

THE GEORGE INN, COLEORTON
FORMERLY KNOWN AS "THE ROSE & CROWN"



ELIZABETH JORDAN
LICENSED TO SELL BEER AND SPIRITS BY RETAIL
TO BE CONSUMED ON THE PREMISES
DEALER IN TOBACCO

BY SAMUEL T STEWART - AUGUST 2020

FRONT COVER PHOTOGRAPH
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FORWARD

The historical "George Inn" still occupies a prominent position on Loughborough Road, Coleorton although much changed now from the original building in the days before it was named the "Rose & Crown" and was an Ale House.

The "George Inn", the "Beaumont Arms" and the "Angel Inn" were at one time, all part of the Coleorton Beaumont Estate. The story of the latter two feature in separate publications on the author's website.

It was thought to have been built at the end of the 18th century, possibly as a farm house which would also have been combined with use as an Ale House as was the Angel and Beaumont Arms.

At the 1920 Beaumont Estate sale held at the Beaumont Arms, it was written on copies of the sales documents..... *sold to "Salt and Company Brewers" for £1,600, but was shown as being let at that time to the "Burton Brewery Company" on an annual tenancy, in the occupation of Mr. Harold Jordan. See the later comments on this.*

At the time of the sale, the public house consisted of:-

Living Room, Tap Room, Smoke Room, Bar, Scullery, Cellar with Store above, 3 Bedrooms, Large Club Room and the usual Domestic Offices.

The outbuildings comprised:-

Stable for 4 horses, Stable for 3 Horses, Trap House, Shedding for 3 Cows, and Looses Box.

As part of the sales specification for "The George Inn", it stated:- *A right of user to the pump on this Lot, is reserved to several of the tenants on the adjoining properties.* This is how the field at the back of The George Inn came to be known as "The Pump Field" by the local villagers and the author recalls the name being in use still in the 1980.

There is little in the way of records of the history of this old pub, but hopefully this short publication may jog a few memories and bring forth more information or old photographs

THE ROSE & CROWN / GEORGE INN

The earliest licensee given in what are known as "The Ale House Recognizance Books" was William Kirby who was the licensee in 1825, 1826 and 1827. Ale Houses were not required to provide a name or sign for the establishment until a new Act of Parliament came into force in 1825. The licensee only had to provide a location such as Coleorton. In 1825 the name is given as the "Rose & Crown" in line with the requirement of the 1825 Act. At least one person had to stand surety of around £10 for the licensee and for 1825 Thomas Stinson of Coleorton was that person. In 1827, William Stretton was added. An educated interpretation of the records prior to the Inn being named in 1825 strongly suggests the William Kirby was the licensee of the Ale House back to 1803. Prior to that it is not possible to say who was the licensee or even if it existed as an Ale House at that time.

There follows a table of the licensees for the George Inn from 1846 to 1936. there are no records available between 1827 and 1846. Clearly the name had changed to the George Inn between 1827 and 1846 and we know from the appended newspaper report that it was known as the "George Inn" in 1842. The name was presumably changed by Sir George Howland Willoughby Beaumont who was lord of the manor from 1827 to 1845.

Coal mining was carried out in the area around the “Rose & Crown“ at the end of the 18th and early 19th centuries and there is evidence of numerous Bell Pits and deeper mines also. The line of Jessop’s tram road can be seen in the earthworks behind the Inn. This linked Boulton’s 18th century mine, which was located to the west of the Inn, with the Charnwood Forest canal.

In the licensing records, the Beaumonts’ were only shown as owners of the property between 1872 and 1920 except from 1906 to 1910 when Burton Brewery Co. Ltd were shown as the leaseholders when Harold Jordan became licensee. The author would not wish to speculate on the reason for this.

There appears to be some conflict with the marked up Beaumont Estate sale documents referred to earlier and the licensing records. According to the licensing records, for the five years after the 1920 sale “Brunt Bucknall & Co. Ltd” were the owners followed by Bass Ratcliffe & Gretton Co. Ltd” for a further 10 years to when the available records ended in 1936. The author would suggest that the licensing records are the correct version of events.

Licensee	Date
Thomas Statham	1846 to Aug 1863
John Middleton	Aug 1863 to Aug 1894
Mary Annie (Widow)	Aug 1894 to Aug 1895
George Sidney Nutt	Aug 1895 to Feb 1906
Harold Jordan	Feb 1907 to Feb 1925
Grace Lizzie Jordan (Widow)	Feb 1926 to Feb 1929
Joseph Williamson	Feb 1929 to Feb 1933
Robert Francis Reid	Feb 1933 to Feb 1936

From February 1907, the George Inn was rented by the Jordan family. Harold Jordan (b.1880 d.1925) was the licensee from 1907 till his death in 1925 when Grace Elizabeth (Lizzie) Jordan (b.1881 d.1957) took over the license till 1929 (see the photograph on the front cover). They had a least two sons there, one of which was called Jack and the other possibly Bert. Clearly the Jordan’s carried on as licensees following the sale in 1920. A photograph of the two sons follows.

Grace Lizzie as she was known, and her husband Harold, had established a butcher’s business at the rear of the pub and their granddaughter remembers talk of ham and meat hanging from the hooks in the public bar and the grease/fat dripping on to customers. A horse and cart was used to deliver the meat around the area. The butcher’s business eventually moved to Coalville as “Jordan & Sons”. Lizzie, as well as running the pub, made faggots and pork pies in the butcher’s shop. The buiness was down the side of the George Inn fronting Bakewell’s Lane.

A senior resident of Stoney Lane, *Margaret Bannister*, related to the author that when she was a young girl she remembered the Jordan’s carrying trays of faggots and pies down Bakewell’s Lane and along Stoney Lane to *Richards Bakery* on School Lane, for them to be baked in their bread ovens. The family often purchased some when they returned with them.

The public bar at that time, only had benches on either side, where the local miners would sit. They also rented the paddock (pump field) behind the pub. It is likely that Harold also ran a small holding, which would fit in with the property description at the sale.

Harold Jordan was quite a character it seems, and was known locally as “Jummy” (apparently he was a large baby and the name came from a large elephant that was born at the time). The pub ran a junior football team when Harold was alive, which was know as Jummy’s Team. They played their games in Aston Villa colours in the “Pump Field”.

Grace Elizabeth & Harold Jordan are buried in the graveyard of St John's chapel (just inside and to the left of the gate).



The "Jordan Butchers" horse and cart. Location not known.
Photograph by kind permission of Ruth Twells



The Jordan brothers
Photograph by kind permission of Ruth Twells

NEWSPAPER REPORTS FEATURING THE “GEORGE INN”

Leicester Mercury – August 27th 1842

Coleorton – On the 12th inst. A pony about 12 or 13 hands high was left at the house of Mr. Stathern (*Thomas Statham*), of the Old George Inn (formerly Rose and Crown), Coleorton, by a man about five feet six inches high, who had the appearance of a tailor and said he came from the neighbourhood of Birmingham.

Leicester Journal – February 6th 1863

Ashby Petty Sessions

Luke White charged Charles Gresley with assaulting him at Coleorton on the 17th inst. It appears that the plaintiff with defendants and others, all being colliers and working together, went to the “George Inn” to divide their money. Complainant asked the landlady for a piece of bread and cheese, which he had no sooner received than defendant attempted to take it away. A scuffle ensued, in which the complainant lost the greater part of his bread and cheese. He said he should fetch a policeman, and defendant then gave him a thrashing. – Fine £1 including costs, or seven days imprisonment.

Leicester Chronicle – September 4th 1880

The Wake – The wake this year was ushered in by one of the heaviest thunderstorms remembered by the oldest inhabitants. Happily we have not yet heard of any damage with the one exception of a valuable game fowl, the property of Mr. Thomas Peters, which was killed in the pen by lightning. On Monday, at Mr. James Peters, the “Queens Head Inn”, there was a well conducted party. The attraction was a fine selection of music. Miss Peters presided at the pianoforte, and her efforts to please were greatly appreciated. On Tuesday, Mr. Porter, distributed soup, &c., to those whose means precluded them from participating in the good things of the festive season, at Mr. Charvill’s “Beaumont Arms Inn”. There was a display of shows &c., on The Green. There was also a shooting gallery and photographic establishment. **The “George Inn” – a hostelry famed from the grand old coaching days – fully maintained its ancient character. This old road side Inn is one of the prettiest in Leicestershire. The garden adjoining is aglow with sweet and beautiful roses, and the stately and venerable elm tree in front, is the admiration of all who gaze upon its fine and lofty proportions.**