

SWINNERTON

FAMILY HISTORY

Heraldic and Genealogical Studies

of the family

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Continuing the variations in spelling of our name, we have also come across Swynarton (1615-1825), Swinharton (1790), Swinn'ton (1614), Swyn'ton (1620), Swenenton (1729-34), Swynaton (1338) and even Sunnerton (1783). This last family were known as Swinerton until they moved to an adjoining parish, thereafter they appear in the registers as Sunnerton.

Colonel Jeremy Swynnerton has written to say that in his copy of the family history, his grandfather Frederick Swynnerton (FS/8) has written a note :- "As an example of the existence of one of the old forms of the name I have just come across mention in an American paper of a 'Walter SWENERTON' of Canada" (Sept. 1906).

He also says that his Aunt, Mrs. Marjorie Thomas (nee Swynnerton MS/57) has a copy of the family history and Mrs. Thomas has herself written to confirm this. He also believes that there is another copy extant in the possession of his cousin and we now know there is also a copy in the William Salt Library, Stafford. His own copy, however, he says is not an original. His grandfather apparently had Part II of Volume VII taken out and bound up together with some other articles by the Rev. Charles.

Colonel Swynnerton has also supplied some of the missing dates for the Rev. Charles Swynnerton. He was born 27 November 1843 and was married twice, a fact previously unknown to us. Details of his first marriage are given in the printed history but apparently he married again, some considerable time after his first wife's death. His second wife was Edith, daughter of the Rev. T. Aiken-Sneath of Woodchester Lawn, Nr. Stroud, Glos. and the marriage took place on 23.10.1909.

A copy of his book 'Romantic Tales of the Punjab', mentioned in our first issue, was apparently given to King George V and Colonel Swynnerton possesses a letter of thanks from Buckingham Palace dated 1928 and signed by the King's Secretary, Lord Stamfordham. To the list of his printed works given in our first issue can now be added "A Medley of Occasional Verse" and "Gough's Action at Futtehabad", and I, myself, have just acquired a copy of "The Priory of St. Leonard of Stanley, Co. Gloucester in the light of recent discoveries, documentary & structural by the Rev. Charles Swynnerton FSA. Read 29 November 1917".

Another publication we did not mention in our first issue was "SWINNERTON FAMILY TREES - VOLUME I". The pedigrees of the Swinnerton family in this book were re-printed from "The Family of Swynnerton". For convenience some of the 'trees' have been amalgamated, they were originally printed as follows :-

Swynnerton of Swynnerton	Table II	pages 24 & 29
Swynnerton of Hilton		" 91 & 113
Swynnerton of Butterson		" 142, 143 & 144
Swinnerton of Shut Lane		" 145 & 146
Swynnerton of Whitmore		" 158, 159, 160 & 161
Swynnerton of Yew Tree		" 162, 163 & 164

It is hoped to produce, at a later date, a Second Volume showing these tables, where possible, carried on from 1886 to the present day and also showing corrections and additions to the original tables which have resulted from subsequent research.

→ The majority of the present-day Swinnertons of whom we have knowledge are descended from one of three men :- WILLIAM SWINNERTON of Betley, Staffs. already mentioned in our first issue (WS/14) 1772-1839; WILLIAM SWINNERTON of Adbaston, Staffs (WS/32) 1757-1828 and THOMAS SWINNERTON of Fillongley, Warks. (TS/53) circa 1710-1770. These three main branches of the family we refer to as the Betley, Adbaston and Warks. branches.

You will notice that I have several times referred to "we" or "us", by this I mean the three main present-day researchers into the family history. They are :-

JOHN WALTER SWINNERTON (JS/110) the senior known descendant of the Betley Branch and our main researcher in London for all the National Indexes for Births, Marriages & Deaths, Census Records, etc. Born 29. 4. 1916, the only child of WALTER SWINNERTON (WS/34), a Director of Cash's the ribbon and woven name manufacturers, and Gertrude Mary Blackner. Educated at Bablake School, Coventry and Saltley College, Birmingham and an Economics Graduate (2nd class Hons.) of London University. He was commissioned into the Royal Signals T.A. in 1938 and served throughout the last war in France and Belgium (1940) and North Africa and Italy (1942-1945) in Regimental and Staff appointments retiring as a Major. Holder of the Territorial Decoration and Clasp. His interests are Radio Communication (he was President of the Radio Society of Great Britain 1969); Heraldry (he is a member of the Heraldry Society and has his own coat of arms); Philately of the Holy Land; Music (Bach to Beatles) especially the organ (on which he says he is an indifferent performer); Lawn Tennis and Contract Bridge. He was a teacher, headmaster and is now an Education Adviser. He married in 1942 Patricia Mary Wise, younger daughter of a former Vicar of All Saints Church, Hoole, Chester and has a son and daughter both now married.

SYDNEY KENRICK ARMITSTEAD, b. 6. 6. 1921 son of William Kenrick Armitstead and MARIA GEZINA SWINNERTON (MS/81) is our main researcher of the Warks. Branch of which he is a descendant. Educated at Felsted School and Hertford College, Oxford. BA 1946, MA 1948. Classics and Modern Languages (Hons.) 1st Class Naval Interpreter in Italian. Served in the last war in the Royal Artillery (North Africa & Italy) reaching the rank of Captain and was Mentioned in Despatches. Assistant Master at Repton School 1951-1956. Lecturer at Britannia Naval College, Dartmouth since then and Head of Modern Languages Department since 1964. Was tutor to HRH The Prince of Wales during his stay at Dartmouth. He is a member of the Society of Genealogists and has researched extensively into all his ancestral families as well as the Swinnertons. His other interests are sailing (he has been a member of the Royal Ocean Racing Club since 1953); Assistant County Commissioner (Sea Activities) Devon Scouts; Amateur Dramatics; Photography; Music and is a member of the Rotary Club of Dartmouth.

THE REVEREND BRIAN THOMAS SWINNERTON (BS/19) b. 8. 11. 1931 is a descendant of the Betley Branch and the only son of FRANK SWINNERTON (FS/7) a Railway Engineer, and Marjorie Ann Walley. Educated at Sandbach School, Cheshire and Crewe Technical College. A member of the British Railways Staff College 1948-56 and a Permanent Way Surveyor, he did his National Service in the Royal Engineers as a Surveyor (1952-54). He took a Diploma of Education at Culham College, Oxford 1956 and was a lecturer at the Oxford College of Technology 1958. Since 1959 he has been a lecturer at the Stafford College of Further Education. A Lay Reader, he took his L. C. P. (College of Preceptors, London, 1962) and in 1967 commenced to study for Holy Orders. Ordained 1969 he was, most appropriately, appointed Curate of Swynnerton, a post he held until 1971. In 1971 he was appointed Chaplain to the Mercian Volunteers Battalion (TAVR). He is the author of "Swynnerton & the Swinnertons" mentioned in our first issue and has also published "Staffordshire Castles" (1969); "A Short History of St. Peter's, Norbury" (1970) and "The Swinnertons of Staffordshire" - a thesis for the BA (Liberal Arts) State University of New York, USA (1973) together with various articles. In 1959 he married Anne Jane Cooper, elder daughter of William Cooper (Gren. Gds) and has two sons.

SWINNERTON FAMILY RECORDS HELD IN OUR CENTRAL COLLECTION

1. Somerset House Records

A complete extract from the Indexes of all Swinnerton Births, Marriages and Deaths in England and Wales. 1837 - 1920.

(We still habitually refer to these as Somerset House Records because they were kept there from the commencement of general registration in 1837 until this year. They have now been moved just round the corner to St. Catherine's House, Aldwych. Here is, almost without exception, every Birth, Marriage and Death from 1837 to the present day together with many other valuable records).

2. The Card Index.

A constantly growing card index of all known Swinnertons past and present.

3. Parish Records

Extracts from Parish Registers of Births, Marriages and Deaths prior to 1837. At present mainly Staffs. and Salop, some Warwicks. and Gloucs.

4. Census Returns

Extracts from the 1841, 1851 and 1861 Censuses for Swinnerton families. Small as yet.

(A census has been taken every 10 years since 1801 (except 1941) but the first three were numerical counts only. This year for the first time the 1871 Census was made available to the public. The returns are kept at the Public Record Office, London but copies of particular districts or towns are in many local libraries.

5. Directories

Extracts from "Swinnerton" entries from the early 19th century town and county directories of Staffs. and Salop.

6. Newspapers

Extracts of all Swinnerton entries in the Staffs. Advertiser, 1795 - 1840. Cuttings from current national daily and local papers, journals, etc.

7. Monumental Inscriptions.

Inscriptions on Swinnerton gravestones, mainly Staffs, Salop, Warks. and Gloucs. (Known as M.I.'s, you can sometimes find two or three generations on one headstone - very useful.)

8. Miscellaneous Records

Entries relating to "Swinnertons" from printed books, apprenticeship rolls, wills, Armed Services & Professional Lists, Poll Books, Hearth Roll Taxes, Historical Journals, letters, etc. etc.

9. "Trees"

A collection of family trees for many smaller branches of the family, in some cases leading directly off the main branches portrayed in the printed history but in others not yet tied directly in.

All these records are constantly being added to. We shall be glad to hear from you of any "Swinnerton" references you come across in whatever field and we hope to publish many of them on these pages.

MISCELLANEOUS SALOP RECORDS: (1)

The Shropshire Hearth Roll Tax. 1671.

Cheswardine. Thomas Swinnerton. 1 hearth. 2/- (TS/7)

The Shrewsbury Burgesses Roll. 1681

Henry Swinnerton of S., grocer, s. of - - of Wrexham (HS/1)

North Shropshire Election Poll Book. 21 Nov. 1868

Cheswardine. Parish of Freeholders & £50 occupiers.
Swinnerton - William 2 votes cast. (WS/7)

'Staffordshire Advertiser' April 11th 1835

On the 2nd inst. at St. Mary's, Shrewsbury by the Rev. W. Gorsuch Rowlands
Mr. S. Swinnerton of Drayton, Surgeon to Susannah, daughter of the late Charles
Harding, Esq. of The Clive. (SS/31)

Bagshaw's Gazetteer of Salop. 1852

Market Drayton. Samuel Swinnerton. Surgeon, Shropshire St. (SS/31)
(these two items relate to the same man after whom 'Swinnerton Street' in Crewe is named)

Directory of Shrewsbury. 1851

Elizabeth Swinnerton. Baker. Castle Foregate (ES/30)

Heralds Visitation of Salop. 1623. (Blakeway)

Under Arms of Humphrey Swynnerton lists :-

John Swynnerton - Sheriff of Salop. 1322. (JS/128)

Thomas Swynnerton - Sheriff of Salop. 1342 (TS/69)

Great Card Index of The Society of Genealogists, London.

SWYNNERTON Family: 1589 - 1631, of Oswestry; of London (Merchant Taylor),
of Essex. Pedigree S. of G. Smith Mss. Vol. 3/23212 (JS/83)

SWINNERTON: Note from Stow's Survey of London, 1618. p. 956. Sir
John Swinnerton, s. of Thomas, s. of Richard of Oswestry (JS/84)

(Note: This is not quite correct, Sir John (JS/84) was the son of JOHN Swinnerton
(JS/83) and Mary Fawnte. It is thought that he, in turn was the son of Richard
Swinnerton of Oswestry but this has not yet been proved.)

SWINNERTON: Henry 1697. Per Est. Shrewsbury. Presland v. Harwood.
Chancery Proceedings. BEF. 1714 MIR 458/72

Society of Genealogists' Library, London.

The Joseph Morris of Shrewsbury Collection - donated by Mrs. P. Swinnerton Hughes
in 1929. 13 volumes mainly Salop, (detailed in The Genealogists' Magazine i, 125)
Who was she ?

Shropshire Archaeological Society Volumes

1. John Swinnerton of Pentre clawdd was appointed Deputy Surveyor of the road
leading from Oswestry to Chirk 28 September 1769.
2. Capt. Swynnerton and Capt. Francis Newport, both Captains of a Troop of Horse
were taken prisoner July 3rd 1644 at Oswestry Castle (then in Colonel Mytton's
hands).

Memoirs of Merchant Taylors Co. by Clode. pp 151-177

Sir John Swinnerton, when he was Master, gave a Banquet - cost £1061 - to King James I
(JS/84)

Thank you for all your letters and for your stamps, donations, etc. They are very
much appreciated.