

SWINNERTON

FAMILY HISTORY

Heraldic and Genealogical Studies

of the family

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Our circulation is growing steadily. This newsletter now goes to 59 family members in the U.K., 3 in America, 2 in Canada, 2 in Australia and to New Zealand. Although not sent direct by me, I know it is also received in Africa and The Bahamas. It also goes to 4 learned Societies.

Next month I hope to be able to give you some exciting news of the latest development in our family saga and also to send you the Binder Covers for this newsletter promised in our original introductory letter. A real Xmas Bumper Bundle !

FAMILY NOTES

Our congratulations go to HAROLD ALBERT SWINNERTON (HS/41) who has just been elected the first President of the newly formed Institute of Explosive Engineers. Also to the Rev. B. T. Swinnerton (BS/19) who has been awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree by the New York State University for his three part thesis on Staffordshire Local History and Education.

Sadly, we must tell you that one of our correspondents, JOHN SWINNERTON of Ormskirk died on 3rd August. He was a retired schoolmaster and had been in charge of the Remedial Education Centre at Huyton. He had been a Liberal Councillor for the Church Ward of Liverpool, member of the National Committee of the Remedial Teachers' Association, Secretary of the Liverpool Branch of the National Association of Schoolmasters and President of the Huyton branch. He was Treasurer of the Liverpool Diocesan Readers' Board and Honorary Welfare Officer of the Royal Artillery Association in Liverpool. He served during the war with the Royal Artillery in the Middle East, Austria, Bavaria and Greece where he was taken prisoner. Our sincere sympathy goes to his family.

STAFFORDSHIRE

Phil Drabble.

1948

"Until 1306 the Swynnertons of Hilton were merely a branch of the main family of Swynnerton near Stone. But, in 1306, Sir John de Swynnerton (JS/128) married Anne de Montgomery, although she was only a slip of a child of fifteen. Any immaturity of her charms, however, must have been easily compensated by the fact that she was heir to Philip de Montgomery, who had died eleven years previously. Through his young wife, Anne, Sir John not only became extremely rich but also obtained the Bailwick of the Stewardship of Cannock, ranging from Tamworth to Brewood and from Wednesbury to within a mile of Stafford. His great possessions brought in their wake their share of troubles. Within a year he was being successfully sued by William de Nevill for "a third part of the Bailwick of the Stewardship of Canoc". Although a man of great influence and possessions, his career was as chequered as many influential men before and since, and Sir John knew how to look after himself. He fought for the King in Scotland and France; yet twice he found it necessary to obtain the King's Pardon for siding with Lancaster and the rebel barons. He was a Knight of the Shire, representing the county in Parliament and, as Commissioner of Array for Staffordshire, he had control of the armed forces of both counties. Yet he was mixed up in the abduction of Sir Peter Gresley's wife, and once again he had to obtain a King's Pardon, this time for raping the good lady. His son, who succeeded him in 1340, proved a diligent disciple."

Biography of Members of the Commons House 1430-1539

SWINNERTON Humphery (1420-66) of Swynnerton & Hilton, M. P. Staffs.
1455-6 Lancastrian (HS/30)

"Son and heir of William Swynnerton of Swynnerton (d. 1429) (WS/57) by Ellen (Trumwyne) m. 1449 his cousin Anne (1435-70) (AS/34) dau. & co-heir of Thomas Swynnerton of Hilton (TS/52). In 1449/50 Humphery Swynnerton & Anne his wife, one of the heirs of Thomas Swynnerton sued John Stanley Esq. (q. v.) for the evidences of the lands of her inheritance. (Early Chanc. proc. 18/9)

Sheriff of Staffs. 1449-50. M. P. 1455-6 Escheator Staffs 1457-8. He was pardoned outlawry for not appearing when sued for debt 11 Feb. 1460. That he was Lancastrian is shown by the comm. issued for his arrest 22nd Dec. 1461 "late of Hilton" to be brought before the Council to answer certain falsehoods. (Col. Pat. Rolls 1461/01)

He may well have died in prison or resisting arrest for he left no will and no monument at Swynnerton or Hilton and he was recently dead in 1463, leaving an infant son and heir Humphrey (HS/29) - from whom descends the present Lord Stafford of Swynnerton." (Staffs. Colls. 1917 pp. 142-3)

SOME SHROPSHIRE WILLS

1780 - 1857

1839	Apr. 20	THOMAS SWINNERTON	Moreton Corbett
1840	Apr. 22	CHARLES SWINNERTON	Cheswardine
1856		SAMUEL SWINNERTON	Salop Feb. 159 W (PCC)

Shrewsbury District Probate Registry - Peculiar CourtsManor of Tyrley

1804	SWINNERTON	JOHN	W.I. & Act.
1810	SWINNERTON	SARAH	W. & Act.

St. Mary's, Shrewsbury

1831	SWINNERTON	JOSEPH of Astley, Innkeeper.	T. 50
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Oswestry Parish Register

1684	Fo 385	Copy of Will of SIR JOHN SWINNERTON Kt. Alderman of the City of London.
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"THE HANDSOMEST MAN IN THE CAPE"

A picture - still to be seen - at Sandwich, Cape Cod, of TIMOTHY SWINNERTON shows him to be more strikingly handsome than any other Cape Figure from the old days. In the 1850's, the record breaking "Flying Scud" was taken over by Captain DAVID SWINNERTON. As a child he had lived in the house which now bears the family name but, apparently, it was even better known as the abode of the handsome Timothy.

(ex Mrs. Hazel Gray-Jones of Canada)

DIRECTORY OF NATIONAL BIOGRAPHY.

A. M. Hyamson 1951

SWYNNERTON - Annie Louisa (née Robinson) Eng. pntr. 1855-1933

S. Full Biography in the Annual Register. 100 vols. 1850-1949

(Annie Swynnerton was the wife of JOSEPH WILLIAM SWYNNERTON (JS/91) the Manx Sculptor.)

SWYNNERTON CHURCH

You will all, I am sure, be pleased to hear that Staffordshire County Council has authorised a grant towards the preservation of St. Mary's. In our small way we also try and help, as you know.

SWINNERTON - Phillipe Charles. (r.n.)

b. 10 Aug. 1879 in London. Was the brother of the famous Frank Swinnerton, novelist. An Artist, for a time he drew Weary Willie and Tired Tim; became editor of Chick's Own and Wonderland Weekly, later on, when he also drew comic characters. Died a few years ago.

(Phillipe Swinnerton (PS/8) was the younger son of CHARLES SWINNERTON (CS/32) and Rose Cottam. He died in 1963 in London.)

A Catalogue of all graduates in divinity, law, medicine, arts and music who have regularly proceeded or been created in the University of Oxford between October 10 1659 and Dec. 31 1850

p. 642 SWINNERTON (John) Pembroke BA. June 25 1776. MA. Mar. 28 1781

GRADUATI CANTABRIGIENSIS from MDCLX to MDCCCXXIII

MDCCCXXIII SWINNERTON Sam. Jesus. AB 1682

(2 graduates in 200 years - obviously we were not a very academic family !)

THE AMERICAN ARTIST

Famous artist and cartoonist Jimmy Swinnerton has died in a Palm Springs Hospital near the desert he lived and painted for most of his 98 years.

Swinnerton was known to a generation of children as the creator of the cartoon strips "Little Jimmy" and "The Canyon Kiddies", both centering on the adventures of Hopi and Navajo youngsters and landscaped with desert scenery. He died yesterday three months short of his 99th birthday, of complications resulting from a broken leg. Swinnerton continued painting until two years ago. At the time he stopped he explained, "I'm conserving my energy for living".

Swinnerton, who was the oldest Hearst Corporation employee, was on the payroll since 1892 when he was hired out of art school by William Randolph Hearst Sr. as a cartoonist for the San Francisco Examiner.

On the Examiner he drew the "little California Bear" which gave the daily weather forecast. Later he went east with Hearst to help with the first Sunday supplement. It was for this section that Swinnerton created "Little Jimmy" and "Little Tigers". While in New York, Swinnerton was diagnosed as having tuberculosis, whereupon Hearst sent him to Palm Springs.

The desert gave Swinnerton his health and a new subject. For the rest of his life he painted mostly desert landscapes. Many of his oils now sell for \$10,000.

A member of the American Institute of Fine Arts, Swinnerton received many awards throughout his career.

He is survived by his wife, Gretchen, of Palm Springs.

(Los Angeles Herald-Examiner, September 6th 1974)

We are indebted to H. Norman Swinnerton of California for the above obituary.

MEMORIALS OF OLD STAFFORDSHIRE

Rev. W. Beresford RD. 1909

p. 12 But alas, these scenes of splendour were speedily overclouded by the Black Death. The mortality then was enormous, and its results so far-reaching as to become one of the great factors influencing British Social History. Staffordshire was sorely visited by that scourge, and lost its archdeacon and half the clergy. The Bagots suffered. The whole forester-family at Pillaston Hall was swept away. At Swynnerton both squire and rector died and Nicholas de Swynnerton, Dean of Stafford also.

THE BETLEY SWINNERTONS

Carrying on with our story, we now come to the family of William's third son, RALPH (RS/13). He was born at Betley on 2nd December 1773, the year before the Boston Tea Party. He became a master-bricklayer, a trade followed also by his eldest son and several of his grandsons who, by their craftsmanship, were to achieve some fame in North America and Canada.

Ralph had two sons and one daughter, but his eldest son, JAMES (JS/85) had seven sons all of whom produced families. He also had 3 daughters so it is going to be difficult to condense them all into one tree as we did with his elder brothers, we shall probably have to produce several to get in all his descendants who include many of you.

Four of Ralph's grandsons are said to have gone to North America, two eventually settled in Canada but the others returned to their native Staffordshire to marry and raise families. Whilst in America they are reputed to have been responsible for building the main drains of what is now the City of Chicago - a somewhat unusual claim to fame! Certainly they were well-known, the obituary of CHARLES (CS/12) in the local paper says :-

"CHARLES SWINNERTON, a resident of Barrie for half a century, passed away on April 29th 1931 at his home, 14 North Street Mr. Swinnerton was born in Betley, England. Fifty years ago he came to this country and located in Barrie where the rest of his days were spent. In his work as a bricklayer and mason contractor, he assisted in the erection of a number of prominent buildings, one of which was the Post Office. Another was the block in which The Examiner office is located. Mr. Swinnerton was a man of industry and integrity. His hobby was floriculture He was an Anglican . . . a Conservative in politics In fraternal circles he was a life member of Corinthian Lodge, AF & AM and also a charter member and past master of Southampton Lodge Sons of England "

I hope to have the first part of the tree ready for the next issue.

DIRECTORY OF STAFFS.

T. White.

1851

BUTTERTON

The manor and estate passed from the late Thomas SWINNERTON to Lady Pilkington, relict of the late Sir William Pilkington Bart. who died in 1850, shortly after he and his lady had completed the erection of Butterson Hall which is a large and handsome structure of mixed architecture with pleasant grounds standing near the old hall which was long the seat of the Swinnerton family and will shortly be taken down.

"THE MORNING"

That morning early in the imperial chace
I know not what soft lustre steeped my eyes,
Whether of dawn, or flush of vermeil skies,
Of troops of angels, winged with houseling grace:

I only know, if souls may traverse space,
That Loved One came, not in celestial guise,
But dardly stoled like Sisters staid and wise,
And by the lilies found her lowly place !

She knelt, and all that cypress wood grew dim,
As I in rapt amaze one moment bent,
And her glad lips breathed on the golden brim
Nor marked I more. Haply some tears besprent
My cheeks, but O wild rock and forest grim,
Are now for me with benediction blent !

(The Rev. Charles Swynnerton)