

**THE CLIFFORDS' / STEWARTS' OF
LOUNT AND COLEORTON**



BY SAMUEL T STEWART - JULY 2022

FRONT COVER PHOTOGRAPH

Clarrie Clifford (nee., Stewart) and her daughter Ena taken on September 28th 1970 in Coleorton churchyard on the occasion of the wedding of Samuel Trevor Stewart and Sheila Bannister

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Following the death of the author's cousin Ena Clifford recently on Thursday April 28th, 2022 in the Royal Infirmary, Leicester at the age of 102, which brings to an end this particular line of the Cliffords', the author felt that something should be recorded about their life. Ena had been a school teacher up to her retirement and lived in Glenfield for many years before moving to Coleorton where she built a bungalow on land adjacent to her Mum and Dad's cottage on the Upper Moor, Coleorton. She subsequently moved to Ashby where she had lived for several years in a retirement home. She remained unmarried.

Ena's mother was the youngest daughter of the large Stewart family of Lount who lived to the great age of 103. Below is a photograph of the Stewart family and Clarrie Clifford (nee., Stewart), born in 1891 is number 9 in the photograph (the date of her death recorded here is incorrect)



		A	B	
		Samuel Stewart Snr	Sarah Ann Stewart	
		b.1854 m.1876 d.1932	b.1855 m.1876 d.1929	
6	3	8	2	1
John (Jack) Stewart	William Stewart	Sarah Ann Stewart Jnr	Samuel Stewart Jnr	James Stewart
b.1885 m. NM d.1928	b.1881 m.1903 d.1960	b.1889 m.1913 d.1964	b.1879 m.1898 d.1955	b.1878 m.1900 d.1964
7	5	10	9	4
Hannah Stewart	Gertrude Stewart	Frederick Robert Stewart	Clarrie Maria Stewart	Annie Elizabeth Stewart
b.1886 m.1909 d.1968	b.1884 m.1908 d. 1968	b.1894 m.1917 d.1967	b.1891 m.1919 d.1991	b.1883 m.1903 d.1982

PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN AT LOUNT FARM COTTAGE IN 1901

The author has managed to trace a direct male blood-line back to the late 1600's for this family, which appears on the author's website <https://samuelstewart940.wixsite.com/mysite> under the sub-section "Stewart, Marson, Bird and Richards family research".

CLARRIE MARIA STEWART - MOTHER OF ENA CLIFFORD
(b. 9th April 1891 - m. 1919 - d.1994)



Clarrie was the youngest daughter. She recalled that when she was a small child and one of a family of ten at their Lount farm, going with the Sunday School to Staunton Harold Church. After the Ferrers' family took their places in their private pew, the doors to the church were locked. As children, they were required to curtsy to the Earl and Lady Ferrers.

She recalled that as children, they used to stone-pick the fields in order to protect the plough blades from getting damaged during ploughing.

Clarrie went into service after leaving Staunton Harold School at around twelve years of age, firstly with the German family of Ashby De La Zouch for about a year. At some point, her family was approached by the Brays of Sileby, who were shoe manufacturers, and they offered Clarrie a position with them. She was very happy there, but was later recalled to Lount by her parents to take charge of the farm milk round after brother Jack had a serious accident. Clarrie was very upset about this perceived injustice, but was left with no choice.

Clarrie also worked for several years as a parlour maid for the Ferrers' family at Staunton Harold Hall to help out when they were in summer residence. She recalled being paid £6 per annum, but had to purchase her own uniform. Presumably this was to supplement her income whilst working at the farm.

She delivered milk and cream to customers by horse and cart, recalling that people often paid their weekly bill with gold sovereigns at that time. Unsold cream was churned into butter at the farm and sold to "Simpkin and James" shop in Ashby de la Zouch. A horse drawn wagon used to take people from the area to Ashby to do their shopping at this time.

Clarrie met her future husband, Laban Clifford (1895 - 17th January 1985), when he lived in one of the colliery houses opposite the George Inn, Coleorton, Leics, when he was home on sick leave from the Great War with a broken leg. They were married in 1919 at Coleorton Methodist Church after which they first leased and then purchased a cottage and land adjacent to Pit Lane from the Beaumont Estate.

Clarrie recalled in a newspaper article recording her 100th birthday that those were the days when the pit workers coal allowance was emptied onto the road, ashes were collected once a week, and the lavatory down the garden was emptied weekly at the dead of night.

After the war, Laban went back to work as a coal miner at Snibston Colliery where his father was under manager and where later Laban became a deputy. His father J. Clifford is shown on the "Coleorton Colliery Rescue Party" photograph below.



The above photograph shows Coleorton No.3 Colliery (Bug & Wink) rescue team in 1913.

Clarrie and Laban who were regular worshippers at Coleorton Methodist Primitive Chapel only had the one daughter Ena. She recalled that when she was a young girl, the "Coleorton Methodist Sunday School Treat" entailed being taken in a horse and cart to Lount Farm for a picnic and to play in the fields.

Clarrie died in 1994 having reached **103 years of age**.



**Photograph of Clarrie and Laban taken outside their cottage
on the Upper Moor**

Both Laban and his wife Clarrie were staunch members of Coleorton Primitive Methodist Chapel. It would have been a sin for any member of the Stewart family not to have been a Methodist of course.

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LABAN CLIFFORD WAS A FOUNDER MEMBER OF COLEORTON TOC H

COLEORTON TOC H



- | | |
|---|---|
| A - Samuel Stewart b.1899 (Married Agnes Bird b.1901) | E - Laban Clifford (Married Clarrie Maria Stewart b.1891) |
| B - John Whyman (Married Clarrie Stewart b.1902) | F - Les Saddington (Married Joan Gamble) |
| C - Roland Hill (Married Ada Stewart b.1904) | G - Jabos Emmerson (Mg'r of Snibston Colliery & Magistrate) |
| D - Bill Saddington (Married Sarah Ann Stewart b.1889) | H - Jack Richards of Stoney Lane, Coleorton |
| K - George John Leeds (Billy) Headmaster Coleorton School | J - Aurthur Hancock (Married Winifred Saddington) |

PHOTOGRAPH THOUGHT TO HAVE BEEN TAKEN c.1946

The Toc H meeting hut was built in 1936 at the bottom of Laban and Clarrie Clifford's small holding adjacent to Pit Lane off the Upper Moor Road. Laban is marked **E** on the photograph.

Mr. Clifford recalled, when he was interviewed in 1975, aged 80, that there were still ten members who regularly attended, but he was the only founder member left. It is not known when the Coleorton branch of the Toc H ceased to operate, but it was probably soon after that.