THE ANGEL INN - COLEORTON

(Research dates 1753 to 1966)

Conservative Festivity at Coleorton. – 1841

The anniversary of the "Coleorton Conservative Society" was celebrated last Friday week, at the house of Mr.Stretton, the **Angel Inn**, and the proceedings were altogether conducted with admirable spirit. On this occasion the large room was decorated with festoons of artificial flowers, evergreens, of various fanciful designs, banners, appropriate emblems, &c. which

CONTINUED INSIDE



THE ANGEL INN c.1955

BY SAMUEL T STEWART - UPDATED MARCH 2023

PREFACE

As the "Angel Inn" has been one of the centres of Coleorton social life for well over 200 years, the author felt that what is known of its history should be put on record with the hope that this will act as a catalyst for people to hopefully come forward with old photographs and more information, which can then be added to this publication.

As the Coleorton Rovers football team were patrons of the Angel Inn for a number of years, the author has decided to include a few memories of them at the end of the publication.

The Beaumont Estate sale in November 1920 records the Angel Inn as being sold to Marston, Thompson & Evershed for £1,300.

The reader may wish to learn more about the history of other public houses in Coleorton, which are free to download and read on the author's website.

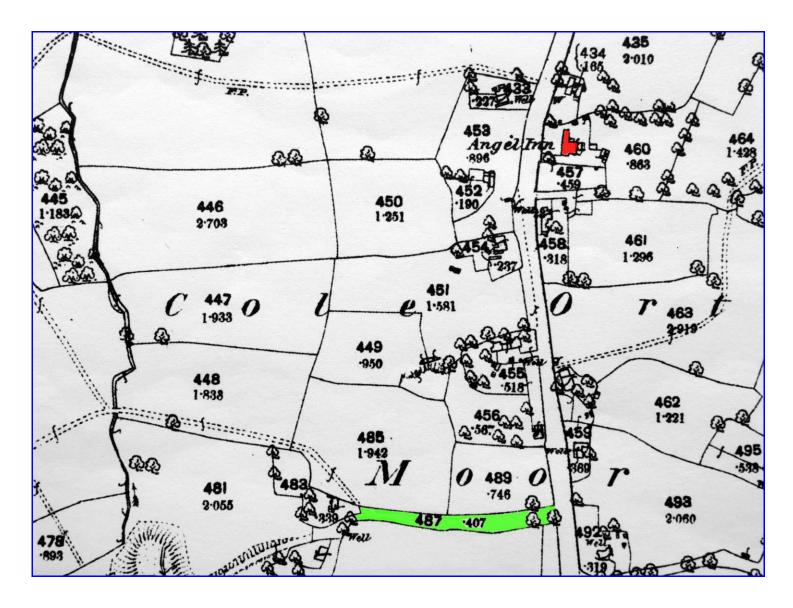
samueltstewart.com

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The above 1885 published O/S map shows the geographical location of the *Angel Inn* just to the east of the Upper Moor road and in relation to Pit Lane coloured green

Jesse Fewkes was the landlord of the Angel Inn at the time this map was published and fourteen years prior in the 1871 Coleorton census he was listed as being a farmer of 24 acres as well as being the landlord of the Angel Inn. Presumably he farmed the surrounding fields.

If the reader refers to page 13, there is a good description of the lnn / Farm house at the time of the 1920 Beaumont Estate sale.

THE ANGEL INN - LICENSEES

The *Angel Inn* was almost certainly built as a farm house originally and this continued in 1871 when Jesse Fewkes, was the landlord and recorded in the 1871 census as being a farmer of 24 acres also.

In the eighteenth century, and first quarter of the nineteenth century, incorporating an *Ale House* and/or a shop in a farm house was quite common, as was the case with the *Angel Inn*. The *Beaumont Arms* and the *George Inn* (formerly the *Rose and Crown*) which were only a stones throw from the *Angel Inn* are other similar examples. The wife usually looked after the *Ale house / Inn* whilst the husband worked on the farm or at another job like coal mining or fireman at the brick works for example. Victuals (food) would have normally been on offer at *Ale Houses* for the weary travellers on the adjacent turnpike roads to purchase, in addition to alcoholic beverages. The licensee was often described as a Victualler. Of course all these three Inns were all adjacent to the turnpike roads.

Prior to a new Licensing Act being introduced in 1825, it was only necessary for a Victualler / Licensee to register a location for the *Ale House* and not a name. Post 1825, a name had to be registered also. This was the case with the *Angel Inn* as confirmed in the *Leicestershire Ale House Recognizance Book"*, when in 1825 William Stretton was recorded as the licensee. Francis Potter, who was licensee of the Queen's Head for a long period of time stood surety for him at that time. The records show that prior to William Stretton becoming the licensee from 1814 to 1827, Samuel Stretton (probably Williams's father) was licensee from 1801 to 1814.

Available *Ale House* records go back to 1753, but it is impossible of course to say for certain when what became "The Angel Inn" was built. However, experience of studying *Ale House* records suggests to the author that the Angel Inn as a farm house and Ale House would have gone back to those times, and we can trace it back to 1801 with a degree of certainty.

Interestingly, in respect to the following three licensing records included in the *Leicestershire Ale House Recognizance Books*, the address is given in this instance as "**Coleorton Moor**". This leads one to think, that this was the former *Ale House*, subsequently to become known as "The Angel Inn":-

1771 - John Williamson and John Davis Coleorton Moor 1755 - Henry King Coleorton Moor

A LIST OF LICENSEES AT THE ANGEL INN AS TAKEN FROM THE LEICESTERSHIRE LICENSING RECORDS

NAME	DATE FROM	DATE TO			
SAMUEL STRETTON	1801	1814			
WILLIAM STRETTON	1815	1827			
No records are available between 1827 and 1842 but the author thinks it likely that					
William Stretton was at the Angel Inn during that period. We know he was there in					
1839 and 1841 based on what is recorded on pages 7 & 8					
WILLIAM STRETTON	1842 Aug	1861 Aug			
JOSEPH SHEFFIELD SHAW	1862 Aug	1863 Aug			
SARAH SHAW	1863 Aug	1866 Aug			
JESSE FEWKES	1866 Aug	1881 Aug			
SARAH FEWKES	1881 Aug	1887 Aug			
JOHN BIRKIN	1887 Aug	1889 Aug			
SARAH BIRKIN	1890 Aug	1921 Feb			
Sold to Marston, Thompson & Evershed in November 1920 for £1,300					

JAMES BIRKIN	1922 Feb	1924 Feb
JAMES SHAW	1925 Feb	1936 Feb
MABEL CROSON	1936 Feb	1966 Oct

AN INTERESTING CHAIN OF EVENTS

Joseph Sheffield Shaw was a smith in Gelsmoor when he married **Sarah Richards** at Breedon on the 31st January 1860. **Joseph** is recorded in the licensing records as becoming the licensee / Victualler of the Angel Inn, Coleorton. White's Trade Directory dated 1863 also records **Joseph Shaw** as a victualler, Angel, Coleorton.

Joseph Sheffield Shaw died on the 24th June 1863 at the young age of 27, and was buried in Griffydam Wesleyan Methodist graveyard.

Following the death of her husband, at the age of 27, his wife Sarah took over as Licensee / Victualler at the Angel until August 1866

Sarah Shaw then married her second husband, **Jesse Fewkes** of Swannington, a coal miner, on the 30th of October 1866 at St. Mary's Church, Coleorton. He was the son of **John Fewkes**, a farmer from Swannington. Jesse took over in name as the Landlord at the Angel as the law required. As can be seen in the following 1871 census information, Jesse combined being a licensed victualler with farming 24 acres. It was normally the case that the wife would have run the establishment, at least during the day anyway. Sarah and Jesse had three children. These were:-

- 1. Susan Maria Fewkes (b.1867) married a butcher named Drayton Albert Walker
- 2. Constance Fewkes (b.1869 d.1888)
- 3. **John George Fewkes** (b.1871) who was a farmer at Breach Farm, Swannington.

Jesse Fewkes died on the 31st of March 1881.

Following the death of her second husband, Sarah, for the second time, became licensee / Victualler of the Angel Inn until she married her third husband **John Birkin** on April 14th 1887 at St. Mary's Church, Coleorton. John took over the license in August 1887. The marriage register confirming him as a publican, but this must have been elsewhere presumably.

Following the death of her second husband John Birkin in 1890, Sarah again became the licensee of the Angel Inn for the third time from August 1890 to February 1922 according to the licensing records. **James Birkin** took over the license on that date till 1925, when **James Shaw**, presumed to be the son of Jessie and Joseph Sheffield Shaw, took over the license for 11 years. He was living with his mother Sarah in the 1871 Coleorton census, aged 9, and he would have been 63 years of age at that time he took over the license till 1925. This was the year that Mabel Croson who held the license for the next 30 years took over.

COLEORTON CENSUS INFORMATION

The author has cross checked where appropriate with the relevant census lists from 1841 to 1901 and except for differences in spelling etc., they confirm the preceding charted information, except for the 1841 census where William Stretton is given as a Hosier. In actual fact we know he was the landlord at the Angel Inn at that time, but this could have been one of his other jobs like "Wool Combing" on the farm for example.

NAME	AGE	RELATIONSHIP	OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN
1841 census				
William Stretton	55	Head	Hosier	Leics
Eleanor Stretton	55	Wife		Leics
Sophia Stretton	27	Daughter		Leics
Frances Stretton	25	Daughter		Leics
William Stretton	23	Son	Book Keeper	Leics
Henry Stretton	20	Son		Leics
Ann Stretton	15	Daughter		Leics
Samuel Stretton	13	Son		Leics
1851 Census				
William Stretton	67	Head	Inn Keeper, Angel	Coleorton
Eleanor Stretton	65	Wife		Calke
Sophia Stretton	38	Daughter Unm	Dress Maker	Melbourne
Frances Stretton	36	Daughter Unm	Domestic Assistant	Coleorton
1861 Census				
William Stretton	76	Widower	Inn Keeper, Angel	Coleorton
Frances Stretton	45	Daughter Unm	Housekeeper	Coleorton
1871 Census			·	
Jessie Fewkes	35	Head	Farmer 24 acres and licensed victualler, Angel Inn	Swannington
Sarah Fewkes	36	Wife		Worthington
James Shaw	9	Son		Worthington
Susan M Fewkes	3	Daughter		Coleorton
Constance Fewkes	1	Daughter		Coleorton
John Fewkes	3 weeks	Son		Coleorton
Eliza Brown	15	Employed	Servant	Bagworth
1891 Census				
Sarah Berkin	56	Head, Widow	Inn Keeper, Angel	Worthington
Susan Fewkes	23			Coleorton
George Fewkes	20			Coleorton
1901 Census				
Sarah Birkin	66	Widow	Licensed Victualler, Angel	Worthington
Ada Hodgetts	19	Employed	Servant	Leicester

TRADE DIRECTORY INFORMATION

TRADE DIRECTORY	YEAR	COMMENTS
History, Gazetteer, &	1863	Joseph Shaw - Victualler - Angel
Directory of Leics &		
Rutland		
Harrod & Co.	1870	Jesse Fewkes – Angel
History, Gazetteer	1877	Jesse Fewkes – Farmer & Victualler – Angel
Kelly's	1891	John Birkin – Public House & Farmer
Kelly's	1895	Sarah Birkin – Angel Public House and Farmer
Kelly's	1899	Sarah Birkin – Angel Public House and Farmer
Bennet's Business	1901/2	Angel Inn – Sarah Birkin
Directory		
Kelly's	1908	Sarah Birkin – Angel Public house and Farmer
Kelly's	1912	Sarah Birkin, Mrs - Angel

WHAT WAS HAPPENING 180 YEARS AGO AT THE ANGEL INN?

180 years ago the Angel Inn was clearly held in high esteem by the wealthier of the Coleorton and local area population, which surprisingly didn't include the Beaumonts at that time. The local Conservative Meetings were held at the Angel Inn and there follows three examples of these in 1839, 1841 and 1843 which were recorded in the Leicester Journal 11th January 1839, 22nd January 1841 and 6th January 1843 respectively. William Stretton was the landlord on these three occasions:-

Operative Conservative Manifestation – 1839

A most gratifying prospect of the extension of conservative principles among the humbler classes of the community, is manifested by a number of respectable tradesmen of Coleorton and the neighbourhood, having spontaneously formed themselves into an "operative loyal conservative association", - and although the society has been recently established, yet it already numbers a numerous corps of members, who pledge themselves in the words of their adopted motto "for God, our Queen, our Alters, and our Hearths". On Thursday night, these staunch conservatives, "good men and true" to their church and constitution, assembled together at the "Angel Inn", Coleorton, to celebrate their anniversary dinner, which consisted of good old English fare, the providing and arrangements of which reflected an ample need of credit on the taste and management of the indefatigable host and hostess (Mr and Mrs Stretton) whose assiduous exertions to please were acknowledged by all present. The room was tastefully decorated with festoons of laurel and other evergreens, and the red berried holly indicated the festive season of the year. The presidence was taken by Mr. Thomas Morris, of Thringstone, who upon removal of the cloth, proceeded to give the toasts as follows:-

"Queen Victoria, and may she long live in the hearts of our people".

"The queen Dowager, Adelaide, combined with the rest of the Royal Family"

"The Army and Navy".

"The noble Lord Lieutenant of the County, and the House of Rutland".

"Our glorious constitution in house and state".

"The Duke of Wellington and The House of Lords".

"The membership for the north and southern divisions of the County"; and other loyal and patriotic toasts.

The health of the chairman was proposed, and received with the utmost cordiality and feeling. Mr. Morris rose to acknowledge the toast, by returning his thanks, and further stated his wish that as the society grew in years, it would also grow in numbers and influence, and that every tradesman of conservative feeling, would show his sense of duty by becoming a member, and evince a warmth of heart and loyalty to our glorious constitution, by giving a presence at its annual meetings. The chairman then proposed "The Marquis of Hastings and foxhunting", "Colonel Keek and the Leicestershire Yeomanry Cavalry", which called forth peals of applause, many being present who belonged to that distinguished corps. Then followed - "Sir George Beaumont, the zealous and firm supporter of conservative principals", which was responded to with immense cheering, that lasted some minutes. William Sherwin, senior, Esq (b.1768)., 3 times 3 - William Sherwin, junior, Esq (b.1809).,- 3 times 3 - John Sherwin Esq (b.1771)., and a variety of other toasts were proposed and drunk with due honours and corresponding enthusiasm, interspersed with many a good song from the company. The meeting was a happy one and worthy of the glorious cause that first occasioned it; and the conviviality throughout was characterised by great spirit, and prolonged till a late hour; the same loyal and patriotic feeling exhibited by larger meetings, being proportionately displayed there, and the party separated expressing their highest gratification, which was not a little enhanced by the unanimous and friendly feeling which prevailed throughout the day.

Conservative Festivity at Coleorton. – 1841

The anniversary of the "Coleorton Conservative Society" was celebrated last Friday week, at the house of Mr.Stretton, the Angel Inn. and the proceedings were altogether conducted with admirable spirit. On this occasion the large room was decorated with festoons of artificial flowers, evergreens, of various fanciful designs, banners, appropriate emblems, &c. which were neatly and tastefully arranged. At two o'clock the members assembled, when the reports of the past year were submitted, which proved the stability and prosperity of the society, and the extension of conservative principles, in the increase of its members. An excellent banquet was provided by the host, whose judicious arrangements elicited general commendation. After the cloth was drawn, Mr. Thomas Hill was unanimously called to the chair; he said he felt peculiar happiness in being selected to preside over so large and respectable company, in obedience's to the call with which he had been honoured; and more particularly on such an occasion. He thought that having such meetings as these periodically which they all avowed, and to which they had pledged themselves in their adopted motto, "For God, our Queen, our Altars and our Hearths"; and concluded a pointed and eloquent address by proposing "The Queen and her Illustrious Consort, Prince Albert; may they experience a long and happy reign, and ever escape the evil machinations of base and designing men". (Loud cheers and cries of "Amen"). "Her Maiesty the Dowager Queen Adelaide, and the rest of the Royal family". (Great applause). The following toasts were proposed during the evening, and enthusiastically received: "The Noble Lieutenant of the County of the House of Rutland". "The Duke of Wellington and the House of Peers". "The Members of the Northern and Southern divisions of the County". "Our glorious Constitution in Church and State". "The Army and Navy". "The Right Hon. The Earl Howe, of Gopsal". "Protestant Ascendancy". "The Marquis of Hastings and Fox Hunting". "Colonel Keek and the Leicestershire Yeomanry Cavalry". The last toast was acknowledged in an appropriate speech by Mr. Fisher Sharpe, on behalf of himself and many other yeomen who were present. The Chairman's heath being cordially received, Mr. Thomas Hill arose and, in a speech replete with Constitutional doctrines, returned his thanks, and concluded by exhorting them all, in their general line of conduct, to exercise their whole influence in the support of Conservative principals. After which Sir G. Beaumont, Bart.: William Sherwin, sen. Esq; William Sherwin , jun. Esq; the Rev. F. Merewether; Mr. Statham (Treasurer); and Mr. R. Mould, (Secretary), were noticed in their proper order during the evening, and received with cheers. Several other toasts, with various songs, glees, and catches, were given during the course of the proceedings, and all contributed largely to the conviviality of the meeting, and to the general fund of good humour. "God Save the Queen" was played by the band at the conclusion of the meeting, the whole company, upstanding and uncovered, joining their voices to the swelling strains, when at a late hour there was "a banquethall deserted" at the Angel Inn.

Conservative Manifestation - 1843

The celebration of the sixth anniversary of the Coleorton Loyal Operative Conservative Society was held on Tuesday Dec 22nd at The **Angel Inn**, Coleorton. An excellent dinner was served up on the occasion, consisting of good old English cheer, which did credit to the **Host and Hostess**, **Mr. and Mrs. Stretton**. The room was decorated with banners and festoons of laurel and evergreens, with large rosettes of blue ribbon. Mr. Thomas Hill, of Coleorton, was unanimously called to the chair, which situation he filled with great credit to himself, and satisfaction to the company. The following health's were proposed and drank with great enthusiasm:- The Queen, Prince Albert, Queen Dowager combined with the rest of the Royal family, Army and Navy, Lord Lieutenant of the County, The Right Hon Earl Howe, The Marquis of Hastings and success to foxhunting, Our glorious constitution in Church and State, The Duke of Wellington and the House of Lords, The members of the County, The Magistrates of the County, Sir George Crewe, Bart, Sir George H. W. Beaumont, Bart, **William Sherwin sen, Esq. – a friend to the poor and a staunch supporter of Conservative principles**, The Rev. F. Merewether, **William Sherwin, jun Esq.**, Colnel Keef and the Leicestershire Yeomanary. A variety of other toasts were proposed

and drunk with due honours, and corresponding enthusiasm, interspersed with many a due song from the company, the toast and song being the order of the evening. The meeting was a happy one, and worthy of the glorious cause that first occasioned it. The company separated expressing their highest gratification, which was not a little enhanced by the unanimous and friendly feeling which prevailed throughout the day.

Where the Sherwins' stood in the "pecking order" in Coleorton is clearly demonstrated in the preceding three articles. More interesting information on this important Coleorton family can be found in the book on the website entitled "The Coleorton Sherwins" 1739-1887.

Leicester Chronicle" Jan 2nd 1830

The poor of Coleorton, in this County, return their sincere thanks to **Mr. W. Sherwin**, for a donation of upwards of 60 loaves of bread; and a "fat" sheep, distributed to them during the last week.

Leicester Journal" Feb 7th 1840

Care for the poor clearly ran throughout the Sherwin family, and the following article which appeared in the above newspaper confirms this also:-

"The poor of Coleorton have to return their sincere thanks to **Mr. John Sherwin** late of Leicester, for a donation of bread which was distributed to them by his brother **Mr. William Sherwin** at the shop of Mr.Wardle, Baker. **Mr. William Sherwin** also gave a quantity of meat to his poor neighbours last Christmas".

The John Sherwin referred to above was the wealthy brother of William Sherwin (b.1768). It is thought, that at this time, he had just moved back to Coleorton from Leicester, possibly to live with his brother.

Leicester Mercury" Saturday Feb 7th 1841

Coleorton – At this inclement season of the year, the poorer families of Coleorton and the neighbourhood have been liberally supplied with coal; and in many instances, with money, by the bountiful hand of **William Sherwin, Senior** Esq., whose goodness of heart upon all occasions has been so attested as to gain him the appellation "The Man of the Ross". ???

Leicester Mercury" Feb 19th 1841

Coleorton – The bitter inclemency of the season, having visited us in one of its old fashioned forms, has generally demanded from the more wealthy assistance towards alleviating the distresses of the poor, occasioned by the suspension of labour, and the "scantiness of fuel and clothing". Coals, money, flannels and other necessaries have been liberally supplied, at this inclement season of the year by **William Sherwin Esq.**, and the Reverent Francis Merewether and his lady. We are happy to find that this practice has been so general throughout our neighbourhood.

Leicester Chronicle" Jan 24th 1846

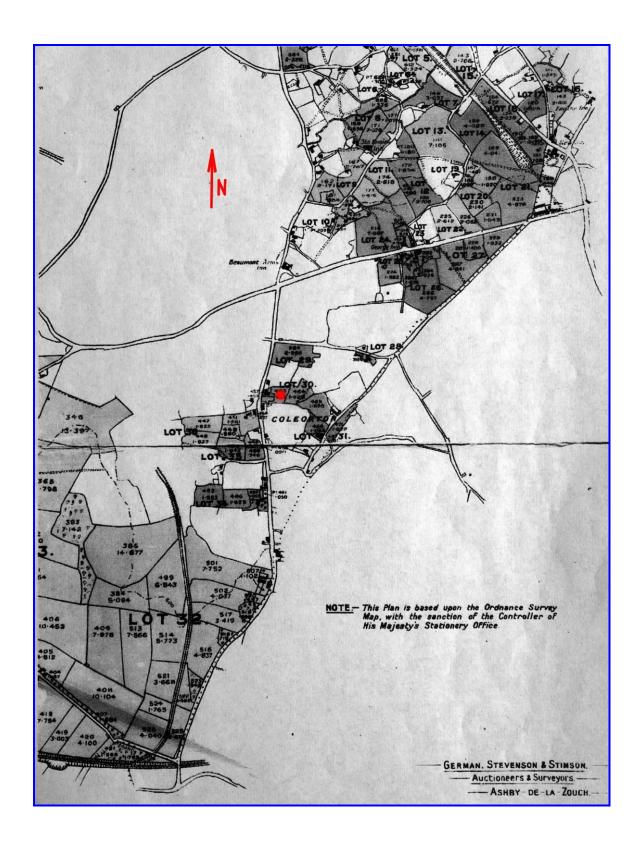
Leicester Infirmary - William Sherwin Esq., of Coleorton, has paid to the treasurer of this excellent charity, a donation of £60. The correct title is thought to be – "Leicester Infirmary and Fever House". His younger brother John was also a benefactor.

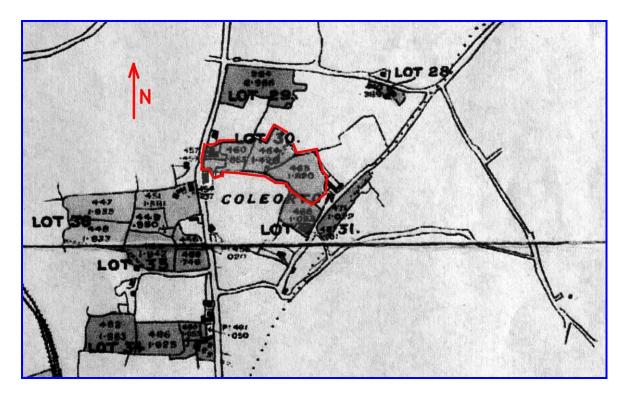
THE 1920 SALE OF THE ANGEL INN

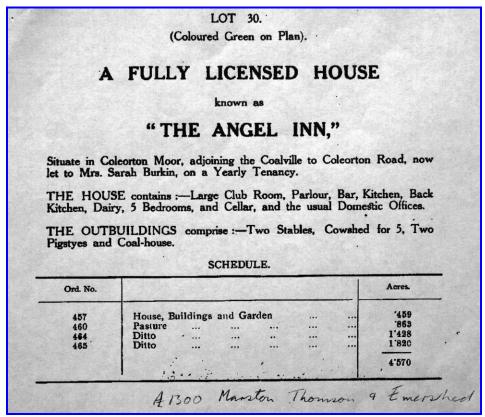
In the 1920 Beaumont Estate sale, which took place at the Beaumont Arms, the Angel Inn was sold to "Marston, Thompson & Evershed for £1,300.

Leicestershire. SALE OF Five Valuable Freehold Farms with Areas of 226, 204, 164, 85 & 75 Acres respectively. Several Small Holdings, Excellent Accommodation Lands with convenient areas. Cottages and Gardens, &c., and VALUABLE OLD LICENSED Known as "THE GEORGE INN" and "THE ANGEL INN." both situate in the Parish of Coleorton. STIMSON GERMAN, **STEVENSON** å Have been favoured with instructions from J. Fisher Jesson, Esq., - Agent for Sir G. A. H. Beaumont, Bart., -TO SELL BY AUCTION, ON 1920. Wednesday, November 3rd, The above-mentioned Valuable Freehold Properties, which will be offered at the BEAUMONT ARMS HOTEL, COLFORTON at TWO o'clock in the Afternoon precisely. Further information may be obtained from the AUCTIONEERS; or from Messrs. FISHER JESSON & CO., Ashby-de-la-Zouch and Coalville. Auction Offices: Ashby-de-la-Zouci Nat. Tel. 66.

C. J. LEWIS PRINTER ASHBY-Z. 24427.







Outlined in red above

MABEL AND JACK CROSON



The above photograph, although of poor quality, still serves as an important record of Mrs. Mabel Croson, who was licensee of the Angel Inn for nearly 30 years, and her husband Mr. Jack Croson, who both left the Inn to retire to Swannington following a farewell party on Tuesday, the 25th October 1966. During their years spent at the Angel Inn, Mrs Croson became noted for her large collection of brassware, the majority of which had been sold to friends and regular patrons during the preceding few weeks.

The more mature residents and ex-residents of the village will remember the "Haywain" which stood at the front of the Angel for many years and was there when the Crosons resided there. This presumably survived from when the Angel was a combined public house and farm.

COLEORTON ROVERS FOOTBALL CLUB

Because of their long standing patronage of the Angel Inn, the writer felt that we should include a record of the Coleorton Rovers Football Team, who played their games for many years on the field near to the Council Houses on the opposite side to the Kings Arms. A few of the older photographs are shown below, with names appended where known. Jack Croson, the husband of Mabel Croson who was landlady at the Angel Inn for nearly 30 years features in the photographs.

The earliest record the writer has found of a Coleorton football team is in the following two newspaper articles of 1880 and 1894 when they were known as Coleorton Albion in the latter.



1 - Jackie Croson 2 - Les Croson 3 - John Bettison 4 - Eric Leach 5 - Bill Croson 6 - Tommy Williams

7 - Billie Bird 8 - Tommy Brooks 9 - Daca Ball 10 - Morris Ball 11 - Bob Barkby



Coleorton Rovers Football Club photograph - early 1950's

A - M.BIRD, B - B.BIRD, C - J.CROSON, D - J.THORNLEY, E - L.HOLLAND, F - R.HODGES, G - A.FOWKES, H - ?, J - L.CROSON, K - N.GREW, L - E.HOLLAND, M - M.LOVATT, N - C.CROWSON, P - J.CROSON, R - T.WEBSTER, S - B.SMITH, T - ??, V - C.FAIRBROTHER, W - J.TWIGG, X - T.HARLEY, Y - R.CURTIS, Z - W.BIRD, 1 - G.DAWSON, 2 - A.SMITH, 3 - R.BARKBY, 4 - B.BIRD



Coleorton Rovers end of season pre-dinner photograph The Angel June 3rd 1950

Top Row left to right - Charlie Fairbrother, ????, Bert Platts, Alan Platts, ? Walker, Eric Leech, Jack Cooke, Les Croson, Ernie Adams, L. Holland, Mo Bird, **Middle Row left to right** - Roy Hodges, Jack Croson, Stan Hodges, Bob Barkby. **Front Row left to right** - John Walker, Bill Bird, Tom Bradford





End of season dinner at "The Angel Inn" - June 3rd 1950



Coleorton Rovers Football Team c.1955

Top Row left to right - A.Smith, R.Curtis, A Fowkes, R.Hodges, L.Croson, L.Twigg, J.Whitaker (Ref), M.Bird

Front Row left to right - G.Chippendale, W. Bird, B.Smith, R.Mann, J.Thornley, J.Croson.

Coleorton Rovers Football Team Coalville & District Amateur Football League - Div.1. Medals Won by Robert W Barkby - Left Wing



Div.1 - Runners Up 1954/5

Div.1 - Runners Up - 1955/6

Div.1 - Runners Up - 1956/7

Div.1 - Runners Up 1957/8

Div.1 - Runners Up - ??

Knock Out Cup - Runners Up -1951
Knock Out Cup - Runners Up - 1956/7
Knock Out Cup - Runners Up - ??
Leics Football Association Jnr. Cup - Runners Up - 1947/8
Cup??- Runners Up - 1951/2

Robert W Barkby Born Coleorton 1923 -

Died Coleorton 2009