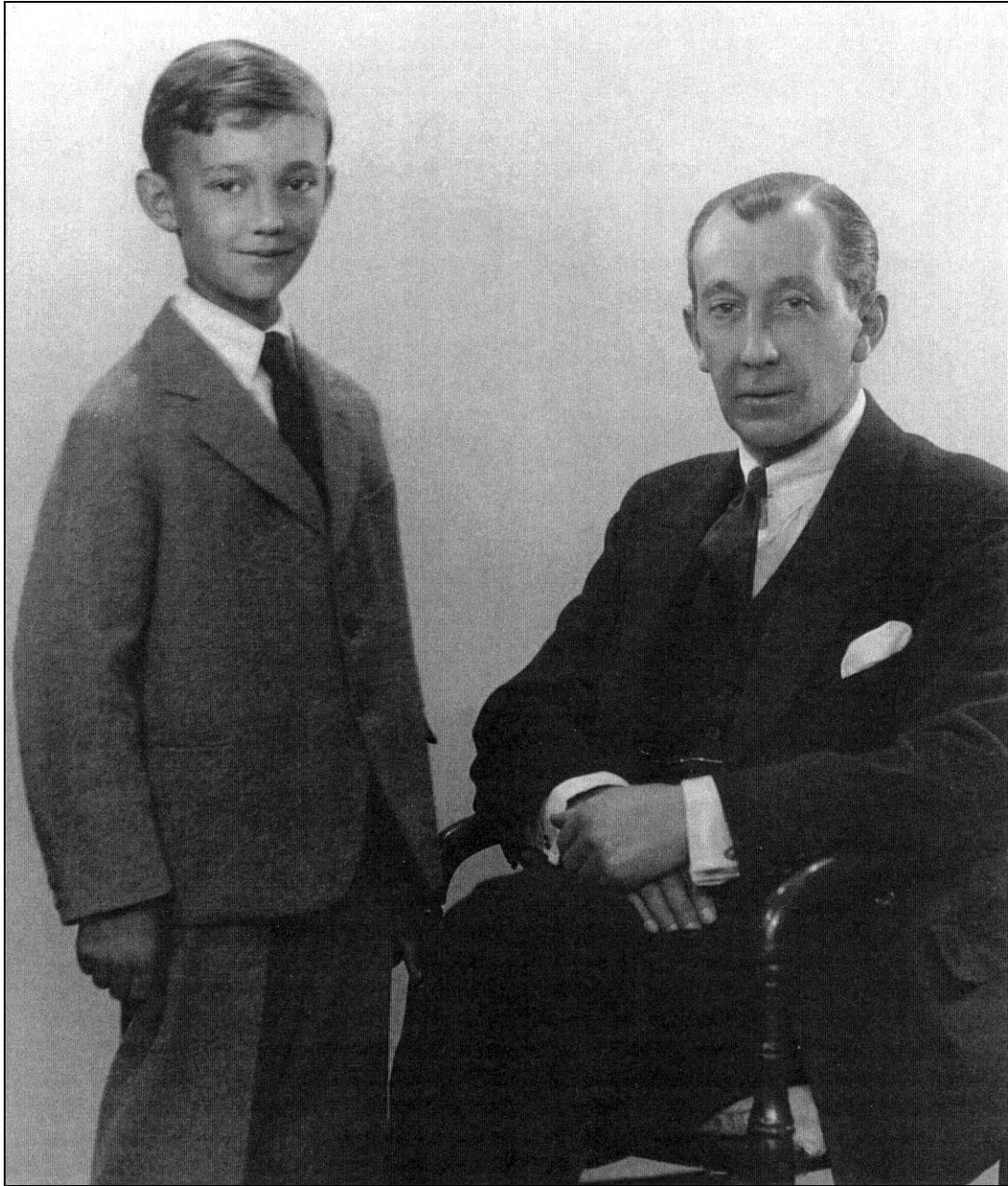


**A SYNOPSIS OF THE LIFE OF
SIR GEORGE HOWLAND FRANCIS BEAUMONT,
12th AND LAST BARONET OF STOUGHTON**



BY SAMUEL T STEWART - JANUARY 2022

FRONT PAGE PHOTOGRAPH

This portrays George Howland Francis Beaumont, who became the 12th Baronet of Stoughton, with his father Sir George Howland Beaumont, 11th Baronet of Stoughton.

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12th BARONET OF STOUGHTON**

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FRANCIS' FIRST BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS - Born September 24th 1924

Transcribed from the Nottingham Evening Post – September 26th 1925

Interesting celebrations extending into the early hours of Friday morning at Coleorton Hall, Leicestershire, marked the first birthday anniversary of the son and heir (*George Howland Francis*) of Sir George Howland Beaumont, 11th Baronet of Stoughton, and Lady Beaumont. (*Francis, as he was known was born on September 24th 1924*).

350 tenants were entertained to supper followed by fireworks in the illuminated grounds. A huge bonfire lit up the whole countryside (*held in Mr. Carter's field below the hall rose garden about midnight with more fireworks*). The tenant's gifts to the baby were a silver porringer and biscuit box.

TRANSCRIBED REPORT FROM ANOTHER NEWSPAPER OF THE SAME DATE

Thursday was a red letter day for the people of Coleorton, who for the first time in almost 50 years (*incorrect*), were entertained at Coleorton Hall by a member of the Beaumont family. Amongst the 350 guests were Earl and Countess Ferrers, Lady Northey (mother of Lady Beaumont), Mrs. Heygate, Major Gerald and Mrs. Heygate, Major Paget, M.F.H., Mrs. Paget and Miss. Paget, The Rev J. N. and Mrs. Philpott, and many other people well known in the county.

A reception was held at five o'clock, and then the guests were able to view the grounds. Supper was served in a four-pole marquee, which had been fitted up as a huge dining-room. An excellent repast was served, and the desert included about 50 bunches of grapes grown in the hall vinery, and the concluding item of the menu was the birthday cake. There were three tiers, and Lady Beaumont cut the first slice as shown in the following photograph. Her Ladyship wore her Ascot dress of printed chiffon, and a close-fitting hat.

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

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

Mr Jesson also said that he had advised Sir George to sell a small part of the estate, and if he had not done so, he could not have returned to the hall. He said that had it not been for Sir Georges' mother the estate would probably have been sold. When her ladyship left the hall 42 years ago she went to live on the outskirts of it at Swannington House and therefore kept in touch with it. Sir George said that "had he been brought up elsewhere, he would not have clung to it".



**Lady Beaumont cutting Francis' first birthday cake in the large marquee
Sir George is standing behind her**

Supplementary information –

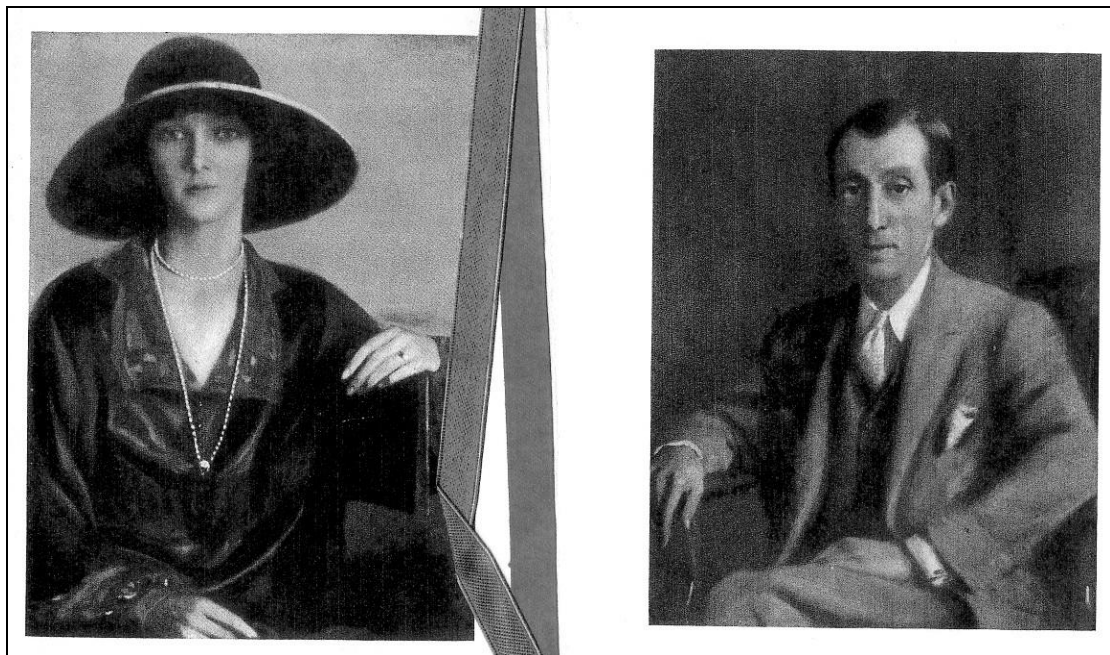
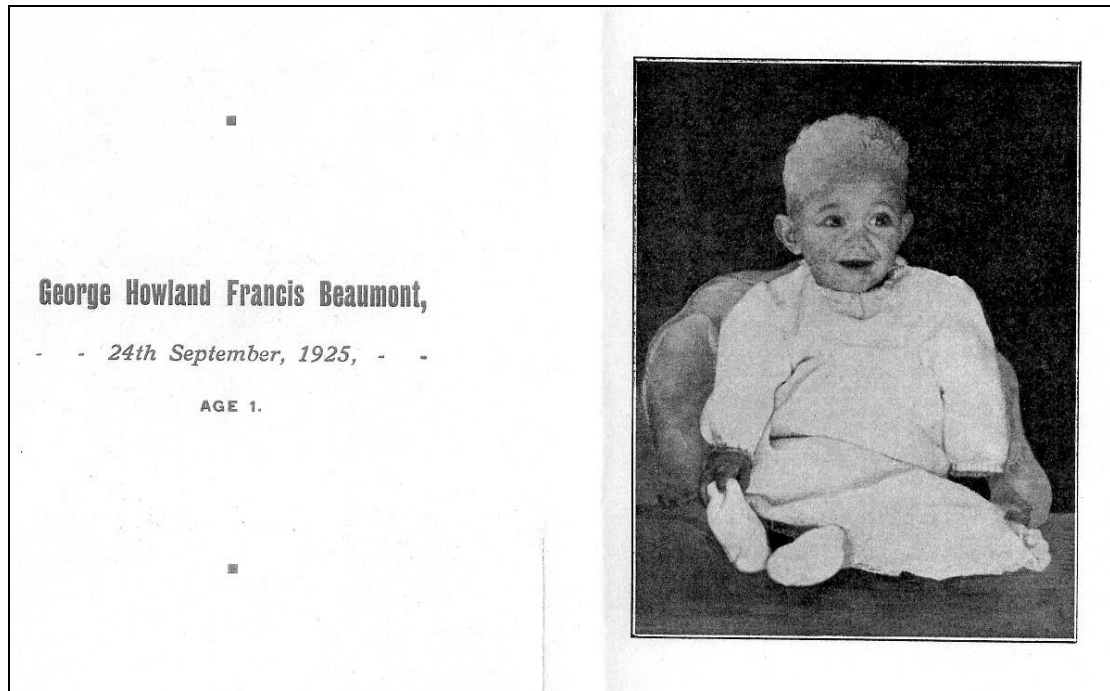
Wilf Lord, one of the eight church bellringers recalled that when Sir Francis was born, the ringers were invited over to the hall to celebrate. Champagne was served in Sir George's "Racing Trophy Cup", which was kept full and passed around; most of the ringers went home intoxicated!! **Francis' sister Eleanor Brienne was born 3 years later in 1927.**

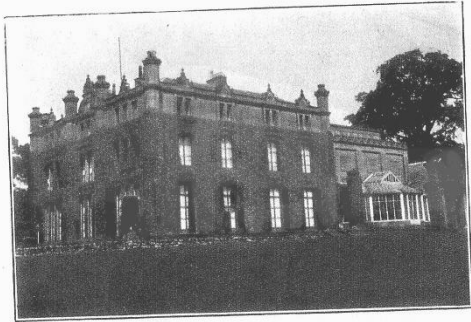
EXAMPLE OF INVITATION SENT OUT TO ONE OF THE TENANTS

The following two pages include copies of the pages of an invitation sent out to one of the tenants of the estate, namely:-

Mr & Mrs J. E. Fern and The Misses Esther and Alice Fern

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





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

George Howland Francis Beaumont,
 = = 24th September, 1925. Age 1. = =

Sir George and Lady Beaumont
 and
 George Howland Francis Beaumont
 request the pleasure of the Company of

Mr & Mrs G. Fern & Misses Esther & Alice Fern
 at Cole Orton Hall, on Thursday,
 24th September, 1925, at 5 o'clock
 p.m.

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

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

TOAST LIST.

THE KING.

Proposed by SIR GEORGE BEAUMONT

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

Proposed by MR. H. CUTHBERT
 Reply by { SIR GEORGE BEAUMONT
 { LADY BEAUMONT

THE COLE ORTON ESTATE.

Proposed by MR. J. FISHER JESSON
 Supported by MR. J. PARGETER
 Reply by SIR GEORGE BEAUMONT





Mr & Mrs Fern lived in the above thatched cottage, owned by the Beaumont Estate which was situated opposite / close to the Coleorton Primitive Methodist Chapel on Lower Moor Road.

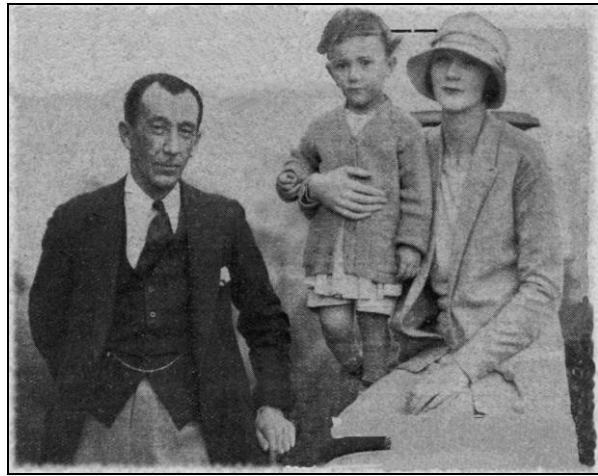
Due to a lack of basic facilities, the house was condemned by the council and they moved to a council house at "The Moorlands", Coleorton.

SOME PHOTOGRAPHS OF FRANCIS' CHILDHOOD AT COLEORTON HALL

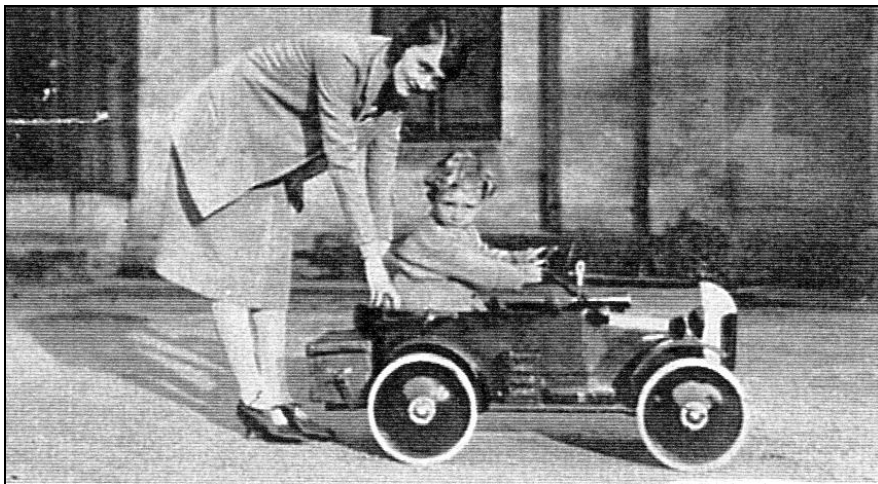


Above are photographs taken on the occasion of the Horse & Hounds visiting Coleorton Hall. Francis is sitting in his pram in both photographs. In the upper photograph he is marked **A** (possibly with his nursery maid Winnie Saddington).

In the lower photograph, his father Sir George is pushing the pram. Assuming Francis was aged about two at the time, the photograph would have been taken in 1926. Note the workmen on the roof carrying out repairs, which was accessed by the long wooden ladder on the left.



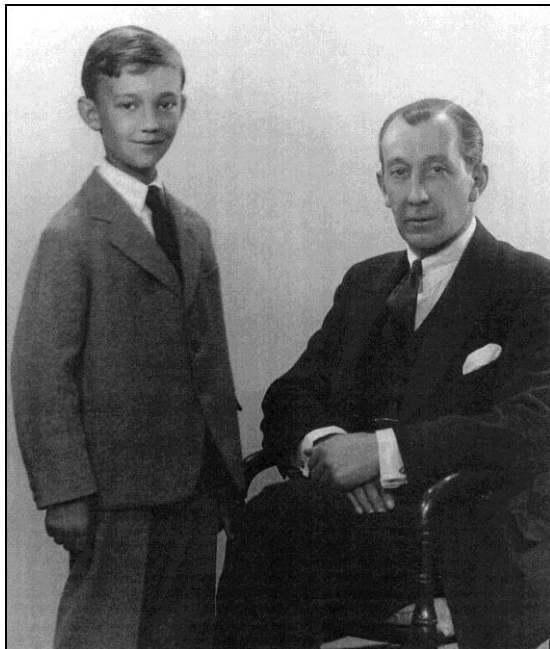
Later photographs of Sir George & Lady Beaumont with their son Francis, who would have been about 3 years of age. Lady Beaumont is holding his new sister Eleanor Brienne in the upper LH photograph. She was born in 1927.



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



The above photograph taken c.1930, in front of the sundial, is of George Howland Francis Beaumont (RH side), and his younger sister Eleanor Brienne.



Sir George with his son & heir Francis



Lady Beaumont with daughter Brienne after Sir George had died in 1933

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION FROM THE AGE OF NINE ONWARDS

THE FIRST ANNUAL RENT DINNER HELD IN JUNE 1934 FOLLOWING THE
DEATH OF SIR GEORGE BEAUMONT, 11TH BARONET OF STOUGHTON
IN 1933

The Squire, Aged Nine, Makes A Speech

HIS LIFE'S INTERESTS TO BE LINKED WITH
THOSE OF HIS TENANTS

"THE best sportsman you or I have ever known" was how Lady Beaumont described her late husband, Sir George Beaumont when she welcomed tenants and visitors to the estate rent dinner at Coleorton Hall. "Although we have many sad memories, I beg of you all to enjoy yourselves as much as possible," she said.

Lady Beaumont explained that she did not want to let the annual rent dinner fall through, and she was trying to carry on in the way her husband did. Lady Beaumont introduced her father, Major-General Sir Edward Northey, who was chairman and host, and his son, Mr. Edward Northey, who is a lieutenant in the King's Royal Rifles, his father's regiment, in which the late Sir George Beaumont also served.

Dinner was served in the spacious picture gallery, and the guests were waited upon by maids wearing dresses of French grey and scarlet—the late baronet's racing colours.

Great Reception

The young Squire—the nine-year-old Sir George H. F. Beaumont—also welcomed the visitors and presented his cups for the best-kept gardens on the estate. He had a great reception, and, speaking slowly and deliberately, said: "Good evening, gentlemen,—I am happy to welcome you and hope you have a nice time. I am pleased to give these cups to the garden prize-winners."

After presenting the silver trophies to Mr. Arthur Brooks, Mr. John Brooks, and Mr. A. Jeffreys, the young Squire said, "Good night, gentlemen"—and retired to bed.

"The Navy, Army and Air Force" was proposed by Mr. Elijah Toon, and replied to by Mr. Ed. Northey, who was making his first speech.

Mr. Frank Hodges, the managing director of the New Lount Colliery, proposed "Agriculture."

Mr. T. Forvarque replied. Mr. J. K. Smith, another farmer, said the sooner the farmers got out of the hands of the Government the better. There were too many schemes.

Sir Edward Northey, proposing "The Guests," said his daughter, Lady Beau-



THE YOUNG SQUIRE

mont, was trying to keep things going in the usual way until her little son could do it himself.

Mr. Burrows replied.

Young Squire's Future

Mr. G. J. Leeds and the Rev. H. Stevens spoke of the good work of the Dowager Lady Beaumont, and Mr. J. Fisher Jesson proposed "Sir Geo. H. F. Beaumont and Miss Brienne Beaumont."

Sir Edward Northey, replying, said Lady Beaumont had considered the future and took the firmest line that her son must stay at Coleorton. His tenants' interests must be his life interests.

Contrary to the headline referring to the 9 year old squire George Howland Francis Beaumont stating "HIS LIFE'S INTEREST TO BE LINKED WITH THOSE OF HIS TENANTS", this did not happen, and he never played any future part in the running of the estate. It is doubtful if he ever returned to Coleorton Hall after the age of nine when he was sent to boarding school.

The Beaumont trust was apparently finally broken up in 1988, which at that time reportedly comprised of stocks and shares at a mid-market value of £300,000 with no Real Estate. Practically, the Trust had ceased to exist by 1967 with the disposal of the family estates and chattels over the previous seventy or so years. The regular sales of Real Estate, partly apparently to maintain the 11th Baronet's erratic life style, became a continuous drain on the Estate Capital.

It should be remembered, that Coleorton Hall was leased from the Beaumonts in 1947 by The National Coal Board (N.C.B.) and subsequently purchased by them together with the grounds in 1948 for £30,000.

In an interview he gave later in life to a local historian, Sir Francis related that as a youngster, following his father's death, he had to give a speech (see above) in the dining room, now known as the Beaumont Room, Sir Francis said that he spent his childhood at Coleorton (apparently not a happy one), seeing his father very rarely, only briefly in the morning and in the evening, so there was no real contact between them. He did, however, see his grandparents – Major General Sir Edward and Lady Northey quite often at Woodcote House because at the age of 9 he was sent to St. David's boarding school in Riegate. He continued his education from the age of 13 at Stowe School, Buckingham. The Northey's house, Francis said, contained many trophies shot by Lady Northey during her travels abroad, particularly in Kenya. Francis also recalled that he remembered his father interviewing prospective maids for the hall in the billiard room, and each one had to lift their skirts so that he could see if they had good legs, if not, they didn't get the job. He also related that his father was a manic depressive and often took to his bed for weeks at a time, and only his wife could cope with him.

When Francis was eighteen years old he was conscripted into the Army. As an act of rebellion against the family tradition, instead of joining the "The Kings Royal Rifle Corps", he chose to go into the Coldstream Guards – which he entered as a private. However, he found he was unable to bring himself to submit to the rigorous discipline of this elite regiment, and with a fellow soulmate broke most of the regiment's rules and was eventually thrown out of the guards. He felt that probably his title went against him, especially since he had no money to throw around which his colleagues would have expected from a titled gentleman.

He admitted that joining the Guards was a big mistake and so chose then to go to Sandhurst where he was commissioned into the 60th Kings Royal Rifles early in 1945, serving in the Middle East and European theatres of war as a Lieutenant, until demobilisation in 1947; he then went to live with his mother and father-in-law Capt. Bell at Lambourne until the latter died in 1949.

**THE FOLLOWING IS BASED UPON INFORMATION
TRANSCRIBED FROM VARIOUS NEWSPAPER ARTICLES**



Sir Francis's married Barbara Singleton of Eccleston Mews, London on June 11th 1949, and their honeymoon took place in Capri. However, by the end of the year a very acrimonious situation had broken out between the two parties. Sir Francis was seeking a decree of nullity of his marriage and the case was set down to be heard in London on January 31st 1950. Lady Beaumont contested the nullity. During the case in the divorce court in London "A most extraordinary series of events" on the wedding night were referred to, in fact, anyone reading the full report would find it all extremely hard to believe! After an appeal, a decree of nullity was granted to Sir Francis in July 1951 and Lady Beaumont had withdrawn her application for leave to appeal in the House of Lords.

Mrs. Bell told a local newspaper in 1952 –

"My son hasn't signed anything yet, but he is vey keen to go abroad". Sir Francis's application is being considered by the Australian Army, and if he is accepted, he would sail at the end of April. The 28 year old nobleman, formerly a Lieutenant in the 60th rifles, joined the Australian Regular Army in March 1952 as "George Beaumont" and went to Australia on August 30th. Colonel G. F. Larkin, Commander of Puckapunyal Camp, Victoria, where Sir George was serving, stated that he did not know of Sergeant Beaumont's title when he recommended him for a commission. Sergeant Beaumont gained top marks in the N.C.O's cadre in the camp. A reporter found him drilling a squad of National Service trainees. Sir George said that by keeping his identity secret he lived up to the family motto, "Exalted not Elated". He did not seek leave to attend the Coranation of Queen Elizabeth II in June. "I hope to be fighting in Korea" in June he said. The Baronet, whose private income was £3,000 p.a., draws £16. 14s. 10d. a week army pay – less tax.



SERGEANT BEAUMONT IS A BARONET



SIR GEORGE HOWLAND FRANCIS BEAUMONT, formerly of Coleorton Hall, Leicestershire, is a sergeant in the Australian Army. At present he is drilling recruits at Puckapunyl Camp, Victoria, but next year expects to be fighting in Korea. He joined the Australian Army in London last March as plain "George Beaumont," and arrived in Australia on August 30. News of the fact that he was a baronet reached the camp last week—a few hours after his commanding officer had recommended him for a commission. Sir George has a private income of £3,000 a year; his Australian Army pay is £16 14s. 10d. a week. In the picture he is seen taking a lesson in the art of rolling cigarettes.

**Sir George Howland Francis Beaumont
Warrant Officer - Australian Army
Melbourne 1958**

Sir Francis apparently found himself in the thick of the fighting in Korea. He left the army and returned to England in 1958. A major factor being that his mother's third marriage to Leslie Hawkins had been dissolved in March 1957.

According to Sir Francis, on his return from Australia in 1958, he went straight into the nursery business at Pangbourne, Berkshire and in 1963, Sir Francis was running a nursery garden business there which specialised in the growing of dahlias and chrysanthemums. By 1971, he was running "Duntrune Nursery" at Deddington, Oxford.

On Dec 27th 1963, Sir Francis married Henrietta Anne Waymouth (b.1942). She was the daughter of Dr. Arthur Waymouth M.A. (Cambridge), Fellow of the Royal Geological Society and Major in The Royal Army Medical Corps. The marriage took place at St. Mary's Shaw with Donnington, Berks. They had twin girls, born on June 12th 1967 who were named Georgina Brienne Arabella Beaumont and Francesca Renee Henrietta Beaumont.

Lady Beaumont's speciality was the breeding of donkeys, which had become a status symbol at the time it seems. The marriage ended in divorce in 1985.

GARDEN NEWS, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1971



Blue dahlia — pink donkey!

WHILE Sir Francis Beaumont is searching for a blue dahlia on his Duntrune Nursery at Deddington, Oxford, his wife Lady Henrietta (above) is trying to breed a Palomino donkey — one with a pink mane and tail.

In the meantime, Sir Francis has raised a new collerette dahlia with bright scarlet petals and a buff centre, called **Painted Lady**. He believes that there is a future for these old-fashioned plants, largely because the flower arrangers like them.

As soon as Lady Beaumont had finished helping her husband at the show, she was off up to Stoneleigh

with six of her donkeys for the Donkey of the Year Show. All of them are in her own variegated strain of piebalds and skewbalds.

Railway find

FIRST prize in the RHS competition for ornamental heathers went to Mrs. A. H. Potter of Wentworth, Surrey, with the red *Erica vagans* Mrs. D. F. Maxwell. The variety was first found on a railway embankment after being seen by a heather enthusiast in a passing train.



Lady Beaumont and status symbol

FORMER royal groom at Windsor Lady Beaumont has her own stables these days where she is making a thriving business of breeding donkeys, which she sells at up to £400 each.

'They are becoming status symbols,' she says. 'They seem incredibly popular, especially with

middle-aged women who have grown tired of keeping big dogs.' Lady Beaumont—her husband is Sir George, the 12th baronet—has been having a bit of trouble with the nearby American air base. The large-eared animals don't like jet noises. They don't, she tells me, like being laughed at either.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 22, 1963

WMC's Noble Coat Of Arms



Beaumont Coat of Arms

SIR George Beaumont, 12th Baronet of Coleorton, has given the new Beaumont W.M.C. at Stocking Farm the exclusive right to use the family coat of arms. This is probably the first time a working men's club has been so honoured.

Subject to planning permission, work is ready to begin on the new premises at the corner of Halifax Drive and Marwood Road, a short distance from Beaumont Leys Lane, which is a constant reminder of the family name.



Sergeant (Sir George) Beaumont

The newly-built working men's club in Marwood Road, Stocking farm, Leicester was officially opened on September 25th 1964. It is a short distance from Beaumont Leys Lane, a constant reminder of the family name !!

**IN MEMORY OF HIS SISTER
ELEANOR BRIENNE COLLINS (NEE. BEAUMONT)**



The above tree and plaque to the memory of Eleanor Brienne Collins (nee., Beaumont) was thought to have been placed at the front of the hall sometime in the early 1980's, by her brother Sir George Howland Francis Beaumont, the 12th Baronet "as a memorial to his sister and combining his mother's commemoration of her only daughter". Eleanor was the only daughter of the 11th Baronet and his wife Renee, and it is interesting that her father's nickname "Sammy", given to him by his mother, appears on the plaque. Eleanor had a dog named Sammy also.

THE DEATH OF SIR GEORGE HOWLAND FRANCIS BEAUMONT, 12th BARONET OF STOUGHTON



The grave of Sir George Howland Francis Beaumont 12th and last Baronet
1924 - 2011

Placed next to his father the 11th Baronet

SIR FRANCIS PASSED AWAY ON MARCH 26TH 2011 AND CAME BACK HOME TO BE BURIED IN THE BEAUMONT FAMILY PLOT IN ST. MARY'S CHURCHYARD, WHERE A PRIVATE FAMILY FUNERAL WAS HELD WHICH WAS ATTENDED BY HIS TWO TWIN DAUGHTERS GEORGINA BRIENNE ARABELLA AND FRANCESCA RENE HENRIETTA WHO CAME OVER FROM AUSTRALIA