LOCAL COUPLE, MR & MRS BARKBY, BELIEVED THEY WERE BORN FIFTY YEARS TOO SOON



MR. AND MRS. BARKBY

BY SAMUEL T STEWART

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Years before the days of cars and buses, Miss Mary Morley (b. July 12th 1877), daughter of the future licensee of the New Inn, Pegg's Green, regularly drove a landau from the New Inn to take customers to Coalville Market.

Mr. George Barkby and Mary Morley were married at Coleorton Parish Church by Canon Beaumont in 1897 and will celebrate their diamond wedding anniversary at a party next week. c.1920, George purchased the cottage on the corner at the top of Bakewell's lane at the Beaumont family 1920 property and land sale where they lived out their lives. Their daughter Sheila lived there after her Mum and dad passed with her husband Mr. Swailes.

Mary Morley was born at Thringstone, although she spent most of her younger days at Pegg's Green. George Barkby (b. 23rd April 1876) had lived at Coleorton all his life, and all his working days were spent in the coal mines, mainly at Snibston and New Lount collieries. He retired soon after the end of the war.

One pride of the whole of the family, is that the name of Barkby and Morley has been prominently associated with local football for many years. In fact in the Coalville Cup Final in 1928 when Pegg's Green Victoria beat Whitwick Imperial 5 - 1, only one member of the victorious Pegg's Green team were unrelated to Mrs. Barkby (nee. Morley), as her own family were footballers too.

One son, Ambrose, the most promising footballer of their six sons, was unlucky enough to break his ankle, when his entry into professional football seemed likely.

In addition to six sons Mr and Mrs. Barkby have five daughters (Mary, Gertrude, Sheila....., 11 grandchildren and four great grand children. Only one son Leonard is unmarried and lives at home with his parents.

Mr. Barkby, despite his age, still digs his own garden, which measures at least 600 sq yards - no mean feat. He also does quite a bit of brick laying around his home in his spare time. Mrs. Barkby who undertook dress-making in her younger days, still manages to use a sewing machine.

Asked by a Times reporter for their opinions on present day trends, Mrs Barkby remarked:- 'With the labour saving devices and modern conveniences people enjoy now, I think we were born 50 years too soon'.

All the family and close relatives will be present at the Pegg's Green Institute next Saturday, to celebrate the occasion.

George Barkby was the brother of the author's wife's grandfather. It was related within the family that the large family used to have two sittings when they sat down for their meals.