

SWINNERTON

FAMILY HISTORY

Heraldic and Genealogical Studies

of the family

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VOLUME ONE No. 10

AUGUST 1975

This issue brings us to the end of our first Volume. Inevitably a few printing errors have crept in so - to tidy up the Volume - here are the corrections.

Issue No. 2. p. 2 Line 13 for 'Honts' read 'Hons.'
 Line 19 for 'Lane' read 'Land'
 Issue No. 5. p. 3 Line 7 for 'younger' substitute 'elder'
 Issue No. 7. p. 23 Line 14 for 'Basis' read 'Basil'
 Issue No. 8. p. 29 Line 46 for 'Canade' read 'Canada'
 p. 30 Line 35 for 'CS.17' read 'GS.17'

MISCELLANEA

HOME AGAIN

St. Mary's, Swynnerton - Baptismal Roll. March 1975. ROGER SWINNERTON

A GENEROUS BENEFACTRESS

NORTHLEACH (Gloucs.) 1961. The money for Repair of the Pinnacles and the restoration of the Flemish Candlesticks. (Brass c.1700) was donated by Mrs. A. M. SWINNERTON. (ex L. Prosser)

and by contrast :-

OUTDOOR RELIEF LIST. Kings Norton. (Half year ending 22. 3. 1851)

ANN SWINNERTON (Female - not able bodied) but resident in Birmingham.

£2. 17. 5 for the half year.

(ex C. H. Leigh-Dugmore)

GLOUCESTERSHIRE NOTES AND QUERIES (Vol. 1 p. 351)

Referring to tokens issued by Tradesmen and Towns in the County of Gloucester.

ANTIPAS SWINNERTON (A Woolpack) - of Tedbury

Wollman S
 A M

ex R. J. Bowker

BOOKPLATE

A copy of Gusio's "The English Revolution" in the possession of K. B. Tolley, West Hagley, Worcs.

'Prize awarded to THOMAS SWINNERTON - ULLSTHORPE HOUSE - 1847'

Does anyone know what or where is Ullsthorpe House ?

WHO'S WHO IN AMERICA 1946/7

JAMES GUILFORD SWINNERTON. Artist. b. Eureka, California Nov. 13 1875. Son of JAMES GUILFORD SWINNERTON and Cecile Beauregard, educ. public and art schools, m. 2nd Mrs. Gretchen Staples 18. 1. 1936. Began as a cartoonist on San Francisco Examiner 1892 and has continued since as cartoonist and artist on various Hearst Publications. Created comic strips 'Little Jimmy' and Canyon Kiddies' in "Good Housekeeping" magazine. Also portrayer of American Indians and painter of desert landscapes. Clubs, Bohemian, Family and Calif. & Art. (San Francisco)

(This is 'Jimmy Swinnerton', the artist, whose obituary we published in Issue No. 5)



NEWSLETTER—FRIDAY, AUGUST 1st, 1975—PAGE 9

FAMILY GATHERING 27 July 1975

These two pages reproduce some of the articles and pictures which appeared in Staffordshire and Shropshire papers both before and after the event. Some of the facts given are not quite correct but

The Swinnertons at Swynnerton

ONE of Staffordshire's oldest families held their first-ever reunion on Saturday in a church originally built by their ancestors in the 11th century. The Swinnerton family, descended from the first Baron of Stafford, held their historic meeting at St Mary's Church, Swynnerton.

There are about 4,000 Swinnertons throughout the world, and everyone was invited. Among the 150 guests were Joe Swinnerton of Sutton Coldfield and Michael Swinnerton from Kent, who flew back to England from a Mediterranean holiday and a Canadian business trip respectively, just to attend the get-together.

The service was led by former naval officer, the Rev Edward Swinnerton, and his daughter, Paula, played the organ. The Rev Brian Swinnerton, vicar of Broughton, near

Eccleshall, also attended the gathering.

The blessing was presented by Swynnerton rector, the Rev Duncan Leak, and the event was organised by Lieutenant Colonel Ian Swinnerton, of Stourbridge, who is chairman of the International Federation of Family History Societies. He is pictured on the right with his wife Angela and their three children.

President of the Swinnerton Society, formed last year, is the present Lord Stafford, who lives at Swynnerton. A vice-president is the famous author Frank Swinnerton, of Sussex. He was a friend of Potteries author Arnold Bennett and science fiction writer H. G. Wells.

Another member of the family, Commander Ronald Swinnerton, commands an American warship in the US Navy. Sunday's church service and blessing was followed by a meal at Swynnerton's Fitzherbert Arms.

then, newspapers rarely are completely right! However, it was very good and useful publicity and has brought new members of the family into the fold. Prints of the original pictures can be obtained if you so wish. Any photographs you took would be welcome for the Scrap Book.

Our first 'gathering' was undoubtedly a success, judging by your comments on the day and letters I have since received. For those who couldn't get there, we had a service in the Church first which was attended by over 80 members of the family and was very much an all-family affair.

The Rev. Brian Swinnerton conducted the service, the Rev. Edward Swinnerton gave the address; I read the lesson, the organ was played by Miss Paula Swinnerton assisted by Miss Ena Swinnerton; Michael Swinnerton was the cross-bearer; Mrs. Anne Swinnerton, William Swinnerton, Thomas Swinnerton, Miss Barbara Swinnerton and Mr. Leonard Swinnerton all sang in the choir and Kirsty Swinnerton and Joanna Swinnerton took the collection which realised £32 for the Church Maintenance Fund. Outside, Alastair Swinnerton and Thomas Swinnerton looked after the car parking.

Afterwards we had an exhibition of family trees, documents, pictures, heirlooms, etc. in the Church Hall and rounded it all off with a sumptuous tea across the road.

It was a great pleasure for me to meet so many of you who had written to me for so many years and we shall undoubtedly repeat it.

I hope I managed to speak to everyone and didn't inadvertently, in the rush, leave anyone out. Having seen the exhibition with its scrap books, trees, etc. you know the sort of records we collect so please keep sending in your newspaper cuttings, snippets of information, etc. and, in fact, ANY Swinnerton references you come across.

EVENING SENTINEL,

Wednesday, July 23rd, 1975

Roots of a family tree

ONE-HUNDRED relatives from all over the world will "lay siege" to a tiny country church on Saturday to retrace the roots of their family tree.

They will join forces and invade the picture-postcard village of Swynnerton—the birthplace of their ancestors 900 years ago.

The reunion, for members of the Swynnerton family, will be held in the 11th century village church built by relatives of the First Baron of Stafford, who came to the county following the Norman Conquest in 1066.

Some of the Baron's descendants settled in the village to become Lords of the Manor and later erected St. Mary's Church, where the service is being held.

Now some of the 4,000 family members scattered throughout the world, will be returning to the church on Saturday for a service marking the historic reunion.

Preaching sermon

The service will be conducted by the Rev. Brian Swynnerton and the sermon will be preached by another descendant, the Rev. Edward Swynnerton.

Mr. Brian Swynnerton explained that the reunion had been organised through the Swynnerton Society, set up to maintain family links and also give help to the village.

He said: "The society organised the event and we are hoping to turn it into an annual get-together."

"It has been arranged for the descendants to come together for the first time in the place they came from."

"Some of the descendants now live in places as far away as Australia, New Zealand and the United States of America and some of them will be flying in specially for the event."

Gathering of the Swynnerton clan

An historic gathering of the Swynnerton family is to take place at St. Mary's Parish Church, in the village of Swynnerton, near Eccleshall, on Saturday at 3.30 p.m.

There are about 4,000 Swynnertons in the world, who are all descended from the Stafford family, and who have all been invited to the meeting.

One is the Rev Brian Swynnerton, Vicar of Broughton, near Eccleshall, who will be attending the gathering.

Not everybody will turn up, of course, but there is expected to be quite a large attendance. The service will be led by a former naval officer, the Rev Edward Swynnerton. His teenage daughter, Paula, will be playing the organ.

The Swynnertons are descended from the First Baron of Stafford. The president of the Swynnerton Society, a family society

which was formed last year, is the present Lord Stafford, who lives at Swynnerton.

St Mary's Church at Swynnerton was built by the family in about AD 1086, after the invasion of this country by William the Conqueror. The Saxon palace of King Wolfriar, King of the Midlands, was situated in the village.

A former county councillor and chairman of Salop County Council, the late Sir Leonard Swynnerton-Dyer, who lived at Craven Arms, Shropshire, and died only recently, was a vice-president of the Swynnerton Society.

Another vice-president is the well-known 90-year-old author Frank Swynnerton,

who was a friend of the Potteries author Arnold Bennett, and of the great science fiction writer H. G. Wells.

One member of the family commands an American battleship.

The event has been organised by Lieutenant Colonel Ian Swynnerton, who is chairman of the International Federation of Family History Societies.

It is the first time in the history of the family that such an occasion has been arranged.

It will consist of a Church service and thanksgiving followed by a meal at a local hotel.

The service blessing will be presented by the Rev Duncan Leak, Rector of Swynnerton

EVENING SENTINEL, Monday, July 28th, 1975



Members of the Swynnerton family from all over the world held a reunion at the village of Swynnerton—the birthplace of their ancestors, 900 years ago—during the weekend and held a service in the 11th century village church. The Rev. Brian Swynnerton, of Broughton and Croxton church, who conducted the service, is pictured with the reunion organiser, Lt. Col. Ian Spencer Swynnerton and relatives.

NEARLY A PIRATE ANCESTOR. (Issue No. 8)

In our last issue we said that the mystery had been solved. Miss C.A. Swinnerton of Abergavenny writes - "I was especially interested in the item sent to you by Mrs. Bernise Williams.

Nearly sixty years ago when I was a pupil in my father's school - the Monmouthshire Education Committee distributed a book 'The Story of Gwent' - to all the primary schools in Monmouthshire and in the Appendix - Monmouthshire Worthies - appears :

Morgan, Charles Octavius Swinnerton (1803-1888). I used to wonder how and why the name Swinnerton crept in.

Since receiving the Swinnerton Family History and Swinnerton Family Trees our interest in local family links has been stimulated and we've been doing some investigating.

In St. Mary's Priory Church (Abergavenny) on the south wall is a tablet the wording of which I have copied :

"Sacred to the Memory of Mary Milborne, only Daughter and Heiress of James Gunter, of this Priory, and Widow of George Milborne of Wonastow Esq. A lady most esteemed for her Judgment and Integrity.

She died leaving two children, Loetitia and Charles. The former married John Harcourt, Esq. in the Co. of Brecon. Charles married the Rt. Hon. Lady Martha Harley, Daughter of the 3rd Earl of Oxford and Mortimer, by whom he had an only child, Mary. He died very highly esteemed by all ranks for his universal kindness and beneficence. His only Daughter Mary, Heiress of this Priory, and Wonastow, with other large possessions in different counties, married THOS. SWINNERTON of Staffordshire Esq. Apr. 27th 1793. She died in London May 20th 1795, and was buried at Trentham, in that County. She left three infant daughters Martha, Mary (twins) and Elizabeth. And that Almighty God may instil into their minds the same unfeigned Piety and virtuous delicacy which actuated and advised their amiable Mother is the earnest prayer of her surviving and affectionate Husband.

Lady M. Milborne from whom the above Model of Goodness derived much improvement, died in London, May 1st 1803, and was buried by Her desire in St. Mary-le-bone."

The Gunter family were granted Abergavenny Priory (now demolished) at the time of the dissolution in 1546 and continued to live there for five generations. The male line became extinct in 1712 with the death of James Gunter and his only daughter, Mary, was the heiress. In 1727 she married George Milborne of Wonastow at Abergavenny.

(James Gunter was member of Parliament for the county, and died suddenly in the House of Commons in 1712)

Their son, Charles Milborne, married Lady Martha Harley, the daughter of Edward, 3rd Earl of Oxford and Mortimer, and Martha, his wife, daughter of John MORGAN of Tredegar. Mary, their only child and heiress, married THOMAS SWINNERTON of Butters (Staffs.) on 27 April 1793. Charles Milborne died at the Priory on Christmas Day 1775.

Abergavenny Priory was probably founded before the end of the eleventh century by Hamelin de Ballon - Lord of Abergavenny who conquered Gwent Llŵchgoed between 1089 and 1100.

It was of the Benedictine Order and was dedicated to St. Mary the Virgin, and attached to the house of St. Vincent, le Mans. Its rights and properties were situated mainly in the Abergavenny district. St. Mary's was the ancient chapel of the Priory. (Charles I stayed at the Priory as the guest of Mr. Gunter on 1st July 1645)."

There is more, much more to this story yet and we shall continue this in the next issue

In the meantime we have another mystery :-

DICTIONARY OF NATIONAL BIOGRAPHY

John SWINNERTON Phillimore (1873-1926), 4th son of Admiral Sir Augustus Phillimore of Shedfield Hall and Harriet Eleanor, 2nd dau. of Hon. George Matthew Fortescue of Boconnoc. MP.

Who can solve this one ? I have no knowledge of any connection between us and the Phillimores.