# SWINNERTON FAMILY HISTORY

Heraldic and Genealogical Studies

of the family
Compiled and edited by

Lt. Colonel I. S. Swinnerton T.D., L.P.

Beech Tree House, Norton Road. Stourbridge, Worcs

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## THE FAMILY NAME

We are still coming across, or being sent, variations in spelling of our name. Recent additions include Swininten (1194), Swyneforton (1263), Swynereston (1265), Swynemerton (1288) and Swaynarton (1467). There is also, of course, the 'French' rendering by Frossiart - the 14th century chronicler, as "Sequaqueton" (see'Swynnerton & the Swinnertons') This brings the total number of variations so far discovered to 40

## THE LORD MAYOR OF LONDON

Sir John Swynnerton or Swinnerton (JS/84) mentioned in our last issue, amassed a fortune from his control of the Wine Office in the time of Queen Elizabeth I. His father, John Swinnerton (JS/83) had come to London from Oswestry in the days when it was quite common for younger sons of the Landed Gentry to turn their hands to commerce and set up as merchants in London and the principal towns. As a young man Sir John had travelled extensively on the continent, particularly in Spain and had obtained the equivalent of a modern Royal Warrant to be the sole supplier of wine to Queen Elizabeth. With this fortune he purchased, amongst other properties, Stanway Hall in Essex which – as Professor Armitstead has pointed out in a note recently received – is now Colchester Zoo which many of you must have seen at various times on Television. The full story of this branch of the family, which died out in the male line in the middle of the 1600's but is represented today by Sir Leonard Swinnerton–Dyer, Bart., is given in Canon Bridgman's General History of the Family mentioned in issue No. 1

# THE FAMILY IN IRELAND

A new correspondent, Mrs. A. Barnard of Ontario, Canada, has provided us with our first knowledge of any Swinnertons in Ireland. Her great-grandfather THOMAS SAMUEL SWINNERTON (TS/70) was born in Co. Down on 21 May 1821. We do not yet know who his parents were but either they or he, when he grew up, emigrated to Canada and he became a member of the 1st Parliament of Ontario Province 1867-71. He married Eliza Parker, a native of Coventry, Ontario and raised a large family there. We hope to find out eventually where his family came from and how they came to be in Ireland.

#### THE FAMILY IN SCOTLAND

We have no knowledge of any branch of the family existing in Scotland. In 1348 Stephen de Swynnerton had been granted the manor of Moreton in Dumfries by King Edward III as a reward for his fighting services but there is no record of him having lived there or of any family.

#### THE FAMILY IN WALES

Staffordshire and Shropshire, the main homes of the family, are both close to the Welsh Borders and so there are many Welsh connections. From the middle 1600's to the early 1800's a large clan lived in and around Oswestry but we don't yet know what happened to them after this date. In the middle to late 1800's there appears to have been quite a family in the Wrexham area but again we have as yet no knowledge of what has happened to these. It is possible that these two families are connected.

# THE BETLEY SWINNERTONS

Mention was made in both our previous issues of WILLIAM SWINNERTON of Betley (WS/14), one of the three progenitors of the majority of the present day Swinnertons. William was baptized at Betley on the 25th February 1739/40, the third son of JOHN SWINNERTON and MARY BIRTSHALL. His father had moved to Betley from Haslington in Cheshire before 1738 and had either inherited or acquired a small freehold known as Hodgkin's Crop or Croft, together with a dwelling house known as Paradise.

You will see that we write 1739/40 because until 1752 the ecclesiastical and legal year began on the 25th March and therefore his birth on 25th February was in the legal year of 1739 but in the historical year of 1740 as we know it today.

He married a local girl, Hannah Hilditch of Betley in 1762 and succeeded his father as the representative of the family at Betley at the age of 43, raising a family of four sons and six daughters there. Variously described as Market Gardener, Gardener and Seedsman, he was obviously a great character. He died on 31st May 1809 and his epitaph in Betley churchyard speaks of a 'kind father, a faithful husband, a good neighbour and an honest man'. His obituary in the Staffordshire Advertiser says that he "travelled as a Market Gardener to Newcastle and the Potteries for upwards of 50 years - a good Christian neighbour".

He was proud of his family line - the Swynnertons of Whitmore - which he could trace back to Richard de Swynnerton of Whitmore, a younger son of Sir Roger de Swynnerton, Lord of Swynnerton in the time of Edward II and, through him to Alan, the first of the Swynnertons, the Domesday tenant of Swynnerton in 1086.

His father used as his bookplate the heraldic arms of Swynnerton of Whitmore, to which he believed himself entitled, which were (as traditionally received and as given both by Guillim & Shaw):— "Argent, a cross flory sable, overall a bend gules." In layman's language this is a black cross with flowered or 'fleur-de-lys' ends on a silver shield with a diagonal red stripe going across it from left to right. These were the same arms as those used by the Swynnertons of Butterton and the Swynnertons of Eccleshall being the ancient Cross Flory of the Swynnertons of Swynnerton differenced with the Bend Gules for a cadet branch

His great-great granddaughter HANNAH SWINNERTON (HS/42) writing in 1960 (she was then 97 and had emigrated to Canada in Victorian times with her parents) remembered the home of her grandparents on Betley Common very well. It was a small cottage with a milk-house and a garden full of fruit trees. The cow was kept down the road. She remembered picking blackberries in the lane leading to the house. Although the house was quite small, it had a large farmhouse-type kitchen in which she remembered joining in the family Sunday Service sitting on a long bench with her brothers and sisters in a form of Nonconformist worship. She was told that all her uncles and aunts - ten in all - were born there.

WILLIAM SWINNERTON of Shotton (WS/55) born 1893 at Betley, writing in 1973, told us that he had in his possession a jug which had been in the family as long as he could remember and known to them all as 'The Christening Jug' (an Apostle Jug in fact) which was used at the Baptismal Services in the farm house at Betley Common. In his boyhood this was known as Keen's Croft not Hodgkin's Croft. He believes that a smaller, similar jug also used in the services went to Canada with the emigrants. A fascinating link with the past.

We mentioned in our last issue that we hoped to produce at a later date a second volume of "Swinnerton Family Trees" bringing those in Vol. I up to the present day and here now is the first of these showing the immediate family of William of Betley and the descendants of his eldest son John.

WILLIAM SWINNERTON of Betley, Staffs. 3rd son of John & Mary Swinnerton of Haslington (WS. 15) Market Gardener & Seedsman)39 Bap. 25. 2.  $17\frac{65}{40}$ all at d. 31.5.1809 Betley bur. at Betley

TABLE 2b

Hannah, dau. of Joseph Hilditch of Betley.

21.1.1741 all at m. 27.5.1762 Betley d. 20.3.1828

Continued from Table I: Swynerton of Whitmore (Swinnerton Family Trees Vol. I, p. 7: Collections for a History of Staffs. Vol. VII Pt. II pp. 158-161)

JOHN SWINNERTON Elizabeth of Betley, Staffs. (JS. 42) bap. 1.9.1770 (b. 30 July) Betley bur. 7.3.1797 TABLE 2a

WILLIAM SWINNERTON of Betley, Staffs. (WS. 14) bap. 17.5.1772 (b. 7 May) d. 12.10.1839) bur. 19.11.1839) Gardener

Margaret Cooper of Madeley, Staffs bap. 6.3.1773 m. 13.10.1793 both at Madeley

RALPH SWINNERTON of Betley, Staffs. (RS. 13) bap. 4. 1.1774) at. (b. 2 Dec. '73)) Betley d. 3. 7.1858) Bricklayer

= Sarah Robinson of Acton, Ches. b. circa 1778

TABLE 2c

(JS. 43) bap. 21.5.1777) at (b. 6 March ) Betley d. 23.7.1836 at Liverpool

JOSEPH SWINNERTON = Hannah Dod of Chester b. 21. 2. 1776 m. Master of the Charity School d. 16.1.1840 Betley.

TABLE 2d

SWINNERTON of BETLEY

Facsimile of an old plate of John Swinnerton of Haslington, great-grandfather of William of Betley above, viv-temp. Charles II.

1. ANN (AS. 28) bap.

> Hugh Cork of Betley

2. MARY (MS. 34) bap. Betley 27.5.1764

> Wm. Hodgkins of Craddocks Moss

3. LIDIA (LS.1) bap. Betley 19.1.1766

> Wm. Plant of Stockport at Betley 4.6.1781

4. SARAH (SS. 21) bap. 31.1.1768 bur. 27.9.1768 both at Betley

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5. ELIZABETH (ES. 33) (Twin with John)

> Thomas Wharton of Barthomley

10. HANNAH (HS. 12) bap. Betley 14.1.1780

> Rev. Wm. Evans of Stoke at Betley 21.12.1797

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JOHN SWINNERTON = Elizabeth = (2) John Jones
                                                                        of Betley, Staffs.
                                                                                                                widower of Betley
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    TABLE 2a
                                                                        eldest son of
                                                                                                                3.4.1809
                                                                        William Swinnerton
                                                                        of Betley.
                                                                        (JS. 42)
                                                                        bap. 1.9.1770 ) at
                                                                        b. 30 July
                                                                                       Betley
                                                                        bur. 7.3.1797 )
                                                      JOHN SWINNERTON
                                                                                = Helen (Eleanor ar Ellen) Williams
                                                                                                                    SARAH
                                                                                  of St. Philip's Parish, B'ham.
                                                     (JS. 47)
                                                                                                                     (SS. 22)
                                                     of Coleshill, Warks.
                                                                                   b. circa 1791
                                                                                                                     bap. 13.10.1793 ) at
                                                     Journeyman Carpenter
                                                                                  m. 4. 10. 1818 at St. Philip's
                                                                                                                    (b.29 July)
                                                                                                                                    ) Betley
                                                     bap. 5.6.1797 at Betley
                                                                                  d. 14.5.1846, at Coleshill
                                                    (b. 5 May)
                                                     d. 27.11.1860 at Erdington
                             CHARLES SWINNERTON =
                                                                                                                                                                                          THOMAS SWINNERTON
                                                                                                                                                                                                                             Jane Paine
                                                         Ann Bayliss
                             (CS. 8)
                                                         of Coleshill St. . B'ham.
                                                                                                                                                                                           (TS. 20)
                                                                                                                                                                                                                              of Long Buckby
                                                                                                                                                                                           Grocer of Long Buckby, Northants,
                                                         b. circa 1821 at Coleshill
                             of Aston, B'ham.
                                                                                                                                                                                                                              b. circa 1829
                                                                                                                                                                                           Bap. 13.4.1827 ) at
                             Carpenter
                                                         m. 31. 12. 1846 at St. Philip's, B'ham.
                                                                                                                                                                                                                              m. 21.3.1850
                             bap. 7.10.1821 )at
                                                                                                                                                                                           Bur.
                                                                                                                                                                                                    1869 ) Coleshill
                                                         bur. 22.6.1893 at Coleshill
                                                                                                                                                                                                                              at Daventry
                             bur. 8.9.1885 )Coleshill
                                                               ANN KELSEY
WALTER SWINNERTON
                                                                                           FRANCIS SWINNERTON
                                                                                                                           EDWIN SWINNERTON
                                                                                                                                                 = Helen Jane Britt
                                                                                                                                                                     KATE
                             Emma Cattle (or Cattell)
                                                                                                                                                                                           HENRY PAINE SWINNERTON
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 Emma Louisa
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            EMILY
of Coleshill, Warks.
                                                              (AS. 27)
                                                                                                                           (ES. 48)
                                                                                                                                                   (nee Pope)
                                                                                                                                                                     (KS, 6)
                                                                                           (FS. 14)
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 Tebbits
                                                                                                                                                                                           (HS. 26)
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            (ES. 54)
                                                                                                                          b. 1855
                                                                      1849 at Coleshill
                                                                                                 1852 at Coleshill
                                                                                                                                                   31, 3, 1894
                                                                                                                                                                     b. 1857
(WS. 33)
                                1850
                                                                                            b.
                                                                                                                                                                                           b. 22. 3, 1852 at Spratton, Northants.
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 28.1.1883
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      1851
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            bap.
                                                                                                                           at Coleshill
                                                                                                                                                                     bur. 11. 10. 1878
b. 26.9.1847 ) at
                             m. 28.4.1870 at Aston, B'ham.
                                                                                                                                                   Meriden
                                                                                                                                                                                                      at Coleshill
                                                                                                                                                                                           bap.
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 Ocker Hill
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            at Coleshill
bur. 29. 10. 1882 ) Coleshill
                             d. 13, 8, 1885 at Coleshill
                                                                                                                                                                     at Coleshill
                                                                                                                                                                                           FRANK SWINNERTON
CHARLES EDWIN
                                                                      WALTER SWINNERTON
                                                                                                                                            FREDERICK
                                                                                                                                                              = Rose M. Bowley
                        Catherine Boswell
                                                  MARIA (Maude)
                                                                                               Gertrude Mary
                                                                                                                          THOMAS
                                                                                                                                                                                           (FS. 20)
SWINNERTON
                        Bower Forsythe
                                                  (MS, 62)
                                                                      (WS. 34)
                                                                                                Blackner
                                                                                                                          SWINNERTON
                                                                                                                                            SWINNERTON
                                                                                                                                                                                           b. 7.1.1895 Coleshill
(CS. 21)
                        b. circa 1870
                                                  b. 13.10.1872
                                                                      b. 13.3.1876
                                                                                                b. c. 1859, Canada
                                                                                                                          (TS. 45)
                                                                                                                                            (FS. 16)
b. 13.1.1871
                        m. 15, 5, 1894 at
                                                  d. 11.5.1968
                                                                      d. 27.5.1963
                                                                                                m. 18, 7, 1908 at Coventry
                                                                                                                         bap. 14.12.1878
                                                                                                                                            of Australia
                                                                                                                                            bap. 26. 11. 1882 at
      1903
                                                                                               d. 23.5.1956
                                                                                                                         (d. inf)
                        Birmingham
                                                     unm.
                                                                                                                                           (b. 27 Oct)
                                                                                                                                                                   in Australia
                                                  ELLEN
                                                                                                                                            d. 30. 3. 1945
                                                  (ES. 49)
                                                  bap. 5.7.1874
                                                                                                                      HENRY WILLIAM
                                                                                                                                          7. MARGARET ANNIE
                                                  d.
                                                          1875
                                                                                                                      SWINNERTON
                                                                                                                                            (MS. 63)
                                                                                                                                            b. 9. 5. 1881
                                                                                                                     (HS. 25)
                                                                                                                      bap. 4.7.1880
                                                                                                                                                  1882
CHARLES HENRY = Charlotte
                                       SYDNEY HAROLD
                                                                        JOHN WALTER
                                                                                               Patricia Mary
                                                                                                                      d. 20, 12, 1936
                                                                                                                                            (d. inf)
SWINNERTON
                     Cowley
                                       SWINNERTON
                                                                        SWINNERTON
                                                                                                Wise
                                                                                                                        at Cambridge
(CS. 22)
                     13. 8. 1921
                                       (SS. 38)
                                                                        (38.110)
                                                                                               b. 1.11.1919
                                                                                                                        (unmar.)
                                                                                                                                                                                           EDWIN CHARLES
                                                                                                                                                                                                                      Shirley
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           EUNICE DOROTHY
                                                                                               m. 28.1.1942
                                                                                                                                             ERIC SWINNERTON = Kathleen P.
                     Ashstead
                                                                        b. 29. 4. 1916
                                                                                                                                                                                          SWINNERTON
                                                                                                                                                                                                                      Johnson.
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           ES. 50
                                                                                               at Chester
                                                                                                                                            (ES. 51)
                                                                                                                                                                 Hurney
                                                                                                                                                                                           (ES. 53)
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           b. 17.8, 1919
                                       MAUDE ANNIE
                                                                                                                                             DENNIS FRANCIS
                                                                                                                                                                RAYMOND PETER
                                                                        MERIEL ANNE
                                                                                               MICHAEL JOHN = Elizabeth Ann Baird
                                                                                                                                                                                         PHILLIP JAMES
                                                                                                                                                                                                               RUSSELL
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     DEBORAH
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           John E. Byfield
                                       (MS. 64)
                                                                                                                                            SWINNERTON
                                                                                                                                                                SWINNERTON
                                                                        (MS, 65)
                                                                                               SWINNERTON
                                                                                                                  22. 7. 1972
                                                                                                                                                                                         SWINNERTON
                                                                                                                                                                                                               SWINNERTON
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    b. 24.6.1954
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          on 22. 3. 1941
                                                                                                                                            (DS. 10)
                                                                                                                                                                 (RS. 33)
                                                                        b. 11, 12, 1942
                                                                                               (MS. 66)
                                                                                                                                                                                         (PS. 6)
                                                                                                                                                                                                               (RS. 34)
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    (DS. 11)
                                                                                                                                                                 b. 22, 9, 1949
                                                                                               b. 2.7.1946
                                                                                                                                            b. 22. 4. 1947
                                                                                                                                                                                         b. 22, 9, 1951
                                                                                                                                                                                                               b. 5.10.1950
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           EILEEN MAUDE
                                                                       Nigel Dickson
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           (ES. 52)
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           b. 12. 3. 1926
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           Maxwell J. Cudd
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