

The Sherwin Family – 1739 to 1887



Memorial in St. Mary's Parish Church, Coleorton
To Gulielmi (William) Sherwin b.1768 - d.1854



The "Sherwin" family marble memorial in the graveyard



By Samuel T Stewart – 2015

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Published by Samuel T Stewart

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Preface

This book is dedicated to an interesting local family, the Sherwins', and their descendants, commencing with the family buried in St. Mary's Church, Coleorton. The author had hoped to obtain more information on their ancestors, but research has proved extremely difficult in that respect.

As far as the author is aware, there are no surviving local descendants. Fortunately, much more success was had with the research into the later descendants of the family. The last Coleorton Sherwin, William junior (b.1809, d 1887) who became a Solicitor, Magistrate, Attorney and J.P. left the village to seek / increase his fortune elsewhere in 1855. The record of his memorable presentation and testimonial held at the "Beaumont Arms", and his future life story, features later in the book. At the end of his life, William Sherwin junior had purchased a manor house on a 400 acre estate in Hampshire, and was living there with his wife Cecelia Frances, but that is for later.

The following Coleorton Sherwin family members are recorded on opposing sides of the base plinth of the large marble memorial in St. Mary's Coleorton Parish Church graveyard. This is shown in the photographs on the front cover. The author thinks it likely that the memorial was erected subsequent to William Sherwin senior's death in 1854, by his son William Junior. It is the only marble memorial in the graveyard, and both the memorial and the inscriptions are in excellent condition. There is some evidence to suggest that prior to the memorial being erected, details of the Sherwins' were recorded on individual stone slabs alongside the path to the church, but these seem to have disappeared, presumably when work was done to the path in that area, as part of the installation of services to the church.

SIDE A OF MEMORIAL PLINTH

WILLIAM SHERWIN WHO DIED A.D. 1739

ANNE HIS WIFE WHO DIED A.D. 1777

THOMAS HIS BROTHER WHO DIED A.D. 1760

WILLIAM SHERWIN WHO DIED A.D. 1818 (*he was born 1733*)

ANNE HIS WIFE WHO DIED 1789

AND OF **THOMAS** HIS SON WHO DIED 1807

SIDE B OF MEMORIAL PLINTH

WILLIAM SHERWIN WHO DIED 1854 aged 86

ELIZABETH SHERWIN WHO DIED Oct 5th 1868 aged 84

JOHN SHERWIN HIS BROTHER WHO DIED July 18th 1840 (*he was born 1771*)

*There is also a record of an **Elizabeth Sherwin** married 28th Oct 1742 in Coleorton and In the Leicester Journal dated July 2nd 1836 it is recorded that another **John Sherwin, gent** of Coleorton died on Friday last. Nothing is known about **Elizabeth and John**, but it is possible that **John** was the son of **Joseph** shown on the family tree chart. It is significant that he was referred to as "gent", which suggests he had some status in the community also.*

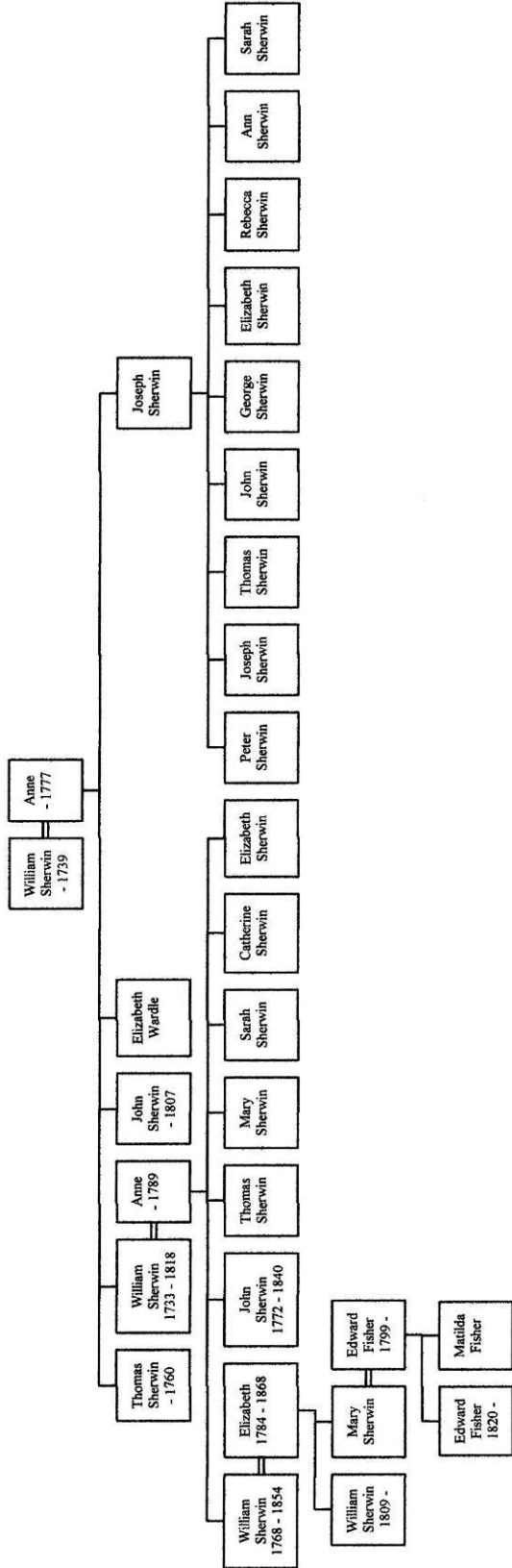
The Sherwins' were held in high esteem in Coleorton, the locality and the wider area, and there is ample evidence that certain members had a close relationship with the Coleorton Hall Beaumonts' and assisted them financially when they were experiencing difficulties in that respect. They were clearly a well educated and entrepreneurial family with certain members accruing a considerable amount of wealth. An attempt has been made to put together a basic family tree, starting with William Sherwin (d.1739) and his wife Anne (d.1777) which follows.

All the Sherwins' that appear in the book are almost certainly blood-line related through the Coleorton line. Although the record on the memorial "infers" that Thomas who died 1760 was the brother of William who died 1739, the author doesn't think this was the case, and believes he was the brother of William who died 1818, and the family tree is based on that premise. However, until conclusive proof is found, it has to be left open to conjecture.

William Sherwin the elder Esq.,(b.1768, d.1854), his son William Junior (b.1809, d.1887) and William the elder's brother John (b.1771, d.1840) are the most interesting members of the family line, but that is probably because more information is available about them. However, our story begins with Thomas Sherwin who died in 1760.

The name Sherwin and its variants is apparently an important part of the history of the ancient Anglo-Saxon tribes of Britain. We are told by historians that It derives from the elements "Schere" which translates as "to cut through" and "wind" which translates as "the wind", and was a name given to a fast runner or a professional messenger. Over the years, many variations of the name were recorded, such as Sherwyn. The first recorded spelling of the family name, is shown to be that of Gilbert Scerewin, which dated c.1160 in "The Danelaw Rolls of Lincoln" during the reign of King Henry II. John Shirwyn was recorded in the Norwich Diocese Wills Register in 1479, and John Sherwyn was found in The Pipe Rolls of Suffolk in 1524. Locally, they were first found in Nottinghamshire where the Sherwins' of Bramcote Hills held a seat, and were granted "A Coat of Arms".

Descendants of William Sherwin



Thomas Sherwin Esq. (d.1760)

A number of the Sherwins' were Hosiers, and we can see from the "*Last Will and Testament*" of Thomas Sherwin which follows, that he appears to have been successful in that line of business. See family tree for his lineage.

The term "hosier", was often a general term which encompassed the various processes used in the industry, such as wool-combing, coning, spinning, framework-knitting etc.

In the Will of Mary Allatt of Ashby de la Zouch dated 10.4.1756., Thomas Sherwin of Coleorton Moor is named as executor and relative, and his trade was given as "Wool-comber". This is the first evidence we have of his involvement in the hosiery industry, and the wool-combing process is described later. Thomas died in 1760, the same year as George the second passed away.

There follows a transcription of Thomas Sherwin's last Will and Testament Proved at London on April 8th 1760.

The original Will is "extremely" difficult to read and interpret, and no punctuation or paragraphs were used in it.

In the name of God Amen

I, Thomas Sherwin of the Parish of Coleorton in the County of Leicester – **Hosier, Coning Wool** – being weak in body but of sound mind, memory and understanding, praised be God for the same, so I make this my last will and testament in manner and form following Christ. I commend my soul into the arms of Almighty God my creator hoping for remission of all my sins and my body to commit to the earth to be devoutly interred at the discretion of my executor heirin after named. And as to my temporal so herewith it has pleased God to bless me with and dispose of thereof as follows – then I give and bequeath unto my friend James Whitwell (?) of Coleorton aforesaid, the sum of Ten Pounds. Also I give and bequeath unto my brother-in-law John Harwel for and during the term of his natural life, one fine "**Stocking Frame**", and to desire my said executor to have the inspection of the same and to keep it in good order and repair during my said brother John Harwel's (in law) life and aforesaid and from and immediately unto and from my brother John Harwel's (in law) decease then my ?? wish and will is such that the same shall go and bestow to my said executor, heirs and assigns for ever. All that now erected Messuage or Tenement, Warehouses, Shops, Outhouses, Barns, Stables with the two Closes or Homesteads thereunto belonging after my loving mother **Ann Sherwin's** decease, I give and bequeath unto my said loving brother, his Heirs and assigns for ever and all the rest residue and remainder of my personal estate whatsoever and wheresoever with the profit and increase of my trade, I give and bequeath unto my said brother **William Sherwin** his Heirs and Assigns and so nominate and appoint my said brother **William** sole executor of this my will hereby revoking all Wills by me at any time heretofor made, and so declare this to be my only last Will and Testament. Witnessed by **Thomas Sherwin**, the testator has set my hand and seal this first day of August in the twenty second year of the Reign of our Sovereign, Lord George the Second



1727 – Oct 25th 1760

by the Grace of God of Great Britain France and Ireland King, Defender of the Faith and so forth and in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and fifty nine –**Thomas Sherwin** – signed sealed published and ?? by the testator **Thomas Sherwin** as and for his last Will and Testament in the presence of us who at his own request and in his presence and in the presence of earlier others have subscribed our names as Witnesses hereto *George Westley- Geo Durant.*

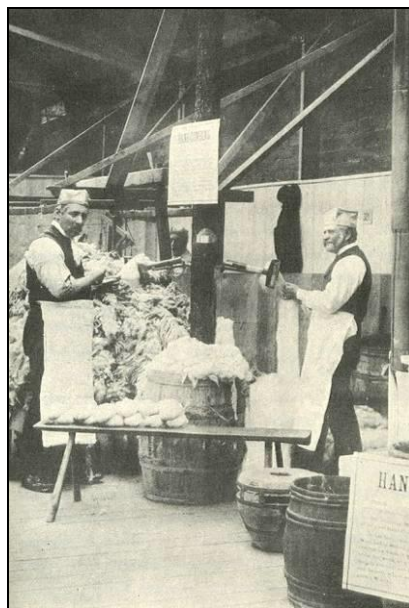
This Will was proved at London on the Eighth day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and sixty before the Worshipful Andrew Coltee Duracel, Doctor of Laws, surrogate of the Right Worshipful Edward Simpson also Doctor of Laws Master Keeper and Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury lawfully constituted by the oath of William Sherwin, brother of the deceased and sole executor named in this said Will, to whom administration was granted of all and singular the goods, chattels and credits of the said deceased, he having been first sworn duly to administer.

A synopsis of the “Wool-Combing” industry.

The word “Hosier” is rather a loose term and covers a number of processes, and not all people described as hosiers were involved in them all.

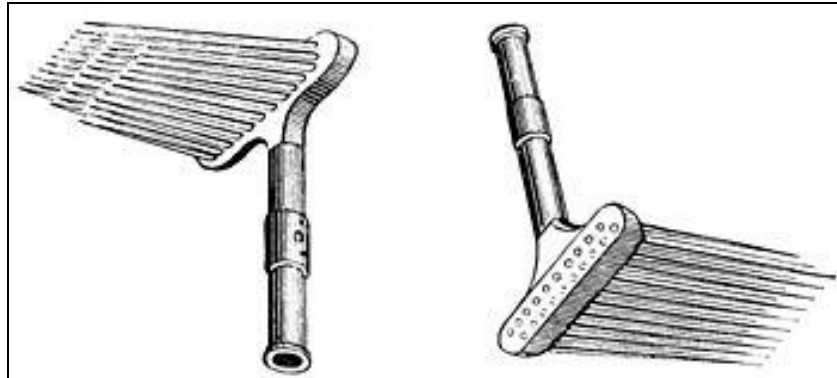
The wealth accrued by some of the **Sherwins** from the hosiery industry, and their possession of large areas of land, warehouses and buildings, suggests they developed sizeable and profitable businesses. They would have grazed sheep on their land to provide the wool for Wool-Combing and subsequent coning into yarn ready for the “Framework Knitters”. Because of the development of the coal mining industry in Coleorton, it is likely that much fewer people were involved in the hosiery and framework knitting industry compared to villages where coal mining was not carried out, and this statistics bear that out to some extent – **“In an 1801 return to Parliament for Coleorton, it was recorded that there were 3 hosiers who combed their wool and converted it into stockings”, however, that should not be confused with the number of cottagers who would have had a framework knitting machine in their cottage, knitting stockings or gloves for example, from yarn supplied by the hosiers. Sometimes these people would be referred to as stockingsers, which can be seen in many census returns. An article on the “Framework Knitting Industry” features later.**

A Wool-comber was one whose occupation was to comb wool in order to disentangle and straighten out the fibres in order to prepare them for spinning into what were known as worsted or woollen yarns dependant on what type of wool fleece the wool came from. Worsted yarns were of a fine texture suitable for making into clothing, stockings, gloves etc and woollen yarns were rougher in texture and thickness. Wool-combing at this time was generally carried out by hand in local communities such as Coleorton. The first machine to be really successful at combing fine wool (botany wool), was invented in 1843 by a Mr.Lister, and after that machines began to be quickly introduced, bringing about the demise of the hand comber. The process, as shown in the photograph below, involved pulling the wool through fine toothed steel combs. However, there were many arguments surrounding the quality of the end product, price, waste etc dependent on whether the wool was combed by hand or on machines which came later. For anyone interested in finding out more about the processes involved, many books have been written about the history of wool-combing.



Wool-combers at work

This method of combing the wool was a Flemish invention. The hand-comber employed two combs, one known as a “pad” comb, which was subsequently fixed to a post as shown in the above photograph. The raw material, after being properly prepared, washed, oiled, and separated into convenient handfuls, was secured into the comb prior to fixing to the post. However, it was necessary to heat the wool to a correct temperature to ensure successful combing. After the pad comb was charged with wool, the comb was placed in a comb-pot on a specially adapted stove until it reached the correct temperature. Once properly heated, and with one comb attached to the post, the other held in the hand, the process of combing began. Each comb became a working comb alternately, the teeth of one passing through the tuft of wool upon the other, until the fibers became perfectly smooth, straight, and free of short wool, or “noil,” which was left imbedded in the comb-heads. The residue was called the “top”.



Typical Hand Combs

In the late 1700s, the “wool combers” would have earned 12s. to 14s. per week which compared very favorably with the spinners of wool, who earned in the order of 1s. 6d to 3s. per week. However, most of the wool spinning was carried out by women as a cottage industry as shown below. To put this into perspective, beef at that time was 3½ d. to 5d per pound, and milk 1½ d per quart.



Turning the wool-comber’s material into yarn on a spinning wheel was a cottage industry

William Sherwin Esq. (b.1733 - d.1818)

We know little about this **William Sherwin** who is buried in St.Mary's churchyard, Coleorton, and the author has not been able to locate his Will. He was also a hosier / wool-comber and appeared to be a wealthy gentleman, as demonstrated by the loan of £600 (Leicester Record Office) he had made to his son **Thomas Sherwin** (ships surgeon) sometime prior to 1795 when the loan was repaid. This was obviously a substantial amount of money at this time, and would have been worth at least **£75,000** in today's money **See later article on Thomas Sherwin, ship's surgeon.**

In a publication entitled "An exact copy of the Poll taken at the Guild-Hall in the Borough of Leicester.....Volume 4" by Leicester (England) from March 22nd to April 6th 1768, it states that the poll was to elect two "Burgesses" from four candidates to represent the Borough in Parliament. **William Sherwin** of Coleorton was listed as a voter in this poll. Only voters such as Freeholders, business owners etc., were listed as voters. This was almost certainly the **William Sherwin** who died in 1818.

In a settlement examination for Melbourne (SE47), it states that William Lakin, born Coleorton, Leicestershire, was apprenticed to **William Sherwin** of Coleorton, Leics, Wool-comber 1779. This must have been referring to this **William Sherwin**. In another document from the "**Sherwin Papers**" held at the Leicester Record Office and referring to **Willam Sherwin** (d.1818), he is actually referred to as a hosier.

The following appeared under deaths in the Leicester Chronicle Jan 17th 1818:-

*On Saturday evening last in his 85th year, sincerely regretted, **William Sherwin Senior, Gentleman of Coleorton.***

John Sherwin, Hosier of Whitwick (d.1807)

We have little information on this **John Sherwin**, except that he was also, according to his Will, **a hosier in Whitwick**, and appeared to be reasonably wealthy also. The Will was proved at Leicester Court on April 27th 1807 – legacy £600.

The executors were **William Sherwin** of Coleorton the younger (presumably **William Sherwin** b.1768) and Joseph Stinson of Whitwick.

Extracts from Will – *All the testator's messuages and real estate of Whitwick and all the testator's personal estate upon trust to sell and dispose of the said real and personal estates, and out of the money arising from such sales to pay all the testator's debts. The main legatees were **Joseph Sherwin** (his brother) and his descendants (£270) and his sister Elizabeth Wardle (£200). Amounts of £30 were paid to various other descendants, and £20 was paid to John and Ann Boulbee. £5 was to be paid to each of the trustees, for their troubles.*

The centenary celebrations of "The Tyrian Lodge" No.253 of "Freemasons" held at the Masonic Hall, Derby were held on April 9th 1885. Members and Worshipful Members are recorded for the period 1785-1885. In that list, appear nine people from Coleorton, including a **John Sherwin**. For interest, all recorded members from Coleorton are listed below, and they were all initiated:-

July 4 th 1787	John Groves	Farmer
Nov 24th 1801	John Sherwin	Hosier
May 28 th 1802	William Elliot	?
Dec 28 th 1802	Samuel Ayre	Farmer
July 26 th 1803	William Knight	Hatter
July 26 th 1803	John Potter	Hosier
Feb 27 th 1810	Francis Potter	Victualler
Jan 28 th 1812	T. Foster Taylor Esq.	?
Oct 17 th 1812	Thomas Freeman Collins	?

In the Leicester Journal dated July 2nd 1836 it is recorded that another **John Sherwin, gent** of Coleorton died on Friday last. Nothing is known about this **John**, but he is thought to be the son of **Joseph** shown on the family tree chart. It is significant that he was referred to as "gent", which suggests he had some status in the community also.

Thomas Sherwin Esq. (d.1807) – Ship's Surgeon

As already mentioned, the **Sherwins'** were clearly a well educated and entrepreneurial family, and the following exemplifies this:-

Thomas Sherwin was thought to be the son of **William Sherwin** (b.1733, d.1818) – see the family tree for his lineage. In 1794 / 5, **Thomas Sherwin** was working as a surgeon on the "East India Ship" named "Minerva". Copies of records are shown on the following page.

In the "Sherwin Papers" held at the Leicester Record Office, there is a record which relates to a description of a settlement of £600 by **William Sherwin**, Hosier of Coleorton, on his son **Thomas Sherwin**, surgeon on the East India Ship "Minerva". The release by **T.Sherwin** to **W.Sherwin** of £600 – 5s in payment of debt was made in 1795.

It was reported in the "Northampton Mercury – June 27th 1807", that **Thomas Sherwin**, surgeon, of Coleorton had died at Freestone Shore. There is a Freestone Shore referred to on the Lincolnshire Wash but East India ships carried freestone from places all around the world. His death is further confirmed in the August edition of the 1807 "Monthly Magazine or British Register" Volume 24 as being at Freifton Shore, Lincs.

From medieval times, there was a sharp distinction between physicians and surgeons. Before anaesthetics made invasive surgery possible, only minor operations, blood letting and amputations could be carried out, and their familiarity with razors meant that barbers carried out these operations. In London, surgeons belonged to the same company as barbers until 1745 when a separate Company of Surgeons was established. Training was by apprenticeship. Surgery was considered only one step up from butchery, so the men who went into this branch of medicine were, and still are, called "Mr" rather than "Doctor". Medical men who went to sea were almost invariably surgeons, as the ability to carry out amputations was vital in battle. The Royal College of Surgeons was founded in 1801.

During the eighteenth century, the surgeons of ships employed by the Dutch East India Company were responsible not only for the health of sailors on board, but also of those in company hospitals throughout a vast geographical empire that extended from South Africa to Japan. Regarded by their contemporaries as little more than illiterate and opportunistic barbers, these early medical practitioners engaged in a complex working life as varied as the geographical terrain they covered. The image of these surgeons as uneducated apprentices was apparently little more than a myth, and they could be described more appropriately as fairly well-educated men subject to the risks of life at sea, including incurable diseases otherwise unknown in their European homeland.

From its first charter in 1600, the "English East India Company" operated one of the most extensive shipping operations in support of its trading enterprises during the colonial period. The merchant or mercantile fleet was responsible for carrying cargoes outward to the east, returning richly laden with exotic goods which found a ready, and profitable, market in Europe. The people who commanded these ships were career men who often spent a lifetime in the service of the Company. Voyages to the east were lengthy and uncertain, but the rewards were good, as captain and officers were allowed in addition to their wages, to ship goods on their own account as "private trade".

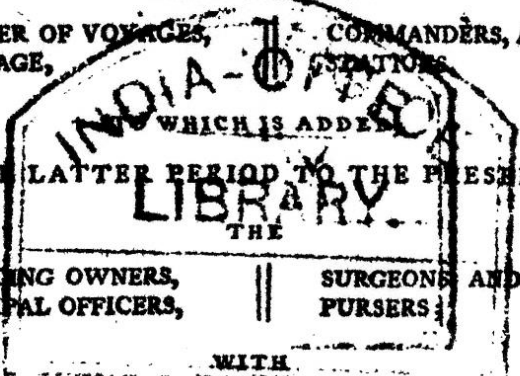
The East India Company established a monopoly of trade to the east, which was strictly enforced, and no other ships could trade where it had established its own bases. The market opened up a little in 1813, and other ships were licensed to trade under certain conditions.

In 1834, the monopoly came to an end and the mercantile service was disbanded, although the Company continued to administer its territories in Asia for many years.

Purchased Oct 1 1874
REGISTER OF SHIPS,

EMPLOYED IN THE SERVICE OF THE
HON. THE UNITED EAST INDIA COMPANY,
FROM THE UNION OF THE TWO COMPANIES,
IN 1707, TO THE YEAR 1760;

SPECIFYING THE
NUMBER OF VOYAGES, TONNAGE, COMMANDERS, AND
CREW, WHICH IS ADDED
FROM THE LATTER PERIOD TO THE PRESENT TIME,
THE
MANAGING OWNERS, PRINCIPAL OFFICERS, SURGEONS AND
PURSERS
WITH



THE DATES OF THEIR SAILING AND ARRIVAL:

ALSO,

AN APPENDIX,

CONTAINING

MANY PARTICULARS,

INTERESTING TO THOSE CONCERNED IN THE EAST
INDIA COMMERCE.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR CHARLES HARDY,
JERUSALEM COFFEEHOUSE.

1800.

BARWELL,796 Tons, 6 Voyage,
Bombay.

(Sir Richard Neave, Bart.)

Capt. Thomas Welladvice

1 Thomas Sandon

2 Edw. Utting Watling

3 George Weltden

4 William Allen

Sur. James Watt

Pur. Robert Killen

Sailed Portf. 24 May, 1795

Moorings 7 Aug. 1796

PRINCESS AMELIA,508 Tons, 4 Voyage,
Bombay.

(Robert Williams, Esq.)

Capt. George Millett

1 William Farley

2 Thomas Gardiner

3 Rob. Hunter Brown

4 John Scott

Sur. John Singleton Clarke

Pur. Cosmas Hen. Stewart

Sailed Portf. 24 May, 1795

Moorings 7 Aug. 1796

HILLSBOROUGH,764 Tons, 5 Voyage,
Coast and Bay.

(Robert Preston, Esq.)

Capt. Richard Hutt

1 James Martin

2 Tho. Garland Murray

3 William Fogo

4 John Henry Pelly

Sur. William Ettrick

Pur. John Bromley

Sailed Portf. 24 May, 1795

Moorings 7 Aug. 1796

LONDON,836 Tons, 6 Voyage,
Bombay.

(Robert Wigram, Esq.)

Capt. James Ludovic Grant

1 John Bell

2 George Lukin

3 Joseph Holmes

4 John Scott Butter

Sur. James Macfarlane

Pur. John Hobson

Sailed Portf. 24 May, 1795

Moorings 7 Aug. 1796

FRANCIS,789 Tons, 6 Voyage,
Coast and Bay.

(William Moffat, Esq.)

Capt. Robert Burrowes

1 Gilbert Michell

2 Arthur Aug. Brocas

3 Hen. P. Tremeaheere

4 William Nesbitt

Sur. William Burnie

Pur. Edward Spencer

Sailed Portf. 24 May, 1795

Moorings 8 Aug. 1796

MINERVA,798 Tons, 4 Voyage,
Coast and Bay.

(Jeremiah Royds, Esq.)

Capt. Kennard Smith

1 George Heron

2 Benjamin Richardson

3 William Baldwin

4 Samuel Landen

Sur. Thomas Sherwin

Pur. John Herbert

Sailed Downs 24 May, 1795

Moorings 7 Aug. 1796

Thomas Sherwin is listed above as a Surgeon on the "Minerva".

John Sherwin Esq. (b.1771 - d.1840)

William Sherwin's (b.1768) older brother **John Sherwin**, also buried in St. Mary's Churchyard, Coleorton was apparently a wealthy gentleman also. A transcription of part of his "Last Will and Testament" follows, and this states that he was a formerly of "The United States of America" and a citizen of the South States, so perhaps he had made his fortune there, or he was just resident in some professional capacity or other. His will suggests he had property / real estate there, at the time of his death. We have evidence from the ledgers of "Sir George Beaumont's Coleorton Brickyard" that **John Sherwin** purchased 32,000 common bricks between Sept 1825 and June 1830, so he must have carried out some substantial building projects in addition to his property in Swannington. There is significant evidence as follows that **John Sherwin** went to live in Leicester at some point, and no other **John Sherwin** of notable status in the town has been found during the time he was living there. His will confirms that he had houses in Leicester and Swannington when he died.

The Leicester Chronicle dated April 24th 1824, recorded that there was a robbery at the home of **John Sherwin** in Humberstone Gate, Leicester including a voucher belonging to Leicester Bank for £200 – Elizabeth Gibson, who had been his house keeper for 3 months was charged with the robbery. **John Sherwin** was in a list of people signed up to show confidence in Leicester Bank on Dec 15th 1825.

There is a record of a **John Sherwin** living in Granby Street, Leicester in 1826, and a **John Sherwin** is recorded as being a clerk to, John Harris, an attorney at law, in the Leicester Journal dated March 21st 1828; he would have been fifty seven years of age at this time. In 1829, both **John Sherwin** and his younger brother **William** from Coleorton, were listed as shareholders in the new "Leicestershire Banking Company", and they were both on the original committee formed to set up the bank.

On May 18th 1832, a lengthy article regarding the British constitution was included in the Leicester Journal. This is far too long to include here, but involves an address to the King from the County of Leicester with regard to a petition, which stated – The nobility, gentry, clergy freeholders and other inhabitants of the County of Leicester, are urgently requested to join in an address to his majesty, imploring him to remain firm in resisting the unconstitutional invasion of the House of Peers, to which his consent is attempted to be exhorted. Notice is hereby given that an address to the above effect, (of which a copy is subjoined), is now lying for signatures at the under mentioned places viz:-

Leicester – Three Crowns Hotel
Loughborough – The Bull's Head and Anchor
Hinckley – The George
Ashby de la Zouch – The Queen's Head
Lutterworth – The Denbigh Arms

104 names were appended to the petition sent to the King which included that of **John Sherwin**.

We can assume that **John Sherwin** had returned from America prior to 1825, when he started purchasing bricks, from Sir George Beaumont's Brick Works in Coleorton, as we can roughly account for his movements between then and when he died in 1840.

The Leicester Mercury on Jan 11th 1840, not long before his death, lists the subscriptions for the unemployed operatives committee for relief of the poor in which **John Sherwin** was included.

The Leicester Chronicle dated July 25th 1840 under deaths, states – On Saturday, at Coleorton, aged 69, **John Sherwin, Gentleman**, late of the Market Place in this town (Leicester). It is almost certain that he had gone to live with his brother **William** in Coleorton due to failing health, which then resulted in him being buried in St.Mary's churchyard, Coleorton on July 18th 1840.

The Leicester Chronicle July 24th 1841 recorded under "Leicester Infirmary" – *The treasurer has received a legacy of £100 given by the late John Sherwin Esq (also see his Will which follows)*. The following entry, one of several on different dates, in the "Leicester Journal" Jan 28th 1832, specifically refers to "The Leicester General Infirmary and Fever House", which was run as a charity. It show John Sherwin, N. Higginson as house visitors. We are not sure what a house visitor was, but it is likely that they were inspectors or administrators of some kind, checking on the running of the hospital. **John's** brother **William** was also a benefactor following **John's** death.

LEICESTER GENERAL INFIRMARY - TUESDAY	
IN PATIENTS.	OUT PATIENTS.
Admitted 12	Admitted 30
Discharged 15	Discharged 10
Do. accidents 0	Do. accidents 2
Pos. poned for want of room, 0	Emergency Cases, 2
Patients in the house 77	On the Books 509
FEVER INSTITUTION.	
Admitted ... 6—Discharged . . . 7—In the House.. 21.	
Physician. Dr. Freer. - Surgeon, Mr. T. Paget, junr	
HOUSE VISITORS—J. Sherwin, and N. Higginson,	

According to his Will, **William Sherwin** owned properties in Swannington and Leicester and his dwelling houses in Swannington were left to his younger brother **William Sherwin** (b.1768). He also left property and land to his nephew **William Sherwin, solicitor (b.1809)**.

He must have been married at some point, as his brother-in-law Charles Coleman is mentioned in his Will and Testament, but we can find no record of his wife. Like his younger brother **William Sherwin** (b.1768), **John** appeared to be a benefactor of the poor, and it is recorded later that he gave bread to the poor of Coleorton.

There follows an attempted transcription of the first page of John Sherwin's (d.1840) last Will and Testament, proved at London on the 30th September 1840. The original Will is extremely long (7 pages) and is difficult to read and interpret. No punctuation marks or paragraphs were used in it. It is hoped that this gives a reasonable insight into the life of John Sherwin who was clearly a wealthy man.

This the last Will and Testament of Mr

John Sherwin, formerly of the United States of America and a citizen of the South States but now of Leicester in the County of Leicester, Esquire.

I bequest my executors to provide for my servants Mary Couter and William Burton, for Mr. Smith the tenant of the "Lion and Dolphin" and for his servant George assign full suits of mourning out of my personal estate. (The "Lion and Dolphin" Inn was in Leicester Market Place and was where "Dolphin Square" is now situated).

I give and bequest all my messuages, lands.....?.....real estate situated all in Swannington in the said County of Leicester, which formerly belonged to William Sharpe unto and to the use of my nephew **William Sherwin the younger** his heirs and assigns for ever (see the later feature on William Sherwin, junior for details of the estate).

I give and bequeath the following.....?.....namely to the said **William Sherwin** all the household goods and furniture, plate, linen, china, glass, wines and liquors, watch and ? which shall at my decease be in or about my dwelling houses at Swannington and in Leicester.

To my brother William Sherwin the elder, I bequeath my carriage and harness, and to my brother-in-law Charles Coleman my diamond brooch and to my servant Mary Couter, the bed, bedsteads and bed furniture in my room, and I give and bequeath to my friend John Johnson of Ashby De La Zouch in the said County of Leicester, the sum of forty pounds, and to the treasurer for the time being of the Leicester Infirmary for the benefit of that institution the sum of one hundred pounds to be paid out of my personal estate at the expiration of twelve months from my decease without interest in the meantime and I direct that the receipt of such treasurer shall be a sufficient discharge so that the legacy duty payable thereon shall be borne by my residual personal estate, and I give and bequeath to the said **William Sherwin** the younger and John Johnson, their executors, arbiters and assigns the sum of one thousand pounds to be by them paid to and in their discretion applied for the benefit of Eliza Clarke (late Eliza Baron) now or lately visiting the State of Rhode Island in the United States of America or of the children of the said Eliza Clarke in such proportions and manner as to the said **William Sherwin** and John Johnson, their executors, arbiters or assigns shall appear expedient and I bequest that the said surety of one thousand pounds shall bear interest at four pounds per ? annum after the expiration of six calendar months from my decease and after that so much thereof as shall be paid to the said Eliza Clarke shall be for her separate use independently of her present or any future husband and her receipt alone shall be a sufficient discharge for the same.

I give and bequeath all my messuages, lands, tenements ? and real estate and unmoveable property whatsoever not hereinbefore specifically divided as well in Great Britain and in the United States of America and elsewhere and also all my monies, securities for money, stocks, funds, goods, chattels, ? and ?, and all other my Personal Estate and moveable property whatsoever and wheresoever not herein before specifically bequeathed unto and to the use of my **Nephew the said William Sherwin** and the said John Johnson their heirs, executors, arbiters and assigns respectively to the nature and quality thereof and respectively upon trust at such time or times as to the trustees or trustee for the time being of this my Will shall in their or his discretion appear expedient to sell or absolutely dispose of my said messuages, lands?.... and real estate and immoveable property with their appurtenants of such parts of my residuary personal estate and effects and moveable property as shall not consist of money, audits, stocks, funds, or securities for money either together or in parcels and either by public auction or private contract to any person or persons who shall be willing to become the purchaser or purchasers thereof for such price or prices as can be reasonably had or gotten for.....etc.

Proved at London, with a codicil on 30th September 1840 before the judge by the oaths of **William Sherwin the younger the nephew and John Johnson the executors to whom ? was granted having been first sworn by commission only to administer.**

Willam Sherwin (b.1768 - d.1854)



In St.Mary's Church, Coleorton, there is a memorial tablet in the area which separates' the nave from the vestry. This is to **William Sherwin**, and is featured on the front cover of this booklet. It should be noted that **William's** name is given as Gulielmi which is somewhat confusing. However, Gulielmi is the genitive form of Gulielmus, the Latin for "William", so, Guliemi means "of William".

In order to better understand the following article on this **William Sherwin**, his "Last Will and Testament" has been included at the beginning. He was the son of **William Sherwin** (b.1733, d.1818), and presumably inherited some of his wealth, and his hosiery business experience:-

There follows an attempted transcription of William Sherwin the elder's "Last Will and Testament – Proved at London 4th Oct? 1854".

The original Will is extremely difficult to read and interpret, and no punctuation or paragraphs were used in it. Coupled with Solicitor's jargon, it may therefore prove to be a somewhat confusing.

This is the last will and Testament of me
William Sherwin the elder of Coleorton in the county of
Leicester, Gentleman – and I bequest all that my undivided part and share and all
other my estate and interest in certain farmed lands and establishments situated at
"Broughton in Astley and Sutton" (**details of the land in Broughton in Astley are given
later under the section William Sherwin – Landowner**) in the said County of Leicester and
the appurtenants (In real property law this describes any right or restriction which goes with
that property, such as an easement to gain access across the neighbour's parcel, or a
covenant (agreement) against blocking the neighbour's view.) thereto belonging, to the uses
following namely to such uses as my son-in-law Edward Fisher or any deed or deeds appoint
and in default of appointment to the use of the said Edward Fisher his heirs and assigns, and
bequest all that buildings situated in Swannington and now used as a Baptist Meeting House,
and all in the dwelling house situated in Coleorton aforesaid with the garden thereto adjoining
and occupied by Mr.Howett (?), to the uses following namely to the use of my wife **Elizabeth
Sherwin** and her assigns for her natural life and after her decease to such uses as my only
son **William Sherwin** the younger by any deed or deeds appoint and in default of
appointment to the use of the said **William Sherwin** his heirs and assigns, and bequest all
other the messuages, lands, tenements, establishments and real estate whatsoever and

wheresoever not hereinbefore specifically disposed of which I shall bid seized or possessed with the appurtenants thereto belonging to such use as my son the said **William Sherwin** the younger his heirs and assigns. I bequeath to my wife **Elizabeth Sherwin** an annuity of sixty pounds a year during her life to be paid to her in equal portions half yearly on the first day of January and the first day of July. In each year, the first portion to be paid on such of that said days that shall happen next after my decease. I bequeath all my goods, chattels, stock records and all other my personal estate and effects wherever and whatsoever unto the said Edward Fisher and **William Sherwin the younger**, their executors, administrators and assigns. Allow that trust following namely upon trust at such time or times as to my said trustees or the survivor of them his trustees or administrators and assigns shall seem desirable to request my said personal estate into money and the count in the first place to pay and satisfy my best funeral and testamentary expenses and set apart and appropriate a sufficient sum to meet the annuity hereinfor bequeathed to my wife and to stand possessed of the residue of the said monies and of the sum to be set apart and appropriated as aforesaid after the decease of my said wife and in trust as to our annuity or equal half part of thereof for the said **William Sherwin the younger**, his executors, administrators and assigns absolutely and in trust as to the other or remaining annuity or equal half part thereof for my daughter **Mary Sherwin** her executors, administrators and assigns absolutely and give and divest all real estates vested in me as Mortgagee as or Trustee to my said Trustees Edward Fisher and **William Sherwin the younger**, their heirs and assigns subject to the funds and equities affecting the same respectively, and I declare that the receipts of my said Trustees for saved monies, stocks, funds and securities as shall be paid or transferred to them by virtue of this my Will shall effectually discharge the persons paying or transferring the same from all liability to see to that application thereof and lastly I appoint the said Edward Fisher and **William Sherwin the younger** to be Executors of this my will and to hereby revoke all other Wills. ...?....I set my hand this twenty seventh day of April in the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty four – **William Sherwin Senior** – Signed by the said **William Sherwin Senior** as and for his last Will and Testament in the joint presence of us who at his request?.....N.Hewitt ? and H. J. Shelton ?

Proved at London 4th October/ 1854 before that Judge? By the oaths of **Edward Fisher and William Sherwin the son to whom administration was granted having first sworn by ? duly to administer.**

William Sherwin (b.1768) was a wealthy hosier, land owner and a member of the landed gentry. He was clearly a respected gentleman in Coleorton and the wider area and was recognised as “**a friend to the poor**”. He was always addressed as gentleman or Esq., in research material. He died in Coleorton in 1854 aged 86 and is buried in St. Mary’s Churchyard, along with his wife **Elizabeth** and his brother **John**. It is thought that the **William Sherwin** who died in 1739 was this **William’s** great grandfather, and **William Sherwin** who died 1818, his father.

In the 1841 Coleorton census, **Elizabeth Sherwin** aged 56 was shown as living on her own, as an independent. **William Sherwin** (her husband) is also shown as living on his own as an independent aged 72 years with a Mary Chadbourne aged 27 (female servant) !!. However, in the 1851 census, everything is as you would expect, **Elizabeth Sherwin** is now living with her husband **William Sherwin** (b.1768), but she is now aged 70 (gained 4 years). They had two house servants Sarah Wilton and Elizabeth Rhodes, which confirms they were financially well off, and there is a reference to them living in a large house which was situated on The Upper Moor, Coleorton. They had a son **William** who was born in 1809, and became a solicitor, and a daughter Mary who married Edward Fisher the solicitor from Ashby De La Zouch. There were no other children.

In the Ashby De La Zouch 1861 census, **Elizabeth Sherwin** (whose husband had died in 1854), is now given as being 77 years old and described as a “gentlewoman”, and living with her daughter Mary in Kilwardby Street, Ashby de la Zouch at the house adjacent to what was

to become “**Sherwin** and Fisher Solicitors”. These two houses are now all one building forming “Fisher’s Solicitors” offices (see later article on **William Sherwin junior** and photographs for further details).

William Sherwin (b.1768) clearly had a close association with St.Mary’s Church, Coleorton, hence his memorial tablet being placed there in the area which separates the nave from the vestry.

William Sherwin (b.1768) is recorded in volume 18 of an old British Monthly Religious Magazine as accompanying the Rev. F. Merewether (Rector of St.Mary’s Church at that time) to the consecration of Trinity Church, Ashby-De-La-Zouch in 1840 by the Bishop. **William Sherwin Esq.**, is recorded as making a generous gift of £40 to the consecration of the Church. The Rev. Merewether performed part of the service, and presented the church with a beautiful service of communion plate.

As further example of his generosity to the local churches, the following was recorded in an article in the Leicester Journal on August 7th 1840:-

Consecration of the New Church in Coalville, Leicestershire

*The Lord Bishop of the Diocese, attended by upwards of forty of the clergy of the County, performed the imposing ceremony of Consecration on Tuesday last at the elegant little church recently erected by subscription at Coalville. His Lordship preached a most excellent sermon on the occasion, distinguished by its piety and suitability to the congregation. The Church was completely filled, and a most liberal contribution, amounting to upwards of £77 was made. Edward Dawson Esq., of “Whatton House” has given £10 annually in support of the schools; **William Sherwin Sen. Esq.**, gave the liberal donation of £40, and the Rev. Merewether, Vicar of Coleorton, who performed part of the service, presented the Church with a beautiful service of communion plate.*

William Sherwin senior gave £50 towards the land on which the church was built, and the Rev. Merewether gave the same amount. His son William Sherwin, who was a solicitor, had already given an original subscription to the building of £20, and a second subscription to endowment of £65. Due to a much unforeseen demand, in consequence of a decision by the Chancellor against the payment by Mr. Davenport’s committee of the endowment of £1,000, agreed to be paid by Mr. Davenport in writing, **long before the date of his alleged lunacy**, a financial problem arose. This was compounded by a further £2060 promised by Mr. Davenport which had also been lost.....**further interesting details can be observed in the March 15th 1839 edition of the Leicester Journal.**

William Sherwin (b.1768) was also recorded as being involved with the erection of a Church at “Wooden Box” (old name for Woodville).

In the “Hagar and Company Commercial Directory of the County of Leicester 1849”, the following people in Coleorton were listed under the heading “Gentry”.

Sir George Howland Beaumont. Bart.

Mr. Peter Heward

Mrs. Ann Inglesant

Rev. Francis Merewether M.A. – Rector of St.Mary’s Church.

William Sherwin Esq.

Mrs. Jane Worthington.

“The History, Gazetteer & Directory of Leics & Rutland 1846” also lists **William Sherwin** as a gentleman, as do several other directories.

Although **William Sherwin** (b.1768) was a wealthy man, he was clearly concerned for the less well off in the community as the following quotes demonstrate:-

*At a Conservative Manifestation meeting held at the Angel Inn, Coleorton on January 6th 1843, **William Sherwin** (b.1768) was described as “A friend of the poor” and “A staunch upholder of Conservative principals”.*

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 would have been the John who died on July 16th 1840 and is buried in St.Mary’s, Churchyard. He was the wealthy brother of William Sherwin (b.1768). It was thought that at this time he had just moved back to Coleorton from Leicester, possibly to live with his brother. See previous article on John Sherwin.

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 as stated previously.*

As an example of where the Sherwins' stood in the "pecking order" in Coleorton, is clearly demonstrated in the following three articles from "The Leicester Journal dated January 11th 1839, January 22nd 1841 and January 6th 1843 respectively. All three meetings were held at the "Angel Inn", Coleorton Moor:-

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 presidency 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 Majesty 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 banquet-hall 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 fox-hunting, 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.

William Sherwin - Landowner (b.1768 - d.1854)

William Sherwin (b.1768) was a significant “land-owner” in Coleorton and Leicestershire. All the land including Coleorton Hall and the grounds shown on the “1842 Tithe Map” for Coleorton, was owned by Sir George Howland Willoughby Beaumont, except for the following, which demonstrates **William Sherwin’s** standing in the village, and his relationship with the Beaumonts..... *The only other landowners at this time were the Coleorton Railway Company (4 acres approx), **William Sherwin (20 acres approx)**, the Coleorton School Trustees (1 acre approx) and the Reverend (7 acres).*

The exact amount of land owned by William Sherwin in Coleorton was “20 acres 3 roods 11 poles” for which he had to pay an annual rent of £5 13s 4d to the Rector (see following page for explanation of these rents). The land he owned was situated to the south of where Moor Lane (formerly “Workhouse Lane) now meets The Moor. The various plots of land, and buildings thereon that he owned, were numbered 394 to 415, and these are shown on the following extract from the Coleorton 1842 Tithe Map. Details are listed below. :-

Plan No.	Description	Area of land in Statute Measure		
		Acres	Roods	Poles
394	Garden			17
395	John Wardle’s Paddock	3	1	10
396	House and Garden			12
397	Hill Close		3	2
398	Garden			12
399	House, Buildings and Garden		2	36 (Incl. stack yard)
400	Stack Yard			
401	-			
402	Cottage and Garden			12
403	Bott’s Close	3	2	15
404	Comb Shop Close		2	1
405	Close Below Garden	1	2	4
406	-			
407	Werledge’s Close and Garden	3	2	2
408	Bradbury’s Close	5	-	7
409	House and Garden		2	
410	Statham’s Croft		2	2
411	Garden			6
412	-			
413	Three Houses and Gardens		1	7
414	-			
415	Five Houses and Gardens			26
Total		20	3	11

**1 Acre = 4 Roods = 4,480 sq yards (approx a large football pitch).
40 Poles = 1 Rood.**

There is evidence in the ledgers for “Sir George Beaumont’s Brickyard” that the Sherwins purchased significant quantities of common building bricks, plus quantities of roof tiles, flooring tiles, soughing and gutter tiles, floor quarries etc., and in the period from 1820 to 1835 about 88,000 common bricks were purchased. Between 1825 and 1830, his brother John had purchased 32,000 bricks. The above list of buildings demonstrates the extent to which the Sherwins’ had been building property. No. 399 is thought to be William Sherwin’s (b.1768) own farmhouse.

In 1842, the following gives the approximate status of Coleorton Parish Housing:-

There were - 17 large houses including Coleorton Hall, The Rectory etc., plus at least 4 Inns.

There were - 7 Farm Houses.

The names of the farms were – West Farm, Hall Farm, Middle Farm, The East Farm, The Moor Farm, Outwoods Farm plus **William Sherwin’s** (b.1768) farm on The Moor.

There were - 87 Cottages including those owned by the **Sherwins**, but excluding accommodation within farmhouses, Coleorton Hall, Coleorton Pottery, the Hospital and School and the Workhouse.

It can be seen from the previous page, that in 1842 the **Sherwin’s** owned 12 houses, all on The Moor, including **William Sherwin’s** (b.1768) own farm-house. The **Sherwins’** therefore owned at least 13% of the houses / cottages in Coleorton at that time, not including the 17 large houses referred to, and the 6 farms.

It has been more or less taken for granted that the Beaumont’s owned and rented all the land and property in Coleorton Parish at this time, which we can now see was not exactly true, although in terms of the overall Beaumont’s land ownership, the portion that the **Sherwin’s** owned was a tiny percentage.

The author is of the opinion that the **Sherwins**, and particularly **William Sherwin** (b.1768) were as wealthy as the Beaumonts, and the following extract from the statement of accounts for 1844/45 appears to bear this out. It can be seen that **William Sherwin senior** is loaning Sir George Howland Willoughby Beaumont 8th Bart who died in 1845, considerable sums of money. This amounted to almost £23,000 between Oct 30th 1844 and March 10th 1845. £18,500 of this was a joint loan between **Sherwin** and Pratt although the split is not known. It is possible that Pratt was the Rev. Charles Pratt, vicar of Packington and the future father-in-law of **William Sherwin junior** (b.1809).

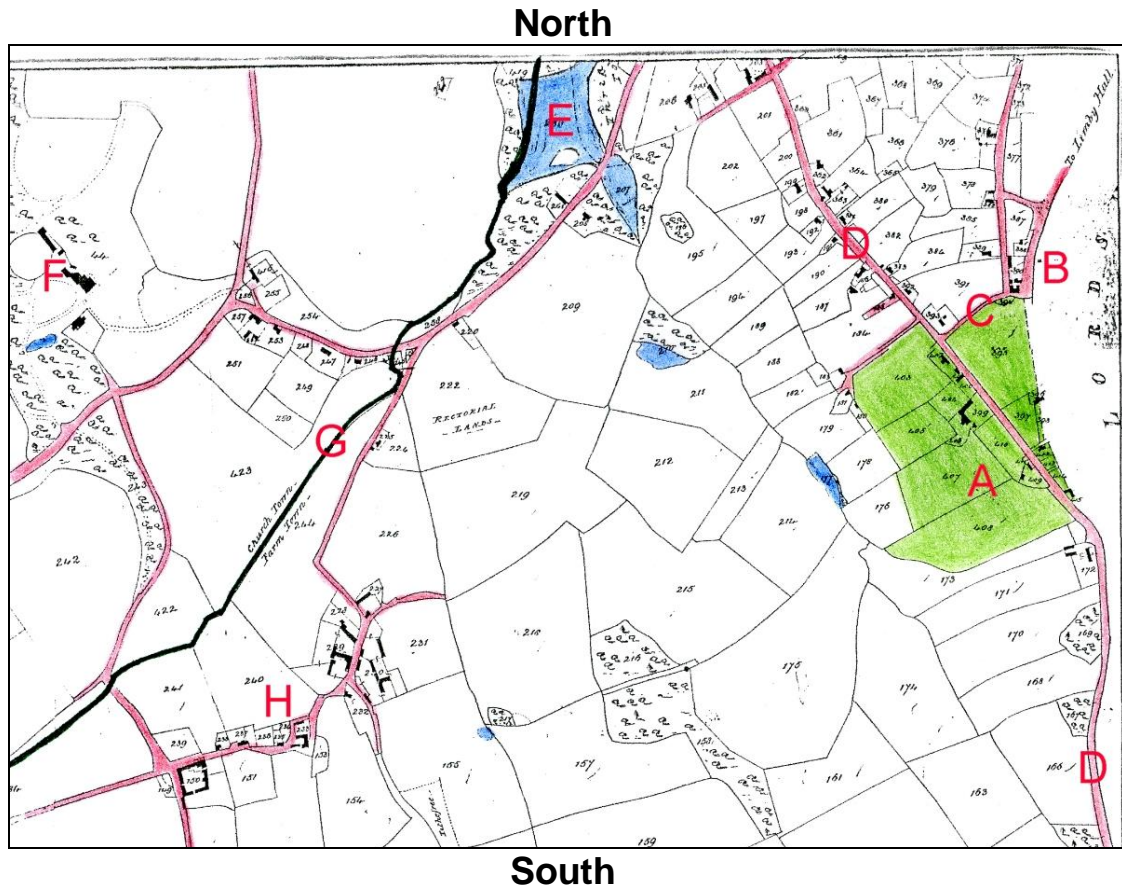
In the year following Sir George Howland Willoughby Beaumont’s inheritance of the 8th Baronetcy from his uncle Sir George Howland Beaumont 7th Baronet, there was an attempt to impeach the 8th Baronet by William Beaumont of Coventry for the right to the dignity of baronet, and also his right to the inheritance of the Coleorton estate. This is dealt with in more detail in another book published by the author and entitled “**Coleorton Village history - as seen through the eyes of the newspapers**”.

Sir George Howland Beaumont, 9th baronet, took over the Beaumont honours and estate at the age of 17 following his father’s death, presumably just after these loans were made to the 8th baronet. Further information on the 9th baronet, and his involvement with **William Sherwin, junior** (b.1809), appears later in the book.

		Mr. Sherwin in account		
1824.	Octr 30.	Cash received from Messrs Sherwin and Pratt	£ 18500	Dr
		Cash from Mr. Sherwin Lenn	2500	Dr
Nov 6.	Cash received from Walker on your account		263 19 2	Cr
		To amount due to Mr. Sherwin to balance	91 4 0	Dr
			£ 21355 3 2	
1825.	March 1.	By Cash from Mr. Sherwin to enable us to pay Mr. Seamhead	£ 410	Cr
	10	By Cash from Mr. Sherwin being a further loan to you and being with the £ 2500. above mentioned £ 4200. secured by mortgage this day	1290	Cr
			£ 1700 0 0	

Extract from account

Section of Coleorton 1842 Tithe Map



Key -

- A** – Area of land owned (not rented from the Beaumont's) by William Sherwin - plot numbers 394 to 415
- B** – Area now known as "The Rowlands"
- C** – Moor Lane (was part of Workhouse Lane)
- D** – Road now know as "The Moor" or "Upper Moor"
- E** – Coleorton Fish Pond
- F** – Coleorton Hall and grounds
- G** – Church Town / Farm Town boundary line
- H** – Farm Town

Tithes

The payment of one tenth of local produce to the church had been established in Anglo Saxon England before the Norman Conquest. These Tithes paid the minister's salary and provided for the upkeep of the church. They could be in the form of actual goods, such as an animal or part of the harvest, or money. Tithes in the form of goods were usually divided into "great" or "small" tithes. The great tithes were the produce of the land, such as grain or wood, and they were supposed to go to the Rector, who was often, in fact, a corporate body. The small tithes composed everything else, and they went to the minister. Tithe Barns were used to store produce for payment in kind.



Great Coxwell 14th Century Tithe Barn

Pressure for commutation (paying a sum of money instead of handing over the goods themselves) grew during the 18th century, resulting in the Tithe Commutation Act of 1836, though the practice had been taking place before it was enshrined in law.

Nonconformists objected greatly to contributing to the Anglican Church and there were many disputes about non-payment in the church courts, as well as disputes about under-evaluation, about whether minerals that were mined were liable to be tithed, and other issues. An act of 1891 restricted the payment of tithes to landowners.

The rates levied on each household in the parish paid for the non-spiritual duties. The work involved was carried out by a group of (usually) men, who were collectively known as "The Vestry", after the room of the church in which they generally met. All parishioners were entitled to attend the meeting, and ratepayers were allowed to vote.

In the following lists of land owned by the Sherwins', the rent paid to the vicar or rector has been included.

Tithe Maps

The Tithe Commutation Act 1836 and an amending act in 1837 established a procedure whereby tithes could be converted to money payments. This required the drawing of an accurate map (the accuracy of which was certified by commissioners) showing all the land in the parish. The series of maps resulting from this legislation provides unprecedented coverage, detail and accuracy.

The initial intention was to produce maps of the highest possible quality, but the expense (incurred by the landowners) led to the provision that the accuracy of the maps would be testified by the seal of the commissioners, and only maps of suitable quality would be so sealed. In the end, about one sixth of the maps had seals. A map was produced for each "tithe district", that is, a region in which tithes were paid as a unit. These could be distinct from parishes or townships. Areas in which tithes had already been commuted were not mapped,

so that coverage varied widely from county to county. The maps indicated parcels of land and buildings, assigning each a number.

Each map was accompanied by a schedule listing each map item by number. This showed the owners, occupiers and a description of the land in the parish including individual fields - sometimes with field names. (The description might be short: house and barn, arable, etc.) A preamble gave the name of the tithe owner, the circumstances under which tithes were owed, and whether the apportionment was subject to an agreement between the parties, or was being imposed by the Crown. Most of the surveying and mapping was carried out by 1841, and the work was largely completed by 1851. In some cases amendments had to be filed when properties were divided or other circumstances intervened. The work was also complicated by numerous inconsistencies in the ways tithes were assessed. For example, timber might or might not include standing trees, branches, acorns, mast, and even charcoal. Variations as to the circumstances of tithe-paying were also considerable.

Three copies of these maps and schedules were prepared: one copy was held centrally by the Tithe Commissioners, one locally in the parish church and one in the diocesan registry.

It seems strange that in all the research material visited, there is no mention of the **Sherwins'** being involved in coal mining in the area, although they owned and sold considerable areas of land in the wider area on which coal mines were sunk. As further evidence of this, the following reference to **William Sherwin** (b.1768) as a landowner in respect to William Stenson and the original Whitwick Colliery is of interest:-

*The land on which the colliery was first sunk, was owned by a wealthy hosier from Coleorton named **William Sherwin**, who had become the sole surviving trustee of the will of John Bonnet of Whitwick who had died in 1823. The deeds to this land showed that in 1808 a Samuel Towndrow of Leicester had interest in these lands, and a further indenture, dated 1816, shows Edward Towndrow as a party to a transaction concerning the land. William Stenson (a native of Coleorton) had a son with the middle name Towndrow, which presumably indicates that William Stenson had some involvement in the purchase or lease of this land on which the colliery was sunk. In January 1833, he did in fact purchase the Bonnet lands for £1,590, through a mortgage funded by **William Sherwin**, for which he charged Stenson £1,100 to do so. The mineral rights, however, still remained in the ownership of **William Sherwin** as he was trustee of the Bonnet will.*

*Further leases were purchased in the 1830's. In 1832, 15 acres (including mineral rights) near to the "Red House" and adjoining Long Lane were leased from Thomas Stinson of Whitwick for 31 years at an annual rent of £100 per acre, plus £4 per acre for any surface land used or damaged by the mining. In 1832, 30 acres were leased near the "Red House" from **William Sherwin** of Coleorton for 40 years at a rate of £160 per acre for all coal not exceeding 180 yards in depth, and a further £20 for coal below this level. Early in the following year, **Sherwin** agreed to sell the partners 30 acres of coal under Whitwick Waste for £1,590, while a further 160 acres were leased from Messrs Peake and Chapman.*

In a "Topographical History of the County of Leicester" 1831 by the Rev. John Curtis of Ashby De La Zouch, he describes the principal land-owners in Swannington as Wigston's Hospital (should read Wyggeston Hospital Trust), Leicester which owns 800 acres, plus land owned by Thomas Grundy Esq., **William Sherwin** Esq., (b.1768), Mr Samuel Wilson and Mr. William Potter. The Marquis of Hastings of Donington Hall was Lord of the manor? **William Sherwin** (b.1768) and his son **William** (b.1809), were subsequently left dwelling houses and land in Swannington in 1840 by his brother **John Sherwin** (d.1840)

On the 26th April 1832, a Warrant was issued to the High Sheriff from Leicester & Swannington Railway Company to summon a "Special Jury" to decide the amount of compensation to be paid to **William Sherwin** Esq., along with others, for lands in Swannington to be purchased for the Railway (National Archives **QS82/1/3/1**).

The following ownership of land in Swannington by **William Sherwin senior** (b1768) and his son **William Sherwin junior** (b.1809) are recorded in the apportionment of lands in the Swannington Tithe Map 16.5.1844:-

William Sherwin senior (b.1768 – d.1854) **Land owned in Swannington 1844**

Plan No.	Occupier	Description	Area of land in statute measure			Rent payable to Vicar of Whitwick		
			A.	R.	P.	£	s	d
214	Joseph	March Close	3	2	16	0	14	6
	Burton							
219		Waste Nooks	4	2	15	0	18	0
220		Waste Nooks	4	3	1	0	18	6
Total			12	3	32	2	11	0

William Sherwin junior (b.1809 – d.1887) **Land owned in Swannington 1844**

Plan No.	Occupier	Description	Area of land in statute measure			Rent payable to Vicar of Whitwick		
			A.	R.	P.	£	s	d
9	John Perkins	Croft		1	8	0	1	0
10	"	Road Croft		1	4	0	1	0
11	"	Croft		1	29	0	1	0
24	John Capenor	St. George's Close	1	3	20	0	5	6
47	Thomas Knight	St. George's Hill	1	0	25	0	3	6
49	James Eaton	House & Garden			28	0	0	6
50	"	House Close	2	1	32	0	7	6
Total			6	2	26	1	0	0

In his Last Will and Testament, **William Sherwin senior** (b.1768) mentions his estate in "Broughton in Astley" and "Sutton". There follows details of the land and buildings etc that he owned in Broughton in Astley. These are in the apportionment of lands for the Tithe Map dated Nov 22nd 1844.

Broughton Astley as it is now known, is a large village and civil parish in the Harborough district of Leicestershire, England. It is situated in the south west of Leicestershire, about 6 miles (10 km) east of Hinckley and about 9 miles (14 km) from the centre of Leicester. The parish of **Broughton Astley** consists of the villages of **Broughton Astley** and **Sutton-in-the-Elms**

William Sherwin senior (b.1768 – d.1854) Land owned in Broughton in Astley 1844

Plan No.	Occupier	Description	Area of land in statute measure			Rent payable to Rector of Broughton		
			A.	R.	P.	£	s	d
49	John Chandler	Osier Bed			10	0	0	3
50	"	Saw Mill Meadow	8	1	10	2	1	5
84	"	Garden			23	0	0	11
85	"	Cheyney Close	11	2	20	4	5	3
94	"	Fosse Close	6	1	0	1	2	1
100	"	Sheens Meadow	2	3	23	0	11	0
101	"	First Short Close	3	3	29	0	13	10
102	"	Dans Meadow	2	0	4	0	8	10
105	"	Second Short Close	4	1	12	0	17	1
151	"	Orchard	1	2	29	0	17	3
152	"	House, Out-Buildings, Yards & Garden	0	0	38	0	1	4
Total			41	1	38	11	0	1
620	John Hopkins	The Ten Acres	9	2	5	1	16	4
621	"	The Four Acres	4	1	4	0	16	11
622	"	Moor Close	4	3	4	0	18	10
623	"	The Two Acres	0	3	33	0	4	3
624	"	Croft with out-Buildings & Yard	0	2	12	0	2	7
625	"	Corner Close	2	2	2	0	10	8
626	"	The Five Acres	4	3	8	0	19	8
628	"	The Three Acres	3	0	30	0	14	0
Total			30	2	18	6	3	3

There now follows details of land, buildings etc which appear to be jointly owned in Swannington by **William Sherwin senior and junior**, some of which probably came to them as the result of being left it by **John Sherwin** (d.1840) who was their brother and uncle respectively. Plots 311,319 and 536 are shown as being in the occupation of **William Sherwin**. This is thought to be **William Sherwin Junior**, and in the article on him shown later, the residence was put up for sale.

Sherwin Messieurs (presumably meant William senior and junior)

Land owned in Swannington May 16th 1844

Plan No.	Occupier	Description	Area of land in statute measure			Rent payable to Impropiator		
			A.	R.	P.	£	s	d
(Rector)								
307	John Hunt	Brick Yard	1	0	0	0	4	6
290	John Hunt Junior	Donington Stile	1	0	22	0	5	6
426	Philip Jaques & others	House, Garden, Close, 2 Houses	1	3	7	0	10	6
410	Samuel Jaques	Alton Nook	3	0	23	0	12	6
367	George Mosely	Windmill Close	3	0	27	0	16	0
368	"	Hough Hill	4	0	9	1	0	6
369	"	Pt of Hough Hill	3	1	34	0	18	6
288	Benjamin Perry	Donington Stile	1	0	37	0	6	0
412	Thomas Potter	Alton Nook Slang	0	3	22	0	3	6
310	John Robinson	Brick Yard	1	0	0	0	4	6
385	Fisher Sharpe	Potters Close	0	3	38	0	5	0
311	William Sherwin	Gardens, build'g,	1	2	33	0	5	6
319	"	Ground, Roads Frontage in Long Lane	0	3	0	0	2	0
536	"	Common Close	3	1	22	0	10	0
411	Thomas Statham	Alton Nook	3	1	9	0	16	6
530	William Stretton	Common Close	2	2	8	0	7	6
436	Charles Tandy	House, Garden, Breach Close	5	3	20	1	10	0
414	John Wardle	Alton Nook	2	2	14	0	12	0
428	"	Oak Flat	9	0	3	2	4	0
527	"	Little Common	0	3	24	0	3	0
543	"	Common Close	2	0	22	0	6	

William Sherwin - Hosier (b.1768 - d.1854)

The Framework Knitting Industry

In order to understand what was involved in “Framework Knitting”, a brief explanation into the background of this industry follows. However, a great deal has been written locally on this important industry in the East Midlands and several books on the subject are available.

The early hosiery industry based on William Lee’s knitting frame was centered on London, but for various reasons, the industry moved to the Midlands from the middle of the seventeenth century, and eventually the three counties of Leics, Notts & Derbys, became the main hosiery making areas of England. Leicestershire sheep provided a good supply of long stapled wool which was ideally suitable for worsted spinning and knitting (**please note the earlier article on “Wool-combing” and spinning of yarn, which provided the raw material for the framework knitters**).

It is recorded that the first frame to be set up in Leicestershire was in 1640, and owned by William Iliffe at Hinckley and by 1750 there were about 1,800 knitting frames making woolen hose in Leicester and the surrounding areas.

In the late 18th century, the most prosperous industry in many Leicestershire villages was framework knitting. A framework knitter was often referred to as a “Stockinger”. It was a semi-skilled industry, and children from about 12 years of age could do the work, and in rural areas was a family cottage industry. In the late 1700’s, framework-knitters locally would have earned between 7s. to 17s. per week dependant on various factors such as efficiency and whether they were sub-contracting or self employed etc.

In the early 1800’s though, the knitting industry was in crisis. Due to the Napoleonic wars, the demand for hosiery declined steeply, leaving framework knitters without work and falling into poverty. This was the period when the common phrase “As poor as a Stockinger” came into being. As a result of this, many hosiers increased the frame rents which only made the situation worse. This eventually resulted in the Luddite disturbances, thought to have been originally instigated by Ned Ludd in Nottingham. Luddite attacks continued for several years, and the following incident suffered by **William Sherwin** is a typical example of their activities, but also confirms he had significant interests in the framework knitting industry. Luddite attacks still continued, however, an act of Parliament introduced in 1812 that imposed the death penalty for machine breaking, helped to curb these activities

By the middle of the 19th century, competition was coming in from the introduction of the wide frame which enabled several items (stockings or gloves for example) to be made at once, but the rural knitters preferred the narrow frame, where only one stocking could be produced at once. By the end of the 19th century, steam driven-driven hosiery factories came into being which saw the end of the framework knitting industry, but also enabled those engaged in the hosiery trade to earn better wages.

William Sherwin also had farming interests as part of the significant amount of land he owned, and sheep were bred for the wool. Wool-combing and the spinning of yarn from the raw material would have been carried out by the **Sherwins**’ as well. Anyone listed as a hosier, was usually engaged in renting out framework knitting machines as **William Sherwin** did, which is confirmed by the following report.

In the London Morning Chronicle Newspaper Set 21st 1819, Middlesex, London, the following statement appeared:-

*The Leicester Frame-work Knitters.....A frame-work knitter of this place, who keeps a shop of frames, and who was suspected of working under the statement prices, was placed upon an Ass, with his face to the tail, and carried through some of the principle streets, on Tuesday last, accompanied by a crowd of men and boys. The Mayor and Magistrates, with a view to putting a stop to such illegal proceedings, have issued hand-bills, offering a reward of 20 guineas for the apprehension of the ringleaders concerned in such outrage. The County Magistrates have also issued placards, expressing their strong disapprobation of the conduct of the frame-work knitters in some part of the County, and their determination to enforce the penalties of the law against all such as shall be found guilty of acts similar to those which have been made the subject of complaint before them. On Friday a number of Jack Wires were taken from a number of frames at **Heather**, belonging to **Mr Sherwin, of Coleorton**, on the ground that the frames were working under the hosiers' statement. It seems the wires were drawn from the frames by a body of men who had gone from **lbstock** for the purpose, and at the **round-house** of which place they afterwards deposited them. On Saturday, **Mr. Sherwin**, having obtained warrants for five of the parties, repaired to the latter place to execute them, accompanied by ten persons on horseback. They were not, however, then to be found, and we have not heard since whether they have been apprehended. We understand the inhabitants were not very ceremonious in their conduct towards **Mr. Sherwin** and his assistants.*

In the Leicester Chronicle dated March 27th 1824, there is a lengthy court case report about 20 bundles of stocking frame parchment papers being stolen from William Sherwin's warehouse, in Coleorton. The author is of the view that these would have probably been the knitting pattern templates.

The following extract from William White's Trade Directory of 1842, comments on **50 stocking frames** in the village of Heather. This is significant, and almost certainly relates to **William Sherwin**. The frames were often hired out to the operators in what was usually a cottage industry.

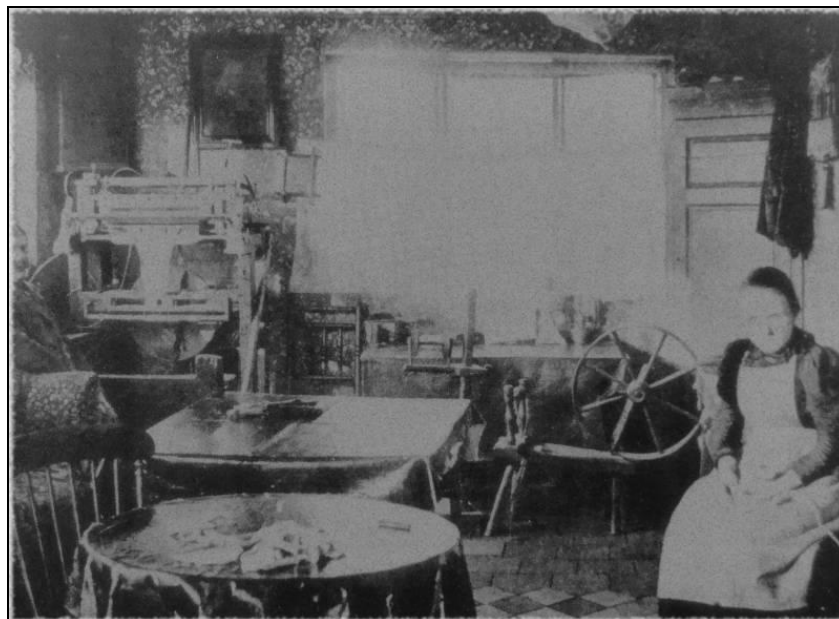
From The History, Gazetteer and Directory of Leicestershire, and the small County of Rutland – July 25th 1846 William White

HEATHER, a village and parish, 4[^] miles S.S.E. of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, and 5\ miles N. by W. of Market Bosworth, has 368 souls, and about 1012 acres of land, under which coal has been worked more than two centuries, but the mine has been closed some years. The soil is chiefly a light sandy loam, with a small portion of deep rich loam. The parish is traversed on the east by a rivulet, and bounded on the north and south by a detached part of Derbyshire. Two-fifths of it are arable, and the rest pasturage and meadow. Here was anciently a Coramandery of Knights Hospitallers, of St. John of Jerusalem, to which Ralph Gresley, in the reign of Henry II., gave the church and parish. The only vestige at present remaining of this building is some wainscoting in the Manor House, which stands upon its site. Its revenues were estimated at £49. Is. 5d. per annum, at the dissolution, when it was granted to Oliver St. John and Robert Thornton. A great part of the parish belongs to Robert Goode and Thos. Clare, Esqrs., who have commodious residences here ; but the Rev. G. P. Belcher, B.D., who resides at the Manor House, a neat Elizabethan mansion, is lord of the manor, and patron and incumbent of the discharged rectory, valued in K.B. at £]. 17s. 8d. and in 1831 at jG377« The glebe is 42a., and there is upon it an ancient residence. The tithes have recently been commuted for £320 per annum The Church (St. John) is an ancient fabric, with a tower, short spire, and three bells. It is about to be repaired, and the chancel rebuilt,

In the latter is a mural monument, in memory of Stephen Everard Esq., who died in 1615, and is represented with his family, in the attitude of prayer. The Wesleyans have a chapel here, and in the village are about **50 stocking frames**, and a neat National School, built in 1845. The Queen Dowager gave £20, and Earl Howe £30, towards the erection of the latter, which has room for 80 children.



A framework knitter working at his machine in his home



A typical Framework Knitters house

Further evidence relating to framework knitting /
hosiery activity in Coleorton

COLEORTON, in the county of Leicester.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,
By Benjamin Cheate,
On Monday and Tuesday, July 24th and 25th, 1826,
All the HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, Shop
Goods and Fixtures, Cheese, Bacon, Cows, Hay,
Stocking Frames, and other effects of the late
Mr. GEORGE WAYTE.

The first day's sale comprises the Household Furniture,
Shop Goods, &c.

The second day's sale comprises two small 4-calved
Cows, and weighing, stock, stack of Hay, (to be taken off
the premises) and the following Stocking Frames:

NO.	GAUGE	QUANTITY	WHERE AT
1	24	Plain	On the premises
2	24	Do.	Ditto
3	24	Do.	Ditto
4	25	Do.	Ditto
5	30	Do.	John Biggs's, Hugglescote
6	28	Do.	Hugh Larder's, Markfield
7	21	Do.	Ditto
8	21	Do.	Thomas Warren's, ditto
9	24	Rib	Hickingbottom's, Hathern
10	30	Plain	Anderson's, Sheep-head
11	25	Do.	James Ridge's, Coleorton

The first day's sale to commence in the morning at ten
o'clock; the second at four o'clock in the afternoon.

N.B. All persons who have claims upon the effects of
the late Mr. George Wayte, are requested to send in their
accounts, that the same may be discharged. And all per-
sons who stood indebted to the deceased, are desired to pay
the same immediately to the executors, Mr. NEWBOLD,
of Dyston; Mr. BURTON, of Belton; or Mr. JOHN-
SON, of Coleorton.

This advertisement will not be repeated.

(The Auctioneer.)

This is a copy of an advert from the Leicester Chronicle – July 15th 1826 re the sale of the late Mr. George Wayte's property at Coleorton.

It includes 11 stocking frames for sale, 6 of which appear to be loaned out on contract. They are of various gauges and quality as can be seen in the 2nd and 3rd columns.

William Sherwin (b.1768 - d.1854) Involvement in Banking

The Leicestershire Banking Company

Further proof of the **Sherwins'** financial standing in the area can be seen from the following, which was the catalyst for this bank's formation. This was reported in the "Leicestershire Chronicle" on January 24th 1829. This is only an extract, and the newspaper contains the full and interesting report on the meeting:-

*At a meeting held at "The Three Crowns Inn" in Leicester on Friday January 2nd 1829, with William Kenworthy Esq., in the chair, it was resolved that the previous proposals for the formation of a Public Banking Company in the town of Leicester be adopted; that subscription books be forthwith opened at the office of Mr. Adcock, Solicitor in Leicester, to whom application for shares may be made, but the same are to be subject to the approbation of the committee; that the following gentlemen be appointed to the committee to take the necessary steps to carry the establishment into effect, with power to add to their numbers, and that five shall be a quorum. Amongst the twenty two members of the original committee were the brothers **John Sherwin** (d.1840) and **William Sherwin** (b.1768). By 1836, **John Sherwin**, **William Sherwin, senior and junior** and **Edward Fisher** (see later articles re Edward Fisher the Ashby solicitor) were all shareholders*

By 1851, business was being carried out in the following places:-

Leicester, **Ashby De La Zouch**, Market Harborough, Market Bosworth, Melton Mowbray, Hinckley and Atherstone. By this time **John Sherwin** (d.1840) had passed away, but both **William Sherwin Senior** (b.1768) and **William Sherwin Junior** (b.1809) are listed under the numerous persons of which the company partnership now consisted.

The following is taken from the book entitled "An Illustrated History of Market Street, Ashby de la Zouch by kind permission of Robert Jones.



This stone monument to Victorian financial probity, now the HSBC bank building in Market Street, Ashby de la Zouch, was built in 1891. Two buildings were demolished to make way for the bank. One building was owned by the Grammar School, it was leased by Thomas Smith Kirkland in 1829, and remained as a doctor's or surgeon's house until 1880. Kirkland was a descendant of the original Dr. Kirkland who was summoned to treat the steward murdered by Earl Ferrers at Staunton Harold Hall in the 1700s. Earl Ferrers was subsequently tried, found guilty, and hanged for the murder 250 years ago.

The original Queen's Head coaching inn stood on the eastern half of the current HSBC site. It would appear that the premises fronted Market Street. Access to the stables was via the current Lamb Yard adjacent to the old Saracen's Head. The Queen's Head was sold in 1815, and the name and trade transferred to the Angel. It is possible that the premises were re-built to make way for the bank described below. The Queen's Head continues in business to this day at 79, Market Street.

From "A History of Ashby de la Zouch" by Scott

*Where the Leicestershire (now HSBC) bank now stands, there used to be a small private bank, owned wholly, or in part, By Messrs **Fisher**, Simmonds & Mammatt. As these men were locally well known and respected, the townsfolk had the utmost confidence in the bank. Great therefore was the surprise, when in 1835 the bank stopped payment. Popular opinion attributed the failure of the bank to the self-regarding actions of Edward Mammatt. He built the Manor House in 1831-2 and died in 1835. Within two days, the bank had stopped trading and was declared bankrupt. Edward Mammatt had been the steward to the Marquis of Hastings, a position on his death succeeded to by his son John Simmonds Mammatt.*

The bank building was acquired by "The Leicestershire Banking Company" (referred to above in connection with the Sherwins') as a branch of this Leicester based bank. We know from newspaper records that the branch had been established here by 1851.

<p style="text-align: center;">William Sherwin (b.1768 – d.1854) Loughborough to Swannington Railway</p>
--

Leicester Chronicle Oct 18th 1834 – Proposed Railway from Loughborough to Swannington.

William Sherwin (senior) was elected chairman of a meeting convened at "The Three Crowns Hotel" in Leicester to discuss a railway communication between Loughborough and the Leicestershire coalfield and lime quarries to where the "Leicester and Swannington" and "Coleorton Railways" join (this was at the incline, Swannington).

This is another example of the **Sherwins'** involvement and influence in the business fraternity.

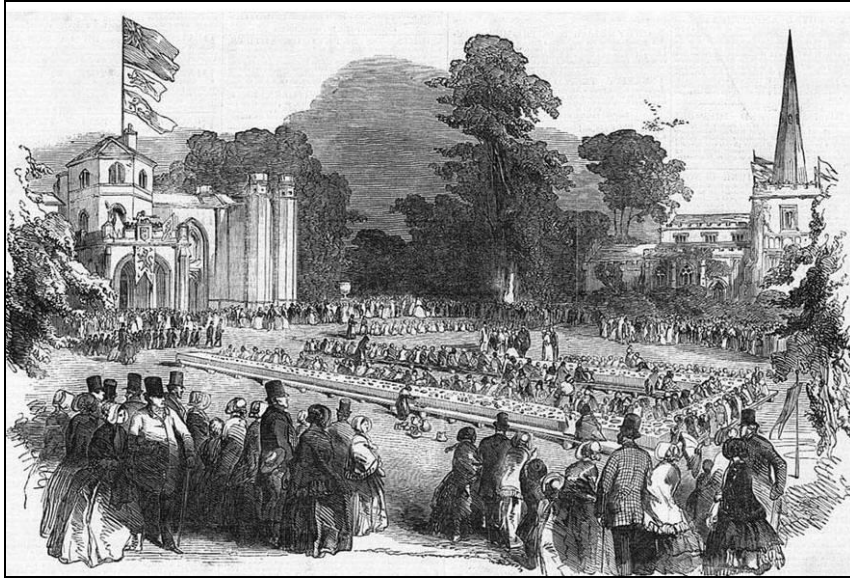
Sir George Howland Beaumont 9th baronet of Coleorton Hall – Attainment of Majority



Portrait of Sir George Howland Beaumont 9th Baronet, by
Eden Upton Eddis

At the time **William Sherwin** (b.1809) solicitor / attorney was land agent to Sir George Howland Beaumont (see following article), Sir George attained his majority, and it seemed fitting to include the following report from the “Leicester Mercury” dated September 15th 1849 at this juncture. The **Sherwins’** were clearly good and loyal friends of the Beaumonts’, and **William Sherwin senior (aged 81 at the time)** was the Chairman at the celebrations:-

Festivities at Coleorton. – On Wednesday, the attainment by Sir George Beaumont of his majority, and his thus succeeding to the full enjoyment of the honours as well as possessions of the House of Beaumont, was celebrated with great rejoicing by all his tenantry and the inhabitants generally. The bells rang – guns were fired – “The Melbourne Brass-Band” blew its blithest strains - the cottagers were supplied from the Hall with beef, bread and ale, and some of the workmen with blankets and other clothing – ponies ran races that had never run a race before – and after sundry loyal and neighbourly demonstrations had been made by the assembled multitude, “one cheer more” was given with right lusty lungs as the young baronet expressed his hope that the holiday might become an annual one. Sir George and his friends then adjourned to the Hall, where we cannot doubt but an elegant entertainment was provided. In the after-part of the day, upwards of seventy of the tenantry and tradesmen sat down to an excellent dinner at the Beaumont Arms, the repast (we learn from the brother-pen of the Journal) being not only ample, but sumptuous. **William Sherwin, Esq.**, was in the chair, and was supported by Messrs. Walker and Knight as vice-chairman. The venerable Chairman (**upwards of eighty years of age**) discharged his duties with great ability and animation; and several appropriate addresses were delivered by him and others including Sir George Beaumont, Mr. Hodgson (who was associated with Mrs. Howley in the management of the Beaumont property during Sir George’s Minority), Mr. W. Beaumont, the Vice-Chairman, Mr. J. Bonnett, Mr. Onslaw (who avowed, with great heartiness, that he was fond of fox hunting) &c. On Thursday, about 800 women and children were invited to a tea-party in honour of the happy event; and many were their wishes, over their “innocent cups”, that Sir George Beaumont, might long live to enjoy the wealth and honours to which he had just succeeded.



The above print is described in an “Illustrated London Newspaper” dated Oct 1849 as follows – “Fete at Coleorton Hall to celebrate the majority of Sir George H Beaumont, 9th baronet.”



An oil painting of the festivities – artist unknown

The fete was held in 1849 to celebrate the coming of age (21) of Sir George Howland Beaumont 9th Baronet of Stoughton, who was born on Sept 12th 1828, and died in 1882. He inherited the estate in 1845 at the age of 17 following the death of his father, Sir George Howland Willoughby Beaumont 8th Baronet (1799 – 1845). He became High Sheriff of Leicestershire in 1852, a position held by his father in 1830.

Edward Butt Knight was land agent for the Beaumonts' between 1827 and 1844 (the year in which he died) and in 1845, the year in which Sir George Howland Willoughby Beaumont 8th baronet died, there is a record that a Frederick Edward Knight took over for a short period. **William Sherwin junior** (b.1808) and son of **William Sherwin the elder** (b.1768) took over the position of land agent / steward for the new Lord of the manor, Sir George Howland Beaumont 9th baronet in 1847. At this time, **William** was living in Ashby de la Zouch. There are only records available from the period 1847 to 1850 showing that **William Sherwin, junior** held the position during that time, but we know he continued in that roll till c.1854.

An Agreement made the *sixth* day of *April*, One Thousand Eight Hundred and *forty nine*, between *William Sherwin* as Agent for, and on behalf of SIR GEORGE HOWLAND BEAUMONT, BARONET, of the one part, and *James Knight* of *Wothington Farm*, of the other part; *Witnesseth* that in consideration of the Rents and Agreements hereinafter respectively reserved and contained by the said *James Knight*, his Executors, Administrators, and Assigns; to be respectively paid, observed, and performed. The said *William Sherwin*, hereby agrees to set to the said *James Knight*, who hereby agree to take all that Messuage, and all those Lands, with the Out-buildings, Rights, and Appurtenances thereto belonging, situate at *Wothington*, in the Parish of *Breton on the Hill*, in the County of Leicester; and more particularly described in the Schedule hereunder written, excepting and reserving unto the said SIR GEORGE HOWLAND BEAUMONT, the Hares, Rabbits, Pheasants, Partridges, Snipes and other Game from time to time upon the said premises with full power by himself, his Servants and Friends, and others by his permission, to follow, pursue, and preserve the same, and to sport over the same premises. To *Sold* the said premises from the sixth day of April now *instant*, for the term of one year, and so on from year to year so long as both parties shall agree, and until six calendar months notice in Writing shall be given previous to the end of any one year, by either party, to quit or leave the said premises at the end of the year for which such notice shall be so given. Paying unto the said SIR GEORGE HOWLAND BEAUMONT, during the said term, the yearly Rent of *One hundred and fifty Pounds*, of lawful British money in even portions quarterly, on the sixth day of July, the eleventh day of October, the sixth day of January, and the sixth day of April in every year. Also paying during the said term unto the said SIR GEORGE HOWLAND BEAUMONT, on the days aforesaid, (in addition to the yearly Rent hereinbefore reserved,) for every Acre of meadow or pasture ground, which the said *James Knight*, his Executors, Administrators, or Assigns shall plough, break up, or convert into tillage contrary to the Agreement hereinafter contained, the yearly Rent of Twenty pounds of like lawful money, on the days, and in manner aforesaid; the first payment of the said additional Rent to be made on such of the said days as shall happen next after such ploughing, breaking up, or conversion into tillage as aforesaid. And the said *James Knight*, for himself, his Heirs, Executors, and Administrators, hereby agrees with the said SIR GEORGE HOWLAND BEAUMONT in manner following; namely during the continuance of this Agreement to pay unto the said SIR GEORGE HOWLAND BEAUMONT, at the times and in manner aforesaid, the said Rents hereby reserved, or such of them as shall be payable; and also to pay all taxes, rates, and assessments, (except Property and Land tax,) which during the said term shall become payable in respect of the said premises; also during the continuance of this agreement to maintain and keep the said Farm and premises, with the gates, roads, stiles, fences, drains, bridges, ditches, and water-courses in tenantable repair, being allowed materials in the rough for that purpose: Also to keep in good repair and condition the fixtures and windows of the said Messuage and buildings, and the pumps and wells, if any, about the same. Also to spend and consume all the hay, straw, and fodder to be produced from the said lands and the manure and compost arising therefrom upon the premises to the best advantage, and not sell or dispose thereof, or any part thereof. Also not to break up any meadow or pasture land which has been laid down

Example of an agreement drawn up between Sir George Howland Beaumont, 9th baronet and James Knight when William Sherwin (b.1809) was Land Agent / Steward and Solicitor to Sir George

more than Two years, without a written consent. Also in every year during this Agreement, to plash the hedges, and secure the ditches belonging to the said premises, and to preserve the timber growing thereon. Also not to underlet the said premises or any part thereof without a written consent. Also to deliver yearly at Colorton-Hall Stables, if required, 3 full loads of wheat-Straw, for which the said James Knight, shall receive the value in Tans, and yearly to do four days work in carting for the use of the Landlord with a waggon, four horses, and two men gratis, not being required to go more than fourteen miles from home on any one day. Also to allow the Landlord the liberty of taking land for planting, exchange or otherwise without notice, by the Tenants being allowed a debitation of Rent according to the quality of the Land so to be taken; and for all improvements that he may have made thereon and not received the benefit of such debitation being settled by arbitration, if not otherwise agreed upon. Also to adopt such a mode of cultivating the arable land belonging to the said Farm, as shall most tend to the progressive improvement thereof, but not to take more than two white crops in succession without a deal fallow or if the state of the land will permit, at the discretion of the Agent, any other ameliorating crop. Also to allow the Landlord or his Agent with or without workmen, or others at any time or times during this Agreement, to enter upon the said premises or any part thereof, to view the condition thereof. Also in the last year of the said term, to allow the Landlord, or the succeeding Tenant to enter upon two-thirds of the arable Land on the thirteenth day of February previously to the said James Knight, quitting the same, on the understanding that such Landlord or succeeding Tenant shall allow to the outgoing Tenant the fair value of the wheat, Seeds, (if the same succeed,) and stubbles which shall in due and regular course have been sown by the off-going Tenant in the last year, such value to be ascertained by reference to arbitration in the usual manner, if the parties disagree about the same.

And witness the Hands of the said parties James Knight shall during the life of the said James Knight under this Agreement consume at the dwellinghouse thereon exclusively coal from the Smale Colony congruing to the said for George Francis Baumann - to Whites the hands of the said parties -

The schedule,

Description.	Quantity
Colorton,	a r p
53. Birch Coppice Acre,	5 2 4.
54. Acre, do	5 3 17
55. Long Acre	4 2 15.
57. Long Birch Coppice Acre,	5 1 25.
58. Little do	3 0 24

James Knight, 24. 2. 8.

Part of Park Land, Remainder occupied by	Quantity
59. Joseph Walker, say	7 2 0
275. Shimmy Acre,	3 0 13.
281. Bount Park,	9 0 13.
288. Part of Joshua's Park,	4 0 1
289. Do	4 1 24
310. Part of Smith's Park,	4 3 3.
311. Do	4 3 8.
47. Part of Holly Bush Acre	5 1 15
Part of Peter's Acre and Roush Park in one	8 2 25
273. Little Roush Park	2 1 5
274. — Northington, —	76-1-35
47. Part of Holly Bush Acre	0 1 39.
Part of Peter's Acre and Roush Park in one	2 2 0
279. Parsons Meadow,	3 3 14.
280. Green Field,	6 0 12
290. Home Field,	8 0 25.
291. House, Buildings yards and garden,	2 26.
292. Part of Stone Field Croft.	1 2 32.
309. (1701) Meadow,	3 0 5.
312. Misher's Acre, Field	3 2 11
337. Fawcay's Acre	10 0 3
Total.	116-2-2

W. Thelwell
James Knight

William Sherwin (b.1809 - d.1887) Land Owner, Solicitor, Attorney, Magistrate & J.P.

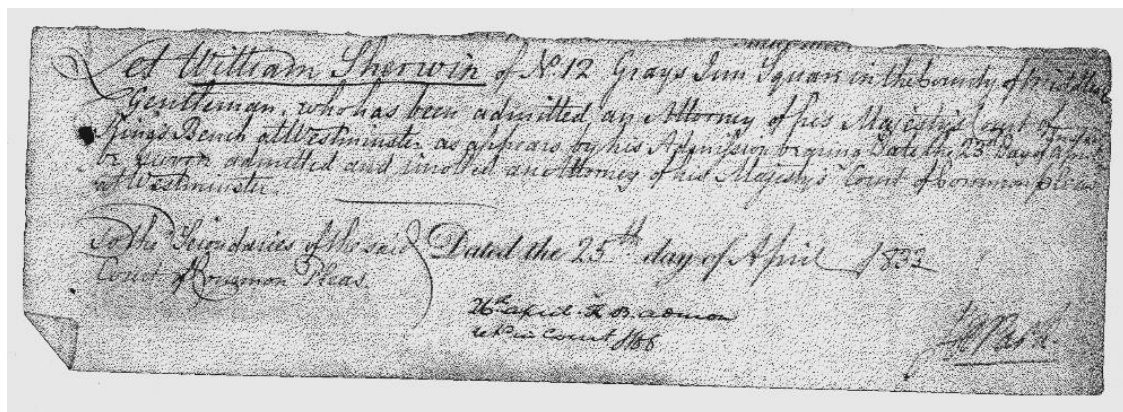
This **William Sherwin** was the son of **William Sherwin** (b.1768). He is listed in the 1841 Coleorton census aged 32, and his profession is given as solicitor. He did not follow his forbears into the hosiery business, but no doubt inherited some of their considerable wealth, and also benefited from an education in the legal profession.

William Sherwin (b.1809), became articled to Edward Fisher, solicitor of Ashby De La Zouch and his partner William Dewes (Fisher and Dewes Solicitors'), in 1825 at the age of 17. This is the first evidence found of "Fisher's Solicitors" in Ashby De La Zouch who are still in business in Kilwardby Street today (see later text).

Edward Fisher had an interesting pedigree, and was a blood-line descendant of John Fisher of Foremark (d.1619), Thomas Fisher of Caldicote Hall, Leicester, John Fisher Lord of The Manor and Rector of Higham-on-the-Hill, Leics (father). He was also connected to Geoffrey Francis Fisher, Baron Fisher (5 May 1887 – 15 September 1972) who became Archbishop of Canterbury from 1945 to 1961.

The documents relating to **William Sherwin's** admittance as an attorney on April 25th 1833, are held at the National Archives Kew, and below is a copy of part of the documents referring to his admittance. His address was No.12, Grays Inn Square, Middlesex, London.

Gray's Inn has a long and interesting history in connection with the legal profession, and those interested to find out more can refer to the internet.



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Presumably **William Sherwin** had achieved a high standard as the following appeared in the London Gazette on Tuesday, July 30th, 1833:-

Whitehall July 26, 1833. The Lord Chancellor has also appointed **William Sherwin, of Coleorton**, in the County of Leicester, Gent, to be "Master Extraordinary" in the High Court of Chancery".

Numb. 19071.

[1447]



The London Gazette.

Published by Authority.

TUESDAY, JULY 30, 1833.

Downing-Street, July 29, 1833.

THE King has been graciously pleased to nominate and appoint Lieutenant-General Sir George Anson and Lieutenant-General Sir John Ormsby Vandeleur, Knights Commanders of the Most Honourable Military Order of the Bath, to be Knights Grand Crosses of the said Order.

Commission signed by the Lord Lieutenant of the County of Wilts.

Whitehall, July 26, 1833.

The Lord Chancellor has appointed Robert Wreford, of Gatton-house, Bow, in the county of Devon; Gent. to be a Master Extraordinary in the High Court of Chancery.

The Lord Chancellor has also appointed William Sherwin, of Coleorton, in the county of Leicester; Gent. to be a Master Extraordinary in the High Court of Chancery.

In "The Legal Observer or Journal of Jurisprudence" Nov 1832 to April 1833, the following is stated:-

Attorney's to be admitted in Easter Term 367 – Edward Fisher, Ashby De La Zouch and William Sherwin of 12 Gray's Inn Square.

It seems from the above, that although William Sherwin was articled to Edward Fisher solicitor, they were both admitted as attorneys' at the same time. An **attorney** or, more correctly, an **attorney-at-law**, is a member of the legal profession who represents a client in court when pleading or defending a case, whereas, **solicitors** are permitted to conduct litigation in court but not to plead cases in open court.

William Sherwin (b.1809), forged a legal association and friendship with Edward Fisher of Ashby De La Zouch, which presumably resulted in Edward Fishers' marriage to his sister Mary, as described on the following page.

William Sherwin (b.1768) only had one daughter who was named Mary and she married Edward Fisher. "A Genealogical & Heraldic History of the Landed Gentry of Great Britain, Volume 2", reported the wedding taking place, as did "The Gentleman's Magazine & Historical Chronicle for the year 1827 – Volume 97" and "The Gentleman's Magazine 1827 – Volume 174".

Edward Fisher (born 1799) of Ashby-De-La-Zouch, married Mary, only daughter of William Sherwin esq.,(b.1768) and brother of William Sherwin (b.1809) at St Mary's Church, Coleorton on January 31st 1827 and had issue as follows :-

Edward Fisher b.30th Sept 1828. He married Emeline, daughter of the Rev T Simpson of Pannal, Yorkshire in April 1857

Matilda Fisher married 6th June 1860 to Joseph Holt esq., of Wedderburn House, Harrogate, Yorks and had issue – Harold Edward Sherwin-Holt CBE b. 11th Oct 1862 and Edith Mary Sherwin-Holt.

The earliest record of **Fisher & Sherwin**, solicitors, which the author can find was in 1836, and prior to this, in 1825, 1829 and 1834 there was a Fisher and Dewes, solicitors recorded, but later Mr. Dewes seemed to be in business on his own.

In White's 1842 trade directory, "Fisher & **Sherwin**, Attorneys', Kilwardby Street, Ashby-De-La-Zouch are listed, and there is also a reference to **William Sherwin** Esq., Solicitor, Market Place. William Sherwin is also listed in the Coleorton 1841 census so it is assumed that he moved from Coleorton to Ashby de la Zouch shortly after the 1841 Coleorton census as in the 1841 Ashby census there is a mention of Rotherwood being his residence. "Rotherwood House" is / was situated across the road from the entrance to Willesley Golf Club. **William Sherwin** actually rented Rotherwood House as we will see later.

The following appeared in the "Law Journal Gazette 1841, Bankrupts and Dividends List, Town and Country Fiats (Decrees):-

June 8th – Davenport, William of Ashby De La Zouch in the County of Leicester, cabinet maker, upholsterer, builder, d.e. – Solicitors "Fisher and Sherwin", Ashby De La Zouch, Dewes, Ashby De La Zouch and Austen and Hobson, Raymond-Buildings. Fiat (decree) June 1st. Pet. Cr. William Sherwin Senior of Coleorton, Leicestershire, Farmer.

"The Gentleman's Magazine (volume XIX New Series 174)" Jan to June 1843 reported that:-

William Sherwin esq., (b.1809) of "Rotherwood", Leics married Frances-Cecelia, eldest daughter of the Rev. Charles Pratt, Vicar of Packington on March 30th 1843.....There is no record of them having issue. Frances Cecelia was twelve years younger than William and born in 1821.

William Sherwin would have come into money around this time as in the Leicester Journal dated January 6th 1843, the residence he had inherited from his uncle John Sherwin in 1840 was put up for sale as follows –

To be sold by private contract

All that neat cottage residence situate at Swannington, and lately occupied by Mr. John Sherwin, deceased, and now by Mr. Tandy, with labourer's cottage, stable, gig house, cowsheds, garden and other out-buildings, and closes of excellent old turf land adjoining, containing from 18 to 19 acres.

The house is pleasantly situated out of the village and a purchaser may be accommodated with an additional quantity of land, if wished, and with a large portion of the purchase money on security of the property.

For further particulars apply to Mr. Sherwin of Coleorton, or to Messrs. Fisher and Sherwin, Ashby de la Zouch.

At the same time, the Leicester Journal dated January 13th 1843 contained the following advertisement for his house in Coleorton –

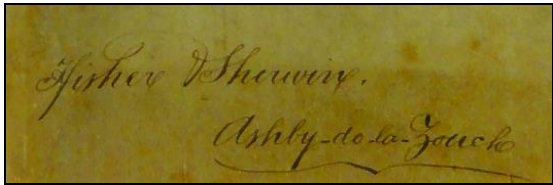
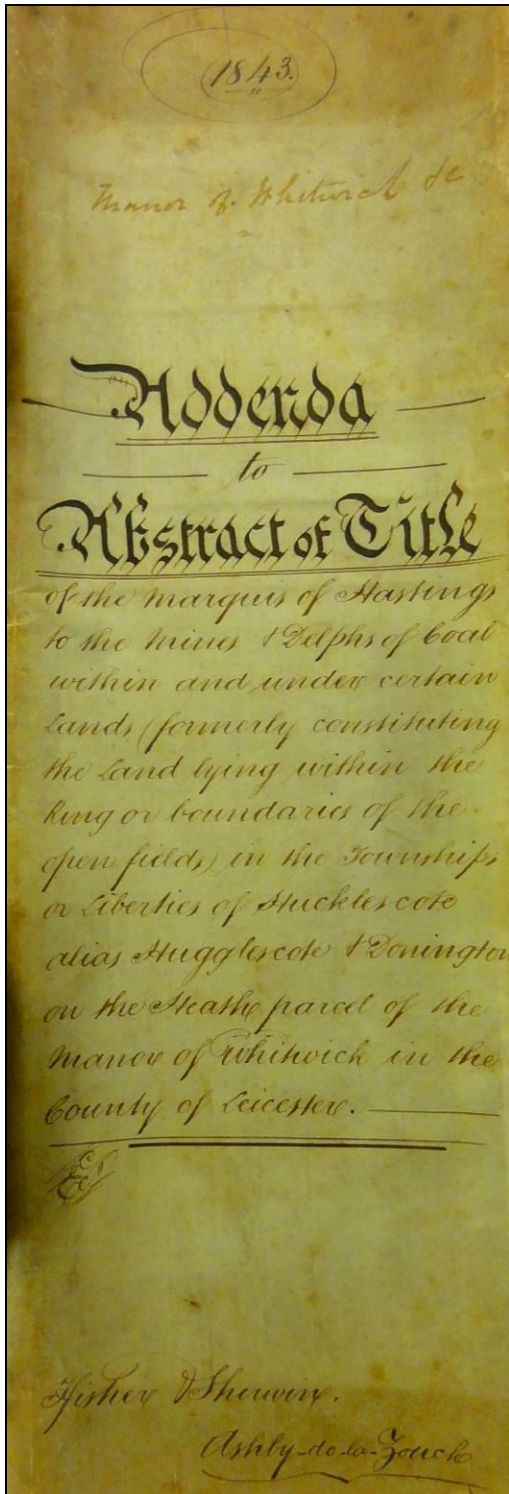
From Year to Year or for a Term

A comfortable dwelling house, suited to a small family, at present in the occupation of William Sherwin, containing two sitting and two bedrooms, with servant's apartments, and kitchens, pantries, gig house, stable, gardens and other out buildings, all in complete repair. Rent moderate. Possession may be had at any time, and tenantry may be accommodated with six or seven acres of turf land, or more if wished.

For further information apply to Mr. Sherwin of Coleorton, or Messrs. Fisher and Sherwin, Ashby de la Zouch.

We perhaps should not read too much into the following, but it was reported in the Leicester Journal, Friday December 7th 1849, that at Ashby De La Zouch Petty Sessions on December 1st 1849:-

Mary Bradbury charged a William Sherwin with being the father of her illegitimate child. Order made for 1s 3d weekly.



The above document dated 1843 relating to Addenda to Abstract of Title of the Marquis of Hastings is included to confirm the Fisher / Sherwin Solicitors partnership described previously.

In "The Accounts and Papers of the House of Commons 1852/3" for turnpike roads, both **William Sherwin junior** and Edward Fisher of Ashby De La Zouch are listed as Clerks for the following trusts respectively – "Burton Bridge to Market Bosworth" and "Hinckley and Melbourne".

As mentioned earlier, the Ashby De La Zouch 1861 census shows that **Elizabeth Sherwin** from Coleorton (mother of **William Sherwin junior** b.1809) was living with her daughter **Mary Fisher** (sister of **William Sherwin junior** who was married to Edward Fisher) at what was believed to be the adjacent property to the original "**Sherwin and Fisher's Solicitors**". This is now one building in 2014 and is still "Fisher's Solicitors" offices. Evidence of a bricked up front entrance and an unused boot / shoe scraping iron can still be observed on the "Fisher Solicitors" building.



Front view of Fisher's Solicitors offices 2014



Former R.H. building doorway



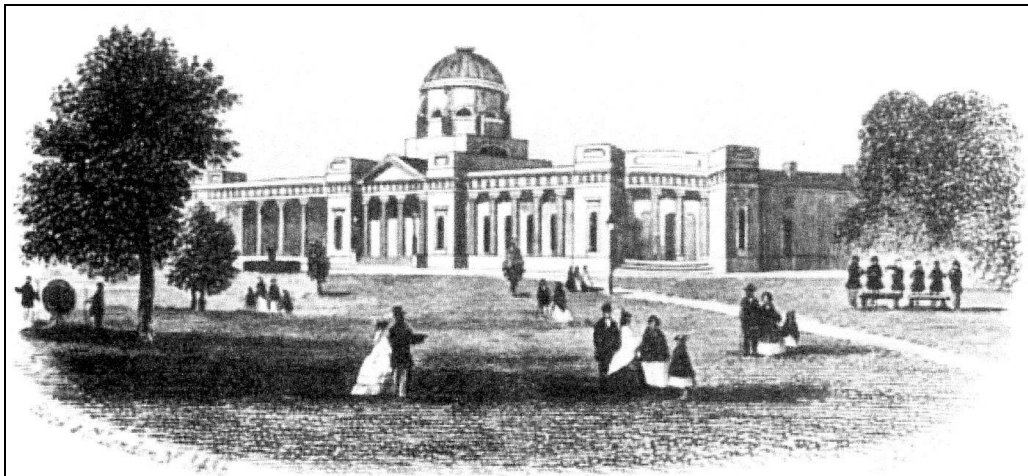
Close up of boot / shoe scraper on front of former R.H. doorway.

We should be under no illusion that "**Sherwin and Fisher**" were highly respected gentlemen in Ashby de la Zouch, Coleorton and the wider community, and besides their legal expertise there are numerous examples of **William Sherwin's** concern for the poor and afflicted. Even those in business that he handled legal matters for voiced their great respect for him.

**Ashby de la Zouch Agricultural Show held in fields near to the
“Manor House” September 1849. Extract from a lengthy report
published in the Leicester Mercury Sept 22nd 1849 at which
“Fisher and Sherwin” were among the esteemed guests at the
dinner in the “Ivanhoe Baths”.**

.....shortly after 3 o'clock, DINNER was served up in the handsome and lofty ball and concert-room at the Baths; and everything connected with the provisions and arrangements did great credit to Mr. Beavington, as host, and Messrs. Dewes and Eames, for their careful supervision. To both these last named gentlemen, the reporters were all greatly indebted for the courtesies and attention shown them from the first moment they entered the show-yard to the close of dinner.

The chair was taken by J. C. Pye, Esq., of Clifton Hall, who was supported on the right and left by Earl Howe and Sir Hanson Berney. Among the rest of the company (which was numerous and highly respectable) we observed – E. B. Farnham, Esq., M.P., T. Moseley, Esq., R. G. Creswell, Esq., R. J. Hood, Esq., **Edward Fisher, Esq.**, J. Carver, Esq., W. Dewes, Esq., J. Mammatt, Esq., H. Wood, Esq., **Wm. Sherwin, Esq.**, Captain Sweet, R. Green, Esq., Messrs. J. L. Hassall, of Packington, (vice-chairman) Wilmore. Hassall Jun., Beasley, Mowbray Hall (Woodhouse),.....&c. &c.



An etching by Robert Chaplin, who was the architect for the Ivanhoe Baths built in 1822 (Sadly they were demolished in 1962)

“Fisher and Sherwin”, solicitors, were still operating in 1852, but It was reported in the London Gazette on Friday April 8th and The Leicester Mercury on Saturday April 16th, 1853 that the partnership of E. Fisher, **W. Sherwin** and T. B. Dalby of Ashby-De-La-Zouch (attorneys) had been dissolved. T. B. Dalby was apparently a new partner. In the Leicester Journal dated July 15th 1853, “Fisher and Son”, solicitors had been formed, the son would have been Edward Fisher junior born in 1828 and referred to earlier. **William Sherwin** left the area in 1855, which is confirmed by the following article. **William** clearly kept a residence in Coleorton whilst renting “Rotherwood House” in Ashby.

1855 - Presentation & Testimonial to William Sherwin junior Esq., at Coleorton

Newspaper Article – Leicester Journal April 20th 1855

*In consequence of the removal of **W. Sherwin, Esq.**, for many years the respected steward of Sir George Howland Beaumont from Coleorton, a number of his friends and neighbours recently resolved to present to him conjointly with his esteemed lady, a testimonial consisting of a silver ink-stand and silver paper knife. The inkstand bore the following inscription – “Presented to **W. Sherwin, Esq.**, and his much esteemed Lady, on the occasion of their withdrawal from the neighbourhood of Coleorton, by a large circle of those acquainted with them, as a token of respect for his high integrity and their unbounded liberality. 18th April, 1855.”*

*At three o'clock on Wednesday afternoon last, about 50 gentlemen who took an interest in the matter, sat down to dinner at the Beaumont Arms, Coleorton. The chair was taken by **W. Stenson, Esq. Coalville (this was the son of William Stenson senior who at this time was still manager and partner of Whitwick Colliery Co.)** and the vice chair by **Thos. Walker, Esq.** There were also present:- **Mr. W. Sherwin**, Messrs. Walker, Potter, Law, Bonnett, R. Bonnett, J. Ayre, Orton, Wright, Faux, Henderson, Heward, W. Kidger, W. Kidger, jun., J. Knight, J. Wardle, jun., W. Wardle, jun., J. Burton, J. Waterfield, J. Smith and son, W. J. Orchard, Eames, Eames, T. D. Dalby, T. Fisher, E. Fisher, W. E. Smith, T. Davenport, C. Matthews, Jno. Davenport, J. Elliot, D. Bird, H. Blood, J. Ward, T. Houlst, W. Deacon, Walker, R Orchard, W. Knight, Newbold, Sharpe, R. Ayre, J. Waterfield, Jas. Knight, Johnson, Jno. Middleton, J. Bennett, Jas. Gough, Wardle, sen., F. Walker, Micklinson, H. Stretton, Wright, W. Stretton W. Lount, J. Poxon, T. Houldsworth. &c.*

The provisions were of the most sumptuous kind, and reflected great credit on the worthy host and hostess, Mr. and Mrs. Waterfield.

After the cloth was withdrawn, the health of the Queen, Prince Albert, and the rest of the Royal Family, the Emperor and Empress of France, the Army and Navy, and Allied Fleets were drunk, and heartily responded to.

The CHAIRMAN then rose to give the health of Sir Geo. Beaumont and Lady Beaumont, which was drunk with loud cheers.

***Mr. Sherwin** said he could not let the name of Beaumont pass over without some acknowledgement on his part. As he had been the steward of Sir George, it was his duty to thank them for the great kindness they had shown by drinking his health.*

*The CHAIRMAN said he had now come to the toast of the evening, namely, - the health of **Mr. and Mrs. Sherwin**, which he had no doubt would be enthusiastically received. **Mr. Sherwin's** character had been marked for that kindness and sympathy which are characteristic of a true Englishman. He had set them an example worthy of their imitation. He hoped all young men, would take pattern by him. It was twenty years since he first knew him, and he had transacted business with him ever since, and he never had occasion to alter his opinion of his kindness and integrity. He concluded by proposing the health of **Mr. and Mrs. Sherwin**, wishing them long life and happiness.*

The toast was drunk in a bumper – with three times three.

*The testimonial was then presented to **Mr. Sherwin** on behalf of the subscribers, by Messrs. Wardle, Bonnett, Burton and Walker, Mr. Davenport reading the following address:- “Sir, - We have the pleasure of requesting you to accept from your friends and neighbours a small token of their unfeigned esteem and respect. We have for a long time witnessed with much interest the example you have given of fidelity, of kind counsel and assistance to applicants in need, and of unvarying kindness and sympathy shown by yourself and **Mrs. Sherwin** to your neighbours, as well as the discharge of religious duties; and we beg to assure you in all sincerity and earnestness that on your withdrawal from the neighbourhood you will be followed by the good wishes of many beside ourselves, high and low, rich and poor, and our fervent prayers attend you, that your removal to a distant residence may be a source to yourself and **Mrs. Sherwin** of long continued happiness, and of repose from your assiduous and useful labours.”*

***Mr. SHERWIN** in reply, said he hardly knew how to express himself on this occasion, he felt himself placed in a very painful position. The testimonial which had been presented to*

him was altogether unexpected and unmerited. He should never forget their kindness as long as he lived. He should value their present very highly, not only as a piece of beautiful workmanship, but more so, when he remembered the kind motive with which it was given. If he had been in anyway useful to any person he was truly thankful for it. He would assure them that the testimonial should be placed in a prominent position in his house to make him think of them when he saw it. Many gentlemen had found fault with him because he was going away. But he was getting old (47 ??), and he thought it was time the young ones should have a chance. To the chairman he was deeply indebted for the kind manner in which he had spoken of him. He had always the greatest respect for him; the chairman's father was his first client. There was another person present whom he was greatly indebted to for the way in which he had come forward at this meeting, notwithstanding he was in a declining state of health. He concluded by thanking them for the honour they had done him and begged to drink all their good health.

Mr. SHERWIN then proposed the health of the Chairman, with thanks for his kindness in presiding over the proceedings of the day. Drunk with applause.

The CHAIRMAN briefly returned thanks, and said that if he could do anything for the happiness and comfort of his friends with whom he was associated, he was always most willing to do it. That which he was doing today was a task for him, because he was not used to public dinners. There was an individual in the room who ought to have had his health drunk instead of him. He hoped this was not the last time they should meet on such occasions. He concluded by proposing the health of Mr. Edward Fisher, successor to **Mr. Sherwin**, hoping he would follow out the example set him by his predecessor **Mr. Sherwin**, and if possible, make even a better agent. The toast was drunk with loud applause..

Mr. FISHER in returning thanks, said as he was to be the successor of **Mr. Sherwin** he hoped they would extend to him some of the sympathy which, had been accorded to that gentleman, and overlook his shortcomings, so that he might follow in his predecessor's steps as far as he was able.

The VICE-CHAIRMAN proposed the health of Mr. Heward, which was drunk with loud applause.

Mr. HEWARD briefly responded.

The CHAIRMAN then gave "The Agricultural Interest" coupled with the name of Mr. Eames. Drunk with applause.

Mr. Eames briefly returned thanks.

The CHAIRMAN proposed the health of Messrs. Bonnett, Walker, Wardle, and Davenport, all of whom had taken an active part in the proceedings.

These gentlemen having briefly replied, **Mr. SHERWIN** proposed "Success to the Colliery Interest", which was so ably represented by their good and worthy Chairman and Vice-Chairman, hoping that the price of coal would not be any higher, and that the collieries, might have an extended trade.

Mr. WALKER responded to the toast.

Mr. SHERWIN said the time had now come when he must leave them, and as he could not find time to visit them separately, he wished them a hearty farewell. Mr. Sherwin then left amid the stirring strains of "He's a jolly good fellow" led by Mr. Davenport.

The CHAIRMAN proposed the health of Mr. Davenport, who had rendered such valuable assistance on that day.

Mr. DAVENPORT said he very much regretted **Mr. Sherwin's** leaving. If they could in any way have persuaded him to stop he was sure they would have done so, but he had made up his mind to go, and there was no altering it.

The CHAIRMAN proposed the health of Mr. Horton and Mr. Walker the Vice-Chairman, which was drunk with loud applause.

Mr. HORTON said he was highly indebted to them for the high honour they had done him in drinking his health. It was 25 years since he had first come among them, and he was indebted entirely to **Mr. Sherwin** for his present position in life. What he had done in this matter was entirely from a feeling of gratification. They had a lesson to learn in the matter. **Mr. Sherwin** had acted as a gentleman, might not they all do as much? They admired him because he had assisted the poor and needy, could they not do likewise? It was very remarkable how men could appreciate a good man. He admired Mr. S both as regarding his example and precept. He concluded by proposing the health of Mr. Kidger, who like **Mr. Sherwin** had done so much for the Parish he lived in, by establishing a club, and being the chief supporter of a school.

Mr. Kidger replied, and said if he had been the means of doing any good he was truly thankful for it.

Mr. HORTON proposed the health of Mr. Stenson senior, of Coalville. He had observed that gentleman's character and had always found him to possess a real spirit of charity. He (Mr. H) knew many to whom he had lent a helping hand. Drunk with applause.

The CHAIRMAN briefly returned thanks on behalf of his father who, he stated would have been among them but for affliction. The health of Mr. Faux was then drunk, and responded to by that gentleman.

Mr. DAVENPORT proposed the health of Mr. and Mrs. Watefield the host and hostess, and complimented them for the excellent manner in which they had put the dinner on the table. (We know that John Waterfied and his wife Sarah were Landlord / Landlady at the Beaumont Arms in 1841 with servants and were clearly still there in 1855).

Mr. DAVENPORT next proposed the "Press" coupled with the names of the proprietors of the LEICESTER JOURNAL. The toast was drunk with loud applause, and acknowledged by Mr, W. Foster.

The VICE-CHAIRMAN proposed the health of Mrs. Sherwin, which was drunk with loud cheers, and responded to by the chairman.

The CHAIRMAN left the meeting about seven o'clock, but the greater part of the company remained, and the greatest conviviality and good feeling was kept up until a late hour.



The Beaumont Arms c.1994, in a state of disrepair prior to it being demolished. It was built prior to 1841. (See the book entitled "A History of Coleorton and the Locality" for more details and location).

For the record, there follows details of the advertisement in the Leicester Journal dated March 26th 1852 for the re-letting of "Rotherwood House". Presumably **William Sherwin** was residing in Coleorton from this time till he left the area in 1855 :-

To be Let – Rotherwood House

A genteel residence within a mile of Ashby de la Zouch, containing entrance hall, dining, drawing and breakfast room, three servant's rooms, water closet, laundry, and other offices, together with a double coach house, two stall stable, loose box, walled garden planted with choice fruit trees in full bearing, orchard flower garden, tastefully laid out in front of the house, and about two acres of old turf land at the back thereof.

The house is delightfully situated on high and dry ground, overlooking the town and ruins of Ashby Castle, and is within half-a-mile of the railway station, and is approached by a lodge and carriage drive from the Tamworth and Ashby turnpike road.

The premises are now occupied by William Sherwin Esq., at a moderate rent, are in excellent order, and may be entered upon the 6th April next.

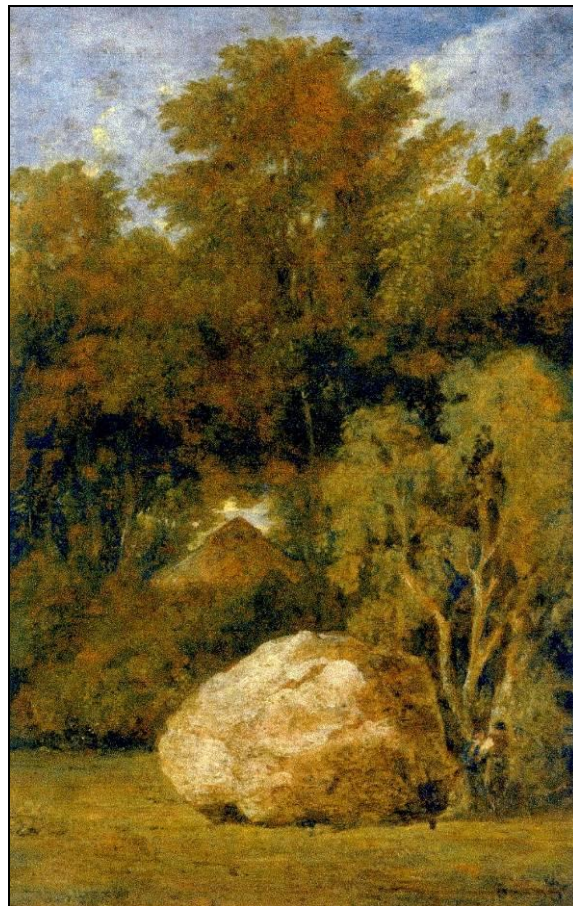
Parties desirous of taking the same may apply to – Mr. Hawksworth, Solicitor, Ashby de la Zouch.

The move to Barmoor Castle, Northumberland

William Sherwin (b.1809) moved directly to Barmoor Castle with his wife Frances Cecelia immediately after leaving Coleorton / Ashby de la Zouch.

“Barmoor Castle”, situated in Lowick, Berwick-Upon-Tweed, Northumberland, is currently a privately owned nineteenth century country house, which was originally built on an ancient site in Northumberland. It is a grade II listed building. A basic history of “Barmoor Castle” is available on the internet.

It was whilst **William Sherwin** was at Barmoor Castle, that Sir George Howland Willoughby Beaumont, 8th baronet, of Coleorton Hall, gave the following painting to him. It was painted by his father Sir George Howland Beaumont 7th Bart in 1821 and entitled “View in the Winter Garden of Coleorton Hall”. The provenance given with the picture at the Sotherby’s sale refers to his friend **William Sherwin** living at **Barmoor Castle** at the time. The picture then went by descent to his niece Mrs Matilda Sherwin-Holt of Farnborough Grange, Hampshire (see later information regarding Farnborough Grange). She was the daughter of his sister Mary and Edward Fisher of Ashby De La Zouch. The picture sold for £1,875 on 5th July 2013.



“View in the Winter Garden of Coleorton Hall” by Sir George Howland Beaumont 7th Bart

The painting was done in oil on board with dimensions of 17.5 x 11 inches. An inscription on the back of the picture states that the stone was found within a quarter of a mile of Coleorton Hall near Hall Farm and was brought to the place it is now by twenty three horses. It is called “Wilson’s Monument” from the resemblance it bears to the stones he introduced into the foreground of his pictures.

References to William Sherwin whilst at “Barmoor Castle”.

There are numerous references to **William Sherwin** living at Barmoor Castle, and the author felt that some of these should be recorded as proof :-

The Newcastle Guardian, Sat, March 1st 1856

Games License - Games licence granted to **William Sherwin**, Barmoor Castle. £4 0s 10d each for County of Northumberland.

The Newcastle Journal, Sat, March 1st, 1856

Poaching and assault upon a gamekeeper - In this case, Mr. Grey also appeared for the prosecutor who is gamekeeper of Mr. Sherwin of Barmoor for the purpose of keeping the game on moss plantation, over which **Mr. Sherwin** stated in his evidence, he held exclusive right of shooting from Mr. Sitwell.....

Newcastle Journal, Sat, June 2nd 1860

Lowick Parish Church - To the editor of the Newcastle Journal.....Sir, the Rural Dean of this district, in his report of Lowick Parish to the Archdeacon of Lindesfarne, has attributed to me work which was not done at my expense, and I at once hasten to disclaim the credit of it. I do so as much on account of those who so liberally subscribed towards the repairs of Lowick Church, as from a feeling on my own part not to allow a compliment to be publicly paid me to which I am not entitled. The report states that “the Church at Lowick”, has been carefully restored indeed, not long ago, through the instrumentality and mainly at the expense of Mr. Gregson of Lowlynn. This is simply not the case, and I am at a loss to think who could have supplied such information to the Rural Dean. It is quite true that I wrote begging letters and collected subscriptions for the restoration, and this is about the extent of my doings in the matter. The fact is, the church was restored about two years ago, partly by rate, and partly by subscription, the cost amounting to £340. 10s.; and when I add that £22 only of that sum was given by myself, your readers will not be astonished at my rushing into print to correct the report published in your journal of last week. If praise was due to anyone in particular for their exertions on behalf of the church and schools of Lowick Parish, a large proportion of it should have been awarded to **Mr. Sherwin of Barmoor Castle**. It is not a pleasant thing to praise a man through the columns of a newspaper, but as I have the precedent of our excellent Archdeacon for doing so, perhaps I may be excused on this occasion making the mention of **Mr. Sherwin**.....

I am sir, your obedient servant Henry Gregson.

The move to Keswick, Cumberland

We know that William Sherwin was still at Barmoor Castle in 1864, and it is assumed that he lived there till he moved to live near Keswick, Cumberland. We know that in 1872 / 3 he was living in Castalette (possible some confusion in spelling) in the Civil Parish of Castlerigg St. John, Keswick, Northumberland and was listed as deputy chairman of the local Magistrates Board. See the following two examples under "The Cumberland Post Office Directory" and the "**Sherwin Papers**", confirming his move to the Keswick area:-

CUMBERLAND POST OFFICE DIRECTORY

1873.

367.

KESWICK.

OFFICIAL ESTABLISHMENTS,
LOCAL INSTITUTIONS &c.

POST & MONEY ORDER & TELEGRAPH OFFICE,
Post Office Savings Bank, Government Annuity & Insurance
Office. – John FISHER, Crosthwaite, postmaster.

MAGISTRATES ATTENDING PETTY SESSIONS.

Rev. Henry GIPPS, M. A., vicar.

John James SPEDDING

Henry Anthony SPEDDING

William DENTON

Rev. Hugh Martin SHORT

William SHERWIN

Major James FAIRCLOUGH

Major Andrew Green THOMPSON.

Clerk to the Magistrates, Robert BROATCH, Station Street.

LOCAL BOARD

Major Andrew Green THOMPSON, chairman.

William SHERWIN, deputy chairman.

James Dixon LANCASTER

John WALKER

Daniel CROSTHWAITE

Surveyor, Daniel TILL

Clerk, Robert BROATCH.

Joseph TOLSON

William PEARSON

Edwin Edward POOLE.

Extract from the "Sherwin Papers" held at the Leicester Record Office.

Date 4th May 1872

Conveyance.

(i) **William Sherwin, esq, Castalette nr. Keswick, Cumberland.**

(ii) *Edward Fisher junior. Gent, Ashby de la Zouch.*

(iii) *William Perry Herrick, esq, Beaumanor Park.*

(i) and (ii) to (iii) *1/3 part of three closes at Cart Ruts or Rice Rocks, Markfield (8a 2r 21p).*

Consideration: £71.

The Edward Fisher, jun. gent (b. Sept 30th 1828) was presumably the son of Edward Fisher (solicitor of Ashby de La Zouch) who married William Sherwin's (b.1809) sister Mary.

The move to “The Grange” and estate, Farnborough, Hampshire

It is reasonable to assume that **William Sherwin** (b.1809) and his wife Frances Cecelia remained at Keswick till they moved to “The Grange”, Farnborough, Hampshire which was purchased by **William** sometime prior to 1881 and possibly in 1878 as there is a record of the property being in his possession at that time. The manor stood in a park and was surrounded by 400 acres of land. 1881 is the earliest record we have of them both living there. Frances Cecelia died on the 17th May 1889 in Southampton age 68 and **William** is recorded as dying in Sept 1887 at 78 years of age. A record of **William Sherwin’s** membership of the “History of the Berwickshire Naturalists Club”, shows that his membership was deleted in July 1888 due to death. The estate was left to his niece Mrs Matilda Sherwin-Holt the daughter of **William’s** sister Mary who married Edward Fisher of Ashby de la Zouch. The estate eventually became the seat of Mr. Harold Edward Sherwin-Holt – lord of the manor. The Grange and estate were eventually levelled for residential development. The former lodge does still remain though.



“The Grange”, Farnborough 1968 – copyright Hampshire Library and Information Services