

COSTAR (OR COSTARD) FAMILY OF THE CROWN INN, BENSON

William Costar (1760-1820)

William Costar (b. 1760, d. 1820) (son of Willoughby Bertie 4th Earl of Abingdon and Ketty Costar) was born in 1760 in Benson Oxford, and died in 1820 in Benson. He married Sarah Pleasant, daughter of William Pleasant of the Crown Inn on 23 May 1785 in Benson.

William's aristocratic father intended him to go into law but he became an Innkeeper, coach driver and coach panel painter. They had 14 children, three of whom followed their father into coach painting, which was a traditional craft in Benson.

William Costar (1786-1834)

eldest son of William (above) was the innkeeper of the Crown Inn in 1830. He married Mary Allin and they had eight children. Their son, Harry Pleasant Coster, born about 1808, became a coachmaker in Benson.

Richard Coster (1788-1858)

second son of William (above) also worked as innkeeper of the Crown Inn. He was also a churchwarden. He married Ann Levy in 1819. She died in 1838 and Richard then married Clarissa Faulkner in 1839.

Both Richard and Clarissa are buried in St Helen's churchyard, (*see photo on next page.*) His memorial inscription reads, "For many years a respected inhabitant of this parish."

This Richard Costar was a nephew of Richard Costar (1765-1840), who inherited the family coaching business in Oxford, but was also a large landowner in Benson. Although he lived in Oxford, he was buried in Benson.



They will be remembered

In Memory of
JANE, 1177 of
WILLIAM COLERS
and daughter of
WILLIAM AND JANE
who died
the 8th of
JANUARY 1811

SACRED
TO THE MEMORY OF
RICHARD COSTAR
FOR MANY YEARS A MUCH
RESPECTED INHABITANT
OF THIS PARISH.
DIED JAN. 4TH 1858.
AGED 69 YEARS.



WALLING