

SWINNERTON

FAMILY HISTORY

Heraldic and Genealogical Studies
of the family

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Unfortunately, I was unable to keep the promise I made in Issue No. 5 to let you have the Binders for Xmas; Business, Military Duties and Xmas itself got in the way and we didn't even get a December issue out. However, to start 1975, here is No. 6 together with covers to hold all the previous issues and news of the Society in the attached letter.

To bind your newsletters you can either use a looseleaf ring binder; A4 book with 'see-through' pockets or you can get plastic sleeves from most stationers, Boots, W. H. Smith, etc. for about 2p each which slide on and will hold about 25 pages plus the covers.

THE BETLEY SWINNERTONS

The 'tree' of RALPH Swinnerton's family (RS/13) mentioned in issue No. 5 is not yet ready, research is going on but it is taking longer than we thought to get in all the details - we hope it will be ready for Issue No. 7.

However, in the meantime, a most interesting development has taken place. Until recently we had thought that the line of WILLIAM SWINNERTON of Betley (WS/15) was the senior line extant but we have now discovered a new family in Abergavenny and Chester who are direct descendants of JOHN SWINNERTON of Chester (JS/44), William's eldest brother, and therefore in the light of our present knowledge, we must regard them as the senior Swinnerton family still in existence.

The original lines of Swynnerton of Swynnerton and Hilton and Swynnerton of Butterson, of course, died out in the direct male line in 1562 and 1836 respectively in the persons of Humphrey Swynnerton of Swynnerton & Hilton and Thomas Swinnerton of Butterson.

There is possibly one branch more senior than this new Chester one - the Swinnertons of Shut Lane (SHC. Vol. VII Pt. II p. 145) - descendants have been traced down to 1886 but so far no further.

The start of this Chester Branch was given by the Rev. Charles Swynnerton in "The Descendants of John Swinnerton of Chester" (SHC. Vol. VII Pt. II Table II p. 162) but he only took it down to 1875. A newspaper cutting sent to me by Mrs. Swinnerton of Broughton (The Rev. Brian Swinnerton's mother and my "eagle eye" for the Staffordshire & Cheshire newspapers!) revealed that a father and three sons had all been made Freemen of the City of Chester and having written to them, I learned that they had a long connection with that City and that all of them had been or are Freemen of the City. GEORGE SWINNERTON b. 1800 (GS/12) and all those following have been or will become members of the Company of Painters, Glaziers, Embroiders and Stationers, one of the 23 guilds which still survive in Chester.

A 'tree' of this branch is being prepared and will be published, all being well, in the next issue.

CORRECTION.

Issue No. 4 - "The Betley Swinnertons" - for Charles Henry (CS/31) read CHARLES EDWIN (CS/21)

Until the 19th century the records of the Swinnerton family show little evidence of wide dispersal from the village from which it takes its name. Only the aristocratic and the wealthy could afford to travel great distances - or had any need to - and the law of "primo-geniture" ensured that such wealth as a person could gather devolved upon his eldest son. At the same time the younger sons might be yeoman farmers or even labourers, and to them a twenty mile trip was really "going abroad". So the family became established in specific areas - Whitmore, Shut Lane, and so on, although at least one must have sought success and wealth in the metropolis; the records of the "London" branch are sketchy and complex.

The 19th century saw an enormous increase in the "social mobility" of the population; a big factor in this was the coming of the railway. The London and North Western Railway passed through "Swinnerton" territory on its way up the Trent valley to Crewe; the London and Birmingham hived off a spur from Hampton-in-Arden to Water Orton which was for a time the only western line from London to the North of England. (This line fell into disuse with the completion of the "North Western" line - among its last uses was a "night stop" for the Royal Train when King George VI visited the Midlands in World War 2).

First the Railways had to be built, and they acted as a magnet for skilled craftsmen and labourers along the route, offering wages which put families above the poverty line - if the breadwinner could stand the long hours and heavy work. More than that - on completion they offered to the best workers the chance of a career in a service noted for its esprit de corps and security of employment.

One who decided not to follow his father's and grandfather's trade as a carpenter was Walter Swinnerton (WS/33). The North Western line passed within sight of their Betley home and he became a signalman, moving finally to the station at Forge Mills, near Coleshill in Warwickshire. Here he must have been stationmaster, porter, signalman and general factotum, before dying of cancer at the early age of 36. His widow died three years later, leaving the survivors of their eight children to fend for themselves. And survive they did: one daughter put aside for dead at birth not only recovered but lived to the age of 93. One son became a Company Director, another founded a whole new line in Australia. And the latest of the line? He works on the railway.

This was a typical example of the greater "social mobility" brought about by the Industrial Revolution, and for many Swinnertons the Revolution meant the Railway. Betley, Madeley, Newcastle, Swynnerton itself were all well placed to offer a variety of skills and labour so a study of the past 150 years may well throw up more "railway" connections. Is there a railwayman in your branch? We would like to know more about him.

J. W. Swinnerton.

We can now make two further additions to this branch. SYDNEY HAROLD SWINNERTON (Table 2a Issue 3 -SS./38) married Florence May Allen - a widow - on 28.5.1927 at St. Andrew's, Bordesley, Warks. His occupation is given as wheelwright and they had a daughter BERYL SWINNERTON (BS/20) who was born in 1928.

SOTHEBY'S SALE 9 MARCH 1974

Lot 143. A SET OF TWELVE GEORGE III DINNER PLATES, engraved with a coat of arms within foliate mantling and with a motto and two crests below the shaped gadroon border, the undersides bearing contemporary scratch weights and numbered, 9½" diam. by Augustus le Sage, 1771, 172oz 3dwt.

The arms are those of Swinnerton Drayton, co. Salop, quartering Abnet, co. Staffs with another in pretence.

SOLD FOR £1,800 !!!

THE LORD MAYOR OF LONDON

Further to our note in Issue No. 3, Morant's "History of Colchester" (1748) gives the following :-

Book III Para. 17 :

Sir John Swinerton's gift to Lexden.

The following account of it is thus entered in the old Register-book of this parish.

"September anno Domini 1610

Mem. That about the feast of St. Michell the Archangell in the yeare abovesaide, the worshipful Mrs. Marye Swinerton Widd. and the Right worshipfull Sir John Swinerton Knight (her sonne) upon a Sabath daye came unto this parish Church of Lexden, And did signifie, that the sayde Mrs. Marye Swinerton, as well in regarde she was borne in the saide parishe, as allso for other Charitable respectes her movinge, Hath gyven unto the poore of the saide parish yearly (during the lyfe of the saide Marye) a somme or pencion of fyve pounds and fower shillings to be employed to the use of the poore by the officers and Cheefe inhabitants of the saide parishe from tyme to tyme for the tyme being, as followeth (viz. ,) upon every Sabath daye to have two dozen of wheate breade sette upon the Communion-table or other convenient place in the Church or Chancell. And fourteen of the poorest olde impotent people to be chosen by the saide cheefe inhabitants; Who so longe as they shall resort to the prayers and exercises of the saide Church and well behave themselves shall have the same breade (14 to the dozen) divided amonge them (viz) to every one of them, 2d in breade uppon every the saide dayes, and as any of them shall dye, or lyve otherwise than before prescribed, then the saide parishioners to choose as afforesaide to supplye there roomes. And the saide Sir John Swinerton at the same tyme did further signifie unto the saide parishe that he consideringe this guifte to be to the honor of God and the benefite of the poore uppon earth, would have the same pencion to be perpetually paide to the uses of the afforesaide oute of his owne estate: And resolved to charge some of his lands in Stanway for the payment of the saide yearly pencion to the use of the saide poore as afforesaid. "---- Which he accordingly performed, as appears by this clause of his will, dated 7 Septemb. 1616, ---- "To the town of Lexden, in the county of Essex, I give and bequeathe so much out of the said demesnes of Stanway Hall, or of the Rent thereof, as will pay and provide Bread for so many Poore people of that parish, as Two Schillings in bread every weeke is to be distributed into, for forty and one years after my mother's decease. And I do further will, That after the said forty and one years, the said payment of Two Shillings the week be continued to the Poor of the saide Parish for ever. And for the good performance thereof, I bind my house called Stanway Hall, and the demesnes thereof to answer the same, which I hope my heirs will see truly performed. And in default of payment, I hereby limit power to the Church-Wardens of that parish for the time being to distraine for the same."

Reg. Cur. Praerog. Cont. Lib. Coke 126 Q. E. Secundo libro

Mr. Armitstead has now established that the charity still exists and is for £5 per annum. It was stipulated as such and therefore has not grown over the years, although obviously this will no longer produce the same results today ! It is paid for out of the income of a piece of land which is now covered by a supermarket.

BIBLIOTHECA STAFFORDIENSIS

Richard Simms 1894

1868	SWINNERTON	Rev. Charles son of Charles, Douglas, I. O. M.	(CS. 15)
	"	James b. Newcastle 1779 Printer d. 1881	(JS. 96)
	"	(Macclesfield) son of Benjamin Swinnerton	(BS. 7)
1334	"	Richard de Dean of Wimborne	(RS. 55)
1500-1556	"	Rev. Thomas, son of Robert	(TS. 74)
	"	Thomas, b. Newcastle, bp. Whitmore 1720, son of	(TS. 31)
	"	Thomas of Yew Tree. Mayor of Newcastle d. 1796	(TS. 30)
	"	Thomas of Butterton Hall, Gents. Mag. 1794 pp 1077-81	(TS. 51)
	"	William, b. 1717 at Butterton, son of Thomas	(WS. 38)

STAFFORDSHIRE DIRECTORIES (1)

BAILEY'S BRITISH DIRECTORY.

1st Edn.

1784

NEWCASTLE. (p. 389)

SWINNERTON. Thomas

Grocer

(TS. 31)

UNIVERSAL BRITISH DIRECTORY OF TRADE

1793

BETLEY. (p. 343)

SWINNERTON William (F)

Gardener

(WS. 15)

DIRECTORY OF STAFFS. by W. PARSON & T. BRADSHAW

1818

STAFFORD

Recorder Thomas Swinnerton Esq.

(TS. 32)

NEWCASTLE under LINE

SWINNERTON John

Grocer & dealer in
hops.

High St.

(JS. 71)

Thomas

Attorney's Clerk

Marsh St.

(TS. 75)

Benjamin

Lower St.

(BS. 8)

HANLEY & SHELTON

SWINNERTON John

Cratemaker

Nr. George St.

(JS. 165)

ECCLESHALL

SWINNERTON Elizabeth

Gentlewoman

High St.

(ES. 99)

BETLEY

SWINNERTON Miss

Gentlewoman

Wm.

Gardener

(WS. 14)

SEAFORD

SWINNERTON Mrs. Elizabeth

Gentlewoman

(ES. 100)

PIGOTT'S DIRECTORY OF STAFFS. WARCS. WORCS. SHROPSHIRE & N. WALES 1829.

ECCLESHALL

SWINNERTON Miss

Sugnal

NEWCASTLE

SWINNERTON Ths. Esq.

Butterton Hall

(TS. 32)

SWINNERTON The Misses

Queen St.

KEATES & FORD'S DIRECTORY OF THE POTTERIES & NEWCASTLE.

1867

HANLEY

SWINNERTON Jas.

Cratemaker

Paddock St.

(JS. 166)

POST OFFICE DIRECTORY OF STAFFS.

1868

National School, Brockmoor

THOMAS SWINNERTON

Master

(TS. 73)

HAVE YOU FILLED IN A FAMILY RECORD FORM AND DEPOSITED IT IN OUR
COLLECTION YET ?