

**SWANNINGTON HOUSE, SWANNINGTON,
LEICESTERSHIRE - THE HOME OF THE
LADY DOWAGER BEAUMONT**



**Painting of rear of Swannington House and gardens
by Miss F. E. Fullager – c.1917**

BY SAMUEL T STEWART - MARCH 2023 - Updated July 2025



THE REAR OF SWANNINGTON HOUSE IN THE EARLY 1900s

(BY c.1917, THE HOUSE AT THE REAR HAD BECOME COVERED IN IVY AND NONE OF THE DECORATIVE WOODWORK WAS VISIBLE)

COMPLIMENTARY READING

A publication entitled "Sir George Howland William Beaumont, 10th baronet of Stoughton 1851 - 1914" is free to download and read on the author's website samuelstewart.com under the subsection entitled "People"

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"Swannington House", Swannington, Leicestershire is somewhat of a mystery house, apart from the time when it became the home of the Lady Dowager Beaumont, whose former residence was Coleorton Hall.

At the end of the publication is a series of maps which shows how the footprint of the house and garden had changed from the 1882 published O/S map to the 1925 published O/S maps. Swannington House was situated almost opposite the "Fountain Inn", which over recent years has been converted into a private residence. The property was apparently demolished within a few years following the death of Dame Lillie Ellen (Ellenor) Beaumont in 1946, due to serious subsidence, although no actual record of the event has been found.

Dame Lillie Ellen (Ellenor) Beaumont was the estranged widow of the Sir George Howland William Beaumont, 10th Baronet of Stoughton, whose seat was at Coleorton hall. She died at "Swannington House" on August 17th 1946, Although her tombstone in St. Mary's graveyard, Coleorton records her death as August 18th 1946. She was aged 87 years at her death so would have been born in 1858 / 59. She was the second daughter of Major-General George Ayton Craster (Army) who was born on June 9th 1830 and died November 25th 1912. Major-General Craster joined the army in 1849 and retired in 1888. His wife was Charlotte Amelia Vincent (daughter of Colonel Vincent) who died in 1892.

The 10th baronet married Lillie Ellenor Craster on February 24th 1880 in India having met him when she was a nurse and he was her patient. Their only son Sir George Arthur Hamilton Beaumont, 11th baronet of Stoughton was born on January 18th 1881 and inherited on the death of his father in 1914.

The 10th baronet deserted his well respected wife at some point in the 1880's and moved to AIX LES BAINS FRANCE, to live with his mistress Mademoiselle Gabriel Louise Liegeard. He died at Boulevard, de la Roche du Roi villa Russie., in 1914

The baronet clearly had no intention of returning to Coleorton and the inference from what records are available, seems to be that he was attempting to sell off any possible assets even down to trees on the estate.

As Coleorton Hall was being leased by the Donisthorpes from 1891 to 1991 and the Abel Smiths from 1901 to 1926, this suggests that the Dowager Lady, could have been living at Swannington House from c.1890.

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Raymond Walker who was the 11th Baronet's chauffeur, used to take the Lady Dowager's two grand children Francis and Brienne to see her at Swannington House every day in the early 1930's.



The above photograph dated 1919, shows the Lady Dowager Beaumont sitting to the left of her son (11th Baronet) with her friend and personal companion Mrs. Peberdy on his right.

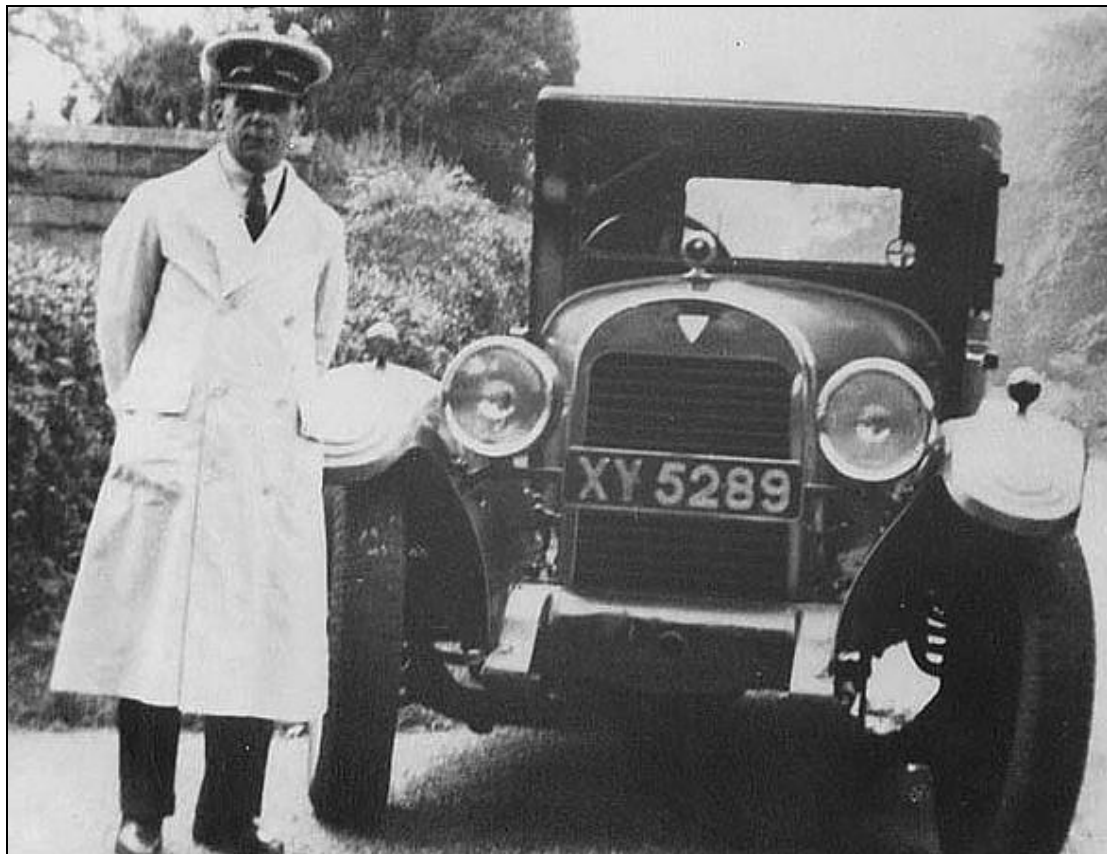
In her will, the Lady Dowager left £50 to her “dear friend” Helen M. K. Peberdy. Mrs. Peberdy, widow of a clergyman, was a friend and personal companion of the Dowager Lady Beaumont for many years, and resided with her at Swannington House.

Margaret Bannister, a past senior resident of Stoney Lane Coleorton, and mother of the author's wife, vividly remembered the Lady Dowager walking from Swannington to Coleorton church and around the village in her long black dresses. Apparently she was a much loved and respected lady by the villagers.

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Following the announcement of the death of her husband in the Coalville Times in 1914, Lady Beaumont sent them the following for publication:-

I have been most deeply touched by all the love and sympathy which have been shown to me by the people of Coleorton in the great sorrow which has come into my life; and I want to thank them all from the depth of my heart. Much of the sympathy has of necessity, been unspoken: but I have known it was there, have read it in every face, and felt it all around me. It has helped and supported me in my sorrow more than I can ever say, and all my life I shall remember it. I count as one of God's richest gifts to me, the love of the people of Coleorton that has never failed me in all of the thirty five years I have lived amongst them, and without it my life would lose one great source of happiness. The link that binds us together has held fast through generation after generation of our forefathers, and will ensure, please God, for many generations yet to come.



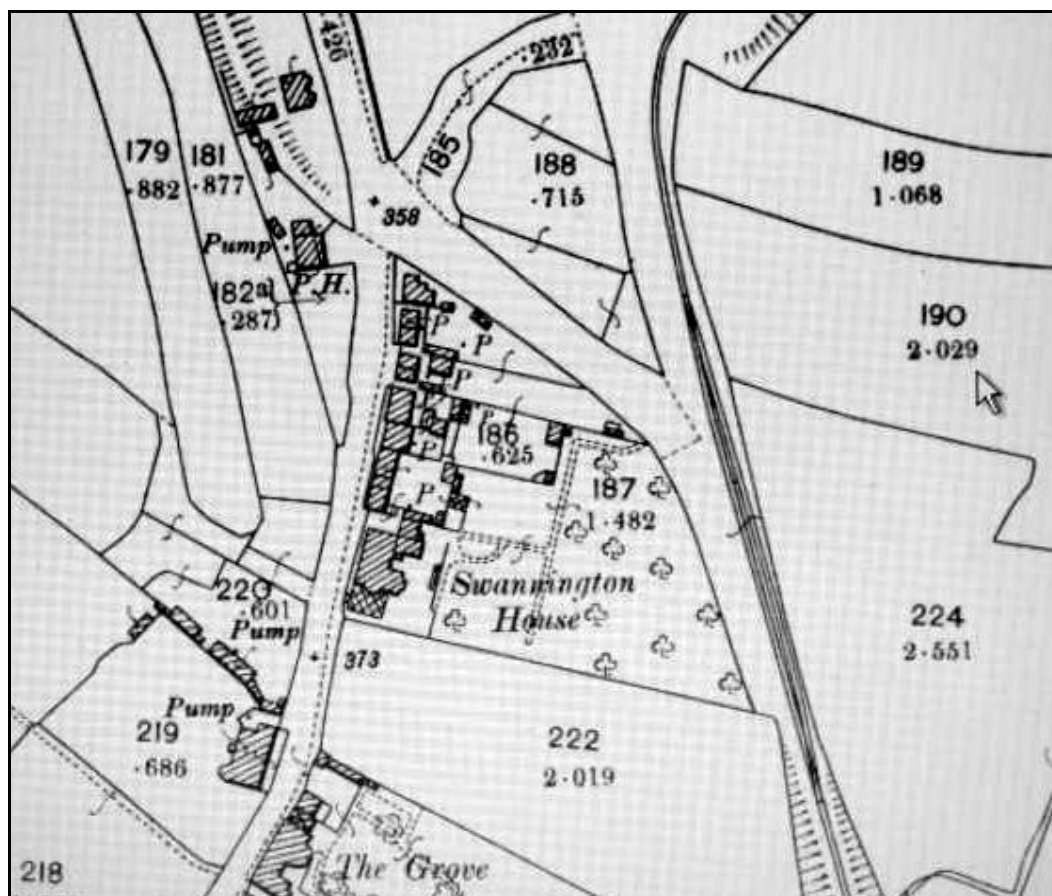
This photograph is of Ernie Yates who was the Lady Dowager's chauffeur with her car.

The Dowager Lady Beaumont owed the two houses next to her home Swannington House. In 1911 the adjacent house was occupied by her gardener Charles Thomas Gray, by 1939 her gardener was **Thomas J Shipley**. In 1939 Lady Beaumont also owned the next house that was occupied by **Ernie Yates** her chauffeur above, and his wife Annie (known as Nurse Yates).

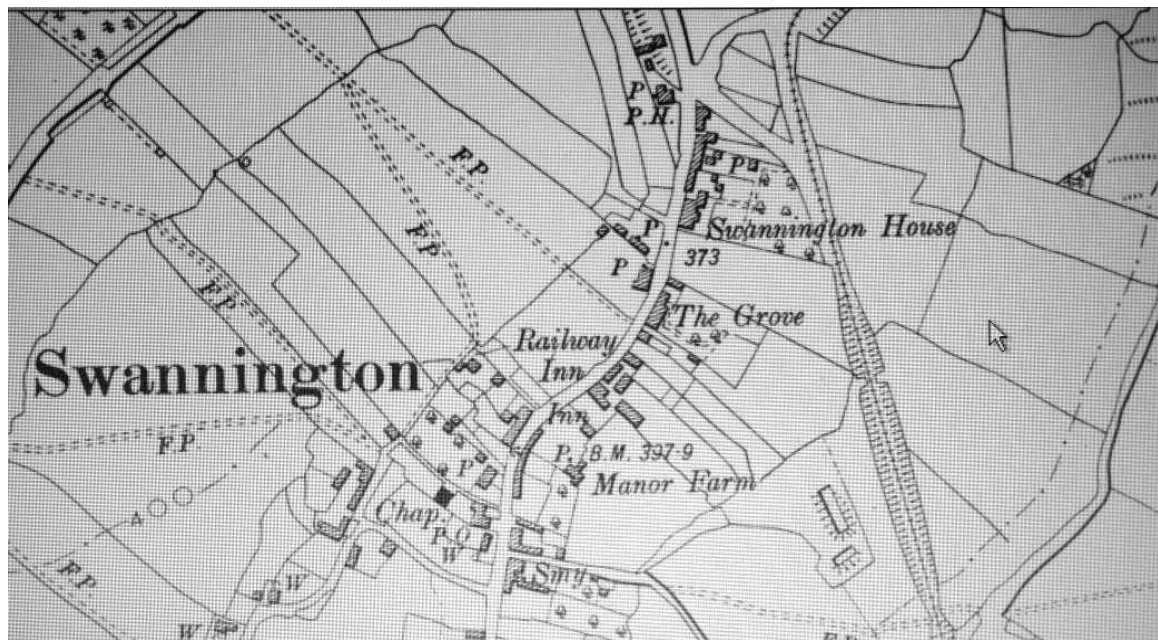
MAPS SHOWING SWANNINGTON HOUSE



EXTRACT FROM SURVEYED 1881/2, PUBLISHED 1885, 6" TO 1 MILE O/S MAP



EXTRACT FROM REVISED 1901, PUBLISHED 1903, 25" TO 1 MILE O/S MAP



EXTRACT FROM REVISED 1901, PUBLISHED 1904, 25" TO 1 MILE O/S MAP



EXTRACT FROM REVISED 1920, PUBLISHED 1925, 6" TO 1 MILE O/S MAP