Hello Heritage...

The Farming School Head Mistress Whose Brother Was The Last Miller

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Swannington School 1890 - Ellen Chester (right), John George Chester might be the pupil teacher on left.

Children Of George Chester 1827-1908 Of Willow Farm

George Chester of Willow Farm (between Centre Farm and Robin Hood) had seven children:

Ellen 1854-? - Married railway engine driver Alfred Smith and moved to Lincoln.

Walter Henry 1859-1933 - Married the step daughter of John Hough, owner of Hough Mill, combined farming with landlord of the Railway Inn on the corner of Tan Yard.

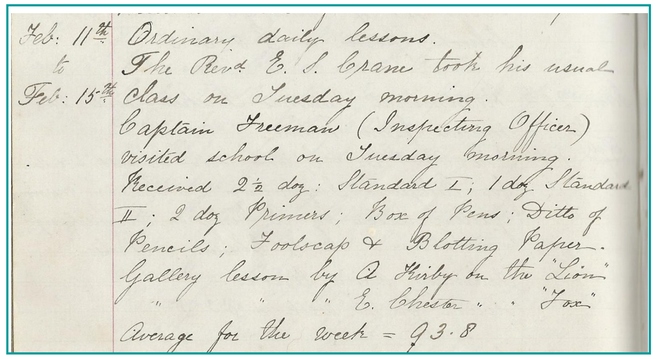
Mary Ellen 1861-1935 - Known as Ellen. Continued to farm Willow Farm after her father's death, Headmistress of Swannington Infants School.

Mary Ann 1863-1953 - Never married, after 1911 moved to Westlands, Station Hill.

Joseph Chester 1864-1929 - Married Mary Ann Henson (widow of blacksmith Thomas Rowse) in 1907 and continued farming while living at the Stone House.

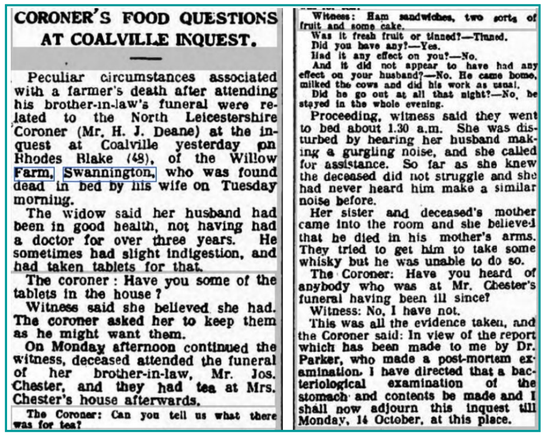
Georgina 1871-1949 - Georgina married farm bailiff Rhodes Blake at St George's Church on the 11th November 1908. After his 1929 death she moved to Westlands, Station Hill to live with Mary Ann.

John George 1872-? - After being a pupil teacher in Swannington, John George and his wife were teachers in 1911 at Buxton Industrial School, Marsham, Norfolk, a boys reformatory.



Feb: 11th to Feb: 15th Ordinary daily lessons.
The Revd. E. S. Crane took his usual class on Tuesday morning.
Captain Freeman (Inspecting Officer) visited school on Tuesday morning.
Received 2½ doz: Standard I; 1 doz Standard II; 2 doz Primers; Box of Pens; Ditto of Pencils; Foolscap & Blotting Paper.
Gallery lesson by A Hirby on the "Lion"
" " " E. Chester " " "Fox"
Average for the week = 93·8

School Log Book 1878 - Pupil teacher E Chester, 17, gives a lesson on the Fox during school inspection. (The E Chetter was Mary Ellen known as Ellen)



CORONER'S FOOD QUESTIONS AT COALVILLE INQUEST.

Peculiar circumstances associated with a farmer's death after attending his brother-in-law's funeral were related to the North Leicestershire Coroner (Mr. H. J. Deane) at the inquest at Coalville yesterday on Rhodes Blake (48), of the Willow Farm, Swannington, who was found dead in bed by his wife on Tuesday morning.

The widow said her husband had been in good health, not having had a doctor for over three years. He sometimes had slight indigestion, and had taken tablets for that.

The coroner: Have you some of the tablets in the house?

Witness said she believed she had. The coroner asked her to keep them as he might want them.

On Monday afternoon continued the witness, deceased attended the funeral of her brother-in-law, Mr. Jos. Chester, and they had tea at Mrs. Chester's house afterwards.

The Coroner: Can you tell us what there was for tea?

Witness: Ham sandwiches, two sorts of fruit and some cake.

Was it fresh fruit or tinned?—Tinned.

Did you have any?—Yes.

Had it any effect on you?—No.

And it did not appear to have had any effect on your husband?—No. He came home, milked the cows and did his work as usual.

Did he go out at all that night?—No, he stayed in the whole evening.

Proceeding, witness said they went to bed about 1.30 a.m. She was disturbed by hearing her husband making a gurgling noise, and she called for assistance. So far as she knew the deceased did not struggle and she had never heard him make a similar noise before.

Her sister and deceased's mother came into the room and she believed that he died in his mother's arms. They tried to get him to take some whisky but he was unable to do so.

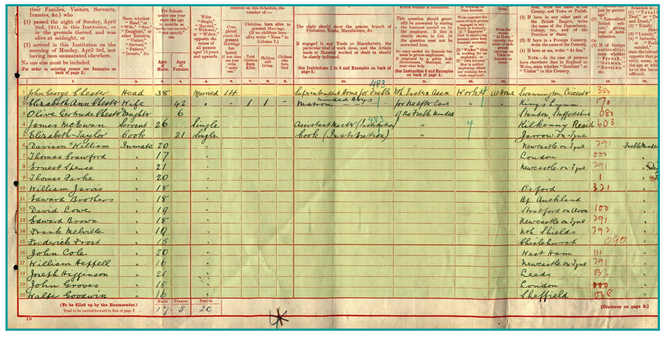
The Coroner: Have you heard of anybody who was at Mr. Chester's funeral having been ill since?

Witness: No, I have not.

This was all the evidence taken, and the Coroner said: In view of the report which has been made to me by Dr. Parker, who made a post-mortem examination, I have directed that a bacteriological examination of the stomach and contents be made and I shall now adjourn this inquest till Monday, 14 October, at this place.

Death Of Rhodes Blake, Willow Farm - Rhodes Blake died after attending the funeral of brother in law and fellow farmer Joseph Chester.

Mill House (now Millburn) - In 1899 home to Walter Henry Chester and his wife Jane Maria (Taylor) Hough. Walter was landlord of the Railway Inn 1901-1925. He operated Hough Mill to make animal feed during WW1.



1911 Census John George Chester - Superintendent Home For The Feeble - The north east association for the after care of the feeble minded had a residential home at Monkton Hall, Monkton, Durham. (Ancestry.com)

Stone House - In 1911 the home of farmer Joseph Chester, wife Mary Ann Henson and her children from her first marriage to blacksmith Thomas Rowse.

North West Leicestershire District Council

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