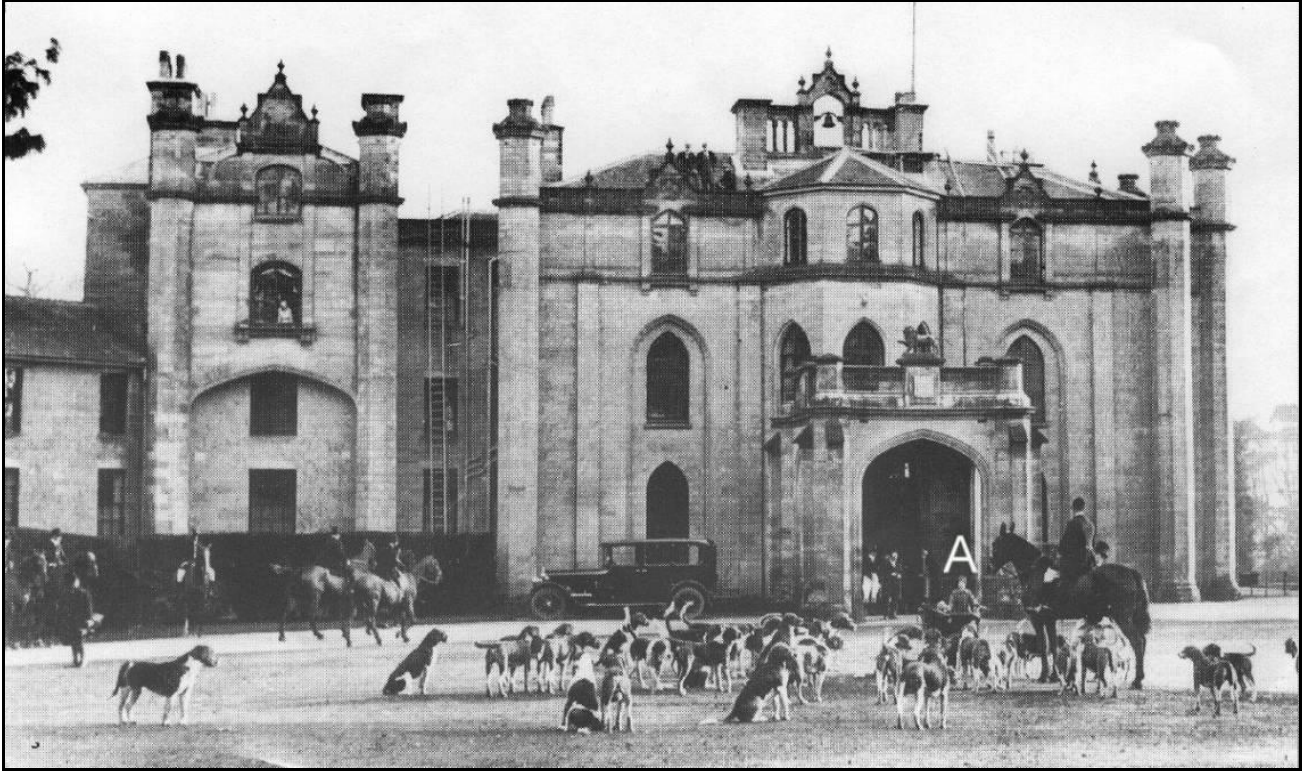


**LOCAL FOX HUNTING IN 1881 WITH EARL
FERRER'S HOUNDS**



**THE HOUNDS AND HUNTSMEN AT COLEORTON HALL BEFORE
EMBARKING ON A FOX HUNT**

S T STEWART - SEPT 2026

INTRODUCTION



In 19th-century Britain, fox hunting transformed from a regional gentry pastime into a massive, highly ritualized upper-class institution that defined Victorian rural life.

As deer hunting declined due to land enclosures and the Industrial Revolution splitting up open country, the red fox took centre stage.

Fox hunting is now banned in Great Britain of course, due to the cruelty aspect of it.

The following article describes the hunts extensive travels over local open countryside for a distance of approx 8 miles.

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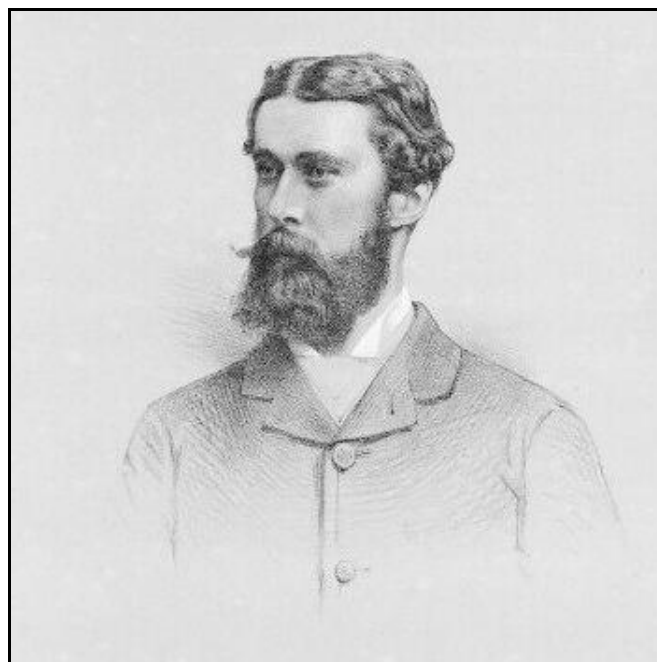
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On Tuesday, the 11th Feb 1881, Earl Ferrers hounds met at Coleorton Hall, the seat of Sir G.H. Beaumont who, on such occasions, hospitably entertains all comers.



Sir George Howland Beaumont ,11th baronet seated on one of his horses (probably "Coleorton") in his racing colours of Scarlet cap and French Grey

In 1881, the title of **Earl Ferrers**, whose hounds are referred to here, was held by Sewallis Edward Shirley, 10th Earl Ferrers. He held the title from 1859 until his death in 1912.



Soon after eleven, the huntsmen and hounds trotted off to Normanton Gorse for the first draw, which, however, today was a blank. On the way back, they drew the Spoiles Banks, and a fox was quickly away, pointing for Farm Town, through Coleorton Hall Wood. Here, scent failed, and he was given up. The hounds found again in Park Wood, but, owing to the keenness of the air, it was with difficulty that the hounds could hold the line, and, after a short run, they threw up their heads.

They then went on to South Wood, where several foxes were soon on the move. The hounds were quickly laid on one, who broke on the east side, pointing for Mr. Viarace's farmstead. He then ran through the top end of Lount Wood, over the Nottingham road, and through Coleorton Spring Wood, and the Birch Coppice, over the railway, to the right of Newbold vicarage for Worthington, as if meaning Breedon Clouds. But, changing his mind, he bore to the right up the Brand, and on the top, pointing for the village of Griffydam, but he was headed, and turned down by the Waggon and Horses, over the brook and up the valley for Gelsmoor.



The Waggon & Horses on the RH side with the road heading towards Gelsmoor and the Railway Tavern.

He crossed in front of the Railway Tavern, but, thinking he should have no time for refreshment, pressed on.



WERE THEY WATCHING THE HUNT PASS BY ?

Crossing the Ashby and Rempstone Turnpike, he turned short to the left, over a nice bit of grass, and down by the side of the old tramway. He crossed over the Ashby and Loughborough Turnpike, and was eventually lost near the old Callifat Colliery buildings. *The old "Caliphate" pit officially spelt the **Califat Coal Mine** (or Coleorton No. 2 Colliery) was located in Swannington, North-West Leicestershire, UK. The historic remains sit within a small woodland footprint known as **Califat Spinney**, which is situated just south-west of the intersection of the **A512 and A447 roads**, a few miles east of Ashby-de-la-Zouch.*

Several further casts were made, but to no good purpose. Hounds richly deserved blood, for they worked splendidly. The first part of the run was at a terrific pace. The ground run over, was at least eight miles; time 55 minutes.

Part transcribed from the Leicester Chronicle - Published Saturday, 19 February 1881

