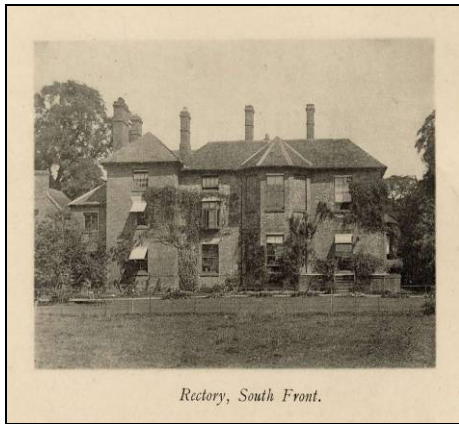


He returned to this country in the 1880's to reside in Colton House. He continued his photography taking many pictures in and around the village of Colton.

Rev. Frederick Perrot Parker.

Rev. Parker was born in 1843. He was an Oxford graduate and the Rector of Colton from 1874 to 1921.

A great Staffordshire antiquarian, he wrote "Colton and the DeWasteneys Family" which was published in 1879. He was also a founder member of The William Salt Library in Stafford.



Rectory, South Front.

The Old Rectory.



References.

Colton and the DeWasteneys Family by Rev. F. Parker. Private publication 1879.

Acknowledgements

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Pictures

William Salt Library. Stafford

Colton and the DeWasteneys Family by Rev. F. Parker. Private publication 1879.

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Colton History Society

Some Notable People of Colton

Colton is a small Staffordshire village with a history dating back before the Norman Conquest. Throughout the centuries there have been a number of notable people who have lived in Colton.

The De Wasteneys Family.

The earliest spelling of the name "de Gastiney" denotes that this family probably came from a district called Gastinois which lay south of Paris.



DeWasteneys family coat of arms.

They were followers of Robert de Stafford. The first written reference to them occurred in 1166 in the reign of Henry II when the Roll of Exchequer states that a

Geoffrey de Wasteneys held a Water Mill and a Manor in Colton. They built the first Colton Hall on high ground above the village, the site of the present day Colton Hall Farm. In 1240 Henry III granted the de Wasteneys the right to hold a weekly market in Colton each Friday. In 1364 Thomasine de Wasteneys, a successor of Geoffrey married Nicholas Gresley and took by this marriage the Colton Manor into the Gresley Family.

Nicholas De Colton.

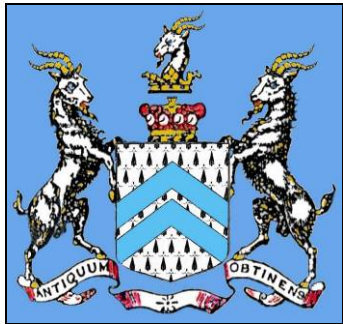
In 1270, during a brawl Adam Hereward was stabbed by Nicholas De Colton who took sanctuary in Colton Church. The villagers tried to keep him in the church to secure his arrest, but this was thwarted by Ralph de Burgh who prompted by William le Jovene of the Mavesyn family, lords of the Manor of Little Hay, connived in his escape. A fine of 100 shillings was enforced by the sheriff on the inhabitants of Colton for letting him escape.

The following year in 1271 John the chaplain of Colton, who probably served the chapel which

stood near to where Bellamour Lodge was later built, killed Christina wife of Nicholas de Colton whilst interposing between him and a stranger residing at her house, striking her in the stomach with a knife, although the blow was really intended for her guest. John fled from justice and was outlawed, his goods being confiscated. Judgement for murder was given.

The Bagot Family.

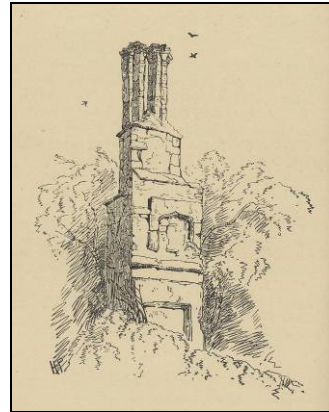
They owned Little Hay Manor which was one of three manors in Colton. The Bagots are a well known local gentry family who still live at nearby Blithfield Hall.



Bagot family coat of arms.

A Blithfield deed of 1322 shows that Robert, Lord of Little Hay, sold the manor to Richard de Blithfield and his wife Cecilia. The new owners retained possession of the manor until Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of Richard de Blithfield married Sir Ralph Bagot, of Bagots Bromley. During

Elizabeth I's reign Anthony Bagot, a courtier and one of the chief followers of the ill-fated Robert Devereux, Earl of Essex, was owner of Little Hay Manor. In his will Anthony left several bequests to his servants at Little Hay and also money to the poor of Colton. The Manor Court, the body which settled all local disputes, was always held at Little Hay Manor. The old Manor House which was probably half-timbered was taken down in 1846.



Little Hay chimney.

However, on the orders of Lord Bagot the original Tudor chimneys were to be left standing in the garden where they remain today.

The Gresley Family.

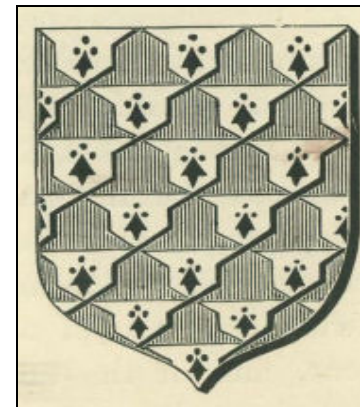
Around 1365 Sir Nicholas Gresley acquired Colton Manor through marriage to Thomasine DeWast-eney, heiress to the DeWasteny estates. The Gresley ancestors all

made notable names for themselves through court, parliament and very successful marriages.

Thomasine and Nicholas Gresley had a son Sir Thomas Gresley. He represented both Staffordshire and Derbyshire in parliament. In 1439 he was High Sheriff of Staffordshire.

In 1415 Sir Thomas and his son John served in Henry V's army at Agincourt. Sir Thomas also had two daughters. One, Joan, was a nurse to young Henry VI and his other daughter Margaret married Sir John Blount.

In the 15th century a later Sir Thomas married Anne Ferrers of Tamworth Castle.



Gresley family coat of arms.

William the eldest son served under Henry VIII. However, William died without issue, leaving the second eldest son his brother George to take possession of the estates. George was created

Knight of Bath at Anne Boleyn's coronation. George died in 1548. George's son Sir William married Catherine, daughter of Sir Edward Aston of Tixall. They had a son Sir Thomas who met and welcomed King James VI of Scotland on his way from Scotland to take possession of the English crown. He was knighted at Worksop on April 20th 1603.

Sir Thomas and his son George sold Colton Hall and all their lands in 1610 to their relative Sir Walter Aston of Tixall.

The Aston Family.

Sir Walter Aston's family owned the Tixall estate. Sir Walter inherited the estate from his father Sir Edward Aston, at the age of seventeen. Sir Walter bought Colton Manor in 1610 for the vast amount of £16,000 (which equates to 1.5m in 2006).

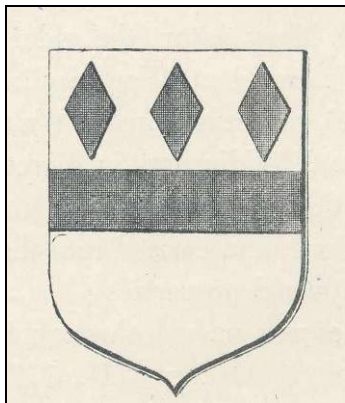


Sir Walter Aston.

Sir Walter rose quickly into favour at the court of James I and he was created a Knight of the Bath when the King's eldest son Henry was proclaimed Prince of Wales. He was made a baronet in 1611.

A few years later he became a gentleman of the Privy Chamber. In 1619 he was sent as Ambassador to Spain to negotiate the marriage of Prince Charles. The heavy expenses he incurred as ambassador were never sufficiently repaid by the King. In 1622 he was compelled to sell part of his estate.

After six years abroad he returned to England. As part recompense for his service as ambassador Charles I made him Lord Aston of Forfar. In 1635 he was again sent to Spain as ambassador where he stood in high favour with the Spanish king Philip IV. Due to ill health he returned from Spain in 1638 and died in 1639, leaving his heir Walter who fought in the



The Aston family coat of arms.

memorable defence of Lichfield in 1646. His sons Walter, Herbert, and John and three daughters survived him. Herbert was his father's secretary. Upon Herbert's marriage to Catherine Thimbelby, his father made over to him a small piece of land in Colton and in 1638 Herbert built a house named "Bellamore"; so called because it was finished by benevolence of his friends and for the love of his wife. Through the years the spelling has become Bellamour.



First Bellamour Hall.

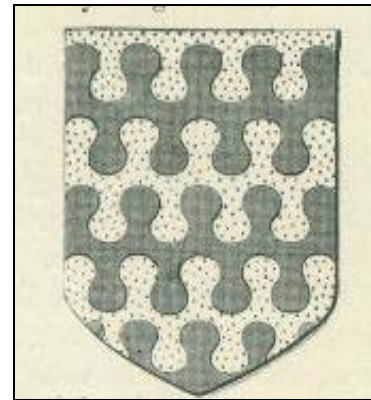
The Astons at this time were recusants (Catholics), they were heavily fined, which caused them great distress. In 1678 Herbert Aston was implicated in the Titus Oates plot but was exonerated when it was found to be a hoax. Herbert died in 1689. His son John inherited the "Bellamour" estate but died without heirs and it reverted to the main Aston family of Tixall.

In 1751 Mary Aston daughter of Lord Aston inherited from her father the Manor of Colton and carried it by marriage into the Blount family.

The old Colton Hall was destroyed by fire in the latter part of Charles I's reign i.e. before 1649, allegedly due to the carelessness of a servant.

The Blount Family.

Lady Mary Aston married Sir Walter Blount, 6th Baronet, in 1766.



The Blount family coat of arms.

Their third son Edward inherited the Colton estate.

Lady Mary was instrumental in obtaining the Private Act of Parliament for the enclosure of the Commons and Wastes in the parish. In 1792 Lady Mary made Bellamour her home after she was widowed. She built a second, bigger Bellamour Hall around 1795.



Second Bellamour Hall

She died in 1805 whilst staying at the home of her youngest son at Basford in Staffordshire, when a spark from the fire fell onto her dress.



Lady Mary Blount on the left.

Her son Edward Blount lived at the new Bellamour Hall. He was an ardent supporter of the Catholic Emancipation Bill of 1829. He sold his Colton estate in 1824.

The Boughey and Whitgreave Families.

In 1563 Sampson Boughey, a yeoman farmer from Audley, bought Boughey Hall Farm. This was handed down through three generations to Constance Boughey who married Whitehall Degge.



Boughey Hall Farm.

They had a son Simon Boughey Degge. Whitehall Degge died in 1667. In 1678 Constance married Thomas Whitgreave of Moseley Old Hall. Thomas was an ardent Catholic and had been honoured for the part that he had played in helping the future Charles II escape from the Battle of Worcester and certain death.

In 1679 Constance wished to bring up her son in the Catholic faith. However her father-in-law Sir Simon Degge objected and approached the Privy Council to grant him wardship of his grandson. This was granted and

Constance's son was taken from her.

On their marriage Boughey Hall Farm passed into the Whitgreave family and stayed with this family until the 1920's.

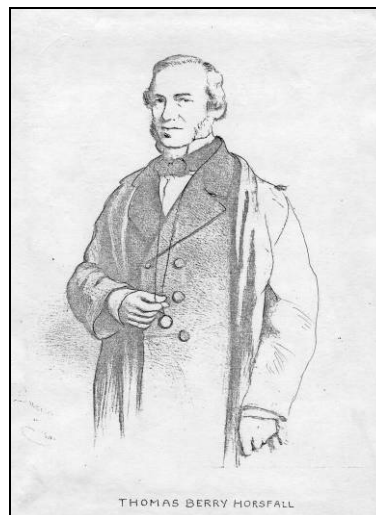
The Oldham Family.

A retired Indian judge J. Oldham bought Bellamour Hall in 1824 He died in 1857. He built Bellamour Lodge for his eldest daughter Ellen in 1851, which she later enlarged. Ellen was a great benefactor of the parish. She held a girls' school in the old Bellamour Hall and generously subscribed to the restoration of the church, donating the east window above the altar in memory of her father. She died in 1883. Her sister Elizabeth Harland built the almshouses in memory of Ellen and they are known as Oldhams Cottages. Captain C.S.D. Oldham inherited Bellamour Lodge and took up residence there in 1905 and gave much to the parish of Colton until his death in 1930.

The Horsfall Family.

Thomas Berry Horsfall purchased Bellamour Hall when J. Oldham died in 1857.

He was the Member of Parliament for Liverpool and made considerable additions to the Bella-



T. B. Horsfall.

mour estate. He was a great benefactor of the village. The school and original reading room were both endowed by him and he also donated the ground for the first cemetery.

John Heyliger Burt.

John Heyliger Burt lived in Colton House from 1792 to 1817.



Colton House.

Born in 1764 he inherited money and lands which included a 450 acre sugar plantation in St. Croix, a small island in the Caribbean.

His father had been a member of the Council of Nevis, his grandfather a Chief Justice of St. Kitts, his great grandfather Deputy Governor of Nevis and his uncle Governor of the Leeward Islands. His mother's family had been Governors of St. Eustatius and were connected to two USA presidential families. John married Judith Robinson in 1796. She brought money and estates to the marriage having previously been married to one of the Okeover family. John Burt was a magistrate, and also a High Sheriff of Staffordshire in 1805. He died at sea in 1817 when returning from a visit to his estates.

Frederic Bonney.

Frederic Bonney was a member of a well known and highly regarded family. His father was headmaster of Rugeley Grammar School.

Frederic attended Marlborough School. Whilst in Australia from 1865 to 1881 he took many photographs. They were some of the first pictures to be taken of the Aborigines. His collection of photographs is held in the Mitchell Library in Sydney.