of Sir John Bagot, and after that in 1459 it was owned by her grandson John. In Queen Elizabeth 1st's time Anthony Bagot, a distinguished member of the family, a courtier and a chief follower of the ill-fated Robert Devereux Earl of Essex, was owner of Little Hay. This gentleman was particularly good to the villagers and to his servants. The first mention of "Angelcoins", struck in Edward 4th's time was made in Anthony Bagots will. In 1646 the Little Hay estate was valued at £28.14.7, yearly to Sir Hervey Bagot; and in 1702 - 1729 Sir Walter Bagot is mentioned as being the owner.

The old manor house, a half timbered building was taken down in 1846, as being unsafe for habitation because the floors were decayed. To mark the site two picturesque Tudor Chimneys, together with the ancient hearth were spared at Lord Bagot's orders, and the present manor house was built near by.

The boundaries of the manor of Little Hay (better known now as Manor Farm) were last walked in 1815, and the walk was a long one. The woods on this estate were extensive, but when this last walk of the boundaries was made only a few trees near the Newlands road remained, notably old oaks. There was an ancient park which belonged to Lord Bagot and was divided into fields then let with Little Hay farm, tho' forming no part of Little Hay Manor. A remarkable"fence" surrounding this"Old Park" consisted of a high bank with a double row of trees, parts of which can still be found.

Colton Parish Church of St. Mary the Virgin is one of the oldest churches in Staffordshire, dating back to the 11th century at least, parts of it are probably older, and the building stands on the site of the primitive chapel where the first Lord of Colton (Ageline) once worshipped. It is a lovely building and well loved by all who know it. G.E. Street restored it in 1851, but it was almost rebuilt in 1704 when the original North Aisle was pulled down and old stone work replaced by brick and plastered over. The church contains a list of Rectors and patrons, which includes, Gilbert the Priest, (1190) John Taylor, members of the Bresley family etc., 46 names in all.

The school of St. Mary's dates back to 1862 and was modernised and enlarged a few years ago, the clock at the front is an interesting feature.

COLTON MEADOWS

Dark clouds drift across a red-gold sky
As evening shadows fall
A squeak-owl calls and passes by
Among the trees so tall
Night reaches out suddenly
To clasp a dying day
As quietly and peacefully
I wander on my way

Dark are the hills on the skyline
Studded with twinkling lights
A train speeds by on the railwayline
Beneath the shadowy heights
There's a gentle breeze in the bushes
And whispering leaves respond
A water-bird calls from the rushes
As I pause by a tiny pond

Softly the mist is folding
Around and about the land
Giving mysterious seclusion
As on the bridge I stand
Water murmers beneath me
And the grass is wet with dew
I walk on homeward contentedly
For moments like these are few

So dear are the meadows of England
And I will always be true
To this my beloved homeland
Where from a child I grew
So dear is this peace and freedom
Please God it will always be
For in this wonderful kingdom
There's a touch of eternity

May Barrister

THE GHOST OF BELLAMOUR HALL

I walked through the village alone in the dusk, curtains were drawn close at the windows, and houses had a closed guarded look about them - as though they did not want to be disturbed. I walked to the brook bridge and leaned over the wall to watch the moon appearing from behind a cloud by it's reflection in the water. The church was silhouetted in the shadows - and a light shone from the Rectory and cast it's beams on the lawn. I walked to the end of the road and turned towards the lodge gates, where I paused again to watch the night sky.

An owl hooted and made me jump as it flew from the branches of a tree - then a vixen screamed from across the fields, it's uncanny call rending the quiet of the countryside! A shiver ran down my back - someone walking over my grave - I had the feeling that I was not alone....

I turned from the gate and walked on, the moonlight was brilliant now - I could almost have read a book. I looked over the old stone wall at the ruins of what had once been an impressive residence and thought of the story I had heard some time before while visiting friends. The story had been told me by a very old lady, who had heard it "first hand" from a friend.

It was the story of the ghost of Bellamour Hall!

"Did you ever hear tell of the ghost my dear?" asked the old lady. "No" I answered, looking inquisitive. "Well there was this tall gentleman my dear, he used to wear a deerstalker hat and a grey suit with them baggy trousers, what do you call them, plus-fours aint it, and brown boots. Good looking fellow he were". "Yes, do go on". "Well it was like this, my friend was housekeeper up at the hall, it's a good many years ago now - I'm nearly 90 you know, and it all happened when I was a young girl mind you". "Yes " "Used to go in my friends bedroom he did, and wake her up. He was not a frightening ghost - he was quite gentle - used to tap her shoulder and waken her then beckon her to follow him downstairs, that's what he did". "What happened then?" "He used to go down the stairs and into the library. Then he would open the bureau drawer - looking for something he were." "What else happened?" "Well he used to go down some more stairs and out into the garden, and stand by the well." "Yes" "He moved all the boots and shoes, sometimes he carried his own boots in his hand, got a thing about footwear he had." "Did you ever see him?" "No, I never did, but most of the family who lived there did, so 'twas said. He used to wake folks up nearly every night clattering about with the footwear." "Did he do anything else?" "No except walk up and down the stairs in a bewildered sort of way." "Was your friend frightened of him?" "At first she was, but she got used to him after a while." "What happened in the end?" "My friend's boss had him exorcised." "Was it effective?" "Oh yes, he didn't ever come no more." "Thank you for telling me the story." "You going to write about it?" "I will one day." The old lady beamed at me - then settled in her chair for a nap, she was tired after the long conversation.

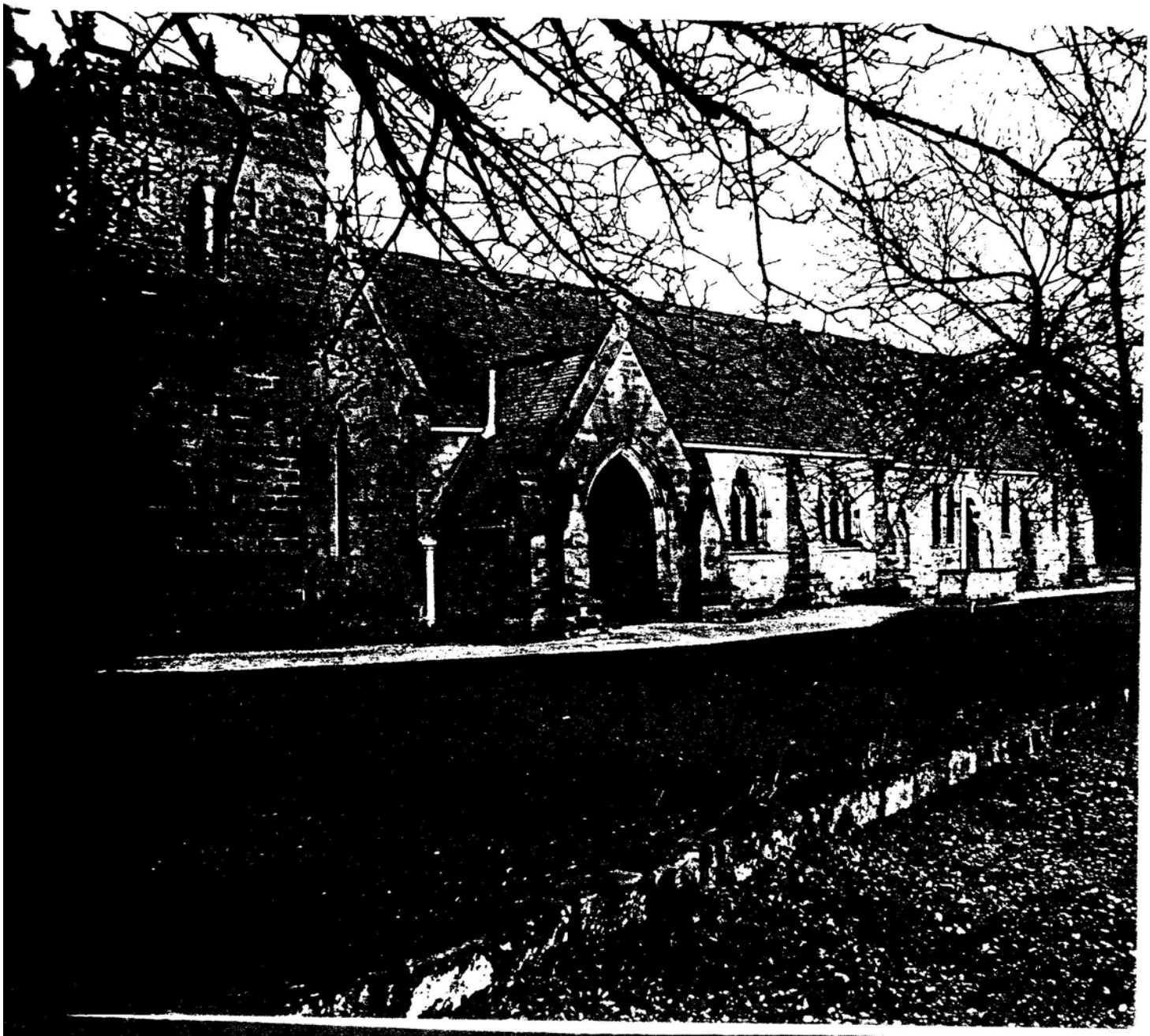
Bellamour Hall was built by Sir Walter Aston's son Herbert, who acted as his fathers secretary while Sir Walter was ambassador to Spain. Herbert married Catherine, daughter of Sir John Thimelby

Bart of Lincolnshire, on his return from Spain, and as Sir Walter's fortune had been diminished by the Civil War he could only make over a small property in Colton to his son. On this land, in 1634 Herbert built the first Bellamour Hall for his wife, and because of the generous help of friends named the house "Bellamour Hall" - Bellamour in Italian means "Good Love".

The "New Hall" was purchased in 1824 by Mr. J. Oldham, who died in 1857, and the property was sold again, this time to Mr. T. Horsefall. He and his family lived in the hall until 1923 when the house was demolished under his orders. It was this house I was given to understand was haunted. No trace of it is left now except a small lake, and a clump of trees which was once part of an extensive garden.

I often walk past the ruins of "Old Bellamour", and it was under the trees in the garden of the "New Hall" - which for a time stood beside the old building - that I first thought of the ghost. It was under these trees that I had the feeling I was not alone.....I wonder.....

What had the old lady's story to do with the truth? Had there been a ghost? Had there been a murder done sometime at the hall, or was the ghost looking for hidden treasure, and why had he such a preoccupation with boots and shoes? I have recorded all I know.....



CORN PLANTING IN COLTON

A few years ago I was asked to help with Church decorations - I had never done any before and found it very interesting. Church decorating is an art in itself, but I found several other arts and crafts mingled with the main one. Flower arranging is growing rapidly in popularity, and is a useful as well as an artistic hobby. Corn-dolly making is becoming known to many people, and one can take a course and learn about it without much difficulty. Corn plaiting, however, is little known. I had never heard of it, or seen it done until I came to Colton to live several years ago.

About a week before Harvest Festival, some of the members of the community go out to gather or collect the corn. They call on local farmers and gather what they want from the fields, or take away the sheaves that have been put on one side for Church decorating. The wheat, barley and oats thus acquired, is taken to the village hall.

The next day about a dozen women - usually members of the Mother's Union - collect in the hall, each equipped with an apron, a ball of string and a pair of old scissors. Tables are arranged about the room with chairs for workers to sit on. Corn is everywhere and the smell of it is wonderful as one enters the room. First of all the corn has to be sorted out (only the best pieces are used) and cut into lengths of about 12 inches. Little bundles of wheat, barley and oats are placed at intervals on each table and then the more experienced people begin work.

Less experienced people keep the plaiters supplied with corn. To make a plait one takes seven pieces of oats and ties them together with a piece of string, attached to which is a label giving the length required for the finished article, and directions about where it is to be placed in Church. When the seven pieces have been tied together one twist of the plait is made, at each movement one piece of barley is added, until seven pieces have been used. Seven pieces of wheat are then used in a like manner, then the oats, and the sequence is repeated until the plait is the required length. It is finished off as it was begun, with seven pieces of oats, this time however, the oats are placed the opposite way round, to cover the stalks at the end of the plait, and make a neat finish.

Pieces of plaited corn are put round the archways, Church doorways, pillars, screens and pulpit etc. as desired. Interspersed with bunches of berries and flowers, the corn plait makes an intriguingly loveley way of decorating.

The ghost of Bellamour Hall

by May Bannister

I WALKED through the village, alone in the dusk curtains were drawn close at the windows and houses had a closed in guarded look about them—as though they did not want to be disturbed. I walked to the brook bridge and leaned over the wall to watch the moon appearing from behind a cloud by its reflection in the water. The church was silhouetted in the shadows—and a light shone from the Rectory and cast its beams on the lawn. I walked to the end of the road and turned towards the lodge gates, where I paused again to watch the night sky.

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I turned from the gate and walked on, the moonlight was brilliant now—I could almost have read a book. I looked over the old stone wall at the ruins of what had once been an impressive house and thought of the story I had heard some time ago while visiting friends. . . . The story was told to me by a very old lady, who had heard it first hand from a friend.

It was the story of the ghost of Bellamour Hall . . .

"Did you ever hear tell of the ghost, my dear?" asked the old lady.

"No", I answered, looking inquisitive.

"Well, there was this tall gentleman my dear, he used to wear a deer stalker hat, and a greey suit with them baggy trousers—what do you call them—plus-fours aint it, and brown boots. Good looking fellow he were".

"Yes, do go on".

"Well, it was like this, my friend was housekeeper up at the hall, its a good many years go now—I'm nearly ninety you know, and all this happened when I was a young girl mind you".

"Yes".

"Used to go in my friends bed-room he did, and wake her up. He was not a frightening ghost—he was quite gentle—used to tap her shoulder and waken her then beckon to her to follow him, that what he did".

"What happened then?".

"He used to go down the stairs and into the library. Then he would open the bureau drawer—looking for for something he were".

"What else happened?".

"Well, he used to go down the stairs and out into the garden and stand by the well".

"Yes"

"He moved all the boots and shoes, sometimes he carried his own boots in his hand, got a thing about footwear he had".

"Did you ever see him?"

"No, I never did, but most of the family who lived there did so 'twas said. He used to wake folks up nearly every night clattering about with the footwear".

"Did he do anything else?"

"No, except walk up and down the stairs in a bewildered sort of way".

"Was your friend frightened of him?"

"At first she was, but she got used to him after a while".

"What happened in the end?"

"My friends boss had him exocised".

"Was it effective?"

"Oh yes! he didn't ever come no more".

"Thank you for telling me the story".

"You going to write about it?"

"I will one day".

The old lady beamed at me—then settled in her chair for a nap, she was tired after this long conversation.

Bellamour Hall was built by Sir Walter Aston's son Herbert, who had acted as his fathers secretary while Sir Walter was ambassador to Spain. Herbert married Catherine, daughter of Sir John Thimelby Bart. of Lincolnshire on his return from Spain, and as Sir Walters fortune had been diminished by the Civil War he could only make over a small property in Colton to his son. On this land, in 1634 Herbert built the first Bellamour Hall for his wife, and because of the generous help of their friends the young couple named the house "Bellamore", which, in Italian means "Good Love".

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May Day Celebrations & May Queens

St Mary's School Log 1901

1901.

460 Mon. Ap. 15 School re-opened. During the holiday the floors have been scrubbed, and the rooms cleaned thoroughly. The closets have been emptied, and repairs done to the Infant Room grate & porch, and the wall by J Jones. Mr Hackett jun called.

Beatrice Stevenson visited in the afternoon

Tu. " 16. Election of May Queen after school under the Superintendence of T. Bonney Esq. The names of the Std vii & Std vi girls were written on the BB Hilda Bull received 26 votes, Alice Nicklin 13, and Annie Blakemore 5, the others receiving none.

Wed May 1. Holiday in afternoon for May-day Festival. Chldrn. assembled at same time as last year, and a similar programme was gone through. The weather was fine. The teachers had tea at Colton House. Collected ... £3 . 19 . 6½. The absentees were Sam. Myatt, no clothes.; Will. Parr, working; Fred Johnstone, no clothes; Ernst. Myatt + Thom. Parker, mother forbid them to come; Arth. Parker. Boots not good enough.

Mon " 6 Full attendance in the morning.

Fri " 10 May Tea-party. at 4. 30. in Reading Room. 106 present. Games afterwards at Colton House. Fine, but cool. day. Average for week 98%.

St Mary's School Log May 1st 1900

Tues. May 1st. May-day Celebration in Colton House North Plantation. Fine bright day. Gertrude Radford was Queen, & collected £4-0-0 for the Tea. Started from School at 2.20 p.m. (Assembled Lower Sch. at 1.15; others at 1.45). Roll called before setting out. The following was gone through in front of School:-

(1) Song. "May-day".
(2) Queen crowned by last year's Queen.
(3) Song. "Hail Fairy Queen.

The Lodge, Hall, & Rectory were then visited, the songs "Flowers, flowers" & "Down in a green" being sung at each house.

Programme in Plantation

(1) May-day. (a) Barber's Pole (sss. m.)
(2) Merrily round the May-pole. (b) Untwist. (dms sds)
(3) Crown our Queen. (c) Plaiting (Reel-row)
(4) Hail Fairy Queen (d) Un-plait. (Jig Polka)

446

(5) Summer comes. (e) Spider's Web. (sss. m)
(6) Flowers, flowers (f) Untwist (dms. sds)
(7) Down in a green. (8) God bless Merry England.
(9) God save the Queen.

The position for Photograph had been rehearsed, and the children were soon in position.

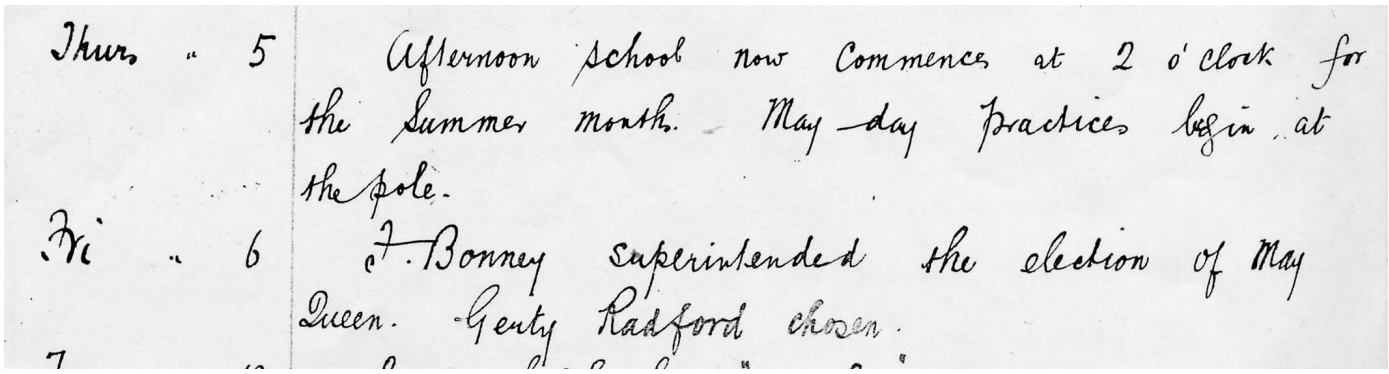
Mrs & the Misses Horsfall were present, but the Rector and his sisters were away from home. The ground was staked out with flags.

Absent. Fred. Rowley. digging in garden.
Will. Brain minding pigs.

Fri. May 4 May Tea-party in R. Room after school.

Extracts from St Mary's School Log 1900 & 1902

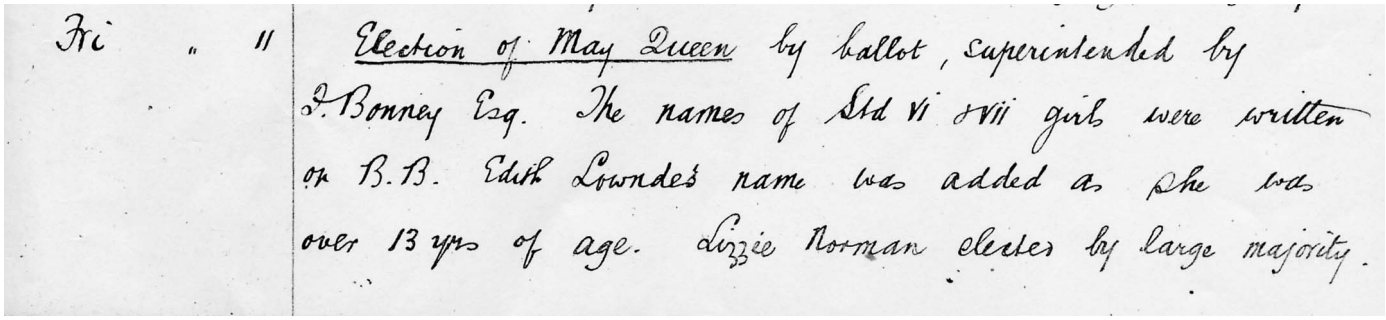
1900



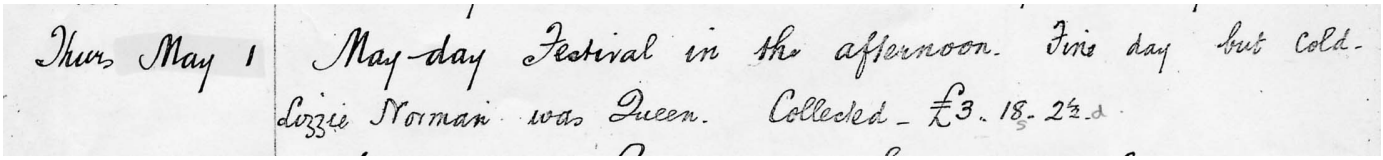
Thurs " 5 Afternoon school now Commences at 2 o'clock for the Summer month. May-day practices begin at the pole.

Fri " 6 J. Bonney superintended the election of May Queen. Genty Radford chosen.

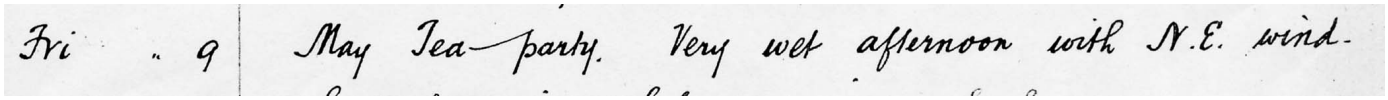
1902



Fri " 11 Election of May Queen by ballot, superintended by J. Bonney Esq. The names of Std VI & VII girls were written on B.B. Edith Lowndes name was added as she was over 13 yrs of age. Lizzie Norman elected by large majority.



Thurs May 1 May-day Festival in the afternoon. Fine day but cold. Lizzie Norman was Queen. Collected £3. 18. 2½ d



Fri " 9 May Tea-party. Very wet afternoon with N.E. wind.

New Village Hall Fund
1986 & 1988

COLTON VILLAGE HALL NEW HALL FUND

PROGRESS REPORT NO. 3

31.12.86

As we are now into a new year and almost three years into our fund raising it is an appropriate time to bring you up to date with the position so far. We have come a long way in thirty three months and, in fact, passed the point of no return. A remarkable achievement.

1. THE FUND

No doubt you have been watching the fund rise on the thermometer as this last year it has accelerated to over £16,500, a rise of £6,000 during 1986. What is not shown, however, on the thermometer is that we have also bought 4,000 roof tiles at a knock-down cost of £150 and repaid a loan of £250 which was made at the outset to help bolster the fund. So, if one includes this latter figure the actual amount raised is £17,000. So that everybody can see how the monies have been raised a breakdown of the fund in general terms is attached. I would mention that in due course, as it is not feasible at this stage, we will itemise every penny for display when the new hall is complete and to give us a permanent record for the future.

2. PLANNING PERMISSION

As you know, we had already acquired outline planning permission and I am now pleased to inform you that application has been made to Lichfield District Council for permission to develop. We have made, under the recommendations of our Architect, a few minor adjustments and internal alterations to the original plan which we hope will prove both cost effective now and in the future. Likewise, the main body of the building will be supported by a steel frame, again for cost and ease of development and any future addition. So that you can visualise our new hall and get an idea of the end product, attached is a plan of the ground floor and the front elevation of the new hall.

3. DEVELOPMENT

At this stage there is nothing to report but to say that we are hoping to commence development this year. Once into full swing we hope to use the offices of the Manpower Services and an approach has already been made with a view to setting up the initial meeting.

4. GRANTS

As we have now decided to start the building of the new hall this year we have therefore decided to actively seek grants. Again, approaches to respective bodies are being made and we must keep our fingers crossed that we reach a satisfactory conclusion.

5. THE FUTURE

1987 we feel sure is going to be a year to remember in Colton - the start of the new Village Hall. Fund raising will still continue and in this respect I am pleased to announce that we are organising, along with the Church, another festival, and this time with a mediaeval theme.

DETAILS OF FUND AS AT 31.12.86

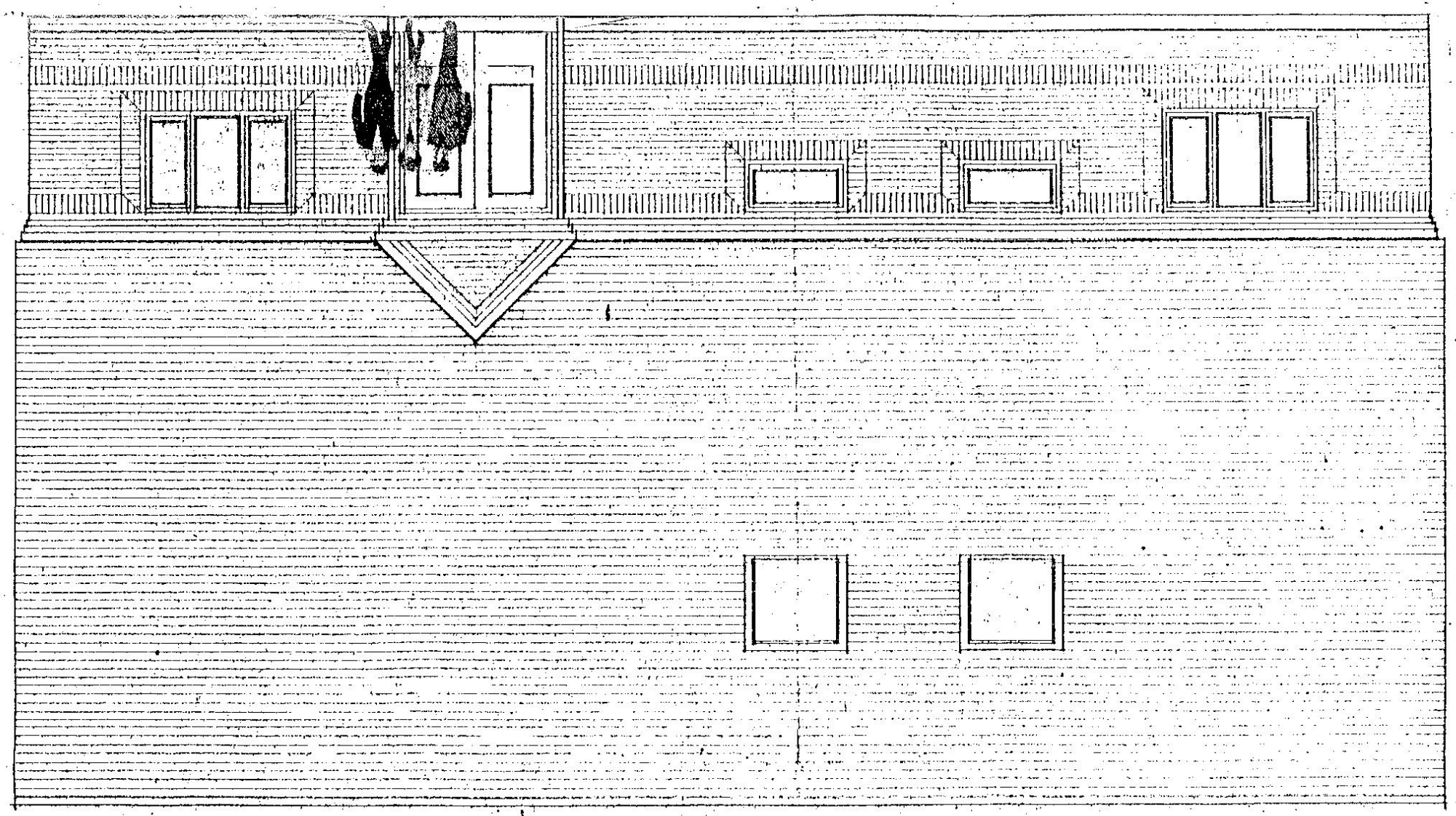
Donations	2,007 . 66
Per Village Hall accounts	1,500 . 00
Sundry fund raising	2,837 . 64
Auctions and Discos	1,075 . 21
Bank Interest	2,248 . 58
100 Club	3,374 . 10
Village Society function	984 . 64
Slimming Club and Raffle	535 . 75
Fun Run	388 . 15
Talents	571 . 71
Bar Proceeds and hire of glasses	74 . 25
Festival 1985	1,098 . 35
	16,696 . 04
Less cost of tiles	150 . 00
Balance on account	16,546 . 04

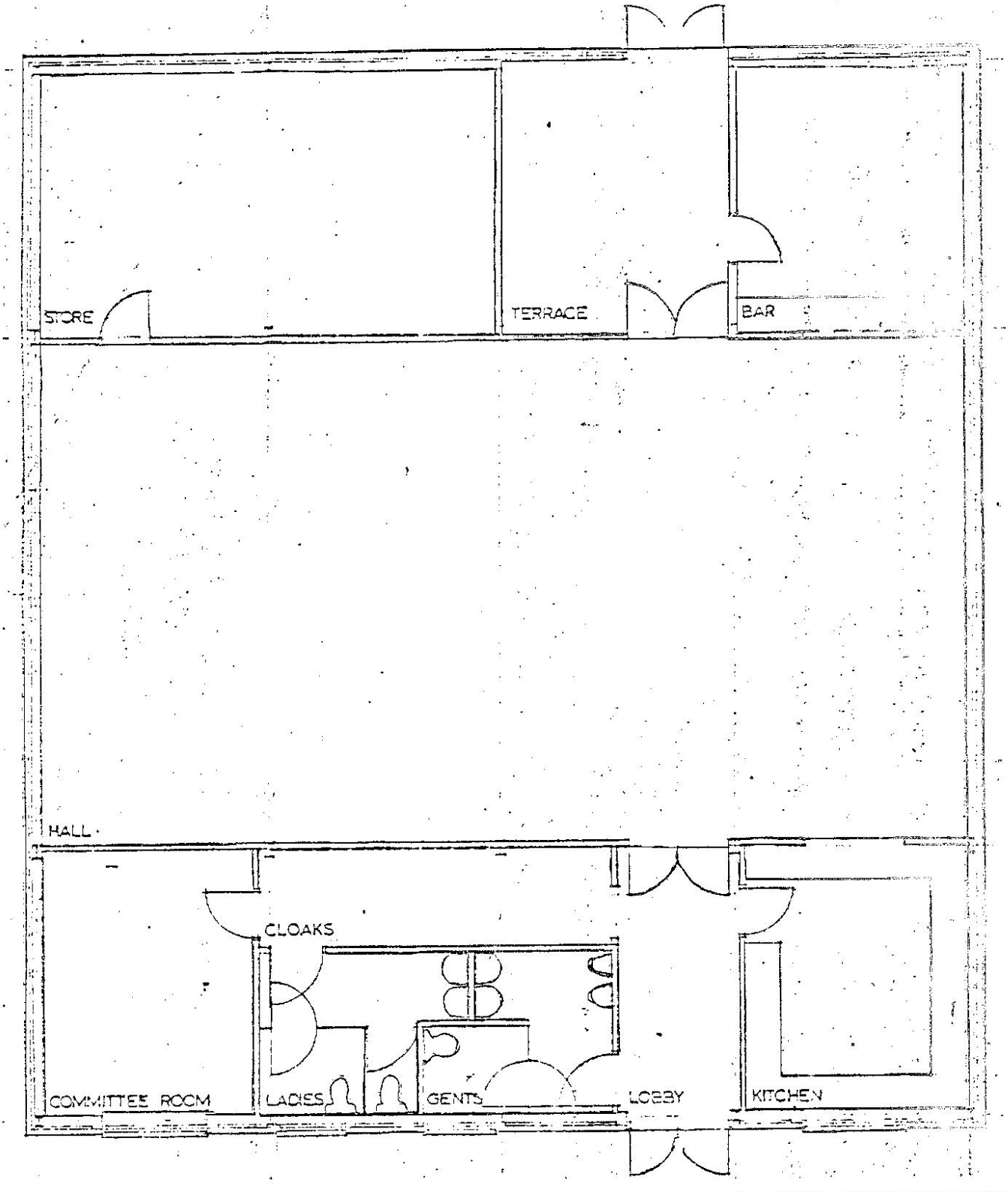
FOR AND ON BEHALF OF
COLTON VILLAGE HALL
NEW HALL COMMITTEE

ANDREW CALKELD

NEW VILLAGE HALL

FRONT ELEVATION





NEW VILLAGE HALL

PLAN VIEW

COLTON VILLAGE HALL

NEW HALL FUND

Now would seem an appropriate time to update everybody with the situation on the New Hall and answer the question in everybody's mind "When will a start be made?" But firstly a few interesting facts.

THE FUND

As at 31.10.88 - £26,748.77

Major items making up this figure:-

Bank interest	£5,300
100 Club	£5,400
Festival x 2	£2,950
Village Sundry Fund	£4,260
Raising Donations	£3,950

All this over a period of $4\frac{1}{2}$ years.

Plus a grant from Lichfield District Council of £4,500 to be used by July 1990.

LEGAL ASPECT

This year we have spent a lot of time resolving the legal aspect of the New Hall and the documents to convey the two parcels of land into one (the Old Hall plus the field at the rear) are with the solicitors. The one parcel of land will then be transferred to the Trustees of the present Village Hall, Lichfield Diocesan Trust, who did state at the outset that before a brick was laid this transaction would be necessary and on that condition agreed that the Old Hall could be demolished. We are currently and in fact are bound by through a Deed relating to the Old Village Hall a three tier system which basically means that the present Committe should report to a Management Committe of five pople who in turn report to the Trustees and vice versa. An old antiquated system I am sure you will agree and through the assistance of Mrs Budgen and the good offices of David Sceats we have managed to reduce this to two, The Trustees and the Committee as it presently stands. Obviously this new Deed will be modern in format but is to be drawn up in accordance with the recommendation of the Charity Commissioners which will mean some changes in the administration and election procedures once completed.

FUTURE

Fund raising continues throughout the rest of the year with several events planned culminating with our New Year's EVe party in the Village Hall. I would anticipate that by 31.12.88 we will not be far off our original target of £30,000.

AN APPEAL

Should anybody know of or would like to suggest a body, society or institute we might approach for grants would they please write to them and ask for an application form. Your Committee will then make the necessary application.

...

THE ANSWER

All being well, The Spring of 1989. A positive date will be placed on the Village Hall Notice Board over the Thermometer.

For and on behalf of the
Village Hall Committee



Andrew Calkeld
New Hall Fund Chairman

Property Sales

COLTON, STAFFORDSHIRE.

PARTICULARS & PLAN

OF VALUABLE FREEHOLD

PROPERTIES

COMPRISING VERY

DESIRABLE DAIRY FARM,

KNOWN AS

"THE NEWLANDS,"

Situate in the Parish of Colton, in the County of Stafford,

AND

Accommodation Lands

LYING NEAR THERETO,

WHICH WILL BE OFFERED FOR SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION,

BY

MR. GEORGE BROWN

AT

THE TOWN HALL, RUGELEY,

On Tuesday, the 29th day of June, 1897,

AT FIVE O'CLOCK IN THE AFTERNOON PRECISELY,

In the following or such other Lots as may be agreed upon at the time of Sale, and subject to conditions embodying the Common Form Conditions of the Birmingham Law Society, then to be produced.

PARTICULARS AND PLANS or any other Information may be obtained from the AUCTIONEER, RUGELEY; Messrs. GINDERS & TURNOR, Surveyors, STAFFORD; or Messrs. GARDNER & SONS, Solicitors, Crossley Stone, RUGELEY.

PARTICULARS.

LOT 1.

No. on Plan.	Description.	Cultivation.	Quantity. A. R. P.
43	Long Field Meadow	Pasture	5 0 0
43a	Ditto (In Colwich)	Ditto	1 0 26
44	Long Field	Ditto	4 2 36
Pt. 45	Barn Field	Meadow	3 0 23
47	Ox Close	Pasture	6 3 14
49	Little Stubble (Seeded in 1896)	Arable	5 1 8
50	Pear Tree Leasow (Seeded in 1896)	Ditto	8 0 2
51	Haw Field	Pasture	6 3 14
52	The Hill	Ditto	3 3 38
53	Homestead		1 2 1
54	Croft	Pasture	3 2 29
55	Part of Cow Pasture	Ditto	10 3 35
55a	Ditto (In Colwich)	Ditto	2 0 0
56	Cow Pasture Meadow	Meadow	6 3 38
57	Rough adjoining Blythe	Ditto	0 1 9
81	Eight Acres	Arable	8 0 6
82	Three Acres (Seeded in 1897)	Ditto	3 3 4
83	Ditto (Seeded in 1897)	Ditto	3 3 11
84	Nine Acres	Pasture	9 1 37
85	Four Acres (New Turf)	Arable	4 3 16
86	Two Acres (New Turf)	Ditto	2 3 21
87	Cockery Bot, including Rough & Road, A. 0 R. 3 P. 0, New Turf	Ditto	5 3 30
94	Long Metes	Pasture	12 3 17
95	Barn, &c.		0 1 11
96	Mud Leasow	Pasture	5 3 18
97	Broad Leasow, New Turf	Arable	10 0 33
105	Three Acres, Hadley	Ditto	3 0 16
106	Little Hadley, New Turf	Ditto	2 0 36
107	Slang (New Turf)	Ditto	0 2 3
108	Marl Pit Leasow (New Turf)	Ditto	4 3 38
110	Crab Tree Leasow	Ditto	4 0 33
119	Power's Hadley, New Turf	Ditto	8 1 35
		Carried Forward	A 161 3 38

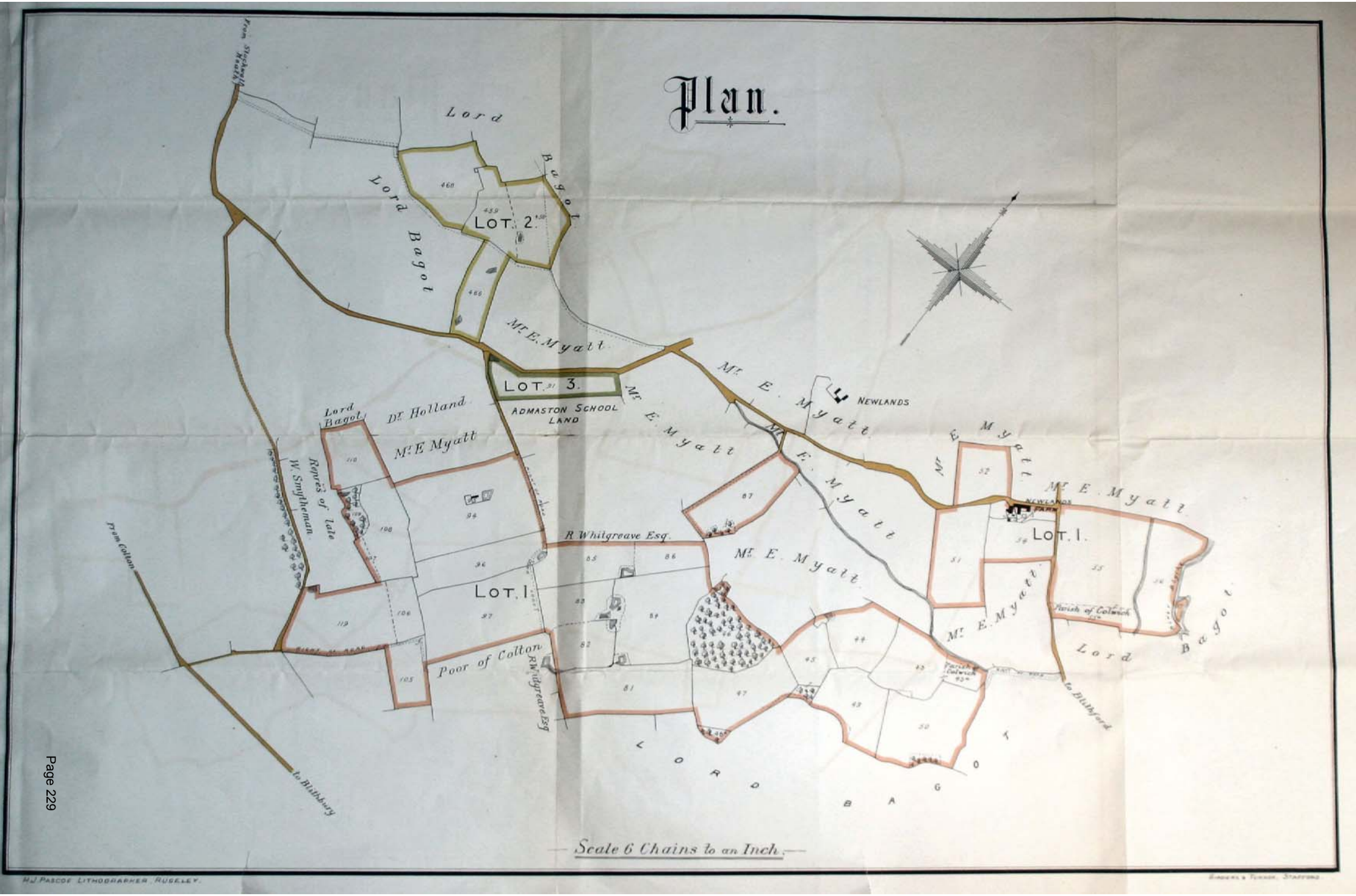
No. on Plan.	DESCRIPTION.	CULTIVATION.	QUANTITY.
	PLANTATIONS.	Brought forward	*A* 161 3 38
		A. R. P.	
37	Ox Close Plantation	0 0 29	
46	Ditto Ditto	6 0 0	
Pt. 45	Barn Field Plantation	0 1 23	
48	Plantation	0 1 25	
109	Ditto	1 1 3	8 1 0
	Land Tax on this Lot apportioned, ... £4 12s. 9d.		
	Tithe Rent Charge Payable to Rector of Colton, ... £21 16 10	Total	*A* 170 0 38
	„ „ to Appropriator 10 17 1		
	The Present Value of £32 13s. 11d. is £23 7s. 5d. 32 13 11		
	LOT 2.		
458	Lentiff	Pasture	5 1 17
459	Ditto	Ditto	3 2 29
460	Ditto	Ditto	6 1 34
466	Ditto	Ditto	4 0 0
	Land Tax on this Lot apportioned, ... £0 10 4	Total	*A.* 19 2 0
	Tithe Rent Charge Payable to Rector of Colton, ... 3 3 5		
	The Present Value of £3 3s. 5d. is £2 5s. 4d.		
	LOT 3.		
91	Long Meles	Pasture	*A.* 5 0 5
	Land Tax on this Lot apportioned, 2/8		
	Tithe Rent Charge Payable to Rector of Colton, ... £1 2 7		
	„ „ to Appropriator 0 19 11		
	2 2 6		
	The Present Value of £2 2s. 6d. is £1 10s. 4d.		
	SUMMARY.		
		A. R. P.	
	Lot 1	161 3 38	
	Ditto Plantations	8 1 0	
			170 0 38
	Lot 2		19 2 0
	Lot 3		5 0 5
		Total	*A.* 194 3 3

The Timber in the Plantations Nos. 37, 46, part 45, 48 and 109 will be Valued and the Purchaser will have to pay the amount of the Valuation, which will be announced at the time of Sale, in addition to his purchase money. All other Timber on the Three Lots will be included with the Land.

Lot 1 is a Valuable DAIRY FARM, the Homestead is pleasantly situated, and the Buildings are suitable for the holding. It is well Timbered and Watered, and on one side adjoins the River Blythe.

Lots 2 and 3 are Sound Old PASTURE.

All the Lots are in the occupation of Mr. S. C. LATHAM, as Yearly Tenant thereof.


Plan.
Lord Bagot
Lord Bagot
LOT. 2.
Mr. E. Myatt
LOT. 3.
ADMASTON SCHOOL LAND
Mr. E. Myatt
Mr. E. Myatt
NEWLANDS
Mr. E. Myatt
Mr. E. Myatt
Mr. E. Myatt
Mr. E. Myatt
Mr. E. Myatt
Mr. E. Myatt
Lord Bagot
Dr. Holland
Mr. E. Myatt
Repres. of late W. Smytheman
R. Whitgreave Esq.
LOT. 1.
Poor of Colton
R. Whitgreave Esq.
LOT. 1.
Parish of Colwich
Lord Bagot
to Blithford
LORD BAGOT
From Colton
to Blithbury
From Stockwell Heath
Scale 6 Chains to an Inch.
H.J. PASCOE LITHOGRAPHER, RUGELEY.

COLTON, NEAR RUGELEY
STAFFS.

Particulars of Sale

OF THE

Freehold Agricultural Holding

—— KNOWN AS ——

THE PARK BARN FARM

Area **111½** *Acres*

or thereabouts

WITH VACANT POSSESSION ON COMPLETION

WHICH WILL BE SOLD BY AUCTION AT

The Shrewsbury Arms Hotel, Rugeley, Staffs.
on WEDNESDAY, 28th APRIL, 1948, at 7 p.m.

SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS OF SALE

Vendor's Solicitors :

Messrs. HY. WALTERS & WELCH
Stone and Eccleshall.
(Tel. Stone 130).

Auctioneers :

HEYWOOD & SONS
Newcastle, Stone and Eccleshall.
(Tel. Stone 60 ; Newcastle 67343/4 ; Eccleshall 241).

LOCATION, AMENITIES, Etc.

THE FARM — is situate about 3 miles from the Market Town of Rugeley, three quarters of a mile from the Village of Colton, and lies close to the Road Colton to Admaston.

HOMESTEAD — is newly erected, has not been occupied since erection.
Gross Rateable Assessment £16.
Nett Rateable Assessment £10.

WATER — A Main Supply is laid on to the premises.

BUILDINGS — Include Shippons for 36 Dairy Cows, and are equipped with a new Water Bowl Installation, which is included with the Property.

TENANTRIGHT — No Valuation for this will be charged, the only charge (in addition to the purchase price) will be for the items enumerated at the end hereof.

PARTICULARS

THE PARK BARN FARM

consists of

A Newly-Erected

ONE-STOREY HOMESTEAD

built of Brick and Tile, and containing :

Pleasant Living Room with "*Chatten* Special Oven Range," and with Service Hatch to Kitchen, **Kitchen** with Sink (H. & C. water supply), and Airing Cupboards, **Pantry** with Shelving, **2 Bedrooms, Bathroom** (equipped Bath, Wash-basin and W.C).

The Farm Buildings

are substantially built of Brick and Tile and consist of :

Large Loose Box (with Manger and Cratch), **Hay Place, Large Loose Box,** (with Manger and Cratch), **Shippon for 19 Dairy Cattle** with lofts over, **Root House, Feeding House, Loose Box** (with loft over), and **Shippon for 17 Dairy Cattle.**

The Land

lies in about **10 Convenient Enclosures** adjacent to the premises, is **Ring-Fenced, well Watered,** having in addition to various natural Drinking Places, **2 Concrete Troughs** with Ball Taps, and Main Supply to 2 fields, is

Very Able Grass and Arable Land

of which about 35 Acres is now under Tillage, the remainder being Sound Old Turf.

The whole embraces an area of

111½ *Acres or thereabouts*

SPECIAL NOTE.

The Buildings are in excellent order and condition, arranged on three sides of wide open yard, have a newly laid **12ft. Concrete Causeway** all round, and the Shippons have been put in good order with **Concrete Standings, Troughs and Partitions.**

The Purchaser will have the advantage of **Vacant Possession on Completion** (or earlier by arrangement) **Free of Tenantright Valuation,** but will be required to pay in addition to the purchase price the sum of £650 for the **Whole of the 1947 Produce,** and Cultivations for the 1948 Crops, which comprise :

2 Stacks Meadow Hay, 2 Ricks unthreshed Wheat, Rick unthreshed Oats, about 7 Acres New Clover Seeds sown, about 20 Acres Growing Oats, Labour on ploughing about 8 Acres for Roots, Labour carting Manure to heap on the land and quantity unspread Lime on the land.

Sale of

FREEHOLD PROPERTIES

at the

TOWN HALL, RUGELEY

on

THURSDAY, 6th OCTOBER, 1966

at 5.30 p.m. promptly

SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS OF SALE

George Brown & Son

AUCTIONEERS

RUGELEY

Telephone: 2274 (2 lines)

By Order of the Owner

"ELM COTTAGE" COLTON, RUGELEY

This freehold property is delightfully situated on the outskirts of the pleasant village of Colton.

The well-built residence stands in its own grounds which is bounded on two sides by a wall and enjoys wooded views to the front.

The modernised accommodation provides :—

ON THE GROUND FLOOR

ENTRANCE HALL with stair space.

HALL with Refrigerator Recess and Cupboard over.

DINING ROOM (16′ x 12′) with modern tiled fireplace, back boiler and Bay Window.

LOUNGE (15′ 6″ x 12′) with modern tiled fireplace and Bay Window.

KITCHEN with Sink Unit (H. & C.), Cooker point and Marley tiled floor.

PANTRY with Settle and Shelves.

ON THE FIRST FLOOR

THREE BEDROOMS (15′ 9″ x 12′, 12′ 3″ x 12′, 12′ x 10′ respectively). Two with Bay Windows and one with Airing Cupboard with Immersion Heater.

BATHROOM with Panelled Bath (H. & C.), Pedestal Handbasin (H. & C.), W.C. and Marley tiled floor.

OUTSIDE

there are gardens front and rear, Wood and Asbestos Garage (16′ x 8′ 6″), Coal Place, Pig Sty and rear entrance yard. Surrounded on two sides by a brick wall.

Vacant Possession on Completion

Vendor's Solicitors: Messrs. Hinckley, Birch & Exham, No. 20, St. John Street, Lichfield. Tel.: 2491.

£2,650 Nov. 14th completion date.

General Information

SITUATION—The village of Colton is about 1½ miles from Rugeley just off the Uttoxeter Road and 13 therefrom. Lichfield 8 miles, Birmingham 26 miles.

SERVICES—Electricity with ample suitably sited points. Main Water and Septic Drainage disposal. Public Sewer available in the near future.

TENURE—The property is Freehold and Vacant Possesion will be given on Completion.

OUTGOINGS—Rateable Value: £62. Current Rates: £17.16.2 per half year.

VIEWING—By appointment with the Auctioneers.

Birth & Contraception by Sandra Burgess The Hearth Tax 166 & B.M.D.'S 1640's

FAMILY HISTORY HANDOUT

A POTTED HISTORY OF CONTRACEPTION AND CHILDBIRTH

'Contraceptives' as Spike Milligan once said, 'should be used on all conceivable occasions'.

The idea of birth control is not new. In Genesis 38.9, it is stated that Onan 'spilled his seed on the ground to keep from producing offspring...'

Recent research indicates that women in the ancient world had significant control over contraception.

PLANTS

Professor John Riddle, a medical historian at North Carolina State University, states that some women in the remote Appalachian hills of Virginia and North Carolina, where modern contraception is still frowned upon, have resorted to methods stretching back to the ancient Greeks. Immediately after intercourse, women drink a potion of crushed seeds from Queen Anne's Lace (known in Britain as Cow Parsley), which has been ground into a powder and mixed with water. They claim this acts as a contraceptive. Tests on mice have shown that the seeds of Cow Parsley contain chemical compounds which block the production of progesterone - the hormone which prepares the uterus for reception and development of the fertilized ovum. Women of Rajasthan, India, also chew the seeds.

Some other plants which are thought to give some contraceptive protection are as follows:-

Mexican Yams - from which oestrogen is derived. Oestrogen is used as the basis for the contraceptive pill.

Pennyroyal - a common wild herb - contains pulegone which terminates pregnancy in humans and animals.

Pomegranates - were used by Greek doctors to create cervical caps.

Willow and Date Palm - contain agents which reduce fertility in women.

Acacia Gum - can inhibit the production of sperm.

Green Papayas - contains a progesterone disabling agent.

CONTRACEPTIVE PESSARIES

Sour Milk/Honey/Earwax/Dung - Amulets of mules' earwax and dung - used by ancient Greeks and Romans. The 9th century Arabian physician and philosopher, Ali -Razi, describes the use of elephant dung mixed with honey, whilst the Egyptians favoured Crocodile dung.

...continued

Acacia Tips - made into a herbal liquid and mixed with honey. Lint tampons immersed in this substance were inserted into the vagina. Acacia tips produce lactic acid which is used today as a natural spermicide.

Dung was mixed with sour milk and honey. The acidity of the milk worked as a spermicide whilst the viscosity of the honey acted as a natural barrier.

MERCURY - used in China for more than 4,000 years. Women drank it to combat fertility - poisoning.

Mercury was also used to treat syphilis in the 18th century leading to mercury poisoning. The saying was 'An evening with Venus and a lifetime with Mercury'.

LEAD - Taken orally to combat fertility.

OPIUM - 17th century. It was not unknown for some men to take Opium in an endeavour to prolong the sexual act. Contemporary writers were very interested in this phenomena.

CONDOMS - Existed since Roman times. Made of pigs' or sheep's bladders. The 16th century Italian anatomist Fallopius, developed a linen sheath to prevent the spread of syphilis. By the 17th century condoms were widely used in Europe. Tradition has it that it was the Earl of Condom who gave the sheath its name. As personal physician to Charles II, he was continually attempting to protect his amorous employer from contracting sexually transmitted diseases. By the early 18th century, there were a number of specialist manufacturers and dealers in London, the chief retailers being Mrs. Philips, Mrs. Perkins and Mrs. Lewis. Apparently, Mrs. Philips was the best known in both England and France, the French proclaiming her goods as 'les plus renommees', (*the most renowned).* In England condoms were referred to as 'armour', James Boswell, the diarist, and friend of Dr. Johnson, using sheaths regularly during his activities with prostitutes, following which he recorded his adventures as being 'in armour complete'. According to his diaries, he only once used them with his wife, as a method of birth control. He also wrote that prostitutes complained that the use of condoms was painful.

Professor Stone states that prostitues had been using vaginal sponges since at least 1660 in an endeavour to protect themselves against venereal diseases.

MATERNAL BREAST FEEDING - gives contraceptive protection to some women. Lactation often delays or irregulates the menstrual cycle, hormonal changes frequently inducing amenorrhoea in some women, many of whom are afforded some protection against impregnation - 6 months in the case of well-fed women and 18 months for ill-fed women. This method is still used in some areas of the undeveloped world. The employment of

...continued

wet-nurses by the gentry and aristocracy went on until the early 19th century, thereby cancelling out this benefit for upper-class women, many of whom went on to produce far more offspring than women of the lower classes.

COITUS INTERRUPTUS - most common method of birth control. Depends heavily upon the man's ability to exercise extreme measures of self-control, whilst the woman is left in a state of great frustration.

BELIEFS/PRACTICES CONCERNING CHILDBIRTH

For several centuries it was believed that you could determine the sex of the child from the position adopted during intercourse, e.g. women lying on their right-hand side produced boys, whilst lying on the left-hand side produced girls.

Another belief was that intercourse before menstruation produced one gender whilst post-menstruation produced another.

18th century women could not use their eyes for reading, etc., for at least a month following childbirth as this could be injurious to their eyesight and general health.

The resumption of intercourse whilst a woman was breast-feeding was thought to be harmful to the milk and therefore, injurious to the child. This was one reason why upper-class men discouraged lactation in their wives as it effectively reduced the possibility of resuming marital relations. A consequence of this was the employment of Wet Nurses, which continued until the early 19th century. Some upper-class women did breast-feed their own offspring, but these were generally Puritans (from the 17th century onwards). Maternal breast-feeding lacked gentility and social prestige amongst ladies of 'quality', child-bearing and lactation being considered more in the domain of women of the lower-classes. Employment as a Wet Nurse was very remunerative. Women performing this duty generally earned more than their husbands. (The wage of an agricultural labourer in the eighteenth century was 1s. 0d. a day or less). Wet Nurses often had a baby of their own at the breast, so were feeding more than one child. However, infant mortlity was high, so many women had already lost their own offspring.

It was believed that children developed the characteristics of those who breastfed them. When employing a wet-nurse, therefore, it was necessary to assess the temper/character of the nurse. The medical fraternity laid down strict guide lines to parents - wet nurses were to be healthy, between 25 and 35 years of age, of middle stature, with 'a light and rosy complexion' and 'a broad large breast'. They were especially not to have red hair, as it was thought that the associated fiery temper would be inherited by the infant they were feeding.

Babies were tightly swaddled. This continued until the end of the 18th century when the writings of people such as Rousseau managed to bring about a decline in the practice.

...continued

Swaddling effectively reduced the heart rate, thereby ensuring a quiet, lethargic baby. Wet nurses often had several children in their care, records sometimes referring to these establishments as 'baby farms'. Infants were regularly stupefied by drugs to keep them quiet. There are records of infants being hung on pegs in the kitchen, swaddling enabling such activities to take place.

Women were to stay in bed for at least a month following childbirth. This did not change until the late 18th century. Before that it was shameful to be seen outside in less than a month. Women had to be 'churched' following a birth - this continued well into the 20th century. (See Prayer Books of the period for the Churching of Women).

INDUCED ABORTION - several traditional methods including heavy purges, hot baths, extreme physical exercise, jumping from great heights, the drinking of gin, and so forth.

Foetal wastage was enormous and indeed infanticide has always been in existence, especially where illegitimacy was involved. The number of children born out of wedlock appears to have increased considerably between the 16th and the 19th centuries. Today, such patterns have almost become the norm, a development which will make the tracing of family pedigrees virtually impossible in the future.

MIDWIFERY

Midwives were generally women before the mid 18th century. They had to have a Licence from the Bishop. Most midwives were taught by their mothers or some other elder female relatives. Women who delivered babies were generally the same women in the area who laid out the dead. Midwifery was not considered a prestigious area of medicine and indeed this attitude continued well into the 20th century. In the medieval and early modern period, physicians (males) who delivered babies were not allowed to see their patients. Mothers were covered with a sheet and the baby was delivered under very difficult circumstances. In the mid-18th century, forceps were invented and there were more male-midwives. Prior to this period, difficult births were facilitated with the use of hooks, craniotomy, etc., leading to the death of the baby and considerable internal damage to the mother. Male mid-wives were also stronger, so they were able to turn the baby whilst it was in the womb - version.
Both these developments led to a large reduction in infant mortality.

SOURCES (and useful references)

B.B.C. Radio 4. (Various History Programmes).

William Buchan, M.D. *Domestic Medicine: or a Treatise on the Prevention and Cure of Diseases By Regimen and Simple Medicines.* London. 1805.

...continued

David Gaimster, Peter Boland, Steve Linnane and Caroline Cartwright.
'The archaeology of private life: the Dudley Castle condoms'. Post-Medieval Archaeology 30 (1996), 129-142.

Ralph A. Houlbrooke. *The English Family 1450 - 1700.* Longman, London.

Lawrence Stone. *The Family, Sex and Marriage In England 1500 - 1800.* Weidenfeld and Nicolson, London. 1977.

The Times Newspaper. Thursday, 28 July, 1994.

Sandra Burgess.
2003.

Colton Hearth Tax 1666

The hearth tax or chimney tax was a payment of 2 shillings for each hearth in every house. It was paid to King Charles II and first levied in 1662 but despite raising £170,000 a year, it was discontinued in 1689 due to its unpopularity (SRO 1921). Those who were either too poor to be rated to the church, occupied premises worth less than 20 shillings per year or owned properties worth less than £10 were exempt (Hey 1996).

Coulton Constablewicke

	Hearthes Chargeable
Mr Herbert Aston	Tenne
Mr Rich. Bagot for 2 houses	Foure
Mr John Pottes, now wid. Degg	Eight
Mr Sanders	Foure
George Harrison	One
Walter Pedley	One
George Yates	Two
Thomas Butler, senior	One
Widdow Butler	Three
George Walker	One
George Bratt	Two
John Clarke	One
Symon Robinson, formerly Edw	One
Robert Taylor	One
Charles Wylde	Two
Thomas Buttler	Two
John Hawlwy	One
Sampson Webb	Two
William Saunt	One
George Baggaley	One
Richard Butter	One
Symon Wiggin	One
George Wright	One
George Averill	One
William Spooner	One
Thomas Taylor	Two
Thomas Royle	One
Samuell Tooth	One
George Jeffrey	One
William Dixson	Two
Willaim Smith	One
Mr Jo. Asten de Newland	Foure
John Pedley	One
Leonard Taylor	One
Ardin Bradshaw	One
Humfrey Webb	Two

Sampson Webb	Foure
John Wiggin	One
Thomas Pegg	Two
Richard Whiston	One
Willian Whiston	Two
Thomas Lees	One
Jane Leese	One
Ralph Bate	One
John Barkes	Two
Thomas Berwicke	One
Wilaim Collins	One
Thomas Smith	One
Sampson Taylor	One
John Marston	One
Humpfrey Parton	One
Hugh Quinton	One
	93 .

The following were not charged

Anthony Hunt	Widdow Parker
John Halfhead	Widdow Burnett
Richard Middleton	Widdow Averill
John Streetie	Widdow Hunt
Widdow Middleton	Robert Taylor, Junior
Robert Middleton	Anne Prescott
Widdow Smith	Symon Haward

By John Sanders, Rector ibidem (there).
George Baggaly. Churchwarden
Symon Wiggin, Overseer.

Allowed by:
E. Bagot and Thomas Whitgreave, Justices of the peace
By Samp. Webb, Constable

References

Hey, David. (1996) *The Oxford Companion to Local and Family History.* Oxford University Press, Padstow.

Staffordshire Record Office. (1921) *Collections for a History of Staffordshire* Vol. 1921 3rd Series. Harrison & Sons LTD. London

Extracts from Colton Parish Records

The parish records in Colton start from 1647 and were written in Latin. The start of the year is on March 25th (Julian Calendar) this was not changed until 1752 (Gregorian Calendar). Parts of the manuscript are illegible.

Anno D[o]m[ini] 1647

Sept 9th	Robert son of Johannis Halfhead	Baptised
Oct 3rd	Elizabetha daughter of Hugo Quintaine	Baptised
Oct 10th	Georgous son of Alexand Topping	Baptised
Nov 2nd	Samuell son of Johannis Saunders	Baptised
Dec	Symon Averall	Buried
	Georg son of Alexand Topping	Buried
Jan 20th	Son of Rich Middleton	Baptised
Jan 30th	Johannes son of Johannis Seargent	Baptised
Feb 13th	Johannes son of Johannis Street	Baptised
Mar 24th	Johannes son of Rich Smith	Buried

Anno D[o]m[ini] 1648

Apr 20th	Johannes son of Thomas Bamford	Baptised
Jun 20th	Gualter Goreridge ? (sic)	Married
Dec	Gualtor Peddley and Jane Bamford	Married

Anno D[o]m[ini] 1649

Mar 27th	Johannes son of Rich Smith	Baptised
Apr 10th	Johannes son of George Yate	Baptised
Apr 14th	Ruth daughter of Carolus Wilde	Baptised
May 14th	Georguis Geffrys	Buried
May 14th	Eliz Daughter of Barnfy	Baptised
Jul 3rd	Humpridus Nichins and Elizab Babb	Married
Jul 6th	Thomas son of Georgis Wright	Baptised
Sep 10th	Jacob son of Jacob Jackson	Baptised
Sep 29th	Alexander Topping	Buried
Sep 30th	Dorothea daughter of Widdow (sic) Topping left behind	Baptised
Dec 29th	Thomas son of Hamson (? Samson) Webb	Baptised

1651

Jul 7th	Sampson Brett	Buried
Jul 30th	Christpherus Hunt rector of Colton	Buried
Aug 7th	Maria wife of Anthony Hunt	Buried
Aug 18th	Richard son of Robert Wilkes	Baptised
Aug 28th	Carolus son of Carolus Wilde	Baptised
Dec 11th	Maria daughter of Adamus Hall	Baptised
Dec 27th	Dorothea daughter of David Owen	Baptised
Jan 2nd	Margaret daughter of (sic)	Baptised
Mar 13th	Elizabetha daughter of George Wright jun	Baptised

1656

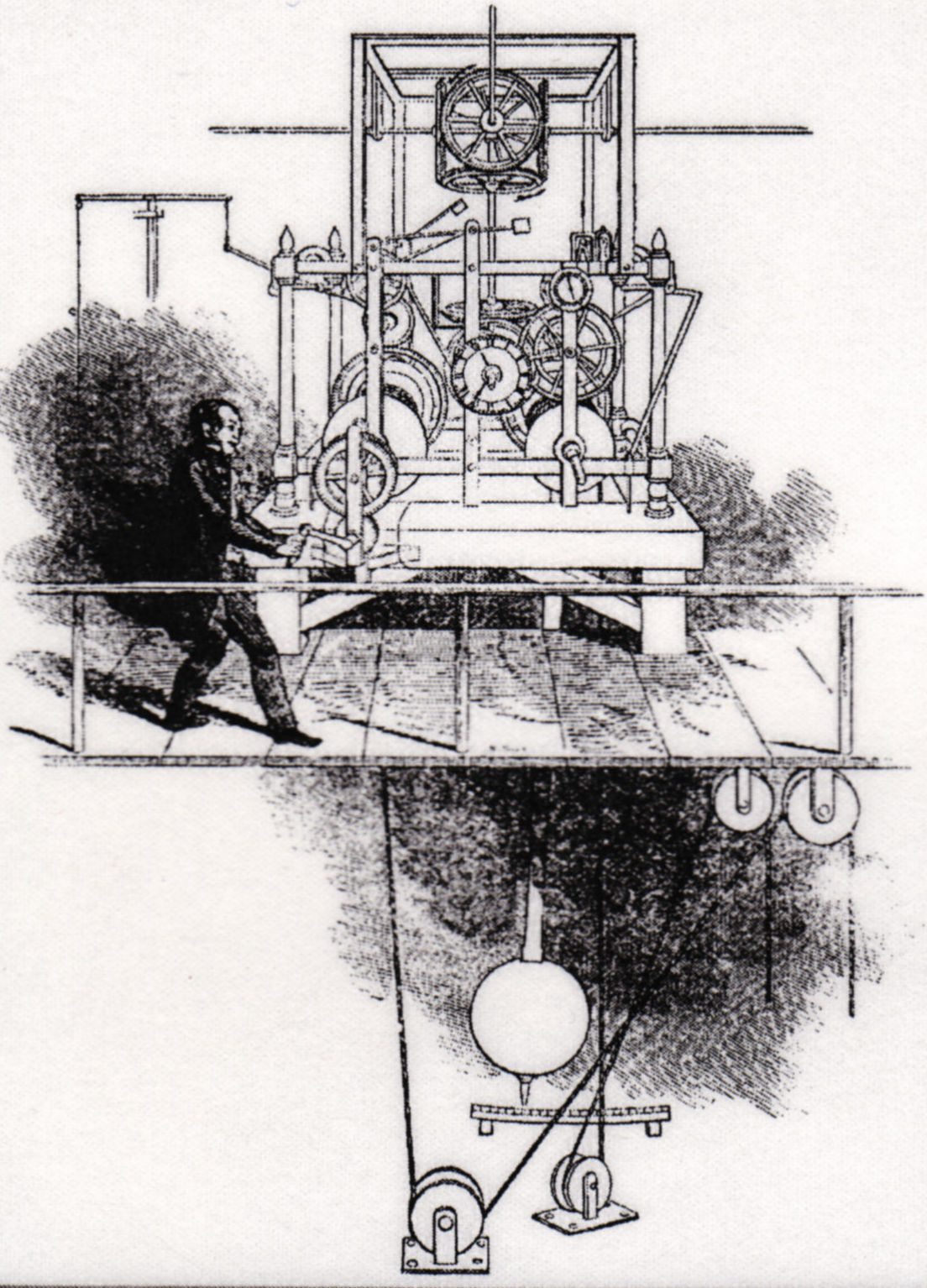
Aug 16th	Symon Pedley	Buried
Oct 13th	Margarett Daughter of Thomas Taylor Junior	Baptised
Nov 23rd	Anthonius son of Anthony Hunt Jun	Baptised
Dec 10th	Georgius Wright senior	Buried
Jan 3rd	Gulielmus son of Guiliel Wakelon	Baptised
Jan 16th	(sic) Pedley Widow (sic)	Buried
Feb 1st	Thomas son of Thomas Hunt	Baptised
Feb 2nd	Geogius son of George Averil	Baptised
Feb 4th	Thomas son of (ms. illeg.)	Baptised
Feb 8th	Johannes and Maria twins of George Yate	Baptised
Feb 8th	Johannes son of Richard Middleton	Baptised
Feb 14th	Maria twin of George Yate	Buried

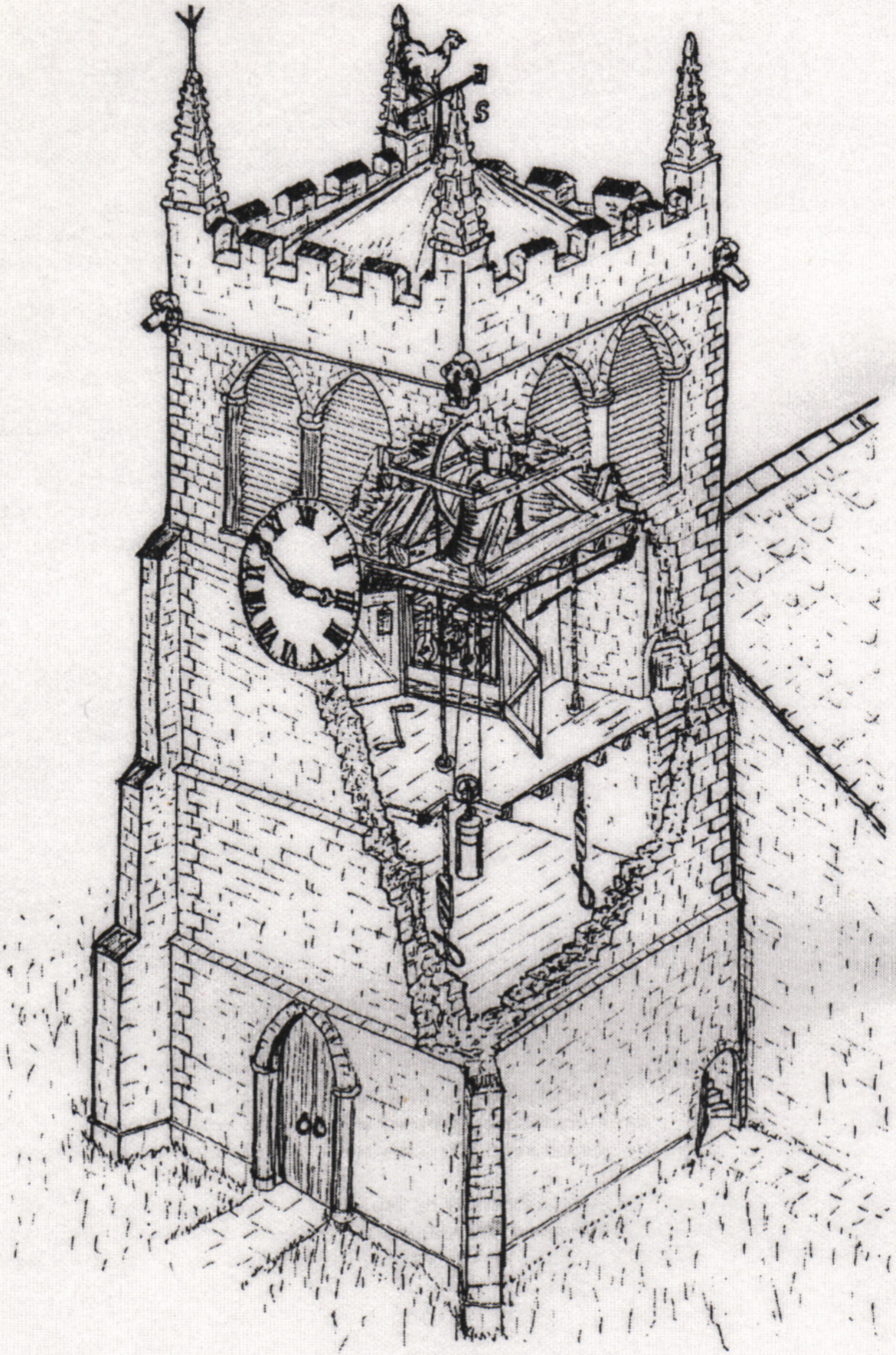
Names

Johannes	John
Elzabetha	Elizabeth
Georgius	George
Gualterius	Walter
Gulielmus	William
Hugo	Hugh
Humpfridus	Humphrey
Anthonius	Anthony
Maria	Mary
Jacob	James
Dorothea	Dorothy
Carolus	Charles
Christopherus	Christopher

School Clock

THE TURRET CLOCK KEEPER'S HANDBOOK





Section Through a Tower
Drawn by John Ablott

A BRIEF HISTORY OF COLTON SCHOOL TURRET CLOCK

Education has been available in Colton since 1765.

Colton United School officially opened its doors on 19th December 1862. The benefactor who provided the land and money to build the present school and , house for the headmaster was Thomas Berry Horsfall. Over the last 146 years the school has changed and dev eloped. However, the turret which held the school clock, is still in place.

The actual clock was commissioned from Thomas Gilbert, clockmaker of Rugeley, whose family had shops in Brook Street, Wellington Street and Marlpits. It is encased in a wrought iron frame and continued steadfastly telling the time for Colton schoolchildren over the years, and many fond memories still exist. Until a few years ago it had to be wound up manually. Les Kendrick being the last person to carry out this duty. However, in this "Health and Safety" era it was deemed to be too dangerous to climb up the ladder to do the winding up every week, so the actual clock was taken out of the tower, and battery drive unit replaced the mechanical works. This is what you can see in 2008.

The original clock mechanism was discovered by accident or good fortune. The condition in which it was found can be judged by the photographs which form part of this information package.

I felt that we should not let part of our village heritage be lost. I therefore contacted a clock maker and restorer Mr. John Griffiths of Tittensor, who has completely repaired the damaged parts and restored others. It is now in its original hand made condition as it was when it was first commissioned for the school.

As a community were are indebted to the Parish Lands Trust Charity for providing the necessary funds and my grateful thanks to this committee for their help and foresight.

The list below is of actual work carried out on the clock.

John Carter
Holly Cottage
Colton

John Griffiths Clocks

ANTIQUE AND FINE CLOCKS RESTORED

John Griffiths Clocks
20. Apsley Grove,
Tittensor, Stoke—on—Trent,
Staffs., ST12 9JF

Phone. 01782 372262

COLTON SCHOOL CLOCK MADE BY THOMAS GILBERT OF RUGELEY in 1863

Work carried out :-

Strip movement completely and degrease.
Repair shattered pin wheel (Strike side)
Strengthen pin wheel and replace pins.
Replace pivots on pin wheel arbor. (pivots sheared off)
* Manufacture 6 tooth pinion for pin wheel arbor. (pinion missing) *
Make new click spring for strike side drum.
Repair 5 ratchet teeth on strike side drum.
* Repair two cracks in cast iron frame.*
Make bushes for going train barrel arbor.
Repair broken fly blades.
Restore pallets.
Clean all parts to remove rust and verdigris.
Dress all wheel teeth and pinion leaves.
Repair pendulum rating nut and thread.
Repair and resilver dial.
* Repair seized weight pulleys. *
Paint matt black frame and pendulum rod for protection.
Renew wire rope for weights.
Polish all pivots and lubricate.
* Rebuild clock and transport to Moss Workshops to test.*
Research maker and write brief history.
* These items are additional to the original quote since I was not in Possession of the weights and the 6 tooth pinion. The cracks were Not apparent until the frame was cleaned and I had nowhere to test the Clock because of the pendulum length. *

Thomas Gilbert of Rugeley 1863

The Gilbert family of clockmakers was founded by **Thomas Gilbert I** in 1775. He began in St. John St, Lichfield, Staffs.. He moved to Wellington St. Rugeley, Staffs. in 1793 where he remained until 1818. He was apprenticed to **Thomas Stripling** of Lichfield in 1765. The young Gilbert was the nephew of Hannah Gilbert who married Thomas Stripling. Thomas Gilbert worked with his aunt at Lichfield. Thomas married and had two sons, **William I** and **Thomas II** .

William Gilbert I was apprenticed to **Robert Sutton** of Stafford in 1779. He had a son **William II** who is listed as working at Marlpits, Rugeley, 1834 to 1850 in the clock and watch trade and at Horsefair, Rugeley between 1841 and 1854.

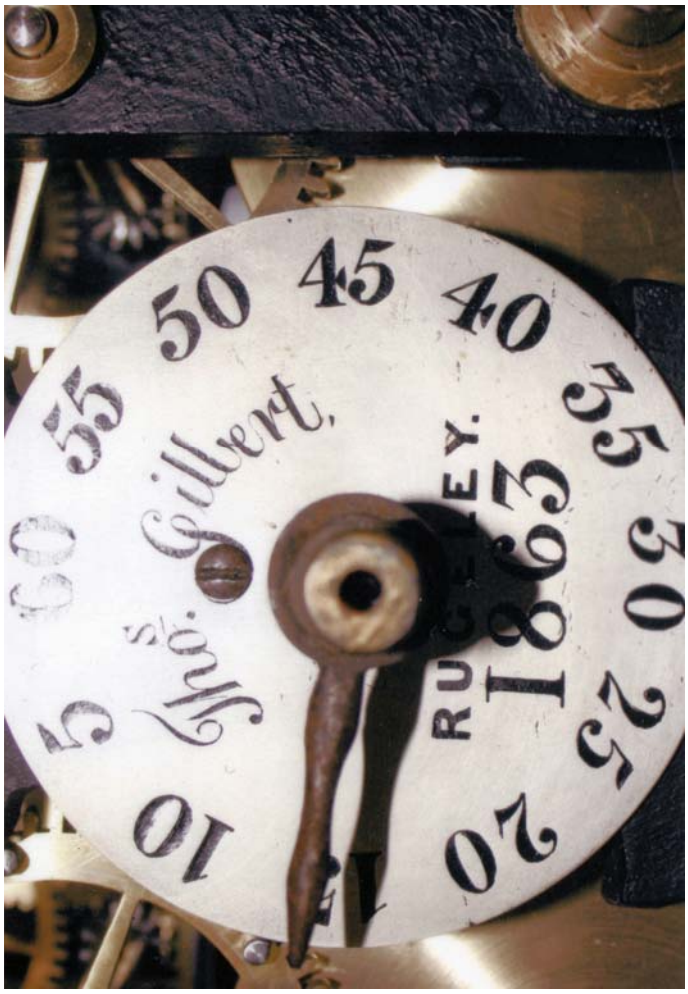
Thomas Gilbert II worked in Wellington St. Rugeley, probably starting with his father in 1814and was there until 1842. Thomas II had two sons, **George Verough & James I.**

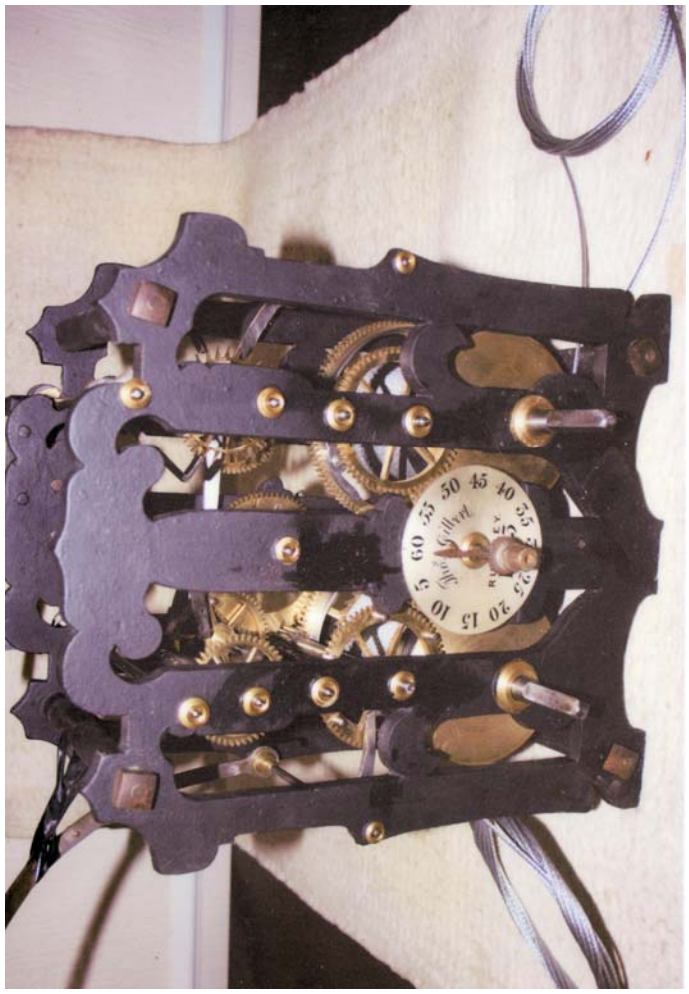
George Verough Gilbert & Thomas William Gilbert (possibly Thomas II) Worked in Upper Brook St, Rugeley between 1851 and1884 in the clock and watch trade. The brothers are also listed separately.

George Verough Gilbert had two sons, **Charles & Thomas III** who both worked with their father at Upper Brook St, Rugeley from 1861 to 1880. The company then became **G.V. Gilbert & son** in 1881 until 1899. In the 1881 census, Thomas II was 69 years old. **Charles Gilbert** was working at Upper Brook St. Rugeley from 1900 onwards.

From the above information it is reasonable to assume that the clock from Colton school was made at Upper Brook St. Rugeley.

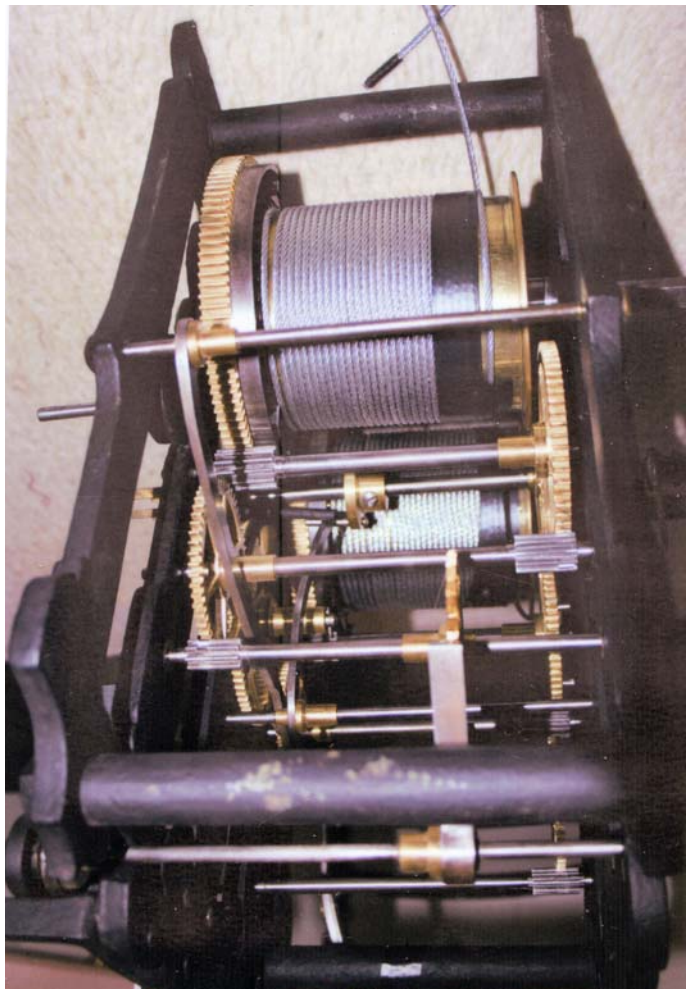


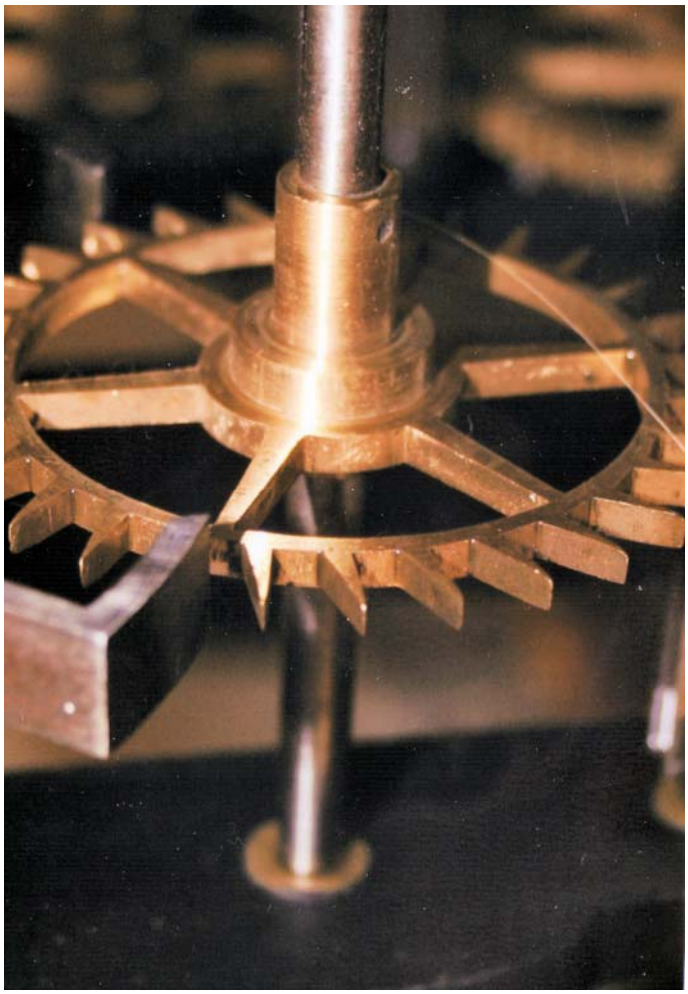

Thos. Gilbert,
RUGELEY.
1863

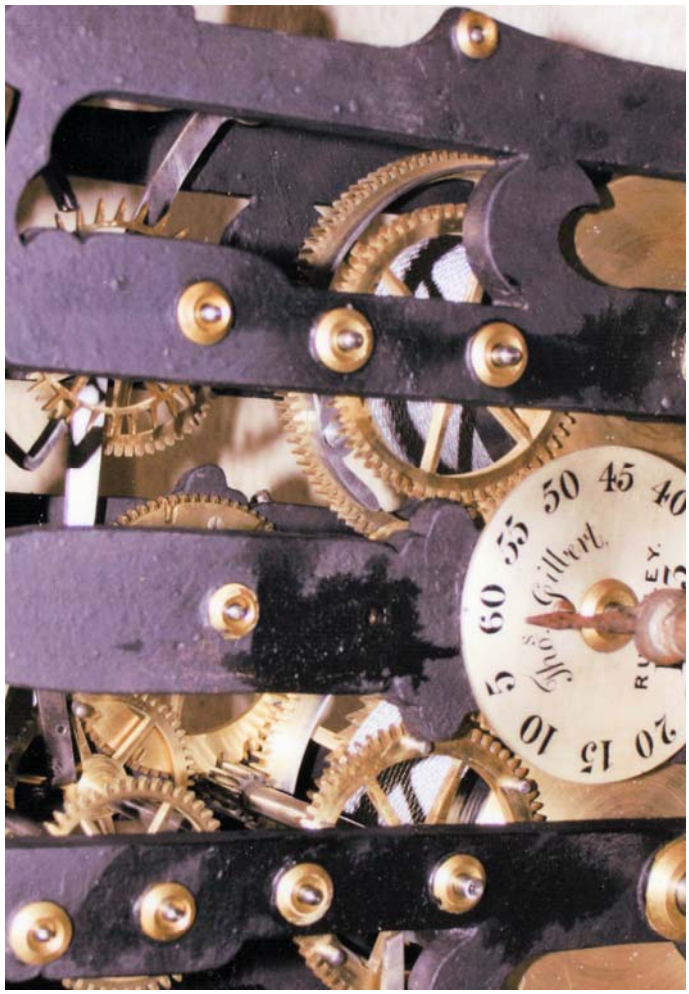











Gillard

School Project 2004

15th July 04

George Outhwaite

Colton School

Past	Present
1921 The 10 shillings from the colton flower show was spent on a football for the boys.	Today we have lots of footballs. they are bought from the school budget
1940 A Masive blizzard stayed for three days. The snow was 3 feet deep.	Snow is a inch thick Today
1920 gardening lesson has Just began	Today we have gardening club.
1936 taps are in school for the first time.	we have water foutians.

Colton School

15 July 2004

Melisa Rees

Past	Present
1830 The boys and girls were taught is One room, boys at the bottom and girls at the top.	Now there are more classrooms and the girls and boys are taught together.
1926 Homework was started by a request of many ~~people~~ people is class 1. It was given 2 times a week.	Now we have homework Once a week.
1895 School closed for another 2 Weeks on account of measels.	Now just the child with the illness is off school.
1866 Most of the pupils were absent scaring birds	Now we only stay of school if were ill.

15th July 2004.

Ella Morris

Colton School

Past	Present
1830 All the school was taught in one room, the girls were in one end of the room and the boys were taught in the other end.	Now we get taught in separate classrooms with mixed age groups.
1895 When one person had measles the whole school closed, and opened when the child who had measles was better.	Now when someone has measles they take a few days off.
1867 Some children had to take time off school because they had no shoes	Now we have to wear a school uniform and we can wear any footwear we want.
1946 There used to be big floods that were 3 to 4 feet deep.	We still have floods but not as bad as they used to be.

15th July 04

by
Eddy Bayliss

Colton School

Past

1863

pupils age 10-11 had tests like this

$$\begin{array}{r} 896847 \\ 698497 \\ 684923 \\ 189689 \\ 768435 \\ +\ 123456 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

1895

one child had measles the whole school was closed

1921

it was 10 shilling for 1 foot-ball.

1927

School closed for staff to decorate cristmas tree

Present

now we have tests like S.A.T.S and all the children in the country do them like this

$$\begin{array}{r} 7034 \\ +\ 4329 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

today the ill child stays of school for about a week

but because we have more money we have about 25 good foot-balls

But now chidren decorate tree.

15th July '04

Kerry Fleming

Colton School

Past	Present
22nd March 1916 Children allowed outside this morning to see a regiment of soldiers march past.	We do not get anything like soldiers marching past. But we do get military helicopters.
15th January '1914 All girls were sometimes anxious to leave school before they are thirteen to be maids.	Now we go to high school after we have left primary school. When we are 11.
3rd June 1895 The school closed for two weeks because a pupil had measles. And had to be thoroughly cleaned.	Nowadays the pupils who have the measles just have everyday off school until they are better.
25th June 1873 The children were allowed to have days off school if there were jobs to do on farms.	Today pupils are not allowed to have days off school unless they are very ill.

15th July 04

Lauren Walker

Colton School

Past

1830

All the school was taught in one room, the boys were at the bottom and the girls were at the top.

1895

Every year the children at colton school voted for their May queen.

1927

School closed to enable Staff to decorate a large christmas tree, which had been cut down by the Headteacher.

1946

School closed on account of deep floods.

1867

The Aults who had been absent for a week and found that they had no shoes to come to School in.

Present

Now we are taught in 3 seperate classrooms with mixed age groups.

Now some of the children take part in the colton village hall festival.

Today children help the teachers decorate the tree which we get from the forestry commission.

Today the brook still floods and pupils have hild to be picked up early from school.

Today with have a School uniform and a choice of shoes.

Queen's Silver Jubilee

You are cordially invited to an

OLD TYME MUSIC HALL

being held to celebrate the

QUEEN'S SILVER JUBILEE

at the
READING ROOM, COLTON
on
THURSDAY 2nd JUNE 1977
7.30p.m. — 10.00p.m.

LADIES
Prize for best
Edwardian style Hat

Transport
Available

Parish of Colton

May it please Your Majesty~

We, of the Parish of Colton in the County of Stafford, desire to offer to Your Majesty our congratulations on the completion of the twenty-fifth yeor of your reign.

Although this historic period has had its troubles and difficulties we fervently hope that peace and prosperity will prevail in the years to come.

Finally, we extend to you and your family our hearty greetings and good wishes on this the twenty-fifth anniversary of your accession.

Signed on behalf of the Parishioners of Colton:

G Sanders

Chairman of the Jubilee Committee.

L. W. Stafford.

Rector of Colton

June, 1977

COLTON SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

MAY-JUNE NEWSLETTER

Well done everyone, you have hit and beaten the Target that was set! There are still one or two Fund-raising Events to go before the Programme is complete so please give them your full support.
The following is a Summary of the activities that will be taking place over the Jubilee Holiday Period. They are all free so please make every effort to attend and enjoy yourself and we think you will agree that there is something for everyone.

THURSDAY - 2ND JUNE.

OLD TYME MUSIC HALL - 7.30. P.M.

For O.A.P.'s, By invitation only. If any O.A.P.'s have not received their tickets please contact any member of the Jubilee Committee.

Venue :- THE READING ROOM.

SATURDAY - 4TH JUNE.

EXHIBITION OF LOCAL CRAFTS AND FLOWER DISPLAY - 11.0.AM TO 8.0.P.M.

Venue :- THE PARISH CHURCH. ALSO, SUNDAY, MONDAY AND TUESDAY.

AT 2.45.P.M. - JUBILEE PARADE AND FETE.

Jubilee Queen to be crowned and the choosing of a Prince and Princess from amongst the younger ones, plus Fancy Dress Prizes.

AT 4.P.M. - PRAM RACE from Stockwell Heath to the Brook Bridge, plus a prize for the best dressed "BABY."

AT. 4.30.P.M. - REFRESHMENTS plus some Amusements and Competitions.
Contact Ruth Jones at the Village Shop for further details.

Venue :- PEDLEY'S CROFT (Near Church) .

During the afternoon judging of the best Decorated House and Frontage will take place but due to the large area of the Parish the judging will have to be restricted to those within the precincts of the Village. A prize has been donated.

AT 8.00.P.M. to Approx. 10.P.M. - JUBILEE BARN DANCE

For all children between the ages of 12 and 16. Refreshments.
Venue :- READING ROOM.

SUNDAY - 5TH JUNE.

2.30.P.M. - PET AND PONY SHOW
Various Classes (but no caged pets). Jubilee Rosettes for Entrants attending. After judging a Parade through the Village. Contact Mrs R. Darlington, Hamley Lodge, for further information.

SHOW. DECORATED PETS. Red/White/Blue Theme, or anything to do with the 25 years Reign.

1. Best decorated Horse/Pony, ridden or led.
2. Best decorated Dog and Handler.
3. Best decorated Donkey/Goat, or other animal to be led.
4. Best Fancy Dress - without animal.

Venue :- PEDLEY'S CROFT.

Sunday, 5th June cont'd.

AT 6.30.P.M. - JUBILEE THANKSGIVING SERVICE AT COLTON PARISH CHURCH.

MONDAY - 6TH JUNE.

2.30. P.M. - SPORTS

Sporting Events for Young and Old, plus a Keep Fit and Junior Gymnastic Display.

Venue :- SCHOOL PLAYING FIELD

AT 9.P.M. - BONFIRE BEACON.

Part of the National Chain of Bonfires. Guitar Players or other Musicians welcome.

Venue :- MARTLIN HILL (Entrance near War Memorial).

TUESDAY, 7TH JUNE

CHILDREN'S PARTIES.

2.15. P.M. TO 4.45. P.M. FOR 6 YEARS AND UNDER.

5.00. P.M. TO 7.30. P.M. FOR 7 YEARS TO 11 YEAR OLDS.

All Children of the Parish are welcome.

Venue :- READING ROOM.

(FOR 12 TO 16 YEAR OLDS' ENTERTAINMENTS SEE "BARN DANCE", SATURDAY, 4TH JUNE).

9.P.M. ONWARDS - BONFIRE AND BARBECUE.

Venue :- PEDLEY'S CROFT

All Parishioners wishing to attend will be issued with tickets that will entitle them to FREE refreshments which will include amongst others, chicken hamburgers, sausages, sandwiches, etc. All non-residents of the Parish wishing to attend will have to purchase tickets at 50p. each PRIOR to the Event. This is to allow us to have an accurate assessment of the numbers we have to cater for. There will be a Bar provided but Refreshments from this will have to be paid for. Any O.A.P.'s who may have difficulty in getting to the Site will be collected by car if they will let any Committee Member know. We are also hoping to provide seats for them. There will also be a FREE RAFFLE.

We are planning to deliver the Mugs and the Barbecue Tickets at the same time as this Newsletter, but if you are out when we call, we will endeavour to call back to make sure you have your Tickets and the children their Mugs, but if you have not received them by June 2nd, please contact a Committee Member.

Finally, please come along and make these Jubilee Events something that you will remember. You could be on Film as we hope to make Cine Films of all the Events.

WATCH FOR POSTERS GIVING FURTHER DETAILS - and keep this NEWSLETTER for further reference.

- - - - - - - - - - - - - - -

Steam Engine Rally 1963

ATTENDANCE 12,000.

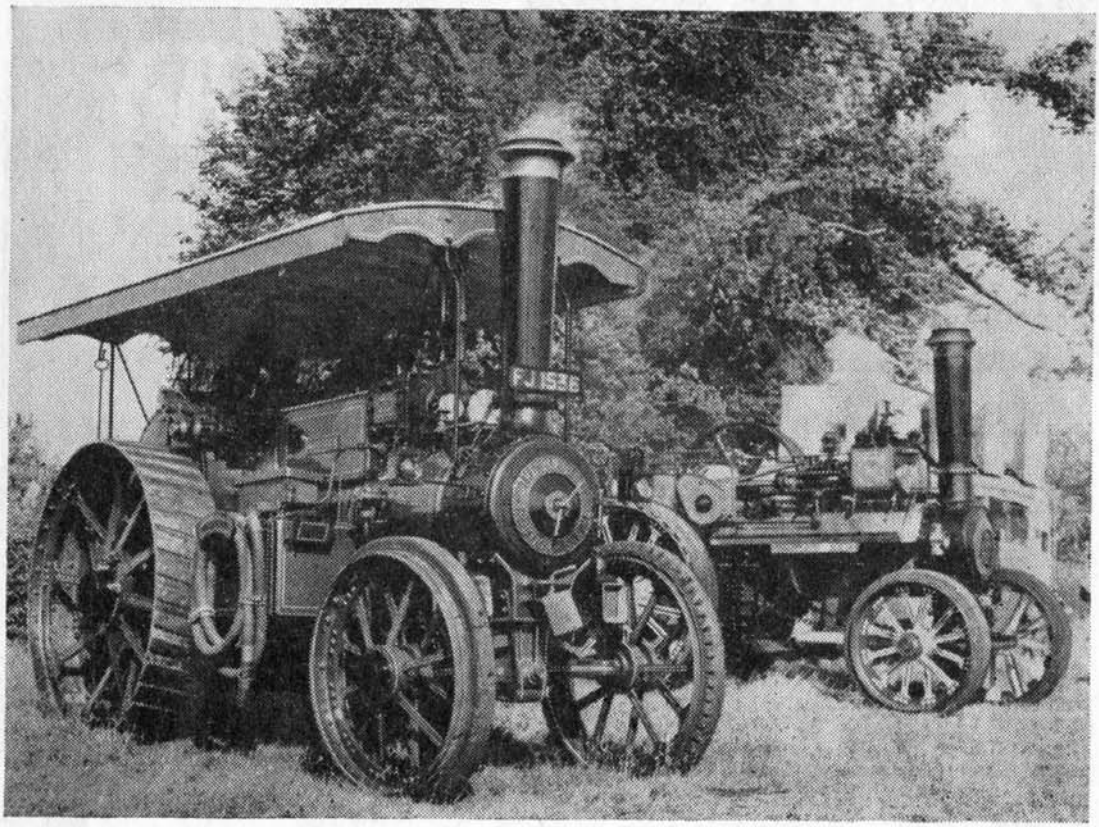
BELLAMOUR HALL

Traction Engine Rally 2434

and

Parade of Vintage Cars

Bellamour Hall, Colton, Rugeley, Staffs.



Burrell General-purpose Engine, "City of Exeter"

Saturday & Sunday, July 20th & 21st

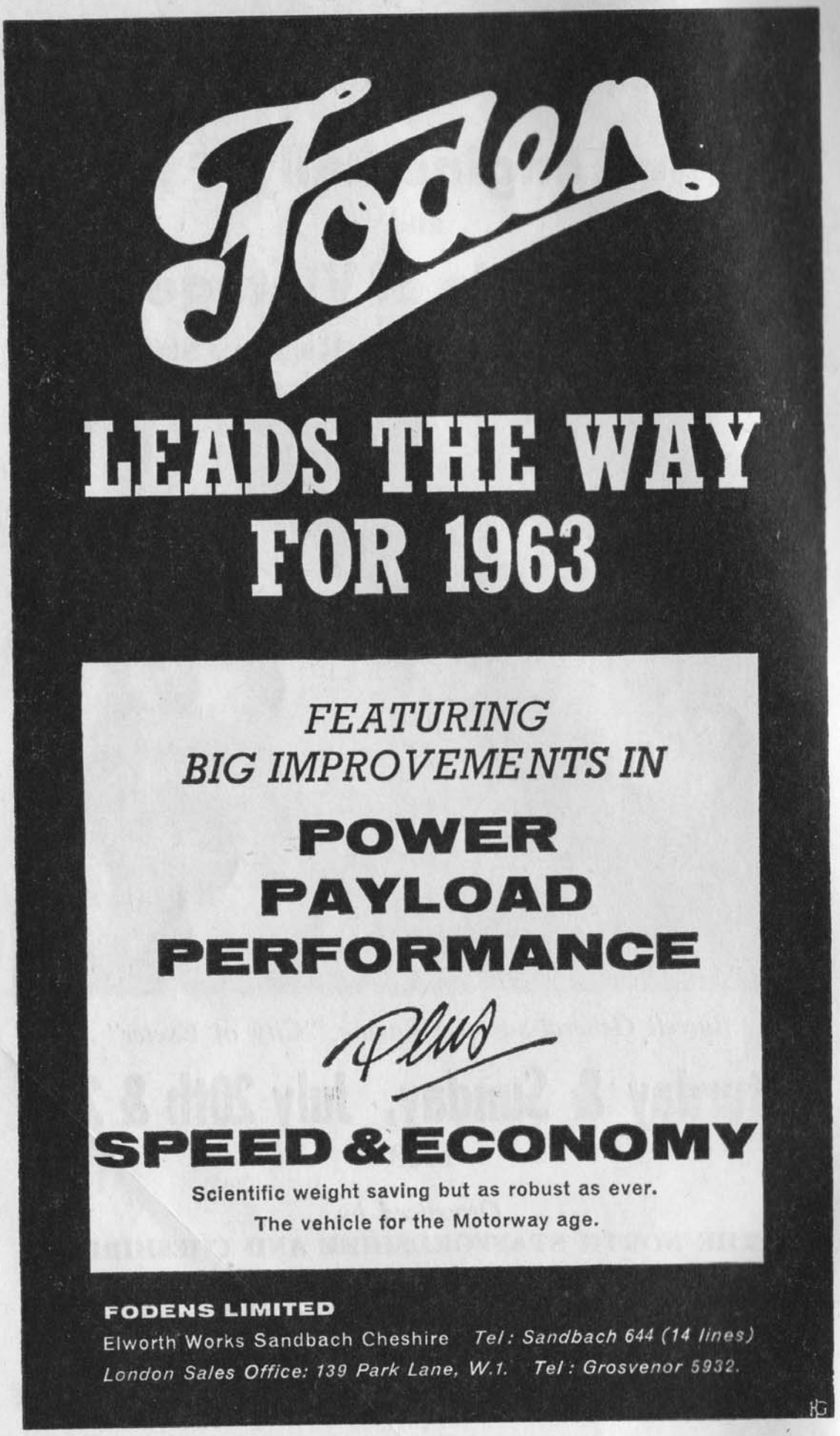
1963

Organised by

THE NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE AND CHESHIRE TRACTION ENGINE CLUB

in conjunction with the Colton Village Hall Committee

Programme — **One Shilling**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LEADS THE WAY
FOR 1963
FEATURING
BIG IMPROVEMENTS IN
POWER
PAYLOAD
PERFORMANCE
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SPEED & ECONOMY
Scientific weight saving but as robust as ever.
The vehicle for the Motorway age.
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Assistant Rally Secretaries

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Paddock Master

A. F. GOLDSTRAW

Assistant Paddock Master

R. G. ING

Chief Steward (Engines)

J. ROBINSON

Chief Stewards (Cars)

W. G. PYATT and W. A. BRIGGS

Ring Stewards and Paddock Marshals

TRACTION ENGINE CLUB

Controller

J. S. PODMORE

Programme Distribution

MRS. PODMORE

and members of the Colton Village Hall Committee

Public Address and Commentary

S. A. BAKER, ESQ.

Awarded the Certificate of the Royal Institute of
. . . Public Health and Hygiene . . .

CENTREX

Hygienic Skin Cleanser

THE WORLD'S FINEST FOR REMOVING
GREASE . OIL . TAR . PAINT . ETC.
RAPIDLY AND HARMLESSLY

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for information and free sample

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COMMERCIAL VEHICLE

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The old-time craftsmen were devoted men. The work they produced was made to last, and each small detail was handled with all the care of a man keenly interested in his job.

Their finished work was a source of pleasure to its owner, a source of pride to the man whose skill had brought it to life.

Even in these days of mass production such men may still be found, adding their skill to the most modern machinery to make AIRDUCTS of the highest quality for . . .

DANIELS BROS.

Ventilating Engineers

PLENUM WORKS

CHEMICAL LANE, LONGBRIDGE HAYES
TUNSTALL, STOKE-ON-TRENT

'Phone S.O.T. 52126

We do not know

How many miles our engine 'RAJAH' must have travelled in hauling the Wild Beast Show from Land's End to John O' Groats for 20 years.

We DO know

How well these Norfolk Craftsmen must have built her at the Thetford works, so that 50 years later she is still working for us preparing soil to grow the best possible vegetable, flowering and tomato plants.

J. P. SWINDLEHURST

SIX ELMS NURSERIES

Ashbourne Road . LEEK . Staffs.

A. F. GOLDSTRAW

WELDING ENGINEER

BOILER REPAIR
SPECIALIST

Save Time and Money
by using our
Specialized Services

Compact Mobile Unit . .
. . . . . Skilled Craftsmen

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BUCKNALL
STOKE-ON-TRENT

Tel. 25057

KEEP

THIS

PROGRAMME

IT MAY HAVE

THE

LUCKY NUMBER

THE NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE AND CHESHIRE TRACTION ENGINE CLUB

Affiliated to

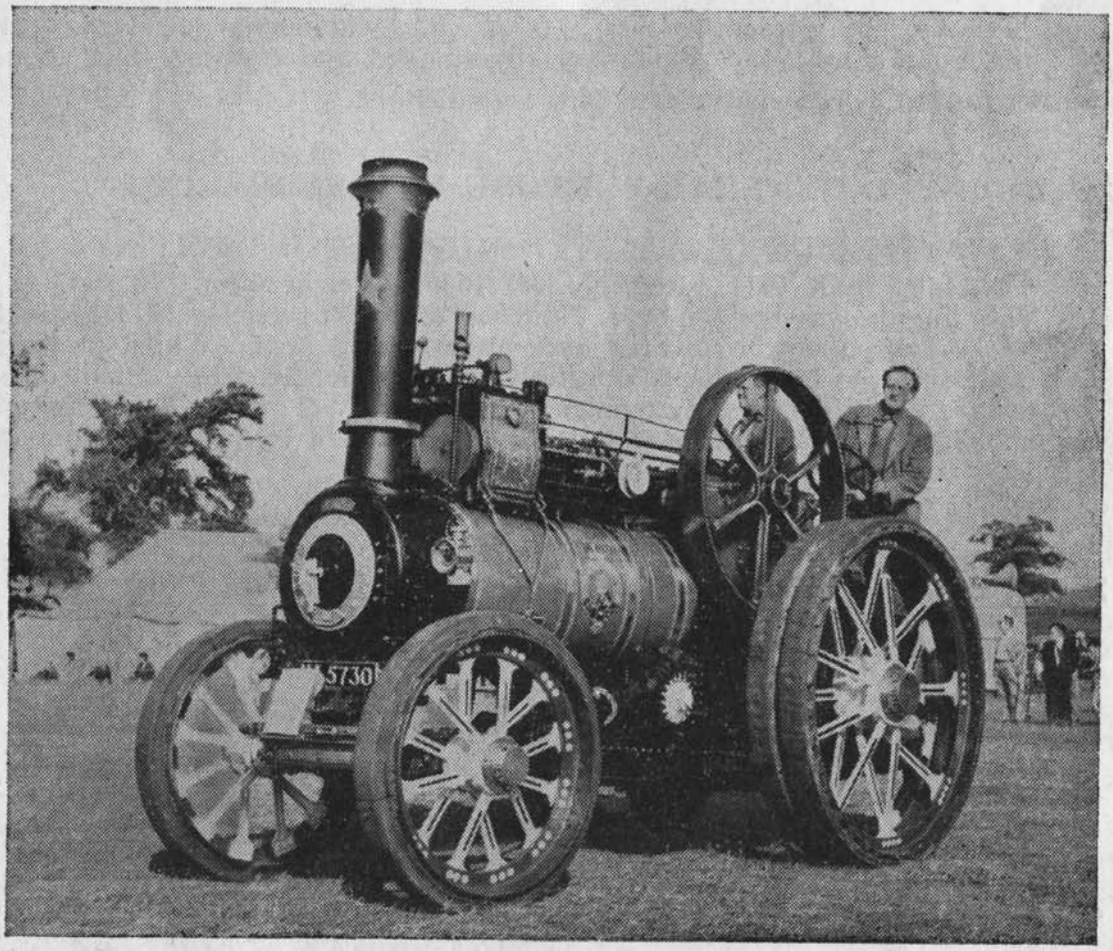
THE NATIONAL TRACTION ENGINE CLUB

President : DR. J. R. HOLLICK

Chairman : R. D. HOWLE, ESQ., J.P.

Secretary : S. L. WEDGWOOD *Treasurer :* J. S. PODMORE

Annual Subscription £1. New members welcomed here or apply to "Holcombe House," 173 Congleton Road, Biddulph, Stoke-on-Trent. 'Phone Biddulph 3390.



Foster Agricultural Engine No. 12539, "Winnie"

TRACTION ENGINE RALLIES CAN BE DANGEROUS

The public are earnestly requested to avoid taking any risks as the organizers cannot hold themselves responsible for any injury however caused, either to person or property.

The Paddock Marshals have instructions not to start any event until members of the public are outside the arena.

Engines

1. BURRELL SHOWMAN'S ROAD LOCOMOTIVE No. 3509

"Rajah"

3-speed Compound. Built 1913. 5 N.H.P. Reg. No. 6469.
Weight 12 tons.

1913 to 1930, owned by Bostock & Wombwell, by whom it was in continuous use in their famous travelling menagerie.

1930 to 1956, owned by W. H. Henton, Threshing Contractor.

Probably the most-travelled engine in the country from John O' Groats to Land's End and has been known to visit Ireland, with its usual load (in B. & W's time) of three animal wagons containing elephant, lions and tigers, about 50 tons in all.

Purchased by present owner, Mr. J. P. Swindlehurst of Leek, for preservation in 1958. Extensively overhauled and restored since then.

Crew; Mr. J. P. Swindlehurst, Mrs. Swindlehurst.

2. BURRELL GENERAL-PURPOSE ENGINE No. 3395

"City of Exeter"

6 N.H.P. Built 1911. Reg. No. FJ 1536. Weight 9 tons 10 cwt.
This Engine was bought by J. Hancock & Son, Exeter, in 1911 to haul bricks from their brickworks over an extensive area. Whilst in their ownership the hind wheels wore out and were replaced by present ones to save time for necessary repairs. In 1925 she was bought by J. Henton and Son, Hopwas, and used by them until bought by present Owner in 1959 for preservation.

Owner/Driver: J. H. Sandon. Steersman: T. Holden.

3. BURRELL SINGLE-CRANK COMPOUND No. 2706

"The Admiral"

6 N.H.P. Devonshire Engine. Built 1904. Reg. No. TB 2845.
Weight 8 tons 10 cwts.

Acquired by the Club from Mr. Raymond Rawcliffe of Blackburn.

Members of the Club will form the crew during the period of the Rally.

4. BURRELL SINGLE-CRANK COMPOUND No. 2950

"Little Mac"

6 N.H.P. Devonshire Engine. Built 1907. Reg. No. AF 3532.

Weight 8 tons 10 cwts.

Bought from Forton (Preston) by Dales in 1961. Originally acquired for preservation in 1952, when it appeared at the Royal Lancs. Show. Canopy was added in 1962 to restore to original condition. Winner of Challenge Cup at Alton Towers Rally last year.

Owner: J. C. Dale.

Driver: D. W. Aston. Steersman: W. Beckett.

5. BURRELL D/C COMPOUND GENERAL-PURPOSE

ENGINE No. 3746 "Princess Alexandra"

6 N.H.P. Agricultural Engine. Built 1916. Reg. No. MA 5733.
Weight 10 tons 13 cwts.
Supplied new Jan. 1917 to A. Pennington of Millington, Altrincham. Bought by Wm. Barlow, High Leigh (Knutsford) in 1924 and used for threshing until 1946. Purchased from Barlow Bros. in 1960 by Mr. G. S. Lea, who sold it to present owner early in 1962.
This engine has 6 N.H.P. engine mounted on 7-h.p. boiler.
Owner: R. D. Howle.
Driver: R. D. Howle. Steersman: A. Baker.

6. FOSTER D/C COMPOUND AGRICULTURAL

ENGINE No. 12539 "Winnie"

6 N.H.P. General-purpose Engine. Built 1910. Reg. No. MA 5730.
Weight
Supplied new to Messrs. Bonell (Audlem); sold two years later to Barlow Bros., High Leigh, Knutsford, with whom it was in continuous use well into the 1950's. Purchased by present owner for preservation in 1960.
Owner: J. Dakin, Goostrey.
Driver: J. Dakin. Steersman: P. Holden.

7. FOSTER COMPOUND "WELLINGTON" TRACTOR

No. 14431 "Princess Anne"

Built 1922. Reg. No. FE 3217. Weight 5 tons.
Owner: R. D. Howle.
Driver: J. Clarke. Steersman: Mrs. Clarke.

8. FODEN COMPOUND TRACTION ENGINE No. 2654

7 N.H.P. General Purpose Engine. Built 1912. Reg. No. E 5684.
Weight 9 tons.
Originally supplied to farmer in Staffordshire and was damaged in a farm fire. Went back to makers in 1914, was rebuilt and purchased by Barlow Bros., High Leigh, Knutsford, and used for general Agricultural purposes until 1947. Took part in the Foden Centenary Parade in 1956 and shortly after was acquired for preservation by present owner.
Owner: J. A. Barber, Chelford, Cheshire.
Driver: J. A. Barber. Steersman:

9. MARSHALL AGRICULTURAL ENGINE

No. 78085 "Lindy Lou"

7 N.H.P. Reg. No. E 9624. Weight 9 tons 18½ cwt.
This engine was supplied new to Lindop Brothers, of Edingale, near Tamworth, on 3rd September, 1924. It was used for threshing up to 1947. From 1947 until purchased for preservation by present owner, she stood in the stackyard and when bought in 1960 was found to have an elder tree growing through the firebox, out through the firebox door and up through the motion. A new smokebox was fitted in 1962. It is hoped to have her fully restored by next year.
Owner: B. Nicholson, Draycott in Clay, Staffs.
Driver: B. Nicholson. Steersman: G. C. Nicholson.

10. GARRETT No. 29764 "Olive"

6 N.H.P. Built 1911. Weight 9 tons.
The history of this engine is obscure. But when first built she was super-heated and used mainly for winch work.
Owner: F. Painter, Shrewsbury.
Driver: F. Painter. Steersman:

11. FODEN 5-TON STEAM WAGON No. 6350

"The Dorset Rambler"

4 N.H.P. Compound. Built 1916. Reg. No. M 8681.
New to Lytham St. Annes Shipyard in 1916. Purchased as scrap by present owner in 1955. Extensively overhauled and restored by him. Was originally fitted with wooden wheels and steel tyres (Similar to No. 12 in the programme).
Has appeared in Rallies and Historical Vehicle Parades all over the country and is now a familiar visitor to North Staffordshire and Cheshire Rallies. Awarded Ferranti Cup for Steam Wagons for the last two years.
Owner: W. D. J. Sparrow, Ferndown, Dorset.
Driver: W. D. J. Sparrow. Steersman:

12. FODEN 5-TON STEAM WAGON No. 5218

2 Speed Compound. Built Dec. 1914. Reg. No. M 7287.
Weight 5 tons.
New to S. Hilton of Whitefield, Manchester. Sold 4 years later to Mr. Williams, Contractor, of Stand Hall, Whitefield, who used the wagon on regular haulage and estate work until about 1928. Afterwards stood in one of the outbuildings of the Hall where it survived the Blitz on the Manchester area in the early 1940's (The Hall and other buildings sustaining considerable damage from incendiary bombs). Apart from the family of the late Mr. Williams, and with the exception of a few privileged young enthusiasts of Bury Grammar School, the engine remained in complete obscurity until acquired by the present owner, who is, as will be observed, still in the midst of restoration work on this remarkable engine.
Owner/Driver: Mr. Arthur Wedgwood, Blackpool.
Fireman: J. J. Bradbury.

13. FODEN 6-TON STEAM WAGON No. 13120

Built 1928. Reg. No. VM 4536. Weight 6 tons.
Spent most of its working life as a Brewery lorry delivering beer. Acquired for preservation in 1957.
Another well known and popular visitor to the Rallies in Britain.
Owner: W. Fearnley, Castleford, Yorks.
Driver: W. Fearnley. Steersman: T. Fearnley.

14. FODEN "D"-TYPE TRACTOR No. 13222

"Cheshire Maid"

6 N.H.P. Reg. No. FK 3925. Weight 8 tons.
New December, 1928, to S. Darke and Sons, Worcester. Used by them for timber haulage. Just pre-war to F. H. Grover, Amersham Common, Bucks., then to J. Hugill, Brompton-on-Swale, Richmond, Yorks, who used it until 1948, selling to P. R. Bates, Iveston, Co. Durham, in 1959, from whom present owner bought it March, 1962.
Owner: Geo. S. Lea, Chelford, Cheshire.
Driver: Geo. S. Lea. Steersman: Mrs. M. Lea.

15. FODEN 5-TON TIPPER WAGON No. 8304

Built 1916, was formerly owned by Croydon Corporation. It is now being restored by owner.

Owner: Messrs. F. and L. Green, Congleton.

Driver: Steersman:

16. SUPER SENTINEL STEAM WAGON No. 1465

Built 1921. Reg. No. AW 3321. Weight 6 tons.
After standing for 9 years was acquired for preservation by present owners in 1957. Another well-known and familiar visitor to Rallies and shows throughout the country.

Owners: Fearnleys of Castleford, Yorks.

Driver: Mr. Ronald Fearnley. Fireman: Ian Fearnley.

17. SUPER SENTINEL TRACTOR No. 6695

Built 1926. Reg. No. EX 1638. Weight 5 tons 5 cwts.
New to a brewery firm in Great Yarmouth in steam wagon form. Acquired by Criddles of Liverpool about 1930, when it was converted to a tractor. Continuous use on grain haulage in Liverpool Docks until 1959, when purchased by present owner. Has since undergone considerable restoration work but has still attended several Rallies and Parades in the interim. This year it travelled to London under its own steam to compete in the London-Brighton vintage commercial run, in which it was the only Sentinel representative. After a successful run down to the coast, it returned again under steam during the night to Endon, during which much interest was shown by the long-distance lorry drivers.

Owner: A. Williamson, Endon, Stoke-on-Trent.

Driver: Alan Williamson. Fireman: Tony Kirk.

18. SENTINEL S4 STEAM WAGON No. 8992

"Prince"

Built 1933. Reg. No. TJ 4148. Weight 5 tons.
Originally bought to use for spares for a similar model Sentinel but was rebuilt as a tanker for Rally purposes in 1958.
Special Note—The 1903 Locomobile steam engine fitted to the wagon and operating the water pump delivers 2120 gallons in one hour.

Owner/Driver: G. E. Liversidge, Balby, Doncaster.

19. FOWLER 11-TON STEAM ROLLER No. 19356

This 5-N.H.P. Roller was built in 1932 and was used in the County of Essex and licensed until December 31st, 1961.
After being found in a scrap yard it was bought by the present owner in late March, 1963, and has only had a general clean before attending this Rally.

Owner: J. T. Beeby, Rempstone, Loughborough.

Driver: J. T. Beeby. Steersman: M. J. Beeby.

20. CLAYTON 10-TON STEAM ROLLER No. 46688

Built 1912, this 4-N.H.P. Clayton & Shuttleworth Steam Roller was acquired by the present owner from the Buttington Rolling Co. of Welshpool, and was restored to its present condition by Messrs. J. Minshall and D. W. Smith.
It appeared at the 1962 Church Stretton Rally and was driven from Bridgnorth to the Rally and back under its own steam.

Owner: Mr. G. Minshall, Bridgnorth.

Driver: J. Minshall. Steersman: B. Foxall.

21. FOWLER STEAM ROLLER "Crusader" No. 16045

Supplied new to Messrs. R. Dingle & Sons, Contractors, of Stoke Climsland, Cornwall, on 3rd August, 1923, as one of the Type DH rollers; later sold to Cornwall County Council, who fitted new firebox and roll tyres in 1953. Later owned by several enthusiasts in Cornwall and purchased by present owners in 1960. Re-tubed, motion work and fore-carriage overhauled and pointwork completed in original colours in 1962.

Owners and Crew: J. M. and R. T. Pearson.

Driver: P. Wain.

22. AVELING AND PORTER PORTABLE ENGINE No. 3338

This 6-N.H.P. Engine was built in 1885 and was re-built this year by the present owner after standing for thirty-eight years in an orchard at Canterbury, Kent.

Owner: J. Dakin., Goostrey, Cheshire.

23. RUSTON-PROCTOR PORTABLE ENGINE No. 29011

Engine supplied new to Burton-on-Trent Corporation Pumping Station in 1905. She was used for providing steam to power steam winches which were used for cleaning deposits from sewers. Has not been used for past 25 years until recently. Purchased by the present owner for preservation. 8 N.H.P.

Owner: B. Nicholson, Draycott-in-the-Clay.

24. MARSHALL STATIONARY ENGINE No. 51230

This is a 22-horse-power Engine running at 250 r.p.m. It worked providing power in the laundry at Arclid Hospital until eight years ago. It was purchased this year for preservation.

Owner: J. Dakin, Goostrey, Cheshire.

25. MERRYWEATHER FIRE ENGINE

This Steam Fire Engine is owned by Rubery Owen Ltd., Darlaston, and is appearing at the Rally by kind permission of Alderman A. G. B. Owen, C.B.E.

Veteran and Vintage Cars

1. **1911 DAIMLER 15-h.p. TOURER**
   Reg. No. Owner: John Evans Jnr., Buxton.
2. **1934 ASTON-MARTIN LE MANS SPEED MODEL**
   Reg. No. Owner: John Evans Jnr., Buxton.
3. **1912 FORD MODEL "T" 2-seater 23-h.p.**
   Reg. No. Owner: E. Bamford, Stretton, Staffs.
4. **1914 SWIFT, designed as World War I Staff Car**
   Reg. No. Owner: P. J. Bloor, Stoke-on-Trent.
5. **4½-LITRE BENTLEY**
   Reg. No. Owner: A. H. J. Butters, Audley.
6. **1909 RENAULT 8-h.p. Two-seater**
   Reg. No. M 2001 Owner: B. Cowburn, Knutsford.
7. **AUSTIN 12 "CLIFTON TOURER"**
   Reg. No. Owner: F. A. Brindley, Cheadle, Staffs.
8. **AUSTIN SEVEN**
   Reg. No. Owner: T. W. Batley, Newcastle-under-Lyme.
9. **1932 LAGONDA 2-Litre**
   Reg. No. Owner: J. R. Morris, Huntley, Nr. Cheadle.
10. **1927 MORRIS COMMERCIAL**
    Reg. No. Owner: W. G. Pyatt, Cheadle, Staffs.
11. **CITROEN 11.4-h.p. "ALL-STEEL" TOURER**
    Reg. No. XY 5819 Owner: R. T. Gausden, Sutton Coldfield.
12. **1927 AUSTIN SEVEN**
    Reg. No. WW 1591 Owner: M. J. Booth, Barnsley.
13. **1926 MORRIS OXFORD**
    Reg. No. KU 6077 Owner: R. M. Knox, Pudsey.
14. **ROLLS-ROYCE 1921 "SILVER GHOST"**
    Reg. No. MA 8102 Owner: W. A. Briggs, Plumley, Cheshire.
15. **1906 GLADIATOR SPORTS TOURER**
    Reg. No. M 181 Owner: W. E. Offley, Ellesmere Port.
16. **1912 ROLLS ROYCE 40/50-h.p.**
    Reg. No. CC 41 Owner: Lt. Col. N. F. Gresham, D.S.O., Broadway.
17. **1913 ARGYLL 25/50-h.p.**
    Reg. No. Owner: J. J. D. Farrington, Warrington.
18. **1925 DAIMLER 20-h.p.**
    Reg. No. Owner: J. J. D. Farrington, Warrington.
19. **1914 BELSIZE 12-h.p.**
    Reg. No. IB 33 Owner: R. S. Fowler, Altrincham.
20. **1901 DE DION BOUTON 4½-h.p.**
    Reg. No. M 11 Owner: J. P. H. Gresham, Lymm, Cheshire.
21. **1937 RILEY LYNX "COLONIAL"**
    Reg. No. BBM 363 Owner: R. Lander, Boughton, Chester.
22. **1923 ROLLS-ROYCE PARK-WARD LIMOUSINE**
    Reg. No. UW 6718 Owner: N. Holt, Wolverhampton.
23. **1923 BULL NOSE MORRIS OXFORD**
    Reg. No. Owner, Barker & Shenton, Checkley, Staffs.
24. **1923 WOLSELEY SEVEN**
    Reg. No. Owner, Barker & Shenton, Checkley, Staffs.
25. **1926 AUSTIN 12 "CLIFTON TOURER"**
    Reg. No. Owner: J. H. Hill, Rudyard, Leek.
26. **1933 GRAND PRIX MASERRATI**
    Reg. No. Owner: R. Baker, Kings Bromley, Staffs.
27. **AUSTIN SEVEN**
    Reg. No. Owner: D. Marsh, Fradley, Lichfield.
28. **1933 M.G.**
    Reg. No. Owner: D. Marsh, Fradley, Lichfield.
29. **1930 12 H.P. LEA-FRANCIS**
    Reg. No. GS 3420 Owner: J. M. Collins, Oldham.

Progr

SATURDAY, JULY 20th

1. OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE RALLY at 2.30 p.m. BY: —

MR. E. S. PEARSE

2. GRAND PARADE OF ENGINES WITH COMMENTARY
3. GRAND PARADE OF VETERAN CARS
4. SENTINEL EVENT
5. LADIES' STEERING EVENT
6. STEAM ROLLER EVENT
7. FODEN EVENT
8. BACK TO BACK EVENT
   (First pair of engines to complete the course without breaking the string connecting them are the winners)
9. DEMONSTRATION OF POWER
10. BEER IN BUCKET EVENT

Lucky Programme Number will be announced at 6 p.m.

BARBECUE FROM 7 P.M.

8 p.m. COUNTRY DANCING IN THE MARQUEE. CALLER MR. KENNETH CLARK. MUSIC, STAFFORD COUNTRY DANCE BAND.

On Both Days, the following CONTINUOUS

DARTS, HOOP-LA, MYSTERY TUBS, TREASURE HUNT, TOSS

PLEASE VISIT THE NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE SOCIETY O

THE VERBEECK FAIRGROUND ORGAN (ex Geo. Ryan's Steam Yachts) will provide musical selections during the Rally.
Owner: P. Swindlehurst, Leek.

amme

SUNDAY, JULY 21st

11 a.m. RELIGIOUS SERVICE CONDUCTED BY THE RECTOR OF COLTON, REV. A. S. TOWLSON, B.A.

1. OFFICIAL OPENING OF ARENA EVENTS BY:—

DR. J. R. HOLLICK

President of North Staffordshire and Cheshire Traction Engine Club.

2. GRAND PARADE OF ENGINES WITH COMMENTARY
3. GRAND PARADE OF VETERAN CARS
4. STEAM ROLLER EVENT
5. POLO MATCH
6. SENTINEL EVENT
7. LADIES' STEERING EVENT
8. MUSICAL CHAIRS
9. FODEN EVENT
10. OBSTACLE EVENTS

Presentation of Cups will take place after today's events when the lucky programme number will also be announced.

COMPETITIONS AND ATTRACTIONS:

ING THE SHEAF, PUTTING THE SHOT AND MANY OTHERS

F MODEL ENGINEERS EXHIBITION AND RAILWAY

In the event of changes or modifications to the above programme becoming necessary, these will be announced over the P.A. System.

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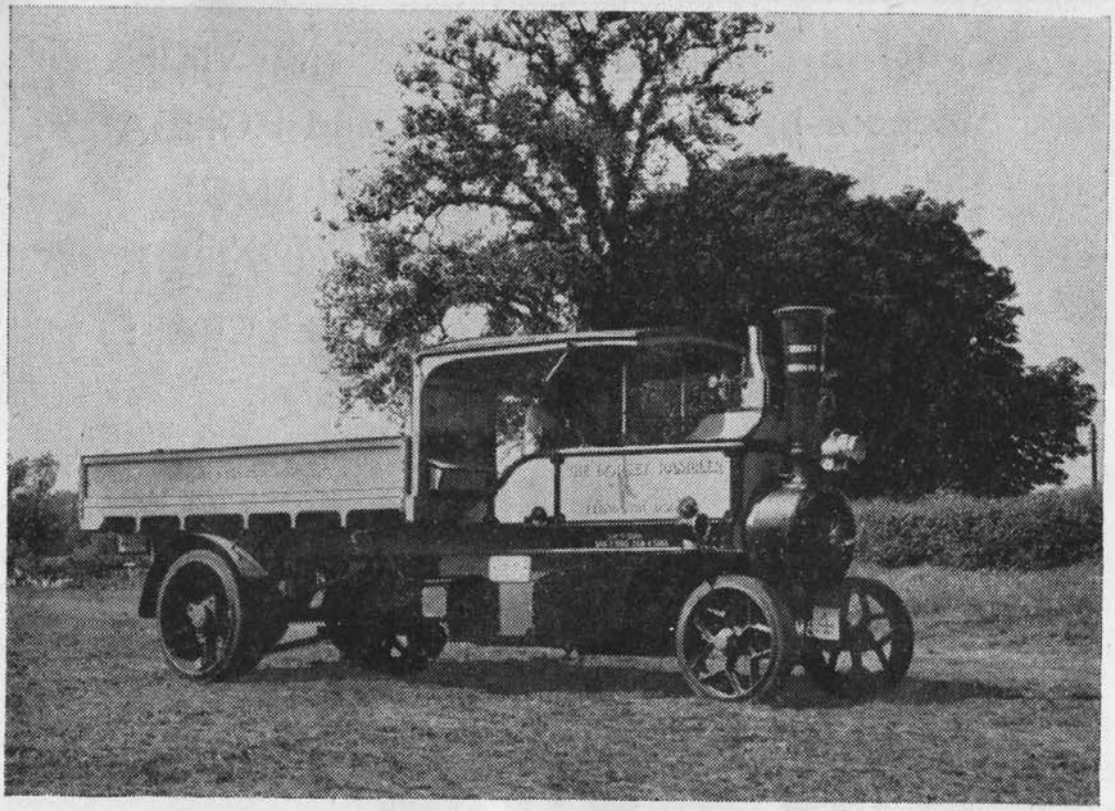

Foden No. 6350, "The Dorset Rambler"

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Organizers wish to thank all those who have given their help with the Rally and especially: —

MR. J. C. PRICE ON WHOSE LAND THE RALLY IS HELD
THE ENGINES AND VETERAN CAR OWNERS AND CREWS
THE JUDGES
THE A.A. AND R.A.C.
THE COMMUNITY OF COLTON
ST. JOHN'S AMBULANCE BRIGADE
THE PROGRAMME SELLERS
SHELL MEX AND B.P.
KIDSGROVE W.V.S. AND LADIES' COMMITTEE
ALL PHOTOS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO DAVID BRADBURY
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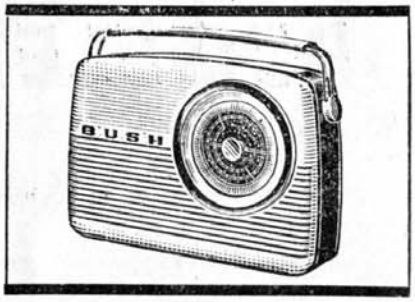

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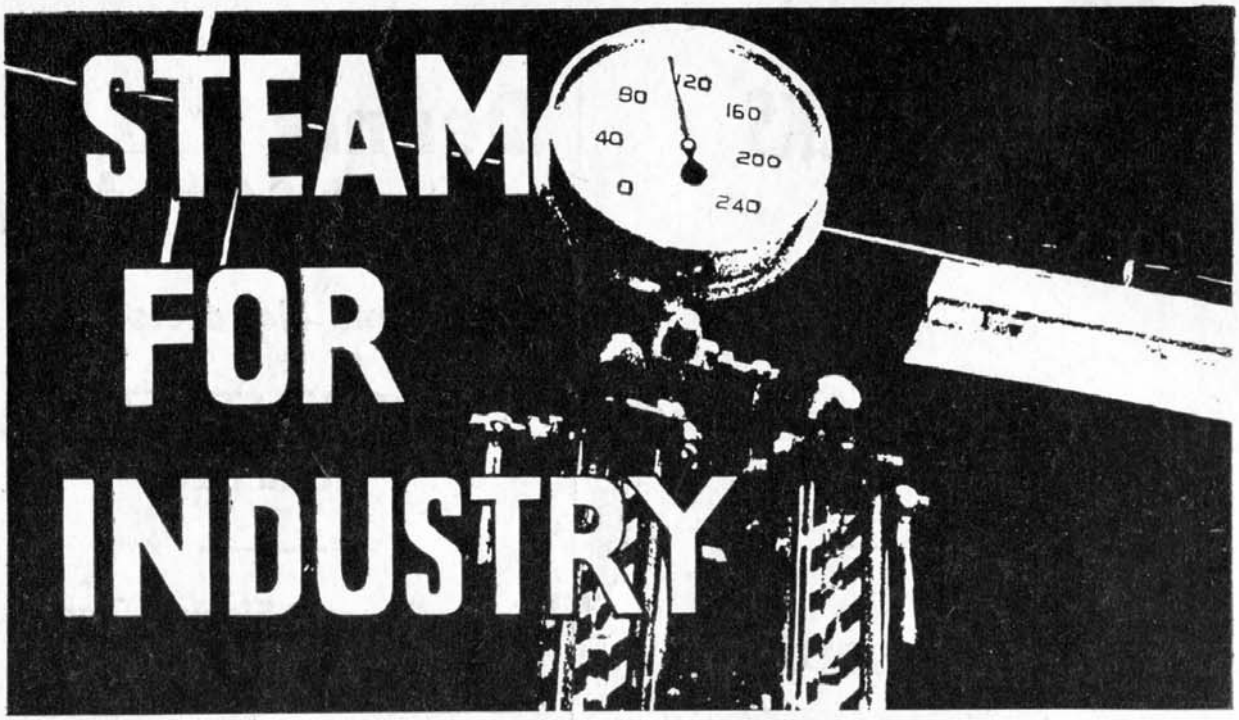

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United Schools Charity

A B S T R A C T O F T H E T I T L E

- of -

The Trustees of the Charity known as Colton United Schools established at Colton in the County of Stafford to freehold land and premises known as Webb's Cottages aforesaid.

10th Nov. 1954
10/-

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION on this dte ordered that the hinar absttd Scheme be establishe

" SCHEME (No. 3718P) mde by the MIN OF EDUCN under the Charitable Trusts Acts 1853 to 19

The Foundation

1. In this Scheme the expression "the Foundation" means Colton United Schools in the Pa of Colton in the Coy of Stafford founded in the yr 1765 now regulated by a Scheme of the Charity Comms of 4th Feb. 1862.

Exd with copy Scheme prdd at the offices of M/s Hinckley, Birch & Exham Solrs. L'fld. Gardner, Railton & Co. Rugeley. 29.7.64.

Admon & Trees

2. The Foundation including the endowments specified in the Sched to this Scheme shall henceforth be administered in accordance with the provs of this Scheme by the Managers i the time bg of the School of the Foundation as Trees thof, who are in their capacity as Trees, in this Scheme called "the Trees"

3,4,5,6,7,8,9 (Not affecting the ppty the subjt of this Abstt)

10. Vesting Ppty.

The Trees and all or persons capable of bg bound by this Scheme shall, unless the Min of Educn orwise in writing directs do all such acts as may be necessary in order to vest in Official Tree of Charity Lds & to transfer to the Official Trees of Charitable Funds respectively all (inter alia) fhold lds & hdts at any time blgg to the Foundation

11. Not affecting the ppty the subjt of this Abstt.

12. Management of Ppty.

The Trees shall manage the ppty of the Foundation not occupied for the ppse thof accordi to the genl law applicable to the management of ppty by trees of charitable foundations.

13.14.15 Not affecting the ppty the subjt of this Abstt.

16. Qu's under the Scheme

Any qu as to the construction of this Scheme or as to the regularity or the validity of any acts done or about to be done under this Scheme shall be determined conclusively by the Min of Educn upon such applon mde to him for the ppse as he thinks sufficient

17. Interpretation.

The Interpretation Act 1889 applies to the interpretation of this Scheme as it applies an Act of Parlt.

18. Dte of Scheme.

The dte of this Scheme shall be the day on which it is establ by an Order of the Min of Educn

SCHED as at 21st Aug. 1954.

Descon.	(Inter Alia) Extent or Amt.	Tenant.	Gross Yrly Inc.
	A. R. P.		£. S. D.
3 Cotts at Colton Nod 454 on the O.S. Map of the District (1924 ED)	0. 2. 4.	Meddings Wright Deacon	11. 14. 0d. 14. 6. 0d. 14. 6. 0d.
Ld known as Vinson's Close Nod. 453 on the O.S. Map of the District (1924 Ed).	3. 0. 29.	Herbert and Martha Saunders.	5. 15. 0d.

The Min of Educ orders that the foregoing Scheme be establ

SEALED with the Official Seal of the

Min. of Educn"

1st April, 1963
Exd with original
prdd as befe.
G.R. & Co.

ORDER (No. 63/396/P) mde by the MIN of EDUCN under S.29 Charities Act 1960 enttld "In th Matter of the Foundation known as the COLTON UNITED SCHOOLS in the Par of COLTON in the Coy of STAFFORD" whrby the MIN of EDUCN ordered that :-

1. The Trees of the sd Foundation mt within 1 yr from the dte of the absttg presents sell the ppty descbd in the Sched thrto for £1210
2. Not affecting the ppty the subjt of this Abstt.

SCHED.

Ld contng 1.872 a or thbts together with the bldgs erected on pt thof known as Webb's Co site at Colton in the Coy of Stafford & forming Encs nod. 453 and 454 on the O.S. Map (1 Ed) of the district

SEALED with the Official Seal of the

Min of Educn. & attd by H.B.C. MORRELL

under the authy of S.3 Education Act 19

23rd April, 1964
Exd with original
prdd as bfre.
G.R. & Co.

VARIATION OF ORDER (No. 64/514P) mde by Secy of State for Educn & Science under S.29 Chari Act 1960 called "In the Matter of the Foundation known as COLTON UNITED SCHOOLS in the Pa of Colton in the Coy of STAFFORD" whrby the sd Secy in variation of the bfre absttd Order Min of Educn dtd 1st April, 1963 ordered that

The Sale of real este authorised by the bfre absttd Order mt be mde within one of the dt of the absttg presents and the provs of the bfre absttd Order as vari the absttg presents shld apply to such sale

SEALED with the Official Seal of the

Secy of State for Educn & Science and at

by GLYN MORGAN under the authy of S.3.

Education Act, 1944.

Sealed 23rd April, 1964

No. 64/514 P.

County - STAFFORD.

Parish - COLTON.

Foundation - COLTON UNITED SCHOOLS

Authority to sell real estate - Variation of Order of the Minister of Education.

ORDER made by the Secretary of State for Education and Science under Section 29 of the Charities Act 1960, in the Matter of the Foundation known as the COLTON UNITED SCHOOLS, in the Parish of COLTON, in the County of STAFFORD.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SCIENCE, in variation of the Order of the Minister of Education of 1st April 1963, hereby ORDERS as follows :-

The sale of real estate authorised by the above-mentioned Order of the 1st April 1963 may be made within one year from the date of this Order and the provision of the said Order of 1st April 1963, as varied by this Order, shall apply to such sale.

Given under the Official Seal of the Secretary of State for Education and Science on 23rd April 1964

(L.S.)

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at the office of
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Gardner, Railton & Co.
Rugeley, 29.7.64.

~~Ex Lodge Original~~ at Return to Hinckley Bentley & Eaham, Lichfield

County—STAFFORD.

Sealed 10 November 1954.

Parish—COLTON.

No. 3718 P.

Foundation—United Schools.

Stamp 10*s*.

Scheme.

SCHEME MADE BY THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION UNDER THE CHARITABLE TRUSTS ACTS 1853 TO 1925.

The Foundation

1. In this Scheme the expression " the Foundation " means the Colton United Schools, in the Parish of Colton, in the County of Stafford, founded in the year 1765 and now regulated by a Scheme of the Charity Commissioners of 4 February 1862.

Administration and Trustees

2. The Foundation including the endowments specified in the Schedule to this Scheme shall henceforth be administered in accordance with the provisions of this Scheme by the Managers for the time being of the School of the Foundation as Trustees thereof, who are, in their capacity as such Trustees, in this Scheme called " the Trustees."

Transfer of Land

3. The freehold of and in the land now belonging to the Foundation, with the buildings erected thereon, known as the Oldham Almshouses, subject to a lease for a term of 99 years dated 21 April 1884 (the legal estate in which freehold is vested in the Official Trustee of Charity Lands), shall be held by the said Official Trustee in trust for the charity called the Oldham Almshouses and Mrs. Elizabeth Harland for Almshouses to the intent that the said leasehold interest shall merge in the freehold.

Trustees not to be personally interested in the Foundation.

4. Except in special circumstances, with the approval in writing of the Minister of Education, no Trustee shall take or hold any interest in any property belonging to the Foundation, otherwise than as a trustee for the purposes thereof, or receive any remuneration, or be interested in the supply of work or goods, at the cost of the Foundation.

School of the Foundation

5. The Colton Endowed School shall continue to be the school of the Foundation and religious instruction shall be given therein in accordance with the principles of the Church of England.

Application of Income

6. After payment of any expenses of administration the Trustees shall apply the net yearly income of the Foundation :—

(*a*) towards the cost of alterations of and repairs to the premises of the Colton Endowed School so that the said premises may conform to the requirements of the Education Acts, 1944 to 1953, and, subject to the provision of sufficient funds for this purpose :

(*b*) in otherwise promoting the education of children who, or whose parents, are resident in the Parish of Colton, or who are in attendance at the said School.

Application of Capital Endowment

7. The Trustees may apply so much of the capital of the Foundation as may be approved by further Order of the Minister of Education, subject to the replacement thereof within a period of years to be specified in such Order, towards the cost of alterations and additions to the premises of the Colton Endowed School, so that the said premises may conform to the requirements of the Education Acts 1944 to 1953.

General Power to make Rules

8. Within the limits prescribed by this Scheme the Trustees shall have full power to make rules for the management of the Foundation, and for the conduct of their business, the deposit of money at a proper bank, the custody of documents, and the appointment as Clerk or Secretary (to hold office at their pleasure) of one of themselves without salary or some other fit person at such salary, if any, as may be approved by the Minister of Education.

Minutes and Accounts

9. The Trustees shall provide and keep a minute book and books of account separate from the books of the school managers. All proper accounts in relation to the Foundation shall in each year be made out and certified in such form as the Minister of Education may require, and copies sent to the Ministry.

Vesting Property

10. The Trustees and all other persons capable of being bound by this Scheme shall, unless the Minister of Education otherwise in writing directs, do all such acts as may be necessary in order to vest in the Official Trustee of Charity Lands and to transfer to the Official Trustees of Charitable Funds, respectively, all freehold and leasehold lands and hereditaments and all stocks, shares, funds and securities respectively, at any time belonging to the Foundation.

Further Endowments

11. The Trustees may receive any additional donations or endowments for the general purposes of the Foundation. They may also receive donations or endowments for any special objects connected with the Foundation not inconsistent with or calculated to impede the due workings of the provisions of this Scheme. Any question arising upon this last point shall be referred to the Minister of Education for his decision.

Management of Property

12. The Trustees shall manage the property of the Foundation not occupied for the purposes thereof according to the general law applicable to the management of property by trustees of charitable foundations.

Repairs and Insurance

13. The Trustees shall keep in repair and insure against fire all the buildings of the Foundation not required to be kept in repair and insured by the lessees or tenants thereof.

Allotments Extension Act, 1882

14. The Trustees may set apart and let in allotments under the Allotments Extension Act, 1882, any portions of the land belonging to the Foundation other than buildings and appurtenances of buildings.

Surplus Cash

15. Any sum of cash at any time belonging to the Foundation and not needed as a balance for working purposes shall (unless otherwise directed by the Minister of Education) be invested. Any such investment may, if the Trustees think fit, be realised at any time and the proceeds applied as income.

Questions under Scheme

16. Any question as to the construction of this Scheme, or as to the regularity or the validity of any acts done or about to be done under this Scheme, shall be determined conclusively by the Minister of Education, upon such application made to him for the purpose as he thinks sufficient.

Interpretation

17. The Interpretation Act, 1889, applies to the interpretation of this Scheme as it applies to an Act of Parliament.

Date of Scheme

18. The date of this Scheme shall be the day on which it is established by an Order of the Minister of Education.

SCHEDULE.

Description.	Extent or Amount.	Tenant, person liable or persons in whose name invested.	Gross Yearly Income.
Real Property.	A. R. P.		£ s. d.
Field at Marchington numbered 1585 on the Ordnance Survey Map of the District (1922 Edition)	2 3 16	Mrs. Bathen	12 0 0
Field at Marchington numbered 1586 on the Ordnance Survey Map of the District (1922 Edition)	1 0 30		
Two fields at Marchington numbered 1608 and 1609 on the Ordnance Survey Map of the District (1922 Edition)	3 1 17	A. Alcock	9 0 0
Field at Colton numbered 556 in the Tithe Commutation Plan for the Parish of Colton	1 1 8	William Parr	2 12 0
School Master's House, Colton, known as Elm Cottage, being part of number 498 on the Ordnance Survey Map of the District (1924 Edition)	0 0 7	E. Broughton (School Master)	11 0 0
Three Cottages at Colton numbered 454 on the Ordnance Survey Map of the District (1924 Edition)	0 2 4	Meddings	11 14 0
		Wright	14 6 0
		Deacon	14 6 0
Two Cottages at Colton known as the "School Cottages" being part of number 518 on the Ordnance Survey Map of the District (1924 Edition)	0 0 37	Devall	7 0 0
		Goodall	11 14 0
Land known as Vinson's Close numbered 453 on the Ordnance Survey Map of the District (1924 Edition)†	3 0 29	Herbert and Martha Saunders	5 15 0
Personal Property.	£ s. d.		
3½ per cent. Defence Bonds ...	295 0 0	Trustees for the time being of the Colton United Schools.	10 6 6
2½ per cent. Consolidated Stock ...	766 6 8	Do. do.	19 3 2
2½ per cent. Consolidated Stock (Spencer's Charity)	484 8 7	Official Trustees of Charitable Funds.	12 2 0
2½ per cent. Consolidated Stock ...	1,446 6 2	Do. do.	36 3 0
Cash in hand and at Bank ...	183 4 10	—	—
The Oldham Almshouses.	A. R. P.		
Messuage and tenement at Colton formerly known as the Bell Inn with garden and adjoining croft numbered respectively 326 and 327 in the Tithe Commutation Plan for the Parish of Colton†.	0 2 3	Trustees of the Oldham Almshouse Charity.	25 0 0

Note.—†These properties are each charged with an annual payment of £1 for the benefit of the poor of the Parish of Colton.

This Schedule is made up to 21 August 1954.

The Minister of Education orders that the foregoing Scheme be established.

Given under the Official Seal of the Minister of Education this 10th day of November, 1954.

L. S.

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By Truslove & Bray, Ltd., London.

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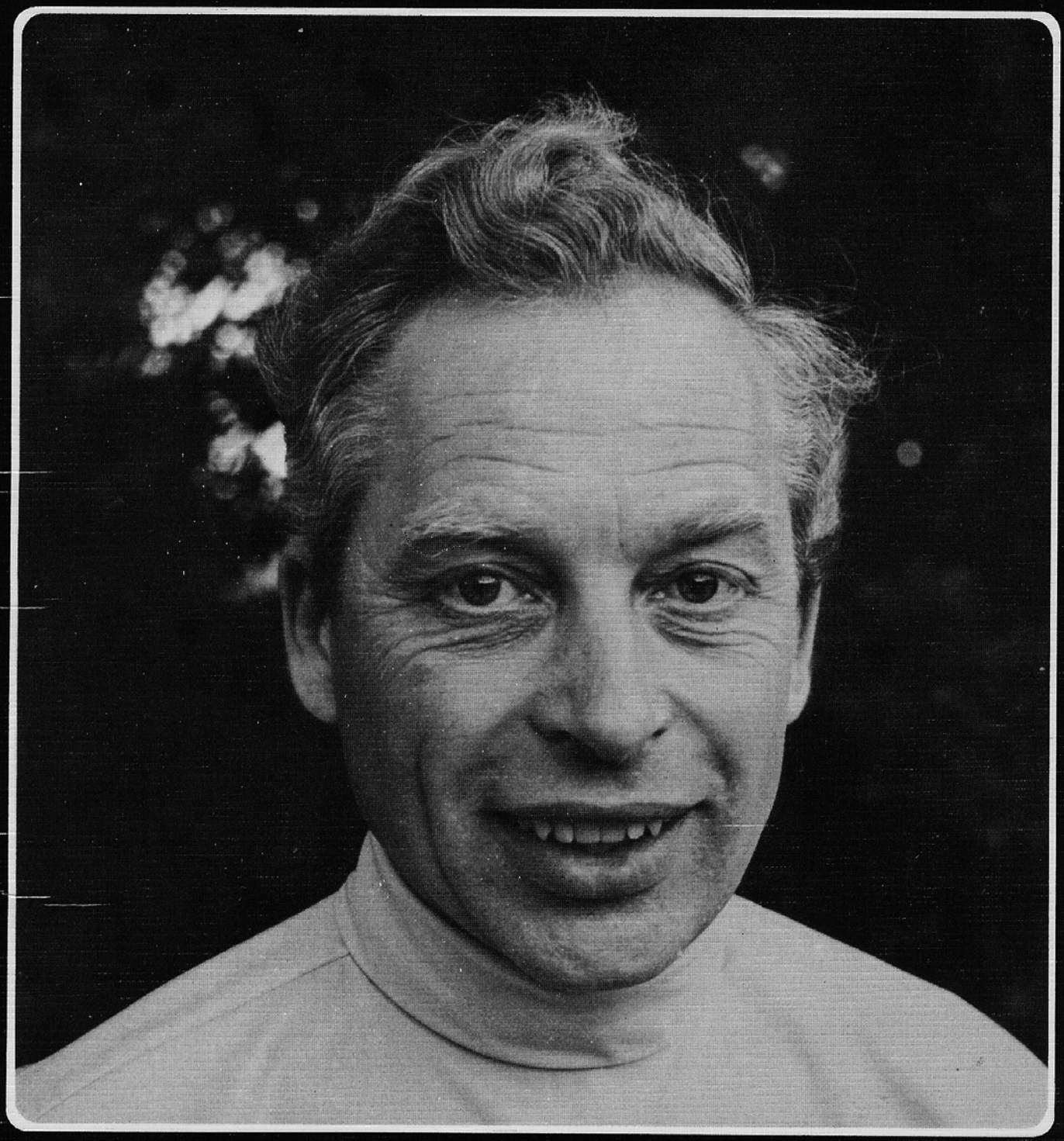
A Village Shopkeeper



Jack Brown

A STAFFORDSHIRE VILLAGE SHOPKEEPER

by Denis and Helen Ballance

Jack Brown

A STAFFORDSHIRE VILLAGE SHOPKEEPER

by Denis and Helen Ballance

Jack Brown is slightly below average height. He has fair hair and a broad forehead. He is very energetic and has the wiry build of a long distance runner. Irene, his wife, is small, lively and dark-haired.

They keep a small general shop, called the Cottage Stores, in the village of Colton, Staffordshire.

Colton is an ancient village and the cottage, which was built before 1748, is one of its older buildings.

The Browns' home, which is long and narrow, once had a thatched roof. This was replaced with tiles before Jack bought the house. Although most of the cottage is built of brick, parts of the outside walls are made of wood and plaster.

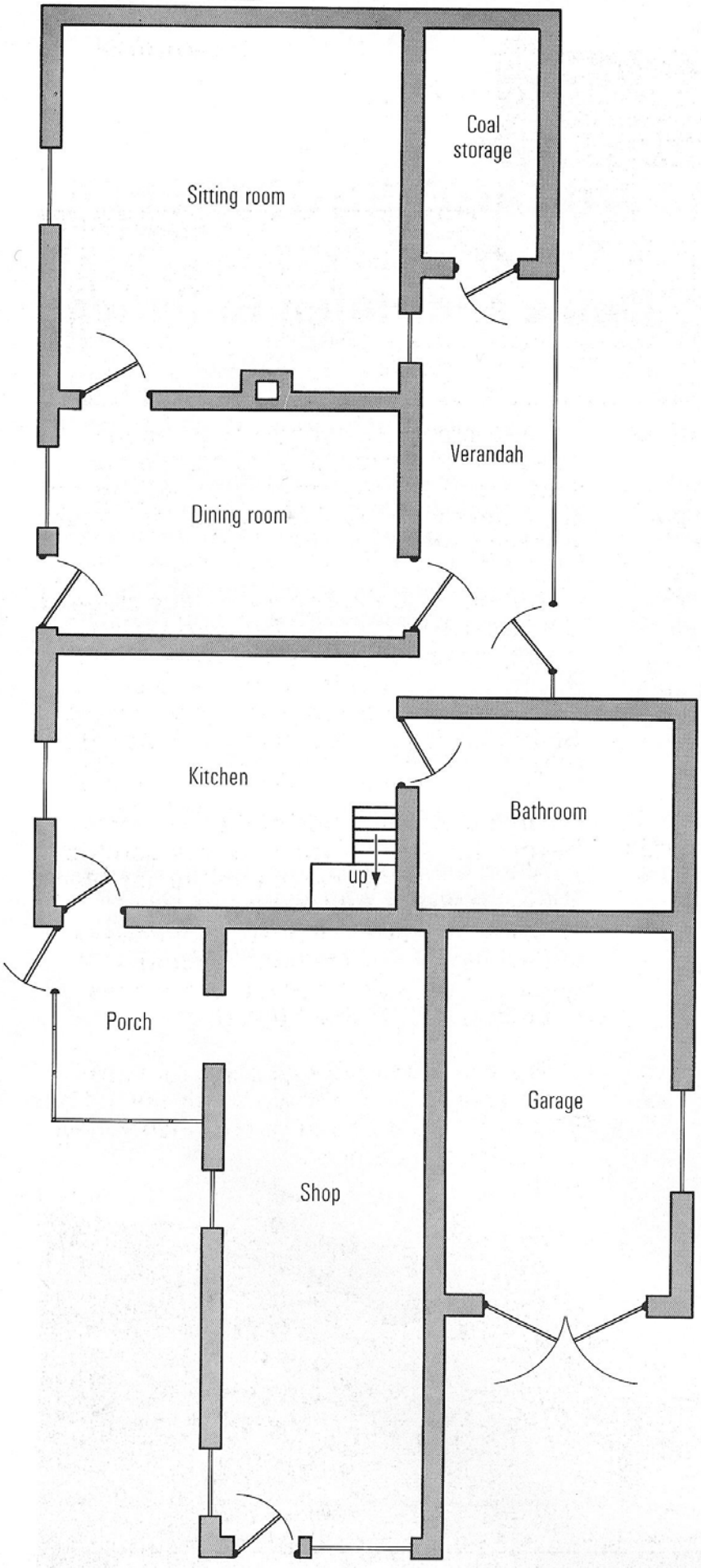
This method of building, in which heavy rough-hewn oak timbers were used to make a framework, was common in the wooded districts of England until about 1650. The spaces between the timbers were filled with a mixture of plaster, horse-hair and straw. Over the years, the oak has become blackened with age, and the stark whiteness of the plaster provides a pleasing contrast.

Massive oak beams were used to support the bedroom floors and these have been left exposed so that they form part of the ceilings of the downstairs rooms.

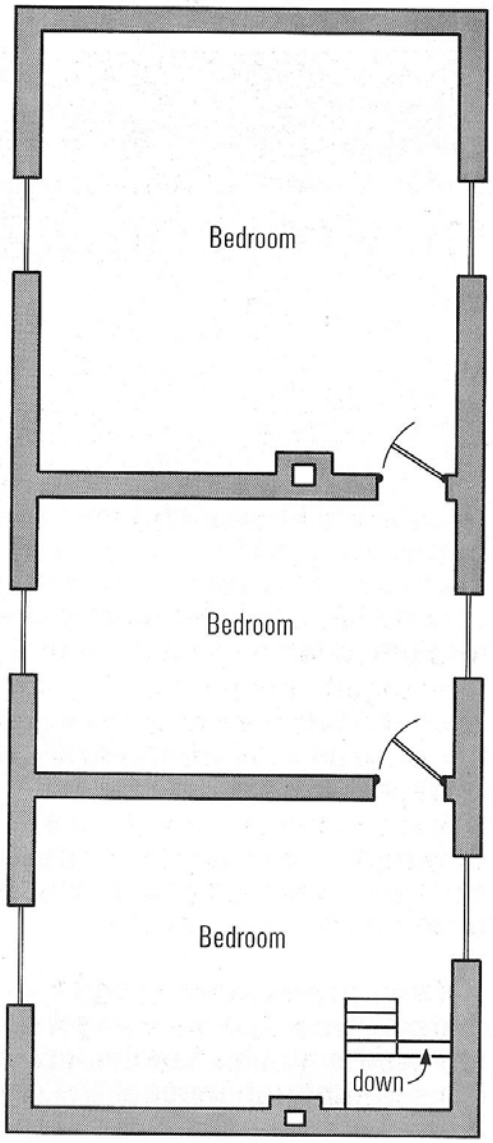
When the Browns went to live there in 1953, the house was much smaller than it is today. In the last few years Jack, who is a good amateur builder, has added a living



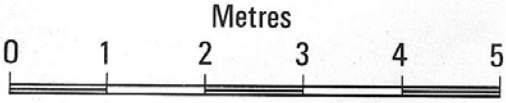
The Cottage Stores, where the Browns live and work



Ground floor plan



First floor plan



2



room and a bedroom to the west end of the cottage.

In 1958, Jack and Irene decided to put into practice an idea which they had talked over together many times. They were keen to start a business of their own and they made up their minds to turn part of their cottage into a shop. At one time Jack had worked in the grocery trade and, although they had very little money, the house, as we shall see, was well situated to serve as a shop.

During the winter of 1958, doing all the work themselves, Jack and Irene converted the garage, which had been built on to the other end of the cottage, into a shop.

At 8.30 on the morning of February 9th 1959 they opened the shop door to the public for the first time.

The Cottage Stores is not the only shop in Colton. Although Rugeley, an industrial and market town with a population of 15 000, and many shops, is only 3 km away, there are two more small general stores in the village. Just across the road from the Cottage Stores there is a dairy and there are two public houses, the Greyhound and the Dun Cow.

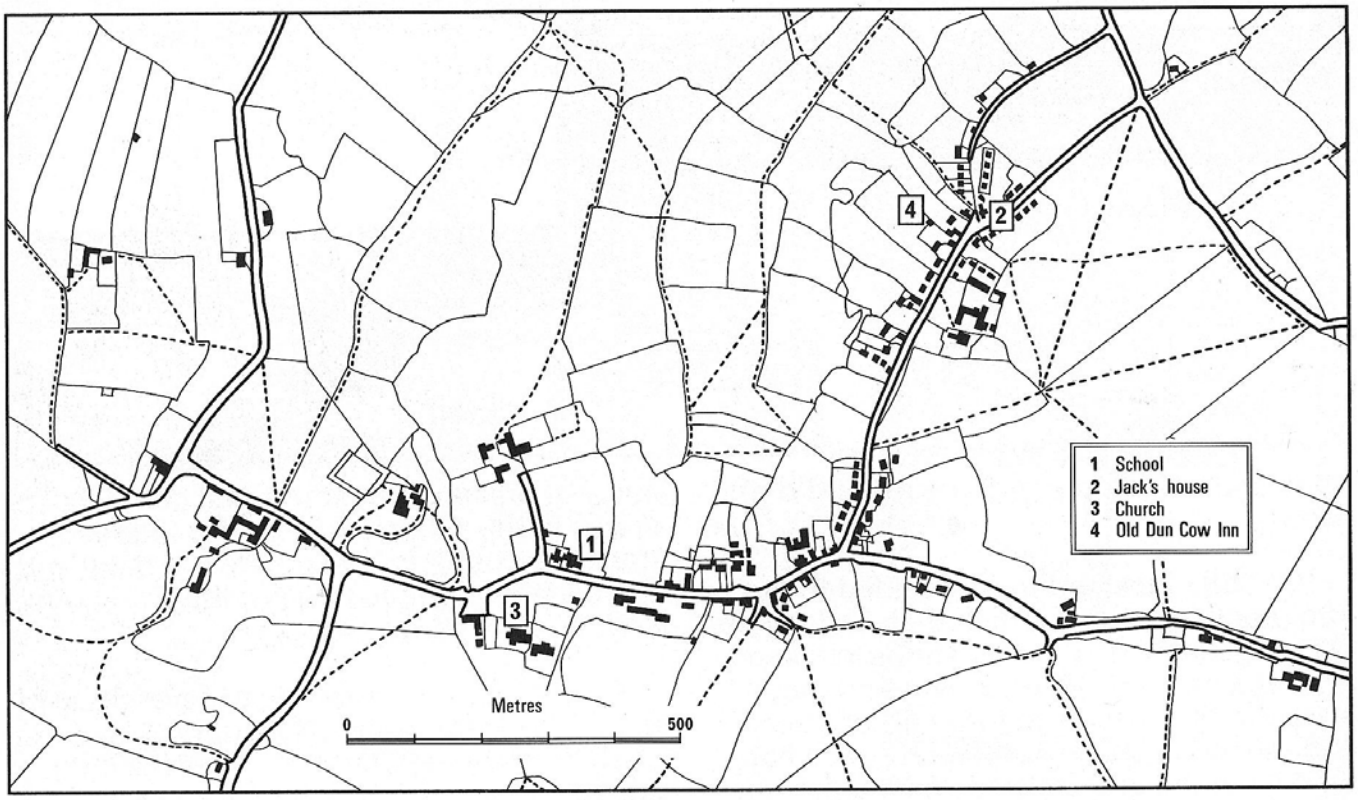
Colton lies on the gentle eastern slope of the upper Trent valley. The surrounding district has heavy clay soils. There is little arable farming, but it is a well-known dairying area. The rich pastures of central Staffordshire produce large quantities of milk.

On the opposite side of the river Trent, beyond the town of Rugeley, lies Cannock Chase. This is a region of infertile heathland. About 2500 ha of it has been planted with conifers by the Forestry Commission. In the past, it was a famous hunting ground. Fallow deer still roam its slopes, but they are no longer hunted.

The Chase is a popular place for walking and recreation. The Brown family sometimes takes a picnic to one of its secluded valleys on a Sunday afternoon.



The cottage from the rear



The village of Colton

The village of Colton extends along both sides of a road which winds up from the valley of the river Trent. The lower part of the village was settled first. Fertile valley soils, brought down by the river, made this an attractive area for settlement. The first houses were probably built on the nearest dry ground to the river at the foot of the slope. Although the river Trent is not more than ten metres wide at Rugeley, its valley is broad and flat. Before the days of modern drainage schemes, the river and the Bourne brook, which flows along the lower fringes of the village, regularly flooded the valley bottoms.

The oldest buildings, including a church which is partly Norman, are found in the lower part of the village. Building in recent times has been mainly in the upper half of Colton. Two small council estates, Heath Way and Manor Way, and a number of privately-owned houses, have been built within a few hundred metres of the Cottage Stores in Upper Colton.

The total population of the village is now 800. A century ago, it was 650. Although many new dwellings have been built, this has not resulted in a large population increase because many of the older houses have been pulled down.

Jack Brown is one of the few villagers who does not have to travel to get to work.

Although farming has always been an important occupation in the district, only a handful of the villagers now work on farms. Increased use of farm machinery and the high wages paid in the engineering factories in nearby towns have led many sons of farm workers to leave the land.



New houses in Colton



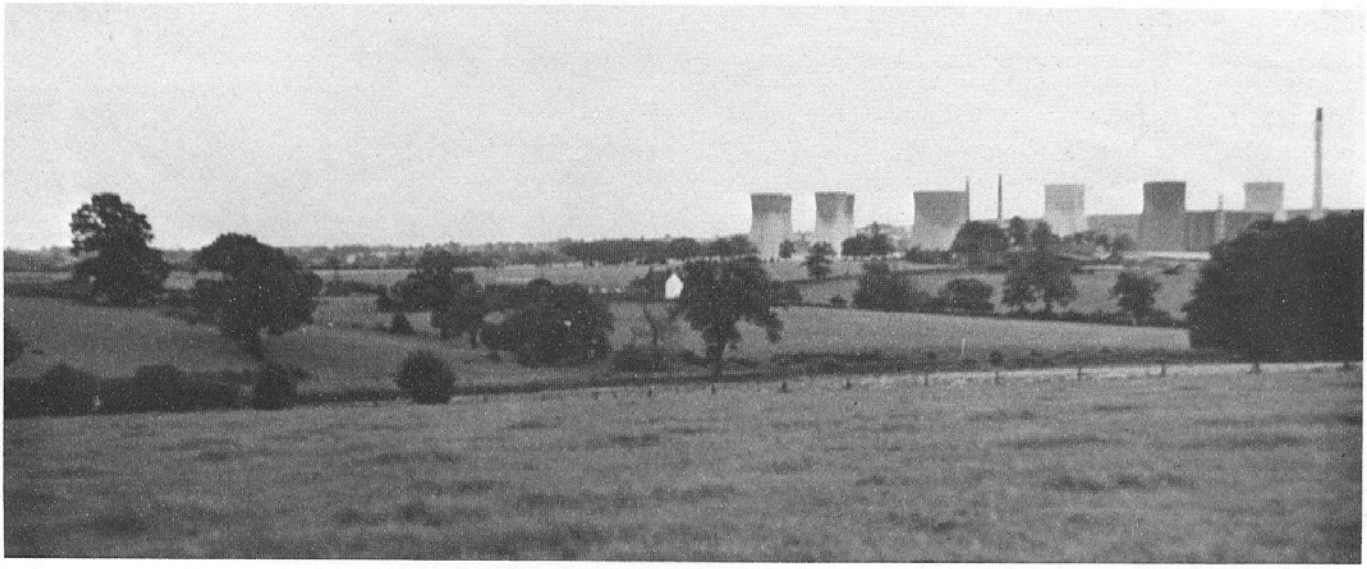
A view of Cannock Chase

Most of the people who live in the newer houses travel to work in factories at Stafford, Rugeley or Lichfield. There is a large modern coal mine at Rugeley, and a power station which was built next to it to use the coal. Several men from Colton work at the power station but almost all the miners live on large housing estates around Rugeley.

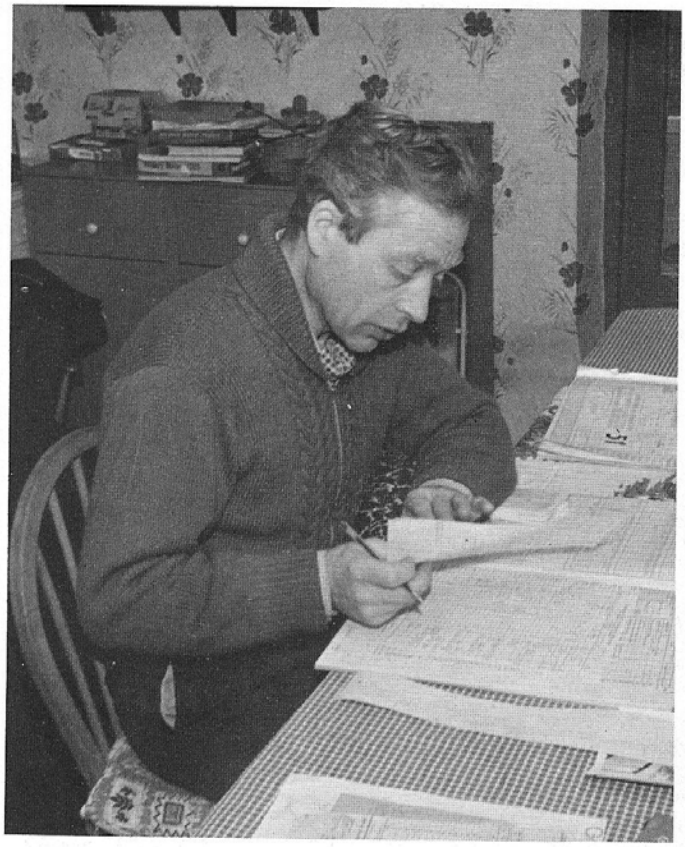
There are buses to Rugeley on only three days in the week and most people travel to work by car.

With the exception of the farmworkers, the people who work within the village are nearly all in service occupations. Like Jack, they provide services for other people. They include the other shopkeepers, the dairyman, the innkeepers, the post woman, two builders, the nurse, a teacher and the kitchen staff at the village school.

There is no doctor living in Colton and when they are ill Jack's family call in a doctor from Abbot's Bromley, a large village five kilometres to the north-east.



Looking across the fields towards Lea Hall power station at Rugeley



Jack catches up on paper work

Jack starts his working day very early. At 6 a.m., he gets up and has a cup of coffee. The first job of the day is part of his duties as village sub-postmaster. The Cottage Stores also serves as the village post office.

By 6.05 a.m., he is ready to receive the incoming mail from the post office van. He signs for any registered packets which there may be and puts the mail on one side for the postwoman to sort and deliver.

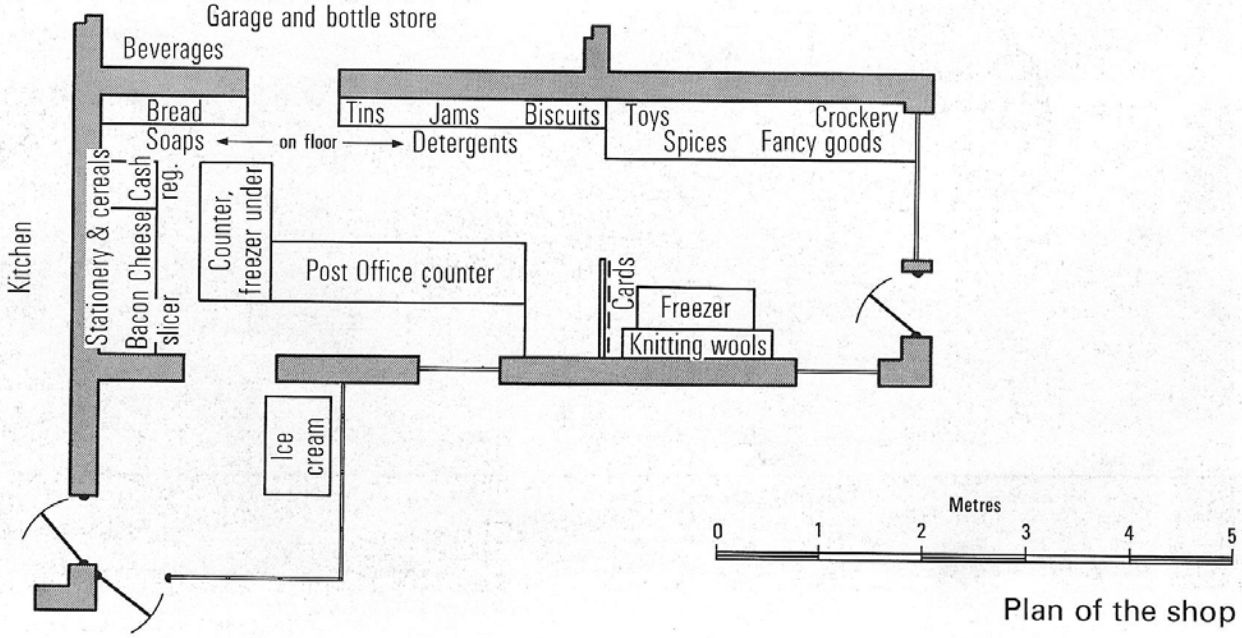
From 6.30 a.m. until 7.30 a.m., Jack is busy catching up with his paper work. He writes out orders, answers letters and does some of the post office clerical work.

The other members of the family are downstairs by 7.45 a.m. and they all have breakfast together.

At 8.30 a.m. the shop opens for business. The first customers of the day are usually boys and girls on their way to school. Some of them call in for sweets or biscuits to eat at the morning break. Jack buys his sweets and tobacco from a wholesale firm at Burton-on-Trent, which delivers his order every other week.

The Cottage Stores aims to supply most of the day-to-day needs of its customers. Outside the store, set into the brickwork of the gateway, there is a post box for mailing letters. The front part of the shop is largely given over to fancy goods. On the left, as you enter the door, there is a large display of knitting wools. On the opposite wall there are shelves holding coffee pots, small toys, games and books. The space below the bottom shelf is used to display a wide variety of pet foods. There are hooks fixed into the ceiling to hold teapots, jugs and hot water bottles.

A low doorway leads into the inner part of the shop. To the left is a compact post office counter. Below it are posters urging people to buy National Savings stamps, and advertising post office services. This space also serves as a village notice board.



Plan of the shop



The regular customers begin to arrive

A hand-written notice gives information about the next Women's Institute meeting. The Women's Institute is a club to which Mrs. Brown and many of the other ladies in the village belong.

At the back of this inner part of the shop there is a small counter. The rest of the space is lined with shelves. They are stacked high with canned goods and packets of dry foods.

Soon after 10 a.m., a steady stream of regular customers begins to arrive. By this time most housewives have washed up the breakfast dishes and they are beginning to think about shopping for the midday meal. Some customers come into the shop regularly once a week to buy most of the food which they will need for the next seven days. Others visit the shop every morning and buy what they will need for the rest of the day.



The well-stocked food shelves



The morning coffee break

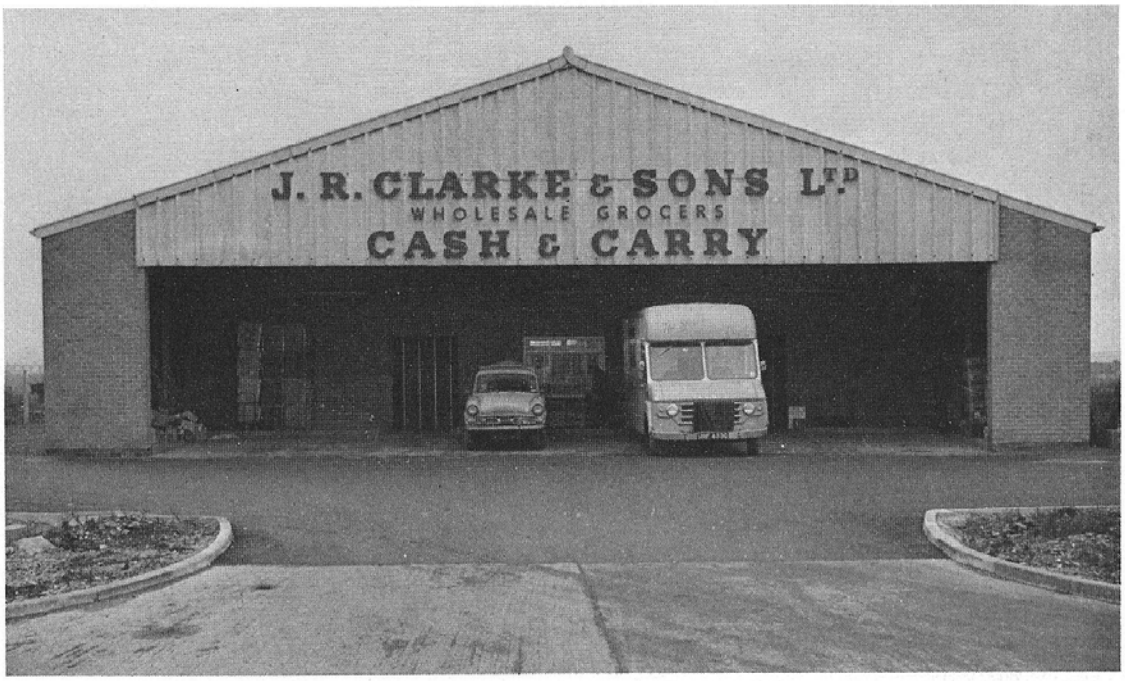
At 11 a.m., Jack and Irene stop for a cup of coffee. They usually have this in the room behind the shop, but it is not very often that they are allowed to drink it undisturbed. Customers are coming in all the time, and one or the other has to return to the counter to serve them. There is a bell on the door which rings every time a customer enters the shop. Jack estimates that the bell rings on average about once every three minutes throughout the day. That is 160 times a day.

It often happens that there are five or six people in the shop at the same time. While they are waiting to be served, they look around at the goods on display and chat to each other.

Many of the customers are friends of the Browns. Jack and Irene must always be ready to talk over the affairs of the village with them. They must never rush through the business of serving, even when the shop is crowded.



The fancy goods display



A typical wholesale depot

Almost everything on the shelves is pre-packed. Dry goods, such as salt, flour, sugar and biscuits are packed in bags or boxes which carry a description of the goods and their exact weight. Packers are required by law to state the weight of the contents of each container.

In the past, a grocery store would buy most of its dry goods in large sacks. These stood on the floor of the shop. Each customer would have what she needed weighed out and packed while she waited. A few items, such as cheese, bacon, fruit and vegetables are still sold in this way at the Cottage Stores, but most foodstuffs are packed in cans or in containers made of paper, cardboard or plastic.

The shop closes for an hour-and-a-half at lunchtime. If the shop is not too busy, Mrs. Brown leaves early to prepare lunch. The children stay at school for their midday meal. Jack and Irene usually have soup, cheese and bread or biscuits. They are both fond of fruit and they often complete the meal with an apple or a pear.

In the early part of the afternoon, the shop is usually fairly quiet. Sometimes there is a chance to do some more paper work. Every week, Jack receives a thick booklet from his wholesaler which gives a complete list of the goods which can be supplied.

Ordering is a job which requires careful thought. If a customer comes into the shop to buy a packet of a particular brand of washing powder and finds that it is out of stock, she is unlikely to be willing to wait until fresh supplies can be obtained. Jack aims to keep enough stock on his shelves to meet the requirements of his customers. There is a shortage of storage space, and he must be careful not to waste it by keeping more stock than he really needs.

Most of the groceries are delivered by a large firm of wholesalers in Welshpool. This is a town on the borders of Wales, nearly 100 km west of Colton. There are wholesalers in most of the nearby towns, but Jack prefers to deal with this particular firm. The people of Colton will buy only the best quality food and, over the years, Jack has found out a great deal about their likes and dislikes.

The fruit and vegetables sold in the shop come from a wholesaler in Rugeley. Bread and cakes are delivered daily by van from a bakery in Newcastle-under-Lyme.

The outer part of the stores is equipped with a deep freeze display cabinet. This holds frozen vegetables, fish, meat and fruit. There is a separate deep freeze cabinet for ice-cream in a room behind the shop. Most of the frozen food is supplied by another Newcastle firm, although the ice-cream comes from Birmingham. Butter, margarine, lard and sausages are displayed in a cool cabinet. This is really a glass-fronted refrigerator.

From time to time, salesmen call at the shop to try to persuade Jack to stock new lines of goods. There is a very limited amount of space in the shop and the Browns have to avoid stocking items which are difficult to sell. They have managed to find space for nylon stockings, small toys, crockery and knitting wool. These fancy goods, as they are called, give a fairly high profit margin. The profit margin is the difference between the price at which Jack Brown buys goods and the price at which he sells them.

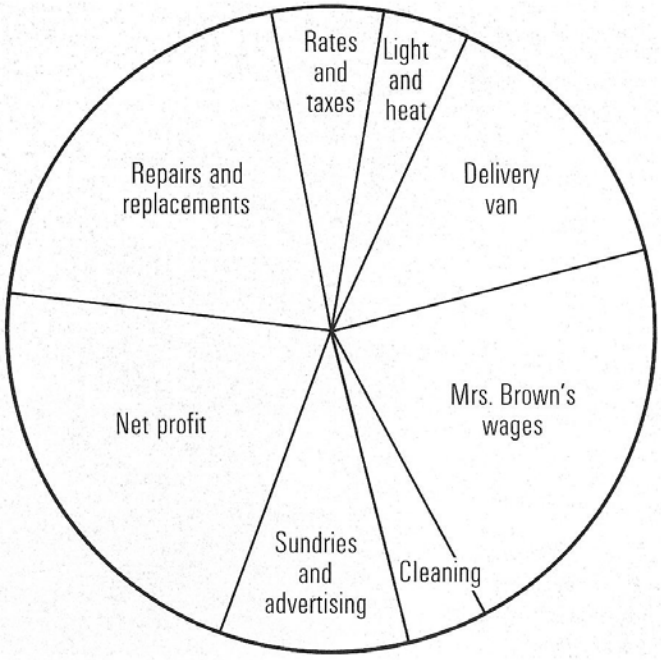
The profit margin on food is not very high. In order to make a living out of selling food, turnover must be high. Turnover depends upon the amount of goods which are sold every week. Jack's total stock is worth about £1,000. Normally, he turns it over every four weeks. This means that he hopes to sell about £250 worth of goods each week. Here are a few profit margins.

	Jack buys at	Jack sells at
large loaf	8p	10p
can of peaches	8p	9p
20 cigarettes	27p	30p
cauliflower	6p	8p
Smarties—tube	3p	4p
skein knitting wool	14p	20p

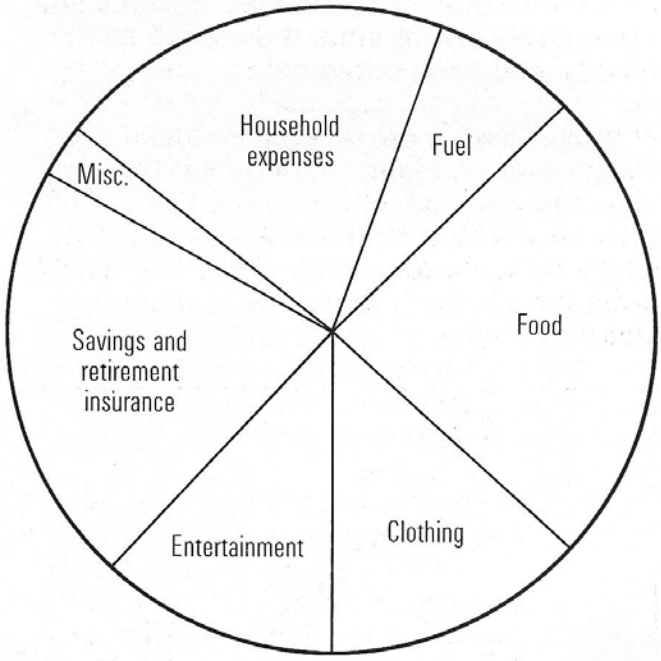
Of course, bread and cauliflowers will not stay fresh for very long. Sometimes, Jack has to throw away stale bread and wilted vegetables. If this happens, he loses money. Knitting wool may stay on the shelf for weeks before it is sold. This reduces the shop's turnover.

There are many expenses to be taken away from the profit margins before Jack can work out how much he really earns. The cost of running the delivery van is one of the main expenses. In winter, the shop has to be heated. Experience has shown that paraffin oil heaters are best for the purpose. Electricity bills for lighting and for running the cold cabinets are high.

Rates, the cost of repairs and improvements to the shop and the value of the family's labour have all to be paid for out of these profit margins. Also, since Jack is self-employed, he has to set aside money for his retirement.



Shop income



Personal income

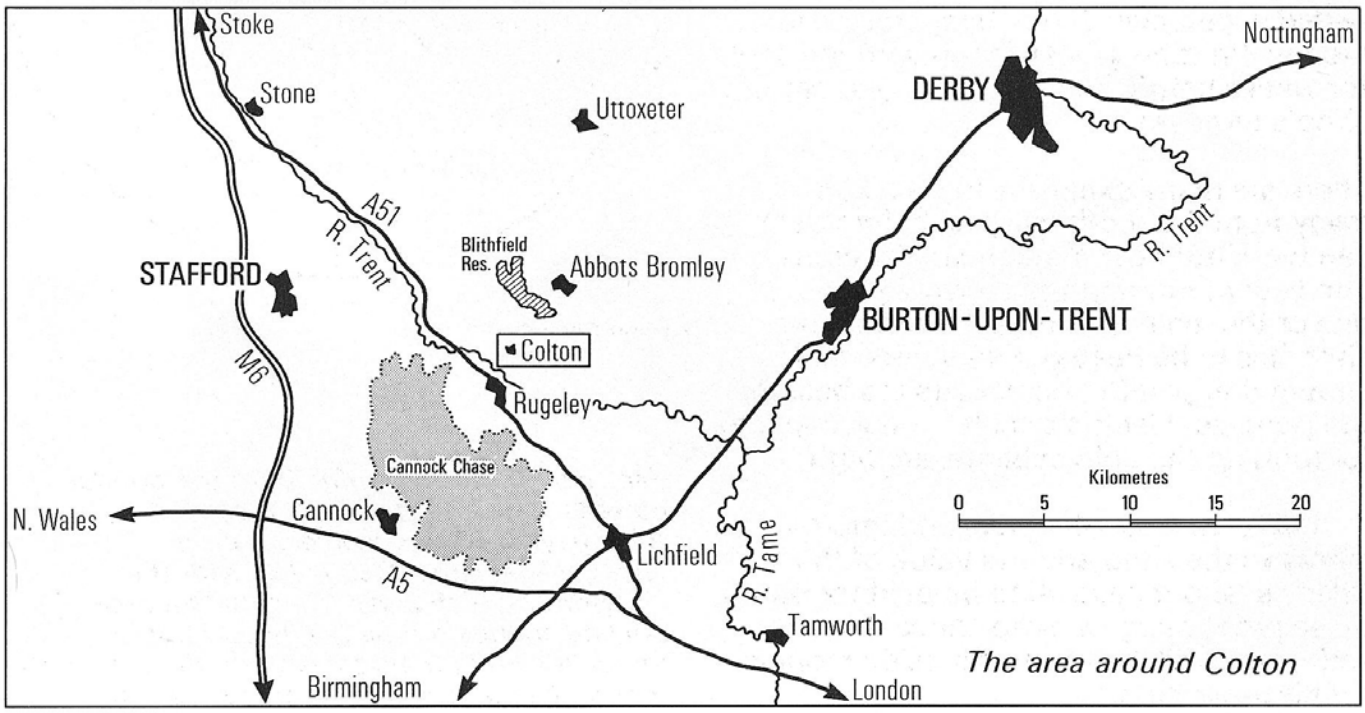
Jack's money. The profits from the goods he sells make up the 'Shop income'. After paying for the delivery van, his wife's wages etc., Jack is left with the Net profit, which is his 'Personal income'. This he spends on his family and home, much like any other family man, except that he has to prepare for his retirement.



Jack delivers to a farm

On three mornings each week, Jack Brown sets off in his van to deliver bread and groceries. On each of these mornings he travels about forty kilometres and visits up to twenty-four houses. Most of his deliveries are to people living a long way out of the village, especially those people without cars. Some customers make out an order for later in the week and give it to Jack when he calls. Others place their orders by telephone. All orders must be carefully written down. Here is a weekly order for a family of two adults and two children.

4 pkts butter
4 pkts margarine
3 pkts tea
2 pkts sugar
1 wedge cheese
1 pkt washing powder
2 boxes matches
1 can of peas
1 can of baked beans
1 can of tomatoes
1 can of milk
1 pkt biscuits
2 bags potatoes
1 can of pears
1 jelly
1 pkt Bisto
1 pkt salt
2 bars of soap
1 pkt corn flakes
2 toilet rolls
3 bags flour
1 pkt porridge
1 jar marmalade
2 cans of soup
4 tomatoes
1 can corned beef
2 boxes of eggs



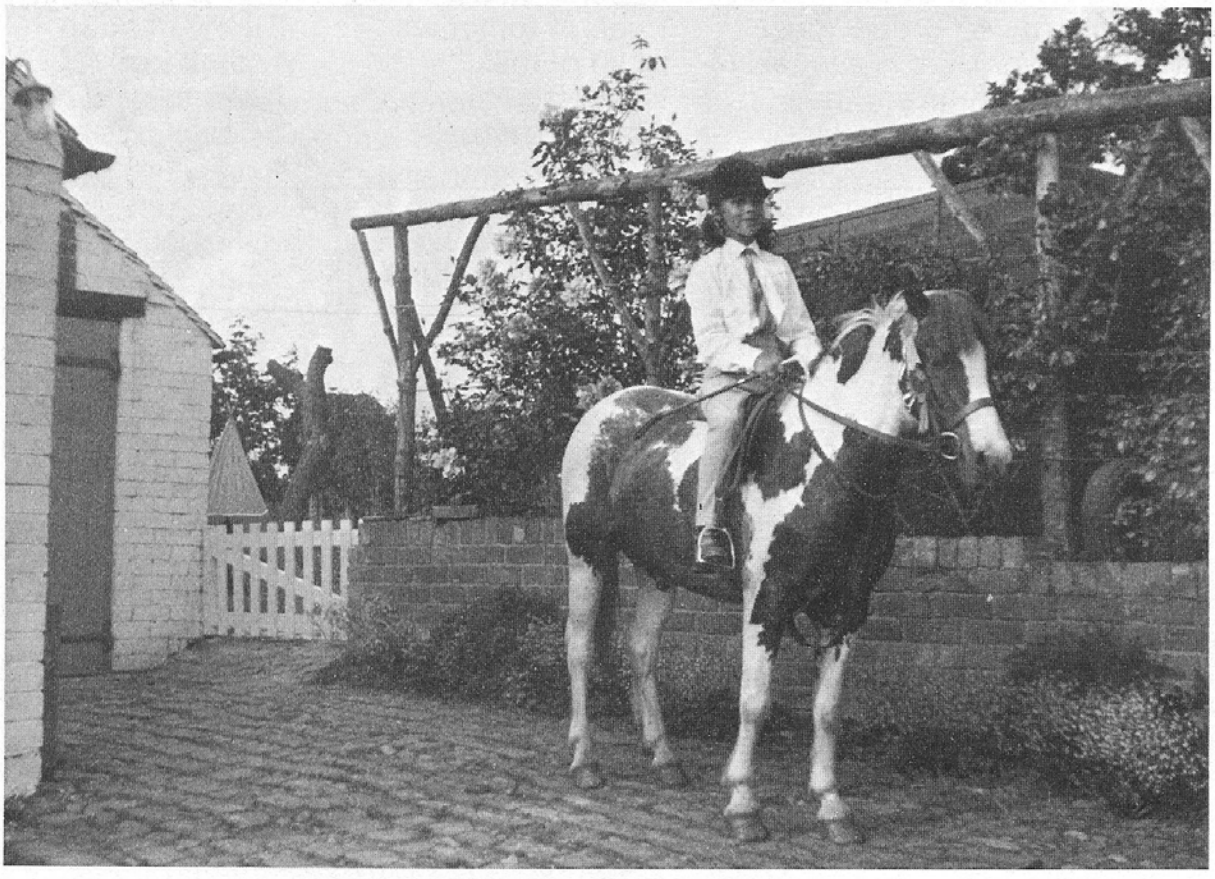
The area around Colton



The village school at Colton

The Browns have two children, Rachael and Timothy. Rachael, who is ten, has dark hair. Timothy is five. He has fair hair like his father.

Just before 4 p.m., the children arrive home from school. The school is about a kilometre away from the Cottage Stores in the lower part of the village. In 1967, two new classrooms, an assembly hall and a kitchen were added to the old building. The new classrooms are light and airy. The furniture is modern and the whole place is bright and clean. At present there are sixty-five children at Colton School. They are grouped in three classes.



Rachael sets off for an evening ride on Redbird

When they leave the village school at the age of eleven, Rachael and Timothy will probably go on to a comprehensive secondary school in Rugeley. They will travel to school on a special bus which returns to Colton at 4.15 p.m.

As soon as the children arrive home, they change into play clothes. Timothy usually plays in the garden if the weather is fine.

Unless the weather is really bad, Rachael rides her pony, Redbird, every day. Redbird is a six-year-old skewbald, standing 12·2 hands high. At weekends, she grooms the pony and cleans its harness.

The Browns have a small horse-box which is towed behind the van. Rachael is a member of the Pony Club, and the box is used for attending Club rallies and camps. Redbird does not like travelling in the horse-box and it usually takes a long time to coax him into it.

Timothy is not yet old enough to have a horse, but he loves to watch Rachael and Redbird. He has a cat named Razzle, which is a good mouser. The Cottage Stores never has trouble with mice!

After school and on Saturdays, many of the customers who visit the shop are children. Sometimes, Rachael helps her mother by serving behind the counter.

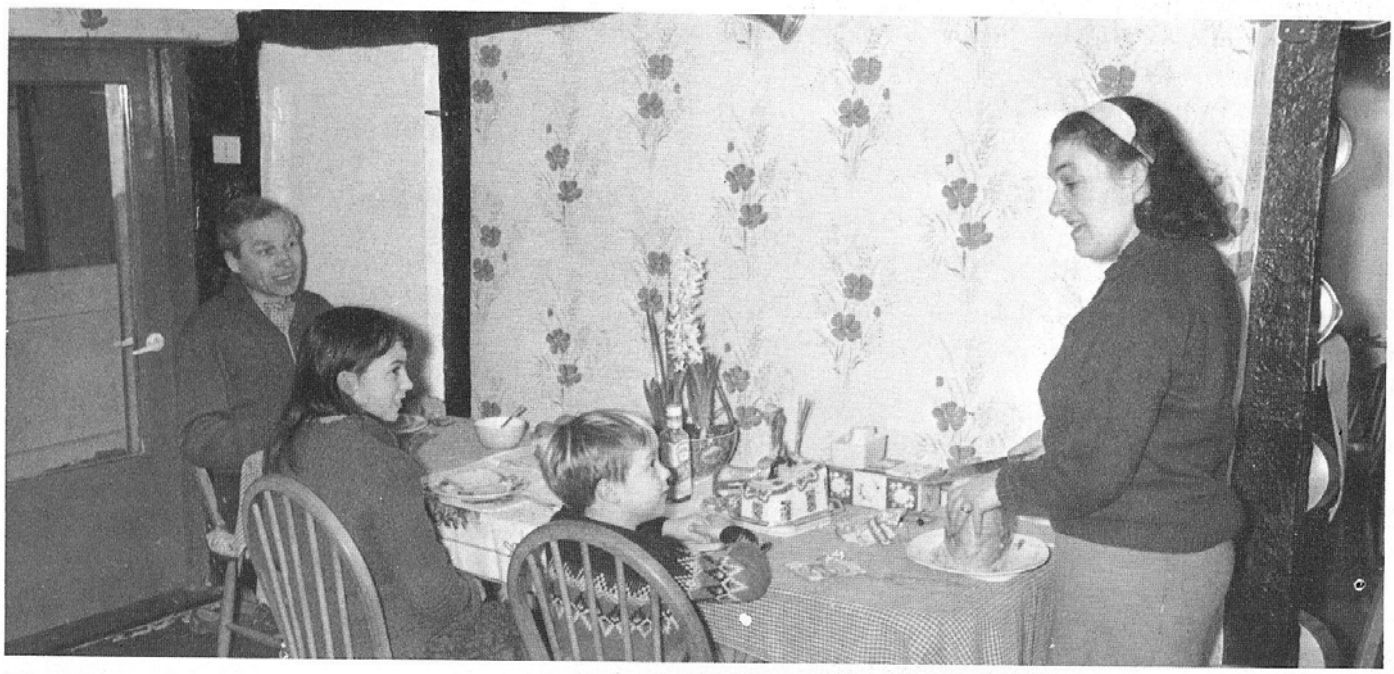
The post office counter is always busy on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Mondays and Thursdays are the days on which older people, who have retired from work, come in to collect their pensions. On Tuesdays, busy housewives call to collect their Family Allowances. Many of them do their weekly shopping at the same time. Fifty-three people draw their pension payments at the post office counter every week.

Jack Brown's salary as sub-postmaster is paid by the Post Office.

A sub-post office, like Jack's, does not offer the full range of services which a large town office provides. Even so, the post office counter sells stamps of all kinds, postal orders, premium bonds and licences for radio and television sets and dogs. Jack spends part of every Friday evening filling in post office forms, and he must always be ready to answer questions about postal services, pensions and allowances.



Customers at the Post Office counter

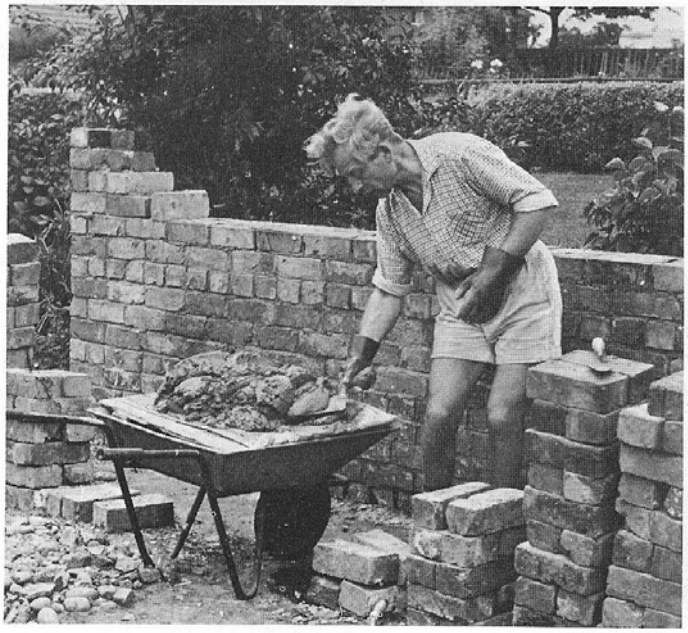


The family sits down to the evening meal

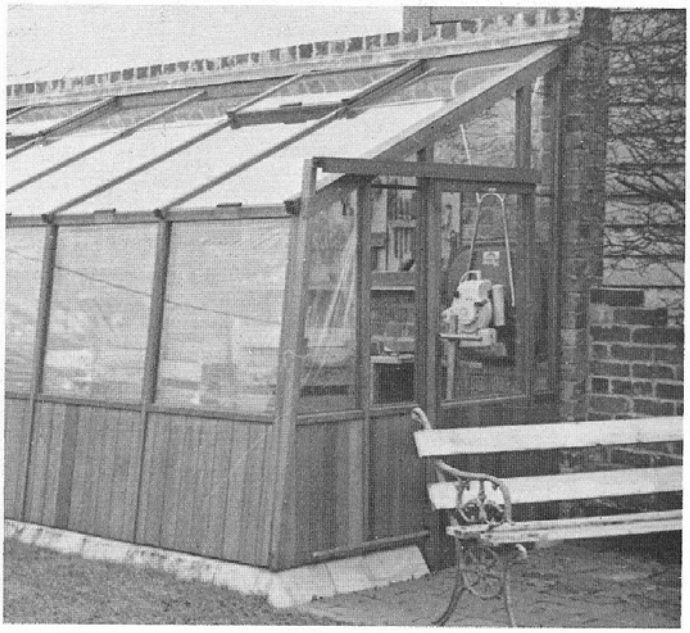
At 6 p.m., Jack locks the door and puts up a 'CLOSED' sign. The family sits down to the main meal of the day at about 6.15 p.m. They usually have meat of some kind, often a casserole dish, and vegetables for the first course. This is followed by a fruit pie, a steamed pudding or some similar sweet course.

Wednesday is early closing day and the shop closes at lunch time. Mrs. Brown enjoys cooking and she takes advantage of the extra time to cook something out of the ordinary. By 6 p.m., Jack Brown has completed a twelve-hour day. As far as possible, he tries to have all the work of the shop finished by closing time. From time to time, it is necessary to carry on later than this. There are quite a number of odd jobs around the shop to be fitted in somewhere. These include cleaning, bringing in fresh stock from the store, washing the bacon-slicer and re-arranging the displays of fancy goods.

In the evenings, Jack tries to find time for his many hobbies. Both Jack and Irene are fond of gardening. There is a large area of lawn, vegetable and fruit garden around the cottage. The garden is in the middle of a broad strip of light soil which follows the line of the road down the hill



Jack spends an hour bricklaying



A corner of Jack's workshop

through the village. On either side of the strip, the soils are heavy clays. It is believed that the strip of light soil may be the bed of an ancient river which has long since disappeared. The garden produces vegetables, soft fruit, apples and pears, some of which are used for wine making.

Jack is a member of the Colton Produce Guild. This is a gardening society which arranges talks, discussions and visits to well-known gardens.

For several years now, Colton has entered the 'Best Kept Village' competition. The villages which take part try to clean up their open spaces, churchyards and roadside verges. Jack Brown is a member of the committee which organises Colton's efforts. He spends many evenings in the spring and summer working to improve the appearance of the village.

Mrs. Brown is the treasurer of Colton Women's Institute, which meets once a month. Her job is to look after the money which the Institute needs for its activities.

Jack enjoys bricklaying. Apart from the extensions to the house, he has built several garden walls and a workshop.

Holidays present the Browns with a difficult problem. The post office *must* be kept open, and even to shut the store would greatly inconvenience the customers. To train someone to take over all the paper-work of the post office, and to run the store would hardly be worth while, so Jack and Irene take their holidays separately. The children are luckier—sometimes they get two holidays!

Many people living in Staffordshire and the West Midlands know Jack Brown as a folk-dancer. He belongs to two groups of Morris Men, one at Stafford and one at Uttoxeter. Morris dancing has a very long history. Some of the traditional dances which are performed by Jack and his friends have remained unchanged for centuries.

Every year, at the beginning of September, one of the oldest dance ceremonies in England is performed at Abbot's Bromley, 5 km north-east of Colton. It is called the Abbot's Bromley Horn Dance. A group of dancers, carrying deer antlers, tour the parish and dance the age-old steps. In the past, Jack has played his melodeon to provide the music and, this year, he has been invited to join the team of dancers.



The Abbot's Bromley Horn Dance

Things to do

1 Jack enjoys living in the country. Some people think that country life is dull. What do you think? Organise a debate or write an article discussing the advantages and disadvantages of living in a small community.

2 How many shops does your family use? Make a list of the shops visited by members of the family during a normal week.

3 Is the population of your town or village increasing? A census, or accurate count of the population, is done every ten years. Your local library will probably have details of recent censuses. If you wish to go back further into the past, the County Record Office may be able to help you. Plot the figures you obtain on a block graph. Try to think of reasons for the changes in the figures.

4 Try to discover the total weekly cost of running your home. Make out a full week's shopping list for food and cleaning materials. Find out how much coal, water, gas and electricity cost each week. If you have a car, discover the weekly cost of running it. Do not forget clothing, radio, television, household replacements and repairs. Finally, you must add rent or mortgage repayments and rates. It will be difficult to arrive at the true total for all expenses, but you should be able to work out an approximate figure.

5 Explain the following terms:
(a) wholesaler
(b) profit margin
(c) fancy goods
(d) Morris dancing

6 Make a time chart of Jack's day. Cut a piece of paper 48 cm long and 3 cm wide. Draw vertical lines to divide it into twenty-four equal parts. Each space represents one hour. Jack likes to be in bed by 10 p.m. and he rises at 6 a.m. Shade this period and mark it as sleeping time. Using the information given earlier in the book, mark off the periods spent at work, at meals and in recreation.

7 Make a similar chart for your own day. If you have read any of the other 'Patterns of Living' books, you could make day charts for the people featured in them. Interesting comparisons can be made by pasting the charts side by side.

8 How far does your father travel to get to work? Carry out a survey to discover the average length of the journey to work amongst the fathers of the boys and girls in your class. Plot the journeys on a graph and add up the total kilometres. Divide this figure by the number of fathers in the survey to discover the length of the average journey to work.

9 The Cottage Stores aims to supply most of the day-to-day needs of its customers. Why do you think that the number of shops like the Cottage Stores has recently decreased, especially in towns and cities?

10 Carry out a survey of the prices of everyday goods, comparing prices in a small grocer's shop and a large supermarket. How can a supermarket afford to sell articles more cheaply than a small shop? Why do some people still prefer to shop at small shops, even though their prices may be higher?

11 The Browns' family doctor lives five kilometres away at Abbot's Bromley. How well is your house placed for essential services? Draw a chart, with your house in the centre, and services such as doctor, hospital, library and station arranged around, to show their relative distances from your house.

12 A sub-post office, like Jack's, does not offer the full range of services which a large town office provides. How many services does your local post office provide?

13 Holidays present the Browns with a problem, because they cannot just close the shop. This is often one of the disadvantages of running one's own small business. What are the other disadvantages and advantages?

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Villager's Recollections

1. MEMORIES OF EARLY CHILDHOOD

My earliest memory is watching soapsuds sliding down a pillar and loaves tumbling out of a machine. Mother told me years later that it was when we went to the Empire Exhibition at Crystal Palace in 1923-4, so I was just over 3. We lived in "Margaret Eva Cottage" at Colton, at a rent I believe, of 5 shillings a week. It had two upstairs bedrooms, a parlour, kitchen, and along the full rear of the house, a brick and tile lean-to construction, with sloping roof. This was divided into 3 parts - a coal shed with access from the side of the house - then through a door from the kitchen, a pantry where food was stored and always, a covered bucket of clear water - cold even on the hottest day - drawn from the deep well by the side of the house, which served us and our neighbours, the Ravenscrofts and the Coopers. Finally there was the scullery with sink and draining board, a brick enclosed cast iron, coal fired, water boiler, a large mangle and a wash tub complete with "Dolly Pegs" - a sort of wooden cows udder on a pole, which was used to swish the washing about. Until I got older and knew better, I was afraid of the cast iron water boiler - which was always kept full to prevent it rusting - as to stop me falling in, I was told that a crocodile lived in it!

I have mostly very happy memories of childhood spent in Colton, with occasional holiday visits to my maternal grandparents at Uttoxeter. Dad was a miner and every day, whatever the weather, he cycled 8 miles each way to No.5 West Cannock Colliery near Hednesford which the miners had, for some reason, christened "Takaroo!" Dad worked in the screening and grading section on the surface and like all the miners, came home with a black face - pithead baths were not introduced until after the war! By the side of Takaroo, as by all the pits in the country, was a huge mound of colliery waste - to be removed by a future generation. Dad was a very nice chap, liked by everybody, but with no ambition. He did his job and looked after our garden and that was that. He rarely had a beer, but he liked to smoke a few 'Wills Woodbine' cigarettes each day. Each workday he was up at 5am, then prepared his breakfast, sandwiches and a bottle of tea for his mid-day break. Sometimes I awoke and went downstairs, when Dad would give me some tea and toast which I thought was quite exciting. The men ate where they worked and only had twenty minutes for lunch. As a result, they called their meal "Snappin" - they had to snap at it to eat it in time! I know he didn't earn much money, but mining was then a secure job for life and there was the miners 'coal allowance' - a very useful perk which meant we were never short of fuel- with any surplus being sold. Dad sometimes worked at Mellors farm during the haymaking time and Mother would take me to him with sandwiches and lemonade which we ate sitting amongst the hay.

In contrast to Dad, Mother was very intelligent, a good pianist, artistic and dynamic. She was the head of the household, organised our lives and juggled with our limited income. Looking back, I think perhaps Mothers' side thought she hadn't made a good match but Dad was a good reliable man who always did his best within his capabilities. His family, except Grandad Norman who died before I was born and Uncle Joseph who was

a railway signalman at Pinner near Harrow, all lived around the village. Grandma lived in the little black and white house she owned, near the Dun Cow Pub, with Uncle Thomas - (who's christening mug is with you Margaret). I think he and Uncle Jack were farmers, as was Auntie Lil's (Dad sister) husband Bill Parr, who had a smallholding at Stockwell Heath and always looked very smart with riding breeches and polished leggings as he rode his horse around the village. Auntie Lil was a very nice quiet, gentle woman - my favourite! They had Reg and – Win - nice girl, who lives in Colton. Dad's other sister, Auntie Alice, lived with her husband, Uncle Ted, in a house that had been a chapel. Can't remember what he did! Then of course, there were numerous cousins! My favourite cousin was Uncle Jack and Auntie Polly's youngest - Harry. We did most things together including, (when we felt peckish), going to visit Grandma. "Hello my dears, would you like a piece of currant cake?" she would say -and I'm sure she knew that was all we had come for! Later, Mother would complain " Why aren't you eating your dinner? Have you been to your Grannies again?

Mother supplemented our income by various means over the years. When I was about five, I tended to walk on the insides of my feet so once weekly, over several months, Mother took me to Stafford Infirmary Orthopaedic Department for exercises. We used to walk the two and half mile shortcut pathway across the fields to Rugeley Trent Valley station where we caught the steam train to Stafford. I thought it was very exciting as I sat with nose pressed to the window and watched the cows in the fields, the trees and the hedges flash by. Then there was a cup of tea and a sugar bun to look forward to at Stafford station buffet once we arrived. During these visits, Mother came to an agreement with a Stafford jeweller whereby she sold ladies jewellery for him at a commision. Some years later, she had a market stall in the traders department of Rugeley Town Hall on Wednesdays and Saturdays, when she sold clothing, on commission for a Mr Bowler who had a shop in Uttoxeter. So we never had much money but we always ate and dressed quite well, at a time when most people were extremely poor.

I can only remember two more Colton men working at the pit. One was Ivor Early - a rather taciturn man who ignored us kids. As such, he was the butt of our childish jokes like - "Hello! are you early today?" and "You're late again Mr Early!"- all said from a safe distance. He never seemed to bother but one day I learned that even Mr Early had his limits. It was a hot day and with rivulets of sweat pouring down his face, he came puffing up the road on his bike which, every time he turned the pedals, gave a loud squeak. I stood at the side of the road calling "OIL OIL"! To my utter astonishment, this quiet, inoffensive chap suddenly leapt off his bike and shouting - "I'll give you 'Oil' you little bugger!" - gave me a clout which left my ear ringing for an hour. I gave him a wide berth after that!

Most of the men in Colton worked on farms but a neighbour, 'Ernie Myatt, (June Meddings Dad), worked at the Colour Works (known as 'The

Redmill') near Rugeley Trent Valley Station. I think they made lead oxide for paints and the whole area, including the River Trent that flowed by the side, was stained a dirty red. Nothing lived in that awful water but I don't think anybody bothered much! The "Environment" word hadn't been invented then. Years after the first world war, Ernie developed a lump underneath his armpit which puzzled the doctor for some time. It was eventually found to be a bullet which had hit him in the leg and which he thought had been removed in the field hospital in France. It had worked its way through his body over the years.

Our next door neighbour "Charlie Cooper" worked at Rugeley Tannery down 'Leathermill Lane.' I once went there to visit him with Eva, one of his daughters. I recall a long, dimly lit shed with rows of cows hides dipping into tanks of hot tanning liquor. The workers, all wearing long leather aprons, moved like apparitions along the walkways through the steam that swirled from the tanks. It seemed to me a dreadful way of earning a living!

I had my first five years as an only child, with all its benefits! Then I got a big surprise! It was when I was watching a cow being killed! (Yes!! we had our own slaughterhouse halfway down the village and watching a cow being killed was a spectator sport for us kids!) Quite gruesome really - the slaughterman used to tie up the animals head to stop it moving, then with a mighty swipe, a poleaxe punched a hole in its forehead through which a cane was pushed to destroy the brain and stop it kicking. Then the poor beast would be hauled up by the feet to the roof and blood would gush out as its throat was cut. It still goes on of course on a massive scale, but hidden away in official slaughterhouses! Lower down the village was the blacksmiths so we were never short of entertainment as there was always a farm horse to be shod. There I was watching the slaughter when along came a lad and said "Your Mum's had a baby!" I ran home but Ernies' wife, Florrie Myatt, (June Meddings Mum) would'nt let me in the house and I had to sleep at her place that night.

This was all very worrying to me and, of course, the arrival of brother Walter meant the end of my No.1 status and later on, the problem of always having a younger brother wanting to tag along wherever I went and having to protect him from harm, including once giving a girl a black eye when I caught her slashing his legs with a stick. I was rather unfairly in the dog-house after that as boys were not supposed to hit girls!

The years passed without too many problems. At five, I joined Colton Church of England school in the infants. The school was across the road from St Mary's Church and the Vicarage, where lived the Reverend Parker (we called him Nosey!) and his stern, spinster sister Ellenore who dressed in voluminous black clothes, a shawl, smelled of mothballs and looked like "Good Queen Bess!" She was the one who held "Sunday School" in the Vicarage where she made valiant attempts to set us on the right path. We got a star on our attendance cards each week and woe betide you if you missed! My first teacher - Miss Hughes - was very nice, but for a long

time I thought her name was Miss Shoes! On the other hand, the headmaster Mr Broughton, was a perfectionist demon with a hatchet face and a sharp nose that could have sliced bacon. He originally owned the only car in the village - a large red tourer with a black canvas hood which folded down. All the kids and most of the villagers were terrified of him. He had a violent temper and he treated his two daughters worse than the rest of us. He would shout, tear up books and throw them on the floor while both kids and teachers cowered with fright. He was also pretty handy with the cane and sometimes walked up and down the classroom swishing it! I think he would have made a good lion tamer! However, one person in the village was definitely not afraid of him - my Mother. On the odd occasion when I got the cane and told her, if she thought I didn't deserve it, she was straight down to give him a piece of her mind, when next day, Mr Broughton would stare malevolently at me. However, with such powerful back-up, my early schooldays mostly went along quite reasonably. Perhaps we could do with a few Mr Broughtons nowadays!

He was quite fanatical where religion was concerned, goaded no doubt by the close proximity of the Rev. Parker and the fact that the church paid his salary. He started off the whole school each morning with a little service, which included dire warnings of doom if we failed to concentrate on our lessons. We also sang a morning hymn; usually "New every morning is the love!" but sometimes. "All things bright & beautiful!" (from which we omitted the verse " the rich man in his castle, the poor man at his gate) as he said it wasn't God that made some people rich - this came through sheer hard work and application to duty. (I think he was an early "Thatcherite!")On various occasions, probably when he had doubts that he was getting his hell-fire message home, he called in reinforcements - the Salvation Army! Usually the uniformed troops comprised a man with piano accordion and two ladies with tambourines. After telling us all how lucky we were to have such a good headmaster, followed by a prayer for his good health and our souls, we would all start singing with gusto - "In my heart there rings a melody of love!" to the accompaniment of the accordion and much banging of the tambourines. It was all quite enjoyable and a change from lessons. Once we all broke off to watch the R100 Airship pass slowly overhead. It was a huge cigar shaped object with a multi-windowed gondola underneath, which we all watched goggle eyed! We learned by whole class rote and I can still recite all the -'times'- tables and add, subtract, divide and multiply quite well as it was all hammered into our brains by daily repetition. I liked poetry very much. We had a series of books I remember as "Piers Plowman" - probably the publisher! I was thrilled to read such exciting poems as "The wreck of the Schooner Hesperus" and "The Highwayman!". I loved reading but I always got into trouble for my spidery writing. However, I usually did well with essays.

We kids had a very free country lifestyle. We roamed the fields without fear as there was no crime or perverts to worry about. We fished along the canal, swam in ponds and a clean part of the River Trent: climbed trees to collect birds eggs - I had quite a large collection which somebody gave me, including a Golden Eagles. We gathered mushrooms for

ourselves and to sell to a shop in Rugeley - by this time I was mobile having acquired an old Bike - to fund a seat at the pictures, a bag of sweets and maybe a packet of 5 Woodbine cigarettes.

We also sold wasp maggots to fishermen along the canal. Good business this - but very dodgy!! We bought a stick of fuse from the ironmongers, lit a piece to thrust very quickly down the entrance to a wasps nest, which we then covered with a clump of earth. After waiting for an appropriate time - born out of experience and the estimated 'strength' of the nest - we would start digging until the tiers of 'cake' was exposed with all the wasps lying about in a stupor. Then lifting it carefully on the spade, we would hurry away from the nest while one of us swished any wasps off with a short leafy branch. By this time, the wasps had all revived in the fresh air, were hopping mad and out for revenge. It was really quite dangerous I suppose, but we only came to grief on the one occasion when we didn't really have sufficient fuse to take yet another nest. As a result, when we dug into the nest, out came the wasps in fighting mood. We all fled, but as I was the one who was digging, I didn't get away as quickly as the others and as I was wearing shorts, got five stings on my bum and legs. Dad was cross as it was two days before the wasps had calmed down enough to let me recover his spade!

We made our own games, hopscotch, skipping and top and whip, all played in the road as there were no cars - just the odd horse and cart, like Charlie Dilly the Co-op bakers man, Dick Morrell the milkman and Jack Parker the green grocer. There was football, cricket and rounders played with homemade bats and wickets. We also made catapults from 'Y' shaped branches, rubber from motor bicycle inner tubes and leather tongues cut from boots. We used these to shoot at birds and rabbits but they weren't very accurate. At nights as darkness fell, we played hide and seek and sometimes, 'Pin & Button'. This was great fun and comprised suspending a button with cotton from a drawing pin on somebody's window, feeding out a cotton line to a safe distance out of sight, then pulling the line to tap, tap, tap the window pane with the button to the great annoyance of the inmates who would come outside and peering through the darkness, would mumble " Blasted Kids!" There was no radio in my early years and with only a few people having a gramophone, the village was very quiet and, with no electricity and therefore no streetlights, as black as pitch except on moonlit nights. There were no battery powered flashlights in the early days!

There were hardly any cars on the roads and the few carts and pony and traps that ventured out at night, had lamps lit by candles and large magnifying lenses at the front. Cycles and motor cycles had acetylene lamps, which gave off a bright white light - again through a magnifying lens. The acetylene gas came from small lumps of calcium carbide in a bottom container, while a controlled drip of water from the top container produced the chemical reaction and fed gas to a burner. There was an insurance agent who did his rounds in the evenings on a motor cycle and sidecar. When the roads were wet and there were many puddles in the badly maintained roads and while he was in someone's house, we used to

squeeze the rubber tube feeding gas to his lights, putting them out. Invariably, he put fresh carbide in the lamp, tipping the old on the road. As soon as he'd gone, we would pick bits of carbide, put them into puddles and set them alight. We thought it was great fun to see all the puddles on fire!

Once, I had the idea of making a carbide lamp, so I put some of dad's carbide in a cocoa tin, roughly soldered on the lid through which I had punched a hole, put a few drops of water inside, then lit a match to light the flame. Instead, the was a loud explosion which blew the lid into my face. The doctor was called as I was completely blind in my left eye! However, the optic nerve had only been shocked and by next day, I could see floating colours. On the third day my sight returned but I had a peach of a black eye for days and had learned a valuable lesson in engineering!

Miss Parker was also the Church choir mistress and as I had quite a nice voice, I was recruited by our next door neighbour Cecil Ravenscroft, who played the organ on Sundays. (In later years he married Jim Bentley's sister - Blanche!)We choristers wore a white surplice over a long black cassock with a stiff white collar and black bowtie. We looked like little angels, but we were little devils in disguise and got up to all sorts of pranks. I got thrown out of the choir for misdemeanours on several occasions - once when reported for trying to teach the rectory parrot to say 'bugger', and once for laughing in church when the lad next to me changed the words of a hymn and sang "I'm the man that came from Scotham, shooting peas up a Nanny goats bottom." Worst thing however - I still feel a bit bad about this - was when I took revenge on the choir sneak, Alfie Upton - the one who reported me to Miss Parker over the parrot incident. He ingratiated himself with Miss Parker to the extent that he was named "Best behaved Choirboy of the year!" This carried a prize and after choir practice on a particularly dark winter night before Christmas, Alfie had to stay behind to collect his prize. "Wait for me!" he said - he was scared of the dark and especially the long gravel path from the vicarage, lined with evergreen bushes. We hid in the bushes as Alfie came out clutching his prize - a magnificent, modern, flashlight that could be focussed! He stood there calling "Where are you?" and flashing his light all around. Now, if he had only walked slowly up the drive shining his light, he would probably have seen the hazard. However, I let out an ear-splitting shriek at which point Alfie took off at high speed until he hit the string I had stretched across the path when he was brought down like a horse at Beechers Brook and his magnificent, modern flashlight that could be focussed, skewered its way into the gravel and disintegrated. I know it was a rotten thing to do and I deserved getting thrown out of the choir and having my Sunday school card marked "Robert can be very naughty at times!" - but Alfie never sneaked on me again and after a suitable time on parole, I was back in the choir.

From time to time, the council men came to repair the road. In the lead came a steamroller towing a trailer full of gravel and a tar pot which had

a firebox underneath to melt the tar and a tap through which the men filled watering type cans with which to spread the tar on the road. They then shovelled gravel across the road after which the steam engine rolled it flat. One evening after school, while we were wondering what mischief to get up to, we came across the tar pot parked near the Brook bridge by the church. It had a good fire going which the men had evidently left so the tar would still be warm for next day. I turned on the tap intending to let a bit of tar out but none came so I turned it off and walked away. Next there was a loud howl! One of my pals had turned on the tap which had temporarily been blocked by solidified tar when a stream of hot tar flew out over his sock and boot. He shot like a rabbit to the brook and plunged his foot in to cool it. This had the side effect of solidifying the tar, whereupon he made the mistake of trying to rub it off with dried grass and his leg turned into a mangled mass as though he'd been tarred and feathered. He couldn't undo the laces as they were all stuck up, so he clumped home muttering "These are new boots - my Dad will kill me!"

The village hall was called the "Reading Room" - our centre of culture! In it was held the children's pre-Christmas fancy dress competition, occasional plays such as "Murder in the Red Barn" and "Sweeny Todd - The Demon Barber" - put on by travelling players.

We also had Concert parties headed by "Wilmot Martin & Company"- the Staffordshire Harry Lauder! He pranced about the stage, dressed as a Scotsman, singing 'I belong tee Glasgee' etc whilst waving a crooked stick. I never much cared for him but the grown-ups seemed to like him. The Co-op occasionally put on a show. These I liked very much as there was usually a Magician who once pulled a long piece of string out of my ear. There was a sing song, talent contest when I once won a shilling for playing my mouth organ and a contest to find out the best words to fit the letters C.W.S I easily won this on one occasion - saying, as instructed by Mother "Co-operative Will Succeed" - easily beating the runner up with his "Cows Walk Straight!" They occasionally showed films of the Co-op factories, including fishing trawlers and canning plants.

At the fancy dress events, I always won the coveted first boys prize - a junior football which caused a sharp rise in my popularity. Mother was outstanding in her ability to conjure up some outfit at little cost. She once dressed me and four neighbours kids and we scooped all the prizes. I was a scarecrow, another was covered in "Brussels Sprouts" made out of green crepe paper; there was a "Golliwog" covered in the little marmalade labels Mum had written to Robertsons for - imagine the furore' these days - another as a newspaper with bits of newsprint stuck all over a sacking dress and finally - with a little cart - a "Rag & Bone Man". The main events however were the winter dances to which my parents loved going - they were both good dancers. When quite young, they put me to sleep on a bench in the ladies cloakroom. In my teens I went for my own enjoyment and to study the talent.

Our music was supplied by "Benny Jackson and his band". which comprised Benny on drums, Lesley Wooliscroft on violin, and occasionally,

a piano or accordion player. Benny was also Master of Ceremonies! He started the evening by walking round the floor, shaving a candle with a penknife to make the floor slippy. This was fine as the dancing proceeded and the wax got well spread, but initially, as you were dancing, you would hit an un-waxed bit when one foot would stop dead while the other carried on - quite perilous as one could end up doing the splits and causing oneself a mischief. Benny announced each dance - Waltz, foxtrot etc. Dancing was 8pm to 2am. Tea, coffee and sandwiches were available, prepared by the ladies of the Women's Institute. Chaperoned girls sat on one side of the room, boys opposite, all eyeing each other with interest. This is the way most romances started in those days and how I met Milly years later at Kingstone.

Of course life didn't always run smoothly. I was born at my Grandparents because it was in the midst of the bitter 1921 Miners strike. Brother Walter was born during the 1926 strike and although he was born at Colton, Mother took him to her parents where he became very ill with pneumonia, had several convulsions and only just survived. I don't remember Mother being ill except in old age, but Dad once had yellow jaundice and another time pleurisy. I once fell out of a tree I was climbing, but escaped with bone shaking bruises. Cousin Harry wasn't so lucky - he fell and broke a leg.

There was no health service and you paid for all treatment. As a result, there were lots of very good home remedies and know how. Our village shop had cards with little bottles held on by elastic. Tincture of iodine, olive oil, milk of magnesia, syrup of figs etc - all quite effective. For boils, a hot bread poultice; for chest congestion - first rub with goose oil then apply the hot bread poultice. There was a cottage hospital a Rugeley for emergencies and serious illness. It was funded by various charity events, including the annual town carnival and also by donations from wealthy farmers and business people. One such source was the Mellor brothers, George and Clement who had a large farm in Colton. George's son, George junior was one of my school pals.

These Donors, could at their discretion, provide recommends for free hospital treatment. So while there were no malingerers as today, and people generally 'cured' themselves, there was this safety net of sorts.To fill what seemed to her an obvious gap in the local medical scene, Mother virtually set herself up as a consultant! For a few pounds plus umpteen coupons from the daily paper she acquired a nicely bound copy of "The Home Doctor". From this she was able to diagnose the most obscure diseases from symptoms described by neighbours who dropped in for a free consultation. Many a client came in with a headache and went away suffering from malaria, yellow fever or beri beri. I was not allowed to see the book, but once when quite young, I managed a quick peek and was somewhat shocked to see full frontal pictures of a man and woman. Brother Walter now has the book! To offset any mis- diagnoses which might have reduced her standing, Mother was a good psychologist, fortune teller and could read fortunes in the tea cups. It was all very serious stuff! A neighbour would drop in with a domestic problem when

Mother would brew up and after a cup of tea, sort out the problem and when the dregs were emptied into the saucer, confirm that all the omens were favourable and good fortune lay ahead. The only competition she had was when the Gypsies came round selling wooden clothes pegs, mending holes in saucepans and kettles, sharpening shears and scissors and telling fortunes with promises of boundless good luck once you had suitably crossed their palms with silver!

The village had a football team of sorts - "Colton St Mary's". They played home games on a field behind where Win Parr lives and usually got beaten! They had goal posts but not nets. Spectators sat around the pitch on the grass and when a goal was scored, we kids used to fetch the ball and kick it back into play. Once I booted the ball straight into the face of a pipe smoking spectator! The shaft went down his throat and the bowl landed on the pitch. I made the mistake of laughing out load, when he chased me and I had to flee from the field and miss the rest of the match.

We often went fishing along the canal towpath, using some of our wasp maggots or a few juicy worms. The canal was the M6 of those days – a busy waterway with horse drawn barges hauling various commodities to and from the midlands. Some of the loads were coal for the large steam engine of the waterworks pumping station just outside Rugeley. This was once the scene of murder most foul! Sometime in the past, three drunken bargees, fighting over a woman, murdered her as she fled up the steps to the pumping station fearing for her life. They were all tried at Stafford Azzizes, sentenced to death and hung for their wicked deed. It was said that the emblem of Staffordshire – the Staffordshire Knot – was devised so that all three could be hung simultaneously but I doubt this is true.

THE BLACK HAND GANG

When one is young, there are many times that one sort of drifts into mischief unintentially, without realising the full implications of what one is doing! Such a time was when I was leader of the Black Hand Gang, whose headquarters was in a shed in our top garden (we had two). We made the shed out of corrugated sheets found on a tip together with an old stove, fuelled by Dads coal, on which we roasted freshly dug potatoes from the garden. The only thing we lacked, for secrecy and to keep out the wind, was a door. We then had (we thought) a stroke of luck! During one of our prowls round the outskirts of the village, we noticed a toilet, with a perfectly good door, at the bottom of someone's garden. After some discussion, we decided that this was an abandoned toilet, definitely not used and the door was, therefore, surplus to requirements. Without more ado, we prised it off its hinges, bore it home, then with Dad's saw, which needed sharpening, cut a curved chunk off the top to fit our shed. Dad came home from work and said "Where did you get that door?" We chorused, "We found it on an old derelict toilet!" He seemed satisfied, so we got to work roasting potatoes and discussing gang business. Two evenings later, the door opened and there was Dad - WITH A POLICEMAN who said "This is a very serious crime, you have stolen a toilet door, leaving the owners exposed to the weather! They have laid a complaint and I have to arrest you all!" We were really terrified! The policeman appeared to take all our names in his book but Dad said "If I punish my lad- as he is definitely the ringleader- and make them take the door back, will you drop the case?" The policeman considered:- "Alright! - but if anything happens again like this, they will all go to prison!" Whereupon Dad gave me a good whack and we set about returning the door - minus the curved top which we had used for firewood. I expect the owners, on reinstating the door, found it a bit draughty but ideal for stargazing through the missing top portion.

My best pals were Guy Talbot - he passed the 11 plus, went to Grammer School, became a R.A.F Cadet, rose to Warrant Officer, then after the war went tin mining in Malaya. Tom Jones who sadly, got knocked off his bike and killed at age 14. Harry Bull, who was born with webbed hands which were separated by a series of operations, Peter Preston whose Dad was the blacksmith. George Upton whose folks kept the village grocery shop. George Mellor, farmers son and finally, my cousin Harry. We did most things together.

Dad's cousin who had a large farm at Tixall, near Milford, invited me to spend a holiday with his two sons who were about my age - I think I was about seven. I really enjoyed it until something happened which was to affect me always. We were playing hide and seek and I hid in a large packing case that was lying on its side in the barn. Suddenly the case was tipped over by my 'uncle' and I was plunged into darkness as he sat on it. I remember shouting, to no avail, as he thought it was a huge joke. When he eventually let me out I was hysterical and I have suffered from claustrophobia ever since. I think I was ready to go home after this and my 'Uncle' was later probably glad to see the back of me for, when I accompanied the cowman, with horse and cart to take the milk churns to the stand at the side of the main road for collection by the Dairy lorry, I went to pat the horses' head and it backed into a churn, spilling the milk all over the lane.

As I have been writing and remembering, I have thought of another

episode which was very disturbing to me at about that time. Our school was entered for the Staffordshire Schools Choirs Festival, held in the Borough Hall in Stafford. We didn't win a prize, but we did get a commendation for our rendition of "Brahms Lullaby." Before we went to the station to catch the train back to Rugeley, Mr Broughton let us wander around F.W.Woolworths threepenny and sixpenny store. Most fascinating! I got hold of a little magnifying glass off a counter and was very absorbed looking how big my thumb was through it, when suddenly Mr Broughton shouted from the door "NORMAN! COME HERE - WE'RE LEAVING!" I shot outside and ran after them, then realised I still had the magnifying glass in my hand. Suddenly it hit me that I was a thief! All I had been taught, at home, in school and at church descended on me and I suffered agonies of mind, thinking of how God would surely punish me. The glass in my pocket burned like fire. When the train left the station, I locked myself in the toilet and pushed the magnifying glass through the little top window, after which I felt a bit better. (Strange that when prising off the door for our shed, I didn't regard that as stealing.)

So life went merrily on! In summer we played in the hayfields, watched the corn being cut and the rabbits being shot as they darted out of the dwindling remaining patch. I had no fear of heights and climbed the tallest trees. We dammed up a brook so we could splash and bathe, while in winter we slid on icebound pools, snowballed and made snowmen. I didn't then really have any cares.

We went to the pictures in Rugeley for the Saturday afternoon matinees and left our bikes, complete with pumps, tools and lights, outside by the pavement - without fear of them being stolen. We sat in the threepennies at the front, but Annie Grant, an Usherette who was courting Selby Ravenscroft from next door to us, used to take us up to the balcony after the film started - very plush! We watched with mixed pleasure and horror, Tarzan left hanging over a pit of crocodiles until next weeks episode, ' Murder in the wax museum' about a mad waxworks owner who chose and murdered victims with similar features to historical celebrities then covered them in wax, and roared with laughter at the slapstick antics of the 'Keystone Cops' and the Marx Brothers.

Saturday nights, we sometimes went to Rugeley outdoor market; an exciting event with the canvas roofed stalls lit by hurricane lamps and vendors selling all sorts of goods. I remember one who sold crockery shouting " I'm not asking £2 for this beautiful handpainted dinner service, I'm not asking £1, I'm only asking 10 shillings - in fact I'm giving it away!" "Here you are Sir - it's yours!" (No doubt an accomplice). Then the crowds would gather in the hope of also getting a free dinner service. Sometimes, as the crowd started to drift away, he would start smashing plates to revive their interest. Then there was the little Cockney chap who sold medical remedies - guaranteed to cure all ailments - holding up and shouting "Here is a Turkish Rhubarb Pill, it will make you shite! If you don't shite the first time, take another one! If you don't shite the second time, take another one! If you don't shite the third time - you ain't got no shite in you!" Amongst all this came the cry of the paper seller shouting "Sports Argus" - "Sporting Star." To us the atmosphere was

electric.

Then when I was about ten, I became very desperately ill with Rheumatic fever and was rushed to Rugeley Cottage Hospital, where I spent about six weeks. I recovered, fortunately, without heart problems which often accompanies this disease, but it left me very weak and suffering from 'Chorea' - more commonly known as 'St Vitus' Dance'. This was awful as it is a nervous disease which causes constant facial twitches and grimaces. So you may imagine how the schoolkids reacted - I became a freak! I was always tall and I was now very thin, so I was taunted with cries of 'sparrowlegs' and 'monkey face'! It took almost a year before I recovered, during which time I was away from school, taught to some degree by Mother and I never returned to Colton School as it was only for juniors up to age eleven.

I walked with Mother to Rugeley where she bought me a new bike ready for my first school term after Christmas 1932 at Rugeley Boys' School. I was very proud of it, a B.S.A. with "quarter up-turned North Road handlebars" - an 'optional extra'!
When the January term started, I cycled to school along with my pals, putting our bikes in the bikeshed.(No locks and chains in those days!) It was a large Church of England school which catered for 11 to 14 year old boys from Rugeley and surrounding villages. There were C.of E. girls schools in the vicinity, whilst Catholic boys and girls went to their nearby respective schools.

At assembly in the large hall, the headmaster, Mr Benbow, a shortish, stockily built man with a neatly clipped moustache, welcomed us and after roll call, allocated us to our teachers and classrooms. Mr Benbow was a kindly but no-nonsence fellow - he said he was a distant relation of Admiral Benbow - and our teacher was Mr Lunn, from Uttoxeter. A nice 'thinnish' chap, always immaculately dressed, who did his best but never really coped with one "Bovver Boy of a lad" - Jim Beazley (nicknamed Beastly Beazely) from Queen Street in Rugeley - a bit of a no-go area. This lad, who was bigger than Mr Lunn, soon established himself as the school bully. He would go round the playground with his cronies and demand sweets etc in lieu of a thump. It wasn't long before it was my turn! He demanded sweets and when I said I hadn't got any, he thumped my arm and told me to get some. I think I can say that I've never been a coward, so I took a swipe at him. He was about to lay into me when a teacher called us back to class. " I'll see you tonight back of the bikeshed" said Beastly Beazely! I spent the rest of the afternoon in considerable fear as it seemed certain I would get a good thrashing. When we poured out of school, the word had gone round and there was a rush to the bike shed to get the best view of the fight. Surrounded by a ring of excited schoolmates, Beastly and I peeled off our jackets, rolled up our sleeves and prepared for battle. I was terrified, especially when my cousin Harry, showing little confidence in my ability as a street fighter, said "Put your cycling gauntlets on and try and protect your face!" Next moment Beastly came rushing at me like a bull, head down, arms flailing. To this day I don't quite know what happened, but apparently I uppercut him with my gauntletted fist, blood spurted from his nose, he burst into tears and it was all over. I couln't believe my luck and suddenly, the fickle crowd who had been looking forward to me getting a good thrashing, were all congratulating me and for the remainder of my days at the school, I was treated with respect. After the awful time I'd had with my illness, this was a marvellous boost to my self esteem and I did well at the school.

EARLY IMPRESSIONS OF COLTON

By Colton Residents/Former Residents

Name: SHIRLEY BARNETT **Male/(Female)**

Age group when came to live in Colton:
12 years and under
12/18 years
(19/60) years
Over (60) years

Year you came to live in Colton: 1974

Early impressions: (This can be a single word, a list, a poem or a longer piece of prose.)

The first night was very dark with a clear sky. Very few people had outside lights, so this took a bit of getting used to.

Miss Jones, who lived at the first cottage in the lane, it didn't have a name then, but the post lady knew where Mattin Cottages were, was keen that we joined the Produce Guild. The Produce Guild introduced us to so many people, all of them very kind and friendly.

Electricity was a big problem, there was no gas in the village, so every high wind or storm brought about a power failure. Candles became a standard item on the shopping list.

Moreton Brook flooding taught that there were other ways in and out of the village.

Number One Mattin Cottages was The Old Post Office. So many people had tales to tell about their experiences of buying stamps.

If you would like to add your impressions of Colton 2004, please do so overleaf.

The post box was situated next to the door, whoever removed it did a poor job of re-instating the building work, so every day I am reminded of the busy time the post office had. I wish that the post box had been left in situ, it would have made a very handsome addition to the house.

Shirley Barnett.

EARLY IMPRESSIONS OF COLTON

By Colton Residents/Former Residents

Name: ANN MARTIN **~~Male~~/Female**

Age group when came to live in Colton:
12 years and under
12/18 years
(19/60 years)
Over 60 years

Year you came to live in Colton: 1973

Early impressions: (This can be a single word, a list, a poem or a longer piece of prose.)

BACK OF BEYOND

MOVED INTO HOUSE WITH OUTSIDE TOILET, NEVER SEEN ONE BEFORE,

COWS LOOKED BIGGER THAN ON TELEVISION OR IN PICTURES.

THREE MIDLAND RED BUSES ~~A~~ WEEK WENT INTO RUGELEY.

I CAME FROM A PLACE WHERE YOU COULD CATCH A BUS EVERY FIVE MINS.

EVERYONE IN VILLAGE SEEMED TO BE RELATED TO EVERYONE ELSE.

If you would like to add your impressions of Colton 2004, please do so overleaf.

EARLY IMPRESSIONS OF COLTON

By Colton Residents/Former Residents

Name: Margaret Derry **Male/Female**

Age group when came to live in Colton: **12 years and under**
12/18 years
19/60 years
~~Over 60 years~~

Year you came to live in Colton: 1971

Early impressions: (This can be a single word, a list, a poem or a longer piece of prose.)

1. Happy residents in a peaceful but busy village.
2. Safety for the children to play in the "donkey field" or on the Martin hill. Very little traffic.
3. Loss of electricity & telephone at slightest wind or storm & consequent cooking for five on a picnic stove or coal fire!!
4. Many floods of the brook & being completely cut off for a period of five hours!
5. Meeting friendly folk in the shop. Lots of laughter with Ruth & Janet.
6. Children tabogganing on the 'Martin'
7. Silver Jubilee bonfire on the Martin.

If you would like to add your impressions of Colton 2004, please do so overleaf.

8. Village characters - Mr. Williscroft with all his skills.
An aged Mr. Parr on his horse.
Miss Brown - a fund of information about the village.
9. Happy memories of the early festivals & fun in the Reading Room at various functions.

EARLY IMPRESSIONS OF COLTON

By Colton Residents/Former Residents

Name: Gill Sykes formerly French. **Male/Female** female.

Age group when came to live in Colton:
12 years and under
12/18 years
19/60 years ✓
Over 60 years

Year you came to live in Colton: JULY 1971.

Early impressions: (This can be a single word, a list, a poem or a longer piece of prose.)

I remember vividly the first night we came to Colton. We were looking for a cottage to restore and saw one advertised in Colton for £2,600. We came on a Summers evening after work and I remember thinking how pleasant the village looked as we came up Bellamour Way. It took us 6 months to make the cottage into the home we wanted - coming each weekend to work on the building. Even though we had not moved in people made us feel welcome so that by the time we actually came to live in the house we already knew quite a few people. It immediately felt like home and although we had lived in a town until then, I did not feel deprived of amenities. The feeling we both experienced right from the beginning was that when you came over the bridge into Colton you had left work and hassle behind and you immediately felt more relaxed. I never lost that feeling!

If you would like to add your impressions of Colton 2004, please do so overleaf.

Although I no longer live in Colton I still have a tremendous attachment to the village. Colton feels just as friendly and welcoming now as it did when I first came 33 years ago!

EARLY IMPRESSIONS OF COLTON

By Colton Residents/Former Residents

Name: Gill Croft **~~Male~~/Female**

Age group when came to live in Colton:
12 years and under
12/18 years
✓ **19/60 years**
Over 60 years

Year you came to live in Colton: 1973

Early impressions: (This can be a single word, a list, a poem or a longer piece of prose.)

1. When house hunting it was the attractiveness of the village that appealed more than the house!
2. It was a small village with all the features associated with a typical English village i.e. Church, school, village shop, brook.
3. Village shop hub of village. It was somewhere to go for young and old to chat, gain information, be consoled or teased. Real warmth and friendliness radiated from there.
4. As the village was small we soon felt included in its activities, church, village hall, Best Kept village.
5. As it was Church Aided school we felt there was a special influence on our children and we joined the church community helping with May Day and other festivals.
6. Later bigger Festivals organised between the Church and Village Hall developed into major events and was another good way of socialising with people.

(If you would like to add your impressions of Colton 2004, please do so overleaf.)

7. The girls attended the Brownies in the school.
8. Lots of memories of Moreton Brook flooding.
9. Always felt there was a real feel of community and concern for others.

P.T.O.

Colton 2004.

1. Heart taken out of village since shop closed.
2. Difficulty of young affording housing so having to go elsewhere. This in turn has effected the playgroup (now closed through lack of numbers) and the numbers at the school.
3. General feeling of a need to hand over to the younger generation but many too busy.
4. Church community still includes several young mainly through different approaches to worship. But traditional worship continues often in difficult circumstances because of necessity to share clergy.
5. Village Hall Committee planning extension and very busy fund raising.
6. History Society started which has sparked off an interest in the village and its characters of long ago and their influence on the area.

EARLY IMPRESSIONS OF COLTON

By Colton Residents/Former Residents

Name: George Morris **Male/Female**

Age group when came to live in Colton: **12 years and under** 7 months
12/18 years
19/60 years
Over 60 years

Year you came to live in Colton: 2004

Early impressions: (This can be a single word, a list, a poem or a longer piece of prose.)

Everyone smiles at me and says hello - lots of people only know my parents as 'George's Mummy + Daddy' - that's how it should be. My favourite places are the playground and the brook. I also like going running along the lanes, though I usually fall asleep before we turn into Newlands Lane.

If you would like to add your impressions of Colton 2004, please do so overleaf.

EARLY IMPRESSIONS OF COLTON

By Colton Residents/Former Residents

Name: Carol Sanders ~~Male~~/Female

Age group when came to live in Colton:
- 12 years and under
- 12/18 years
- 19/60 years
- Over 60 years ✓

Year you came to live in Colton: 1962

Early impressions: (This can be a single word, a list, a poem or a longer piece of prose.)

I moved to Colton in 1962 with my late husband Gerald and daughters Lynne & Alison

Moving from a town I was not happy to move into a village but Gerald insisted I gave it a try I am still here in 2004 and have made many friends

If you would like to add your impressions of Colton 2004, please do so overleaf.

EARLY IMPRESSIONS OF COLTON

By Colton Residents/Former Residents

Name: Bev Croft **Male/~~Female~~**

Age group when came to live in Colton:
- **12 years and under**
- **12/18 years**
- ✓ **19/60 years**
- **Over 60 years**

Year you came to live in Colton: 1973

Early impressions: (This can be a single word, a list, a poem or a longer piece of prose.)

My first and lasting impression was formed as we descended down Hollow Lane looking for the house that we had seen in an advertisement.
"at last we have found a village that can really be called a village".

If you would like to add your impressions of Colton 2004, please do so overleaf.

Example

EARLY IMPRESSIONS OF COLTON

By Colton Residents/Former Residents

Name: *Hilary Bruce* **Male/Female**

Age group when came to live in Colton:
12 years and under
12/18 years
19/60 years
Over 60 years

Year you came to live in Colton *1964*

Early impressions: (This can be a single word, a list, a poem or a longer piece of prose.)

1. ***Very quiet in the morning. I had lived at a house on a busy main road with a bus stop right outside.***
2. ***Very dark outside at night; I had to buy a torch as there were hardly any street lights.***
3. ***The electricity and telephone failed as soon as we had a storm or high winds.***
4. ***Strange pets - searching for Sammy the goose.***
5. ***Ensuring the gates were shut to prevent the cows, who were being driven down the main street, from coming into the garden.***
6. ***The noise and laughter from the old Reading Room, which was right on the side of the pavement.***
7. ***The Post Office was in the front room of a house, in the Martlin cottages, where the Post Mistress served the stamps whilst cooking bacon in the same room.***
8. ***Village characters: Miss Jones, Mr Price, Mr and Mrs Hardcastle.***
9. ***The floods at the brook bridge.***

EARLY IMPRESSIONS OF COLTON

By Colton Residents/Former Residents

Name: Olive Ballard **Male/Female**

Age group when came to live in Colton: **12 years and under**
12/18 years
19/60 years
Over 60 years

Year you came to live in Colton: 1957

Early impressions: (This can be a single word, a list, a poem or a longer piece of prose.)

Dark at night – the brilliance of the stars (no streetlights)
Going to Rugeley on 'The Green Bus' with the children.
Waiting in the 'Green Bus Café' for the return bus.
Going to the Post Office in the Martin cottage.
Shopping for 'cracked eggs' at Miss Williscroft's (High House)
No pavements – few cars. The primitive state of the school.
The beauty of the countryside and the village, with its pond and the swans on it.

If you would like to add your impressions of Colton 2004, please do so overleaf.

EARLY IMPRESSIONS OF COLTON

By Colton Residents/Former Residents

Name: Elizabeth Rentcosst (née Bruce) **Male/Female**

Age group when came to live in Colton: **12 years and under**
12/18 years
19/60 years
Over 60 years

Year you came to live in Colton: 1964.

Early impressions: (This can be a single word, a list, a poem or a longer piece of prose.)

Very dark streets - no lights.
quiet.
Solitary - few teenagers about.
Isolated - v. little public transport -
reliant on lifts even to school
which was a long way (Cannock).
Carol singers at Christmas.
The brook flooded on a regular basis -
also Rugeley road & the fields.

If you would like to add your impressions of Colton 2004, please do so overleaf.

More things going on.
Roads much busier.
Wider range of age groups.

EARLY IMPRESSIONS OF COLTON

By Colton Residents/Former Residents

Name: Elizabeth Nixon **Male/Female**

Age group when came to live in Colton:
12 years and under
12/18 years
19/60 years ✓
Over 60 years

Year you came to live in Colton: 1948.

Early impressions: (This can be a single word, a list, a poem or a longer piece of prose.)

1. The lovely old Church - established before the Domesday Survey.
2. Joining the W.I. and Produce Guild. A wonderful way to meet new friends, and also the way to join other interests.
3. Meeting such wonderful "Characters" as Miss Dorothy Jones, Mrs. Doris Nassaney, Tom and Joy Preston, Maurice Hillesdaft, and many others - no longer, sadly - with us.
4. The Community Spirit throughout the Village.

If you would like to add your impressions of Colton 2004, please do so overleaf.

EARLY IMPRESSIONS OF COLTON

By Colton Residents/Former Residents

Name: H. Williscraft **Male/(Female)**

Age group when came to live in Colton:
12 years and under
12/18 years
19/60 years
(Over 60 years)

Year you came to live in Colton: 1941

Early impressions: (This can be a single word, a list, a poem or a longer piece of prose.)

When I first came to live at Colton it was a much smaller village than it is today.
The houses in Heathway, Manor Way and the homes behind the Dun Cow were not built.
It was war time and the army was stationed in Colton House. It was a happy village everyone helped each other times were very hard for some people.

If you would like to add your impressions of Colton 2004, please do so overleaf.

EARLY IMPRESSIONS OF COLTON

By Colton Residents/Former Residents

Name: CAROL **Male/Female**

Age group when came to live in Colton:
12 years and under
12/18 years
19/60 years
Over 60 years

Year you came to live in Colton: 1997

Early impressions: (This can be a single word, a list, a poem or a longer piece of prose.)

Very friendly people - made us feel welcome straight away. Neighbours in Williscroft Place never batted an eye when having to round up escaped rabbits on first day here!
The brook flooded with spectacular results. I remember standing on Pedleys Croft with Jeff Leonardi (with water up to bank top) on a winters evening, in evening dress & welling tan boots trying to decide whether it was too deep to wade out of village to a friends' surprise 40th birthday party. (JEFF said he had even sang in Haywood and he wasn't going!)
My lovely neighbour the straight talking Phyliss Buckley, who knew everything and had been here forever!
Celebrations when the playground was completed and hours of after school summer afternoons there afterwards.
Paddling in the brook.

If you would like to add your impressions of Colton 2004, please do so overleaf.

WWII POW & Dairy of a Soldier





TESTIMONIAL.

P.O.W. HEINZ METZNER. A 810 068

This man has shown during his stay in this camp that he is of a hardworking, trustworthy and reliable type.

He has always taken an interest in his work, which has been performed in a satisfactory manner.

P.O.W. CAMP * No. 23 * GREAT BRITAIN

Lt. Q.M.
23 P.O.W. Camp.

Serial No. 111 Army Form A.2038

WAR DEPARTMENT DRIVING PERMIT

(Not valid for driving any mechanically propelled vehicle for private purposes)

Issued under the conditions of A.C.I.699 of 1942.

The undersigned METZNER H.

(description) GERMAN. P.o.W. A. 810068

HEIGHT 5'7" COMPLEXION FRESH

being employed on Military Service is hereby authorised by the Secretary of State for War to drive mechanically propelled vehicles of:—

All Groups
Group I
" III
" IV
" VI

(Delete Groups inapplicable)

when on Government duty, from SEPT 1st 1947

until AUG 31st 1948

Signature of Holder

Permanent Under-Secretary of State for War.

W.S.C. 51-5439

MY NAME IS HARRY (HEINZ) METZNER, BORN ON THE 8th NOV. 1925
I ~~ARRIVED~~ CAME TO ENGLAND AS A GERMAN P.O.W. AFTER BEING CAPTURED
BY CANADIEN UNITS IN BELGIUM ON 12th SEPT. 1944.
AFTER CROSSING THE CHANEL FROM DIEPPE (FRANCE) TO NEWHAVEN ON
THE SOUTH COAST, WE FINALY ARRIVED IN DEVIZES/WILTSHIRE AT
P.O.W. CAMP 23. ON SEPT. 24. 1944 ON A PARADE GROUND, WHERE WE WERE
INTERVIEWED, BY PERFECTLY GERMAN SPEAKING, BRITISH SOLDIERS. (SARGEANTS)
WE WERE SEGREGATED INTO 3 CATEGORIES.
A-WHITES NONE FANATICAL NAZIS. B-GREYS SEMI FANATICAL NAZIS AND
C-BLACKS - WHO SHOWED TRUE LOYALTY TO HITLER AND THE NAZI PARTY.
AS I WAS NOT INTERESTED IN POLITICS, AND NOT YET 19 YEARS OLD,
I WAS CLASSIFIED A-WHITE. MY P.O.W. No WAS A810068
AFTER THE INTERVIEW WE WERE DELOUSED, PLENTY OF DDT POWDER
FLYING ABOUT. OUR GERMAN UNIFORMS WERE TAKEN AWAY, AND WE
WERE ISSUED WITH BROWN DYED EX KHAKI UNIFORMS WHICH HAD
YELLOW SQUARES SEWN ON TO THE TROUSERS AND TUNICS.
THAN WE HAD A MEAL, AND TAKEN TO OUR SLEEPING QUARTERS.
THE BIGGEST PROBLEM FOR ME WAS BOREDOM. TO RELIEVE THE
PROBLEM, I VOLUNTEERED FOR COOKHOUSE DUTY. A FEW MONTHS
LATER THE QUARTERMASTER STORES REQUIRED CLERKS, SO I VOLUN-
TEERED FOR THAT.
DURING THE BEGINNING OF 1946 CAMP 23 QUARTERMASTER
PERSONNEL WAS TRANSFERED TO MARCHINGTON NR. UTTOXETER, TO REOPEN
THE EX-AMERICAN CAMP, TO RECEIVE P.O.W.s FOR REPATRIATION FROM
AMERICA AND CANADA, BACK TO GERMANY.
IN DEC 1946 A POSTCARD FROM MY FATHER ARRIVED, LETTING ME KNOW
THAT FATHER, MOTHER, TWO SISTERS AND A BROTHER WERE ON THEIR
WAY TO RUSSIA FOR 5 YEARS TO WORK THERE. THEY RETURNED TO EAST-
GERMANY (EAST BERLIN) IN 1951.
DURING 1947 I WAS TOLD, THAT UNLESS I COULD FIND EMPLOYMENT WHERE
I COULD LIVE-IN, I HAD TO GO BACK TO GERMANY.
AS MY FAMILY WERE IN RUSSIA, I HAD NO PLACE TO GO BACK TO,
SO I APPLIED TO THE AUTHORITIES TO REMAIN IN ENGLAND TO WORK IN
AGRICULTURE.

P.T.O.

FORTUNATELY MR. BOB GRIMLEY OF BANK TOP HOUSE COLTON GAVE ME A JOB, WHICH MEANT LIVING IN AT BANK TOP HOUSE, WHERE I WAS VERY WELL LOOKED AFTER BY MR BOB AND MRS. FRIDA GRIMLEY.

MY JOB ENTAILED COLLECTING MILK IN CHURNS FROM SURROUNDING FARMS, WHICH WAS THEN BOTTLED IN THE DAIRY AND STORED IN A BIG FRIDGE FOR DELIVERY NEXT DAY TO RUGELEY AND SURROUNDINGS.

TO ASSIST ME WITH THE DELIVERIES, AT WEEKENDS AN DURING HIS SCHOOLHOLYDAYS, A LAD BY THE NAME OF PETER JONES WAS A GREAT HELP DURING MY STAY AT COLTON, HE WAS THAT GOOD, I PROMISED HIM TO LET HIM DRIVE THE PICK UP TRUCK ACCROSS SHOOTING BUTTS CAMP COMMON, WHICH OF CAUSE I DID.

WE STILL KEEP IN TOUCH, AND IT WAS PETER WHO ASKED ME TO WRITE ABOUT MY EXPERIENCES AS A P.O.W. AND LIFE IN ENGLAND.

LATE 1950 I WAS OFFERED A JOB AS A LONG DISTANCE DRIVER WITH WILTS UNITED DAIRY AT WESTON NEAR STAFFORD. AFTER DISCUSSING IT WITH BOB GRIMLEY, HE SAID: IF YOU CAN IMPROVE YOURSELF FINANCIALY, TAKE THE JOB. I ALSO WENT INTO NEW ACCOMMODATION IN RUGELEY.

WHILE WORKING AT WESTON I MET MY FUTURE WIFE, WE WERE MARRIED IN LITTOXETER IN MAY 1953. HAD TWO CHILDREN A GIRL + A BOY AND LIVE NOW, SINCE 1955, AT 6 WEST HILL LITTOXETER.

AS A LEARNED AIRCRAFT FITTER (WHICH I COULD NOT PERSUE AS AN EX P.O.W.) I STARTED WITH BAMFORDS ~~[illegible]~~ Ltd IN LITTOXETER AS A FITTER IN THE EXPERIMENTAL SHOP IN THE LATE 50'S.

IN 1968 WE WERE WORKING A 40 HRS WEEK, MY WEEKLY WAGE WAS THEN £14-17s 1p. I GAVE MY WIFE THE £14, I WAS TO EMBARRASSED TO GO OUT FOR A DRINK.

ONE DAY MY WIFE ASKED ME - CAN YOU DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT? SO I WROTE OFF TO J.C.B. FOR A JOB. I HAD AN INTERVIEW, AND TAKEN ON AS A FITTER IN THE J.C.B. RESEARCH DEPARTMENT IN DEC. 1968. THE WAGES DOUBLED AND IT WAS A VERY INTERRESTING JOB. I RETIRED IN DEC. 1990 AFTER 22 YEARS WITH J.C.B.

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO MENTION, THAT I OBTAINED MY BRITISH CITIZENSHIP IN JAN. 1960. I AM VERY PROUD OF THAT.

HARRY (HEINZ) METZNER EX P.O.W. A 910068

PHILIP SANDERS' DIARY 1944

WEDNESDAY 14 JUNE: Left Aldershot for France via area. Fred, Pat on truck together. Arrived in area at 11pm.

THURSDAY 15 JUNE: Remained in area. Good food. Waiting for boat. Wrote to all at home. Weather good. No mail.

FRIDAY 16 JUNE: Still waiting for boat. Concert tonight. No mail. Browned off.

SATURDAY 17 JUNE: Still waiting. No mail. More browned off.

SUNDAY 18 JUNE: Left for Gosport at 5pm. Embarked on yankee LST. Lay off in river all night.

MONDAY 19 JUNE: Waiting to join convoy. Food good. Weather good. No mail.

TUESDAY 20 JUNE: Joined convoy off Portsmouth. Hundreds of ships. Good weather. No mail. Browned off.

WEDNESDAY 21 JUNE: Embarked for France during night. 10.30am can see coast. 4.45pm disembarking, no Jerry planes. Plenty of signs of heavy fighting. Disembarked safe.

THURSDAY 22 JUNE: In location, Caen area. Weather good. No Jerrys except prisoners. Hectic night.

FRIDAY 23 JUNE: Received mail, feel much better. Wrote home. Saw two Jerry planes all day. Sky full of ours. Weather good. Write again tonight.

SATURDAY 24 JUNE: Noisy night again. Not too busy, but things are moving up. Lots of shelling.

SUNDAY 25 JUNE: Noisy night again. Tanks moving up. Terrific barrage. Attack for Caen should open soon.

MONDAY 26 JUNE: Attack on. Shelling terrible. Lousy with planes. Bad night. Moving up tomorrow if attack goes well, supplies needed badly.

TUESDAY 27 JUNE: Moved. Barrage heavy. Rained. Mud. Shells. Fighters. Ack Ack. Mines. Attack going well. Heavy damage. Mines. Everything in a hell of a mix up. Guns every minute. Terrible night.

WEDNESDAY 28 JUNE: Fighting heavy. Shelling. Casualties in RASC 179 + TCV. 174 1 M/C. Planes. Out near all day. Heavy shelling again. Dog fights. Machine gunned. Bad night. Mail ok.

THURSDAY 29 JUNE: Lousy with planes (ours). Ack Ack. 9.15 heavy barrage started again. Shelling. 3 amb cas at LFA. Capt. B sniped at but missed. Lots of noise. Tank battle on. Poor night.

FRIDAY 30 JUNE: Rather quiet during day, regrouping for new breakthrough. Very active in air. Barrage started again. Horrible night.

SATURDAY 1 JULY: Special page today. Events in location. Barrage. Jerry plane at 0600. Battle well.

(Paid my first visit to the actual front line. Terrible sights. Went to get lorry hit by a tank shell. Dead cattle all over the place. Not a house standing. Blood all over the ground at LFA. Many tanks. Many shells. Many bodies. The mess is unbelievable.

Refugees in pitiful state. Death means no more than taking identity disc and digging a hole with a bulldozer. LFA had 250 cases today. Saw 40 burnt out tanks and in some the crews had burnt too.

They gave me tinned steak & kidney pie for tea. I was sick. I have to go again tomorrow. Hope that's the last time. Its definitely unhealthy).

SUNDAY 2 JULY: Busy day. Out to fetch replacement trucks. Shelling. Rain. Barrage. Nearly caught a nasty piece of shrapnel.

MONDAY 3 JULY: More lorrys knocked out. Heavy fighting. Great relief. LFA and our AP have been moved back a little. Jerry can not see them now. Wireless says lull. They ought to be here.

TUESDAY 4 JULY: Ill all day with my side again. Fed up. Mo wants to send me to a CCS but I've seen some, I'll stay here.

WEDNESDAY 5 JULY: Ill all day. Very noisy day. Feeling better. Eat all my food and wrote a letter.

THURSDAY 6 JULY: Better. Much shelling. Bad night again. Bombing and machine gunning. Shelling.

FRIDAY 7 JULY: Special. Worst night yet. Noise from our guns.

(The most amazing sight of my life tonight. At dusk thousands of our planes bombed a small target only 4 miles away. Planes queuing up to get over the target. Noise near deafened us. Jerry fighters shot out of the sky. Target obliterated. Just the job.)

SATURDAY 8 JULY: Very busy day fixing up LFA. They may be in the line Sun-Mon. If jobs not finished I shall have to go. I'll take a big shovel and a roll of paper. Barrage kept up all day. My ears sing. We are playing with Jerry Why!

SUNDAY 9 JULY: Things still noisy. Did not have to go to LFA thank God. Machine gunned by single Jerry during night. Barrage seems better.

MONDAY 10 JULY: 195 not going in yet. Means longer rest. Good. Barrage ear splitting again. Heavy fighting going on at front. Slight shelling. No Jerry planes.

TUESDAY 11 JULY: Things are getting quiet. The guns have moved up. Its unbelievable what a good nights sleep feels like. Mail is coming through fine. I feel very fit. Am getting used to seeing death, blood etc.

WEDNESDAY 12 JULY: Went to LFA again today. Much the same as it was before. Sickening. But at least it was quiet except for odd shells and snipers. Roads are hopeless on a motorbike. Many DR's killed by accident.

THURSDAY 13 JULY: Things are still quiet here but we may move soon. I spoke too soon. Two of our trucks have come in riddled with shrapnel. Drivers ok but very lucky. We have had six ammo trucks hit, none exploded.

FRIDAY 14 JULY: Had trip down to the beaches to fetch breakdown, good job it wasn't the other way. Saw many interesting things. Jerry prisoners. Hundreds of ships lying off shore.

SATURDAY 15 JULY: Things seem rather quiet today. Just had a raid on the drome about 500 yds away. Two of our planes set on fire. Some Jerrys shot down. So things are not so quiet. Odd shells. Jerry playing about in the night.

SUNDAY 16 JULY: Residue arrived, George ok. The whole w/shops now here with no casualties. Things seem to be getting hot again. Talk of ammo point opening again. LFA

moving to frontline again. Means more trouble.

MONDAY 17 JULY: Things are still quiet but the battle is going well. The RA has moved up. Barrage sound heavy. Lots of our planes about. Rumours say we shall soon be off again. Mail good. Weather good.

TUESDAY 18 JULY: Busy. Lots of work, things going well. Hope it keeps up. Odd shells. Mail fine. Fit as a fiddle.

WEDNESDAY 19 JULY: Trouble starts today. LFA have 3 casualties. 2 M.C. 1 amb. Fred has to fetch them. Things are red hot up their. Won't allow me to go with him. Say 1 NCO is enough to loose at once. Not sorry. 11pm Fred not returned.

THURSDAY 20 JULY: Fred got back at 9.00 today. Had a hell of a do. It's pretty sticky up their. Weather hopeless. Pouring with rain. Move off. Roads sheets of mud. Mail fine. Two parcels.

FRIDAY 21 JULY: Have to go to the other side of Caen fetch 15cwt. Its going to be sticky. Back ok but its very bad up their. Had a look in a burnt out tank. They had not removed bodies - never again. Found some oddments for Dennis.

SATURDAY 22 JULY: Moving tomorrow. Hope we find a quiet spot. Another single plane raid. Shelling light. Our barrage heavy.

SUNDAY 23 JULY: Moved. Seems a quiet enough place. But near our RA again so noisy (safe). Very busy diggin in. No mail. Wireless news. Cheerfull.

MONDAY 24 JULY: Received 5 letters today. Feel fine. Had Jos's address so will try and find his unit. **Special**. Hell of a night. Bombed and M/Gunned.

(Left location to find Jos's unit. M/Cycle. Found the 202 coy. First saw officer. Paid visit to cemetery. Decided to find his mates. Found them near front. Jos was killed along with 6 others at Colleville after two days in France by a mortar shell. 22 casualties altogether. He died in ambulance on way to CCS unconscious. His grave was not at Colleville. Found grave but while locating its position was blown off bike by blast so I hopped it quick. Saw Sgt Stanier and S/S Riddle who said they would write to B and tell her where grave was. I think its near Cheau (Chouain???) He will probably be moved to Brouay though, to the 53 Div ground.

Still feel shaky from blast. Never again. Jos was very well liked. His Major is writing to B).

TUESDAY 25 JULY: New attack started. Barrage very heavy. One of our lorries hit and burnt out. Driver ok. More LFA casualties. Feel better after shake up last night. Wrote five letters.

WEDNESDAY 26 JULY: Quiet so far today. Wrote to N.L. Lots of air activity now. The nights are noisy here. Bombs and odd M/Gunning. Have dug well in. Better be safe than sorry. Feel quite fit again.

THURSDAY 27 JULY: Lots of air activity by ours. No shelling but our guns have been pounding away all day. It must be hell up front again. Otherwise quiet. Fresh food for the first time today. Air raid during night.

FRIDAY 28 JULY: Quiet so far. Air fights. Lots of movement on ground. Warned to move again tonight. May be forward. May be hot. Received parcel. Very good. But no chance to write yet. Busy packing.

SATURDAY 29 JULY: Moved to yankee sector. Seems quiet enough. Air raid. No mail. Rotten ride - dust. Moving again.

SUNDAY 30 JULY: Move nearer front. Out all day fetching new lorrys. 4.45 have to fetch

breakdown. Heavy air raid. Two lorries out. No one hurt.

MONDAY 31 JULY: Busy but quiet. Received parcel. Very nice. Fetched two new lorries. Moving again. Near front. Arrived 2.00. Shells and noisy.

TUESDAY 1 AUGUST: Special today. (Move Aug 1st to new location. Dead all over the place. We have 5 bodies, 1 tank, 2 carriers here. Bodies buried. One still in tank, cannot get him out. Shells. Shelling during night. Snipers still about. Jerry left here 24 hrs ago. 14 mines found in our field. 15 cwt knocked out by another. Hope they have moved all the mines. Piles of work. Must write somehow).

WEDNESDAY 2 AUGUST: Shelling. This is a very sticky place. Lots of booby traps about. 2 men killed in the next field yesterday. Lecture by the OC.

THURSDAY 3 AUGUST: More shelling. Our barrage very heavy. This area is heavily damaged. The tank and body still their and shells. Wrote decent letter.

FRIDAY 4 AUGUST: Night not too bad. Light shelling. Tank moved thank goodness. The smell and morbid sightseers were giving me the jip. You can see dead bodies of all sorts anytime here. Why is it that one trapped in a tank makes people so curious. It has a peculiar fastination for some people. They must look and yet it makes them sick. Why is human nature like that.

SATURDAY 5 AUGUST: Tiger tank broke through today. Killed one RASC man. 2 more LFA drivers killed by shelling. Our first deaths. Why have we been so lucky.

SUNDAY 6 AUGUST: Things rather quiet today for a change. Very busy. Had to work till ten again. No mail but had a pile yesterday including grand photo.

MONDAY 7 AUGUST: My birthday. Started well with a nice parcel. Things are nice and quiet so far. The rest on **special** page.

(What a birthday. At tea time today one of our lads found another body. It was one of our Div tank chaps and he must have been their a week. Indescribable. We buried him with gas masks on. Name Lavender. Married with two children. Had most of his kit with him. I think he had jumped off his tank wounded and crawled into this field of hay and died. I don't feel at all sick. I'm getting used to it now. Glad his wife will know now that he's dead and not just missing).

TUESDAY 8 AUGUST: Things are getting noisy again. Strong counter-attacks coming in. Shelling again. Someone will get hurt if this keeps up. Light raid during the night. Feel quite fit.

WEDNESDAY 9 AUGUST: Thought trouble would come. A hell of a day. 12 TCV's knocked out. Some drivers killed. Believe there is to be enquiry as to why RASC vehicles are parked within sight of the enemy in many cases. Our HQ is within 2 miles of Jerry. To hot.

THURSDAY 10 AUGUST: More trouble. Two LFA drivers killed. Amb wrecked. But attack is failing. We have gone in this morn. Advancing. Shelling now weak. Shelling almost stopped.

FRIDAY 11 AUGUST: Much quieter except shelling in the night. Two CAS in A wing both wounded. One seriously. But things are much quieter indeed and it's a good job. Mail ok. Health good but weather too hot.

SATURDAY 12 AUGUST: Things rather quiet again. But expect to move again. Something in the air. Mail ok. Quite fit.

SUNDAY 13 AUGUST: Moved. New location looks quite good. Milk. Apples. Rather nearer

the front. One or two odd Jerrys about. Had a scare in the night but did not catch them.

MONDAY 14 AUGUST: Things still quiet. there is something in the air. Jerry seems to be beaten. Plenty dead. Plenty prisoners. Mail and health ok.

TUESDAY 15 AUGUST: It has now come out. 6 of us are going with a flying column. It seems Jerry is crackin here. The Falaise gap is closed. We have to pass along the edge of it. We are taking one car and the breakdown. Starts in the morning. Mail ok. Health ok.

WEDNESDAY 16 AUGUST: Here we have started on rather a sticky venture. We have advanced about 20 miles. Dead in many places. Cattle everywhere. Stench is awful. Jerry guns, tanks, lorries, cars etc litter the place. Prisoners coming in. Snipers still about. The rest of the day on **special.**

(We have started on what may turn out to be a sticky do. A flying armoured column with the yanks. Passed through part of the Falaise gap. Horrible mess. Up half the night working. The other half looking for snipers.

We are now well into France. The chase is slowing down. Jerry is running to fast for us).

THURSDAY 17 AUGUST: Moving again. Into area still half full of Jerrys. Found one in a slit trench alive. Plenty of dead about. Lots of work. Mail ok. Health ok. Had trip on a bike 40 miles. And had to work near all night.

FRIDAY 18 AUGUST: Breakdown to be fetched from the front. All the usual and hundreds of prisoner about. Jerry is on the run. The rest on **special** page. Health ok. Mail ok.

(Nearing Paris. Shall wait for the others to catch up. Covered almost 300 miles in 2½ days.

SATURDAY 19 AUGUST: Fred joined us. Busy all day and half the night. Moving at 6 in the morn. Mail ok.

SUNDAY 20 AUGUST: Moved again to near Argentena. Jerrys finished. They seem to be giving up wholesale. Rained all day. Got drowned.

MONDAY 21 AUGUST: Quiet day for a change. But we are off again at 9pm tonight. Move cancelled till 3pm tomorrow. Then we have 72 hrs to reach Seine and cross it. It will be hot.

TUESDAY 22 AUGUST: Quiet morning. One letter. Moving at 3pm I think. Moved at 7. Drove all night. Stopped and French gave us wine. Rotten trip. Saw a Jerry. Shot. May have hit him.

WEDNESDAY 23 AUGUST: In location. Quiet enough. Plenty of work. Place not damaged much. No mail. Health good. Plenty work.

THURSDAY 24 AUGUST: From here on things have turned to one mad chase.

FRIDAY 25 AUGUST: Still on.

SATURDAY 26 AUGUST: Chasing.

SUNDAY 27 AUGUST: Things still one mad rush.

SUNDAY 3 SEPTEMBER: Enter Belgium. Returned to France to fetch lorry. Stuck in Jerry pocket. Shot at but ok. 7 of our trucks burnt out. Took a prisoner. Felt like shooting him.

TUESDAY 5 SEPTEMBER: One mad riot everywhere. We had 3000 prisoners today.

MONDAY 11 SEPTEMBER: Had an extra do today. Wrote full account for RASC records.

WEDNESDAY 13 SEPTEMBER: Have seen all the big Belgian towns. Brussels, Antwerp etc.

SUNDAY 17 SEPTEMBER: Paid another visit to the front. Ive been so many times of late its nothing unusual.

THURSDAY 21 SEPTEMBER: Holland. Ive been in 3 times before. Now here to stay.

MONDAY 25 SEPTEMBER: The war seems to be slowing down now. Its about time. Ive driven thousands of miles this last month.

FRIDAY 29 SEPTEMBER: New location. Well up.

TUESDAY 3 OCTOBER: From here on I shall try to keep a daily record again. Things seem so slow now. We are terribly busy now.



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