

# NEWSLETTER

## APRIL 2014

**Colwall  
Village  
Society**

Revealing Our Heritage

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### **The Countess and Colwall** by Barbara Miller

A tale of two women and their "dashing" husbands'

On gaining possession of my house I was also given two bags full of deeds and documents appertaining to the house and the Barton Court Estate. However, the earliest document was not connected with Colwall but was a marriage settlement dated 1850, a trust fund for Marianne Catherine Richards the daughter of a very wealthy lawyer who lived in Eton Place, London. The settlement was made on her marriage to Le General Ramon Cabrera, Conde de Morella. The next documents in date order were mortgages. The mortgager was Honora Pheobe Gertrude Cave-Browne-Cave who then transferred some of the mortgaged land to her husband Roland Cave-Browne-Cave. Financial reasons brought these people together but they have characteristics in common. Both women were rich and they both married men who were adventurous and either had a title or were to inherit one.



**LE GENERAL RAMON CABRERA** ['The Spanish Tiger']

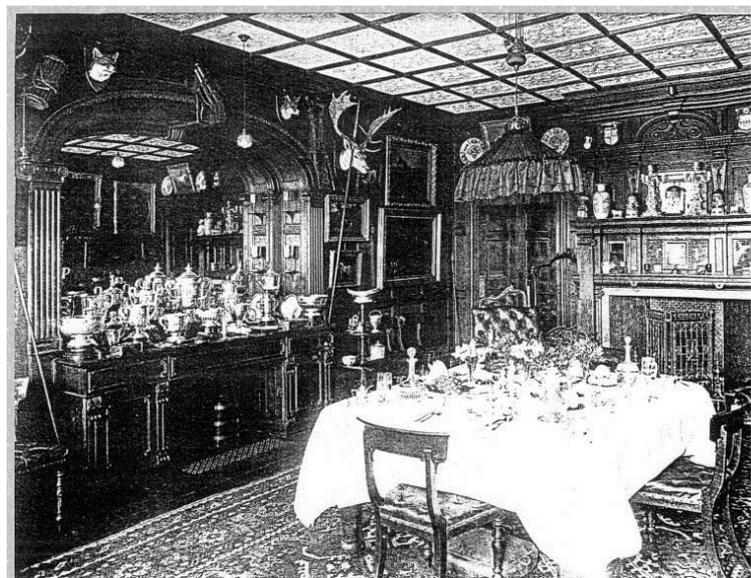
Ramon Cabrera gained his nickname "The Spanish Tiger" due to his exploits in the Spanish Civil War. He was reported to be the bravest and cruellest of the Carlist generals. He was born at Tortosa, a province of Tarragona where even as a child he showed the characteristics needed to be a soldier. His chance to fight came when King Ferdinand VII changed the law to allow his daughter to succeed him on his death. Don Carlos his brother disputed the claim of his niece Isabella and a civil war ensued (1833-1849). In the First Carlist War (1833-1839), Ramon Cabrera rose in a very short time by sheer daring, fanaticism and ferocity to the front rank of the Carlist chiefs who led bands for Don Carlos. He sullied his victories by acts of cruelty, shooting prisoners of war whose lives he promised to spare. After his mother was captured and shot by the Queen's generals, Cabrera had shot 1110 prisoners of war, 100 officers and many civilians, including the wives of four of the leading supporters of the Queen. In 1848 he was fighting in the mountains of Catalonia at the head of Carlist bands. The resistance to Isabella's forces ended in 1849 and Cabrera fled to France and then to England.

In 1850 the marriage took place between Marianne Catherine Richards, wealthy daughter of an English QC and Ramon Cabrera, Count of Morella. He was 43 and a Catholic and she was 29 and a Protestant. In 1855 they moved to the Wentworth Estate (now the Wentworth Golf Club) where they enjoyed all the comforts of English country life and bought up 5 children. When the Count died in 1877 his wife wrote in her diary, "Thus the dream of my youth and the love of my life passed away and left me desolate." The Countess lived for another 38 years during which time she built up a portfolio of landholdings and provided mortgages.

Miss Bright now enters the story. She was the only daughter of Mr and Mrs Benjamin Bright of Barton Court, who had the Barton Court Estate that spread through the greater part of Colwall. Honora Phebe Gertude, was born in 1861, and at her coming of age there were celebrations at Barton Court. Miss Honora later married Mr Fowler and was widowed a few years later. Mrs Bright was also a widow.



*The Drawing Room at Barton Court*



*The Dining Room at Barton Court*

Mr Roland Cave-Browne-Cave came on the scene a very "dashing" gentleman. He and Miss Honora married, spending their honeymoon touring the Midland cities in a vehicle drawn by a pair of horses and accompanied on their journey by a groom from Barton Court. The entrepreneurial activities of the thriving cities they visited may have inspired his desire to develop Colwall.

The Barton Court Estate was being managed, after Mr Benjamin Bright's death, by a Mr Sturge, a Quaker, who lived in Bristol and used to visit Colwall twice a year. Mr Cave-Browne-Cave soon persuaded Mrs Bright to let him manage the estate and he began to alter things very quickly.

Originally Roland's family were the Caves from Yorkshire and rose to power under the Tudors, gaining a Baronetcy from Charles I in 1641. The Caves moved from Yorkshire to Stanford on the boundary of Northamptonshire and Leicestershire in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Over the subsequent centuries they served in government, army and the church with distinction. The family name acquired additions, becoming Cave Browne, later Cave-Browne-Cave in 1839. One of the most unusual baronets was Sir Genille Cave-Browne-Cave (13<sup>th</sup> Bt) - as a headline in New York Times 1908 indicates:

**"Oklahoma's Champion Steer Roper Proves to be Sir Genille Cave-Browne-Cave".**

Mrs Fowler's new husband came from an energetic and innovative family and he clearly had many entrepreneurial ideas he wished to implement. He decided that a first class hotel was needed in Colwall, near the station. Stone Farm was part of the Barton Court estate and Mr Tom Pedlingham was the tenant. At this date (1903) agriculture was in a very depressed state and Mr Pedlingham had other interests and was happy to allow the Home Orchard land at the side of the farm to be used to build the Colwall Park Hotel. Mr Cave-Browne-Cave turned his attention to horse racing and he started to build stables at the entrance of Netherpaths Farm to start a racing stud. The scheme was abandoned and the buildings became known as Cave's Folly. He then had the Colwall Park Racecourse built, close to the railway for easy access of the horses, which were brought by train. Mr Cave-Browne-Cave also planned to open up the Barton Court Estate for residential purposes. To aid expansion a new road (Brockhill) was cut to save a climb over the Colwall Hill to get over the Malverns and to open up the lands of Cowl Barn Farm.

The Cave-Browne-Caves appear to have been living a life that needed a high capital expenditure, which, by 1903, necessitated mortgaging parts of the estate. In 1903 Mrs Cave-Browne-Cave mortgaged the Home Orchard of Stone Farm for £1000 and in 1904 transferred the land to her husband who purchased the licence for the Park Hotel from the Oak Inn situated lower down the village. The documents show that between 1903 and 1912 Mrs Cave-Browne-Cave mortgaged parts of the estate land, the mortgagee was the Countess de Morella. In 1904 a mortgage of £17,000 was raised and in 1908 a further £65,000 was raised with an interest rate of 4%. Land was sold, in addition to a mortgage of over £80,000, to raise capital for the many schemes of Mr Cave-Browne-Cave. The photographs of the Barton Court in the sales catalogues show a beautiful house that reflects the wealth and taste of the owners.

**The Valuable Freehold  
Residential and Agricultural Property**

known as

**“BARTON COURT”**

situate on the Western slope of the Malvern Hills, and within a mile of Colwall Station (G.W. Railway), three miles of Great Malvern, and four miles from Ledbury.

**THE PICTURESQUE MANSION**

Brick Built with Slated Roof, stands some 400 ft. above sea level, and commands magnificent views over the surrounding hills and country.

It is approached by a winding carriage sweep, and the accommodation, conveniently planned on two Floors, comprises:—  
Tiled Portico leading to the

**Attractive Entrance Hall**

measuring 24 ft. by 18 ft.; and heated by Hot Water Radiators.

*Oak Panelled Dining Room*

about 27 ft. by 19 ft., with Panelled Ceiling, Carved Wood Mantelpiece, and Oak Floor.

*Billiard Room*

measuring 25 ft. by 21 ft., with raised Dais in an Alcove, forming a Writing Room, well lighted by top lights, and having Open Fireplace with Marble Mantelpiece. The room is heated by Hot Water Radiators, and casements give access to Garden. Lavatory attached fitted with Basin (h. and c.) and W.C.

*The Library*

measuring 23 ft. by 18 ft., with Carved Oak Bookcases, and with casements opening to the

*Conservatory*

measuring 24 ft. by 15 ft.

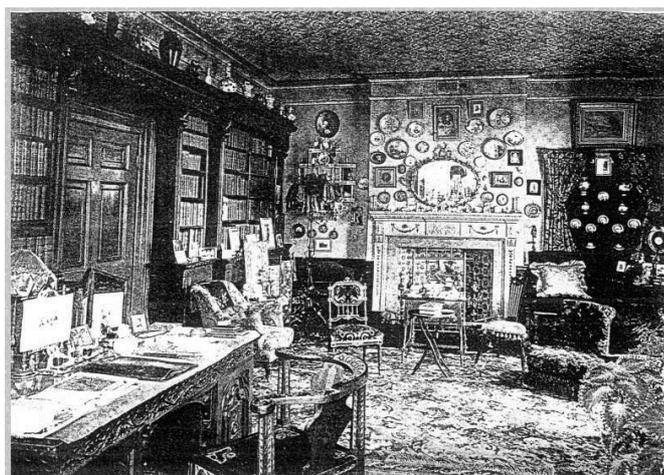
*The Well-proportioned Drawing Room*

measuring 34 ft. by 25 ft., with Oak Floor, beautifully modelled Adam Ceiling, and handsome Fireplace, with valuable Marble Mantelpiece.

***Barton Court Sale Catalogue***



*The Billiard Room at Barton Court*



*The Study at Barton Court*

Much of the estate was bought by members of the Ballard family who became the largest landowners in Colwall. Other parts were split up and purchased by private people, but Barton Court and that part of the estate at the southern end of Colwall were retained by the Bright family.

In the deeds of a Farm we can bring together strands of European history and the lives of many people both rich and poor and weave a story that illuminates political and economic changes in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. ❧❧

## Transcription of a Document Relating to Transfer of Land in Colwall – by David Hodgson

Nov(er)int uniu(er)si p(er) p(re)sentez nos Nicola(m) um byrkett & matildam uxor(em) mea(m) de tewkesbury in com(itatu) glouc' remisisse relaxasse Imp(er)p(ertu) quiet(a) clamasse Joh(ann)I pelyngar & sibille uxor(i) sui de collwall in com(itatu) Herff' hered(is) & assignat(is) suis dou mesuag(ia) qui(n) quaginta acr(as) + (er)re octo acr(as) p(ra)ti & viginti acr(as) pasture cu(m) p(er)finent(iis) Jac (entibus) in collwall & codyntone nup(er) in tenur(a) Joh(ann)is Holdr totu(m) ius clameu(m) demand(am) Seu interesse in doubus mesuag(iis) qui(n)quaginta Acr(is) t(er)re octo acr(is) p(ra)ti & viginti acr(is) Pasture p(re)dict(is) cum o(m)ni (bus) [o(m)ni(m)od(is)] P(er)finent(iis) q(uod) unquam habuim(us) habe(mus) seu Q(uo)vis modo h(ab)ere poterim(us) ita q(uo) nos nec Heredes n(ost)ri nec aliqui alij iure & no(mi) ne N(ost)ra aliquid Juncti...l (es)ii in ea postmod(o) Retinebu(n)t s(ed) Imp(er)p(ertu)m exclusi sum(us) p(er) P(re)sent(es). In cuius rei testi(m)oni(a) siggilla(m) N(ost)ra(m) apposui(mus) Dat(um) apud collwall p(re)dict(um) Tencio die Julij Anno regni reg(is) henrici octavi P(ost) conquest(um) xxvij.

His testibus richardo monyngton d(omi)no thoma taylor capellum Richardo broke et richardo Barrett armultis alijs

“Yet all men as now by these present that we Nicholas Byrkett & Matilda my wife of Tewksbury in the county of Gloucester have remitted and rela(x)sed (conferred) in perpetuity and declare to John Pelyngar & Si(y)bil his wife of Colwall in the county of Hereford his heirs & assigns two messuages 50 acres of (arable?) land 8 acres of eadow & 20 acres of pasture with the appurtenances lying in Colwall & Coddington, lately in the “tenorship” (occupancy?) of John Holder, the whole rights (proclaimed or demanded?) or interest in two messuages 50 acres of (arable) land 8 acres of meadow & 20 acres of pasture as stated above with all the appurtenances which we ever had, have or shall be able to have. Also that we are excluded from (resign?) by these present forever whatever church rights we or our heirs or any other men of our name shall retain in future.

In witness of this matter we have attached our seal. Given at Colwall as stated above on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of July in the 26<sup>th</sup> year of the reign of King Henry VIII after the conquest (of what - England? Wales?)”

*Endorsement on the back.*

“These being witnesses, Richard Monnington, lord (of the manor?) Thomas Taylor chaplain, Richard Broke and Richard Barrett & many others.

## Annual General Meeting

‘Notice is hereby given that the Colwall Village Society’s 16<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting will be held at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2014 in the Colwall Village Hall.

Any member wishing to place an item on the agenda should inform the Secretary (John Atkin, [redacted]) no later than Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2014.

Any member wishing to nominate a person for the committee, or as an officer of the committee, should send their nomination to the Secretary, supported by a seconder and the consent of the nominee, also by 14<sup>th</sup> April.’

### Future Talks

#### **28<sup>th</sup> April 2014: AGM**

followed by a talk from

#### **Professor Richard (Dick) Bryant:**

‘The Ice Age in Colwall’

#### **15<sup>th</sup> September 2014**

‘Colwall War Memorial’

By Jenny Harrison and Nicholas Neve

### From the Editor

Any article on Colwall related subjects (however tenuous!) are always welcome.

If you are prepared to receive your newsletters by electronic means, please register with the email address below.

Corrections and additions to the information in newsletters are always welcome, as are **CONTRIBUTIONS!**

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