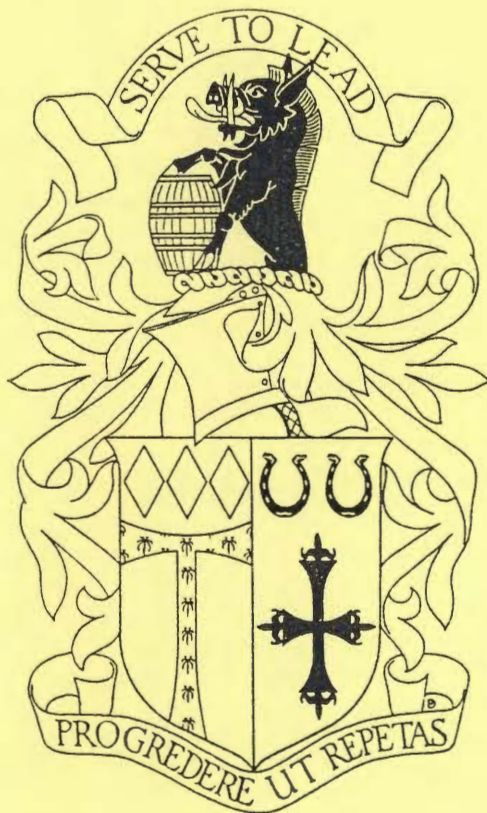


SWINNERTON Family History



JOURNAL OF THE SWINNERTON SOCIETY

VOLUME 10. No.10

AUGUST 1997

The Swinnerton Society

A non-profit making organisation devoted to the welfare of Swynnerton Church and the research and publication of Swynnerton Family Records

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Officers - 1997-98

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SWINNERTON FAMILY HISTORY

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Editor - Iain Spencer Swinnerton

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FOREWORD

The Chairman

We have kept the cover date of August for this issue to maintain the sequence although it is, of course, way out of date. This is because I have been away for most of the summer. As I said in my last foreword, 1997 is a very special year for me and so it has turned out to be. First there was the expedition on my boat 'Jemima' which I started on the 28th April from Gayton, Northamptonshire. However, a bit of an emergency meant that I had to change my plans so the boat was trailed to Ashwood Marina on the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal (which I had helped the owner, an old friend, to start 40 years ago) and I started again from there on the 12th May. I carried on up the Staffs & Worcester to Autherley Junction, through proper Swinnerton country - Norbury, Market Drayton, Audlem etc. At the junction I switched to the Shropshire Union Canal as far as Hurleston Junction where I joined the Llangollen Canal and, after crossing the famous Pontysyllte Aqueduct, arrived in Llangollen for Whitsun where I was joined by Angela.

From there I returned along the Llangollen Canal to Hurleston Junction and turned back onto the Shropshire Union Canal to Chester where I moored up under the castle walls for 3 days. A fascinating city which I had briefly visited several times previously but now I had the time to explore it thoroughly.

From there, as I had visited Ellesmere Port previously and it was a 'dead end' (access to the Manchester Ship Canal being severely limited) I turned South again down the Shropshire Union or 'Shroppie' as it is affectionately known to Barbridge and then the link canal across to Middlewich where I turned North on the Trent and Mersey Canal because I wanted to see the famous Anderton Boat Lift and to visit friends in Preston Brook. Their splendid hospitality, a superb meal, lots of drink and a hot bath was very much appreciated! The last part of this leg included three tunnels including my longest one yet - the Preston Brook Tunnel itself.

Leaving them I retraced my steps through the tunnels back to Middlewich but this time carried straight on down the Trent and Mersey Canal through the Potteries (fascinating to be able to look into the works from the water) to Great Haywood and then back onto the Staffs and Worcester to my base at Ashwood. This leg included a very much longer tunnel, the Harecastle Tunnel which is, in fact, the second longest in the country. It was quite an experience - it is one-way, controlled by traffic lights at each end, and I was required to lead the contingent of 6 boats going in my



direction because I was the only cruiser, the others all being canal narrow boats. They close each end with huge doors so you literally never see the light at the end of the tunnel. It takes 40 minutes to go through and as you get farther and farther in the roof gets lower and lower until, eventually, I had to lower the windscreen and half crouch whilst steering. Not an experience for the faint-hearted particularly if one is alone!

After a short break to deal with various domestic matters, meetings etc and to catch up with some of the paper work, I set off again down the Staffs & Worcester to Stourport and then onto the River Severn; through Worcester and Upton to Tewkesbury where I turned onto the River Avon and, passing through Pershore, Evesham and Bideford eventually arrived at Stratford where I achieved a life-time ambition and drove my own boat to the theatre!

After a day or two's stay there and visits from friends for river cruises and picnics, it was off up the North Stratford Canal to Kingswood Junction where I joined the Grand Union Canal to Warwick including the notorious Hatton flight of 23 locks. Fortunately, the Grand Union is a broad canal and so I was able to share the work with two other narrow boats.

My next objective was Oxford where I was to meet Angela and my two daughters for a birthday celebration and this was the first time I had to push myself along because I had a deadline date - up till now I had pottered along as it suited me. This meant that one day, I did 35 locks single-handed, by far the greatest number in one day and, as you would expect, I was a little weary at the end of the day. However I made it and we turned onto the River Thames to Lechlade in the direction of its source. In fact, we only got as far as Newbridge before their time ran out and I had another little break to do some research in the PRO and help my son move house.

Once back on the boat, I set off down the Thames to Reading and London. Near Windsor we had a Gunner reunion as I was joined by my best man, another ex-Gunner, for 3 days and we did a lot of catching up on news over some excellent meals and wine! I returned with him for another day or two's meetings and work and then, returning to the boat got as far as Hampton Court before returning to Weybridge to pick up Angela again and her sister and friend (a Commander in the Royal Navy so I had to watch my boating drills!) for a sentimental trip to Windsor and Wraybury where the two girls grew up in a house that actually fronted on to the river.

Back to Weybridge and the next leg took me down the River Wey through Guildford to Godalming, my southernmost point. This was a town I had never visited before and found it quite delightful. The Wey was hard work, big deep double river locks with some of the most direct paddle gearing I have come across - they gave you a lock key with specially long handle.

Sadly, I was unable to do the Basingstoke Canal which goes off the Wey as I had to get back to Weybridge to go to the Federation conference in York and, in any case, it was very heavily weeded. The Wey was also quite heavy with weed in places; it is, of course, National Trust and I am not sure they have got their priorities quite right - they seem to be more concerned with the towpath for walkers and the hedges than the actual navigation.

Back from York, I went back up-river to Reading and then onto the longest canal so far - the Kennet and Avon. This took me all the way to Bristol, 101 miles and 104 locks. In the course of this marathon, I was visited by two chums from Ludlow just for one night which was quite hilarious and again by Angela for the trip from Newbury to Hungerford. At Kintbury I was lucky enough to fall in (not literally!) with a very nice couple from Weybridge with whom I kept company, sharing locks, coffee-breaks and wine and sometime even meals, all the way to Bristol. This was an enormous help to a solo boater as the navigation includes the famous Caen Hill flight of 26 locks, 22 of which follow straight after one another, just outside Devizes in Wiltshire.

It was fascinating to be able to cruise around right in the heart of a major city, in what they call the floating dock, and at night the scene was very attractive with cafes, shops and restaurants all around you.

However, at Bristol I did have a great disappointment. Jemima is not equipped with navigation lights and that, together with the fact that they did not think my engine was quite powerful enough, meant that the pilots would not take me out to Avonmouth and up the Severn Estuary to Sharpness as I had hoped. So another change of plan saw me back-tracking to Saltford where the boat was lifted out of the water and trailed across country to Saul Junction on the Gloucester & Sharpness Canal. This was a big shipping canal with manned locks and swing bridges which took me up to Gloucester. Here I spent a couple of days exploring the city; again I was able to moor up in the rejuvenated docks right in the city and walk everywhere.

It was now the beginning of October and the weather was deteriorating rapidly. Having had, for most of the trip, wonderful summer weather except for a bad stretch in June, it now grew much colder particularly at night so I decided it was time to end my voyaging and make tracks for home. The last three days up the River Severn to Stourport and then back up the Staffs & Worcester to Ashwood were pretty foul and I was quite glad to finally get home on the 12th October having been away, on and off, for 5 months and having covered 942 miles and negotiated 609 locks and a number of swing bridges. It has been a wonderful experience, I have met large numbers of very interesting people, visited many new places and renewed a number of

old friendships. Above all, I feel very much fitter (I've lost a stone!) and am looking forward to doing some more next year.

As if that was not enough for one year, as you will see from the cuttings from *Family Tree Magazine*, I have been given two presentations, one to celebrate my retirement from the Federation of Family History Societies after 23 years as either its founder-chairman or president and the other, a party to commemorate my silver jubilee as president of the Birmingham & Midland Society for Genealogy and Heraldry so it has been quite a year.

I now look forward to a quieter period this winter when I hope to get down to some serious Swinnerton family History.

To bring us up to date there will be another issue of this journal next month.

Iain Swinnerton

* * * * *

Churchwardens' Accounts for the parish of Barthomley, Cheshire.

CRO Chester (in the process of being transcribed).

Each year there is a long list of people, some of whom do not appear in the parish registers, who were paid for catching hedgehogs (then considered vermin).

In the accounts for 1691 we find:

John Swinerton paid 8d for catching 4. He does not appear as a resident in the parish registers of that period.

Found in Manchester Central Library

Phillips Park Cemetery. Mf 688

20 Mar 1878

Richard John Swinnerton 1yr Infant

9 Kirkham St. Ancoats. Section K. No.1319

Elizabeth Livesey

From the Express & Star and Birmingham Mail. June 1997

A letter headed "Please write"

I am a local airman currently serving with the RAF in Bosnia. Mail for a few of the lads here is a little scarce at the moment, so if any of your readers would like to write to us their letters would be more than welcome.

Shane Swynnerton,

Our former chairman, Joe Swinnerton, could not resist an invitation like this and promptly wrote to him.

June 25th 1997

Dear Shane

I have just read your letter in the Express and Star and Birmingham Mail asking for your people to write to you and I thought I would drop you a few lines. I am not a dazzling blonde or brunette, from whom you and your mates may be hoping to receive a communication, but a Senior Citizen and, as a member of the Swinnerton Clan, thought you would like to receive some information about the Swinnerton Family Society.

You must be of the younger generation to be serving with the RAF, so you are probably unaware that there is a Family Society, the founder of which came to England at about the time of William the Conqueror. The enclosed leaflet gives an outline and general idea of the organisation. Also enclosed one of the Journals – sorry this is 15 years old but I don't have a more recent copy other than my own bound copies.

I have had a word on the phone with Iain Swinnerton, the family historian who keeps all the records, and he says he has no record of your name on any of the family trees. To find out where you fit in it would be necessary for you to let us have details of your father and grandfather, and, if possible, your great-grandfather. If you would like to fill in the enclosed form listing what you know about your family he will try and fit you in and compile a tree of your own ancestry.

As a member of the RAF, you will be interested in reading about one of the family who lost his life while serving with the RAF during the last war. I have copied this from the booklet *Swynnerton & the Swinnertons*.

I expect you are finding things a bit tedious – stuck out in such an outlandish part of the globe. The British public don't hear much about what's going on in Bosnia, for now things have calmed down, the press concentrate on other items of news. The main headlines today are – the new Labour Government who seem to be doing OK, the problems of Northern

Ireland which appear to be unsolvable and the rapes, murders and killings of which several take place every day in various parts of Gt.Britain.

As far as news about Bosnia is concerned, I am sure that the Express and Star would like to hear from you about what is going on. If you are of the "literary type" and can write a good story about life in Bosnia with the RAF and the forces in general - without giving away military secrets - it is quite likely they would publish it and probably pay you for it.

I hope these few words will help to fill in your spare time and make life more tolerable - I expect you will receive a sack full of letter in response to your appeal. I will be pleased to hear from you if you have the time - if you can't manage it, try and contact me when you get back home which I trust will not be long in coming.

As you contacted two midland newspapers I presume you come from these parts. I was born in Winson Green (nit the Gaol - the Parish of) and went to school in Smethwick. Was in the army during the last war - the time when the pay was one shilling (5p) per day - increased to two shillings (10p) about two months after I joined.

Best wishes to you and you comrades in the RAF - and a safe return home.

Joe Swinnerton

Well done Joe. Sadly, he has not yet heard back from him - perhaps he really has had lots of letters from attractive young ladies! The spelling Swynnerton is interesting; at present I do not know who he is and he does not appear in our listings of registered births in the General Register Indexes. It may be that we have missed the spelling variation but, of course, I intend to find out to find out. If any of you would like to write to him or any of his friends, I am sure they would be delighted.

From other Newspapers.

The *Darlington & Stockport Times* for the 24th May 1997 records the marriage of Miss Gail Swinnerton, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Ronald Swinnerton of _____ to Mr Christopher Michael Douglas, second son of Mr and Mrs Barry Douglas of _____, at Yarm Parish Church. Mr Gary Swinnerton, brother of the bride, was one of the ushers. The couple will live in Yarm.

(Ronald Swinnerton is the brother of our former member Ian Swinnerton of the Middlesbrough family who originated from Dudley, Worcestershire.)

More Swinnerton Memorials

Joe Swinnerton visited Blithfield Hall, the home of the Bagot family, in the summer with the Walsall Association of the National Trust.

In the church, which is in the grounds of the hall, there is a memorial to Ann, the youngest daughter of William Swinnerton of Butterson.

Sacred to the memory of

Ann

Wife of Walter Bagot Rector of

Blithfield and Leigh

Youngest daughter of William Swinnerton Esq

of Butterson in the County of Stafford

who was born June 28 1755 married Sept 9 1773
buried Feb 18 1786

had 8 children born alive

7 of whom survived with an afflicted husband

and with all who knew her to lament their loss

As Joe says, what a short life she had - busy but very productive! I would think she was just worn out. There is also a memorial tablet to her in Lichfield Cathedral.

Swinnerton of Dudley & Middlesborough

3rd Revision October 1994

William Swinton m. ?Sarah (witness with William at marriage of Henry)
Publican

Henry Swinnerton m. Ann Matilda Hampton
or Swinton 4 April 1852 Dudley
born before 1831
Shingler (HS.198)

Thomas Swinnerton or Swinnington m. Alice Lewis Brother
or Swinford 20Mar1881 Dudley
b.25Sep1859 Sedgley b.circa1862
Bur.27Sep1910 (d.22nd) bur. 31Dec1917
Middlesboro (d.27th)
Ironworker (TS.206) Middlesboro

Thomas James m. Jane Elizabeth
Swinnerton Finkell
b.20Nov1887 21May1910
Dudley Middlesboro
Bur.5Mar1935 b.circa1892
(d.1st) Bur.14Apr1943
Ironworker (TS.207) (d.10th) Middlesboro

Edith(ES.357)
b.7W'ton 1885
m.
.....
McGuire

Rose Ann(RS.209)
b.1882 Dudley
bur.9Jan1932
Middlesboro
m.
William Kemp Wilcox
16Apr1900
Middlesboro

Mary Anne
(Polly) (MS.393)
b.1883 Dudley
m.
Fred Abbott

Lily(LS.74)
b.1905 Dudley
m.
James Finkell
1915 Wharfedale

Elsie(ES.368)
b.1908 Dudley
m.
.....
Donaghue

Thomas James Swinnerton
b.9Aug1912 Middlesboro
d.23Apr1964 Middlesboro
Butcher (TS.208)

m. Beatrice Lilian
Bendelow
19Jul1937
North Ormesby

Alice Jane(AS.275)
b.7Dec1910
Middlesboro
m.
Albert Hornby
21Feb1932
Middlesboro
d.1950/1

Ronald Swinnerton
b.29May1914
Middlesboro
bur.7Feb1915
(d.2nd)
Middlesboro
(RS.240)

Ian Swinnerton
b.6Apr1943
Middlesboro
(IS.28)

m. Judith Doyle
née Brown
16Dec1967
Middlesboro

Ronald Swinnerton
b.3Jun1944
Middlesboro
(RS.238)

m. Barbara Rowlands
14Oct1967
Middlesboro

Craig Ian Swinnerton
b.12Apr1970
Middlesboro

Amanda Leigh(AS.274)
b.22Sep1975
Middlesboro

Gail(GS122)
b.19Dec1969
Middlesboro
m.
Christopher Michael
Douglas
24May1997 Yarm

Gary Swinnerton
b.22Jul1922
Middlesboro

SWINNERTON AUTHORS

In the December 1995 issue of this journal we published a list of books by Swinnerton authors in our archives. Since then we have acquired some more so here is an updated list. Please continue to look out for any and acquire them for us if they are not on the list.

A.R.Swinnerton

Rocky the Cat 1981

B.T.Swinnerton

Swynnerton & the Swynnertons 1971

A History of St.Peter's Church, Norbury 1973

Rev.C.Swynnerton

Romantic Tales From the Punjab 1908

A Medley of Occasional Verse, Grave and Gay 1925

Dick Swinnerton

We passed this way: A Coast-to-Coast Bicycle Trip (USA) 1997

E.Nelson Swinnerton (with William G.Keeper & G.Lynne Lackey)

Ugandan Asians in Great Britain 1975

Frank Swinnerton

R.L.Stevenson: A critical study 1914

On the Staircase 1914

Nocturne 1917

The Georgian House 1923

Sketch of a Sinner* 1934

The Georgian House* 1935

Swinnerton, an Autobiography 1937

The Two Wives 1939

Death of a Highbrow 1961

Quadrille 1965

The Bright Lights 1968

Reflections from a Village 1969

On the Shady Side 1970

Nor All Thy Tears 1972

Some Achieve Greatness 1976

Arnold Bennett - a last word 1978

H.H.Swinnerton

Outlines of Palaentology (2nd Edition) 1933

The Geology of Lincolnshire (with P.E.Kent) 1949

The Earth Beneath Us (Pelican Paper Back Edn.) 1958

Fossils 1960

I.S.Swinnerton

267 - 1864-1964, A History of the Worcestershire Artillery 1964

Heraldry Can Be Fun 1986

Basic Facts about Heraldry for Family Historians 1995

Basic Facts about Sources for Family History in the Home 1995

Basic Approach to Keeping Your Family Records 1995

An introduction to The British Army: Its History, Traditions and Records 1996

J.E.Swinnerton

The Boer War Diary of Albert Edward Swinnerton 1987

A History of the Swinnertons of Warwickshire 1991

Fire and Fury Over England 1992

Charlie S. (Charles Swynnerton)

Tulip, The Biography of a Mouse 1994

Hugh (Swynnerton) Thomas

The World's Game 1957

The Story of Sandhurst 1961

The Suez Affair (Heron Collector's Edition) 1967

The Spanish Civil War (3rd.Edn.) 1977

Margery Thomas

Daughter of the Raj 1995

We Passed This Way

Dick Swinnerton. Easy Break First Time Publishing, California 1977

This new book has been sent to us by Dick who has also applied to join the society. More news of him and the book in the next issue when I hope Roy Swinnerton will write a review of it. Dick and two other 50+ friends set off in the Spring from the Oregon coast to ride across America on their cycles and this is an account of their epic journey.

Book Review

The British Army: Its History, Traditions and Records.

Iain Swinnerton. Published by the Federation of Family History Societies. 1996

As Iain Swinnerton points out in his introduction to this booklet, there are in Britain today a majority of people with no knowledge, let alone experience, of the British Army, something that has only existed over the last 30-odd years. Yet among them are those with an interest in their who served King or Queen and Country. It is for them that he has written this booklet. Considering that our Army can claim a longer continuity than any other in the modern world, with traditions and customs reaching back over three centuries, it is no mean achievement on the author's part to have compressed that record into a mere 48 pages.

Just under a third of these pages are devoted to an outline history of the Army, with particular emphasis being paid to its early years as a permanent force; to this is added a summary of its comrade body up to 1947, the Indian Army, in which many families' antecedents served. Mr Swinnerton confines the many Victorian campaigns fought to build and secure our once-great Empire to an appendix, and does not touch much upon this century with its two World Wars which he may feel are sufficiently well-known to most of his likely readers. Nor does he remind them that, apart from two periods of conscription during and in the aftermath of those wars, the Army has throughout its long history relied upon voluntary enlistment – another unique fact compared with most other armies.

His next largest section deals with what may be described as administrative matters, e.g. organization, ranks, discipline, conditions of service and uniforms. He adds a few useful pages on the whereabouts of officers' and soldiers' records, followed by appendices giving lists of regiments, then and now, a helpful listing in view of the importance of the regimental system in the British Army. The work concludes with a bibliography of suggested books for family historians.

Much further study will be necessary for those keen to trace their military ancestors and their service, but this booklet will provide an invaluable introduction for those with little or no knowledge of the subject.

Michael Barthorp.

(Michael Barthorp is a former officer in the Staffordshire Regiment and one of today's leading military historians.)

Cox's Historical Tour of Monmouthshire

.....Their fon Charles (*Gunter*) espoused lady Martha, daughter of Edward, third earl of Oxford and Mortimer; dying in 1775 without iffue male, the whole united property of the Gunter and Milborne families, fituated in the different counties of Monmouth, Middlefex, Hereford and Brecon was inheroyed by his daughter Mary. She espoused Thomas Swinnerton, esq. of Butterson Hall in the county of Stafford, a defcendant of fir Roger de Swinnerton¹. Mrs Swinnerton died in 1795, leaving three daughters and coheirs, Martha and Mary, who were twins, and Elifabeth.

The houe, though much dimini/fhed from its original fize, is ftill a confiderable edifice of ancient date, and feems to have been conftituted as early as the age of Henry the fixth; it contains a few portraits, among which is one of fir Thomas Herbert, drefhed in the coftumje of Eli/fabeth; of George Milborne, who married Mary Gunter; and a well painted picture by Romney, of the late Mrs Swinnerton, the amiable and accomplifhed heirefs of this venerable manfion.

Colonel J.C.A. Swynnerton

Colonel Jeremy has also written to say that he went on a NADFAS visit to Lamport Hall near Market Harborough and in the church there was a list of Vicars/Rectors. In 1345 the incumbent is shown as Nicholas de Swinnerton. This cleric seems to pop up everywhere! He must be the same Nicholas who was Rector of Mucclestone who died there in 1357. However, he cannot be the same man as the Nicholas who is listed as a minor cleric at Burford, Oxfordshire in 1520 of whom Colonel Jeremy told us some years ago. The first Nicholas appears on the family tree and we know exactly who he is: he was the son of Sir Roger de Swynnerton and Joan de Hastang and was born about 1300 but the second is still a mystery man.

Home Office Papers: PRO Kew (HO 27/186) Lancashire 1880

Mary Swinnerton Larceny General Sessions at Preston, 19 August, adjourned to Manchester 23 August 1880.
ACQUITTED.

¹ Sir Roger de Swinnerton was created a knight bannaret in the holy wars, with permission to bear for his arms a cross formé, flory, and a motto, "Avancez et bien archez", alluding to his intrepidity and skill in archery, which are still used by Mr Swinnerton. In II Edward III. He had summons to parliament among the barons of the realm. *Dugdale, vol.2.p.112*

Home Office Papers: PRO Kew (HO 27/1) W.R. Yorks

Assizes and Sessions Vol.1.

William Swinnerton Larceny 2 months

A new portrait

I am told that in one of the rooms at Hellens, Much Marcle, Herefordshire there is a portrait of Charles John Kemys Tynte of the 11th Hussars (the famous Cherry Pickers or Cherubims from their crimson trousers but more usually known to the rest of the Army as the Cherrybums!) born 1800 who married Elizabeth Swinnerton on the 18 July 1820 at St. George's, Hanover Square the youngest of the three daughters and co-heirs of Thomas Swinnerton of Butterson.

The Lord Mayor of London

Sir John Swinnerton has surfaced again this time in a book by Antonia Fraser called *Faith and Treason*. It is the story of the Gunpowder Plot and on page 199 it says "she (Elizabeth Vaux) was put into the custody of an Alderman, Sir John Swynerton in London and made to stay with him for many months until a plea to Salisbury got her bail" She was a cousin of the plotters Catesby and Wintour.

Another Clergyman

St. Chad's Shrewsbury

Richard de Swynnerton Dean 1330 Resigned in 1337 Dean again in 1342

This is the Richard, son of Sir Roger (II), who died in 1346 (RS.191).

And Another

St. Clement's Sandwich, Kent

Vicars

Thomas Hynde (will proved at Canterbury 1493)

Thomas Swinnerton

William Powis presented 1593 per mortem T. Swinnerton

(Collections for a History of Sandwich in Kent. William Boyes FSA, Canterbury 1792)

I have no idea who this was at present. It may have been Thomas, the son of the famous cleric, Thomas Swynnerton alias Roberts, the anti-Catholic campaigner who was forced to flee the country and died in Holland in 1554 – the only Swinnerton to ever appear in the Dictionary of National Biography. He had been a vicar in Kent at one time.

Society Matters**The Swinnerton Steeplechase**

We are planning to print the Reverend Brian Swynnerton's notes and instructions as a separate booklet. Each member of the Society will be given one but we shall also do a number of extra copies for sale to members of the general public through St. Mary's Swynnerton with half the profits going to the church. We do need a snappy title for it – any ideas please?

Swynnerton and the Swinnertons

We are also planing to do a reprint of this booklet which was published back in 1972 and was the catalyst that gave rise to the formation of the Society in 1974. Written by the Reverend Brian and edited by myself, it has been sent all over the world. Brian now asks if any members of the society would like to contribute anything to it about their connection with Swynnerton will write to him at Hales Farm, Market Drayton, Shropshire.

News from Swynnerton

We were represented at the special service held at St. Mary's in June to commemorate the "Community within the parish" by the Reverend Brian and Mrs Anne Swynnerton and she has sent us an account of the service.

"The rain held off while we all assembled. The choir and small orchestra of young people led the singing as the church gradually filled up to full capacity. That was a marvellous thing to witness.

We had a reserved seat at the front and were delighted to be joined by Francis, Lord Stafford. He was carrying a beautiful watch and chain in a display case which had been worn by his ancestor, William Howard, as he was beheaded for his Catholic beliefs at the time of the reformation. Dried blood was still evident on the chain!

This was laid on the altar as a symbol of the service of his family to the community. A host of other parishioners followed Lord Stafford to offer tokens of their service. These included Brownies, Guides, Scouts, a head-teacher, a midwife, a bank clerk, a postman, a policeman, a dentist, a doctor, a vet, a framer, a refuse collector, a care assistant, the W.I., Senior Citizens, bell ringers, youth club etc.

It was very moving and a significant experience to see these people, upon whom we all depend, being welcomed by the Reverend Barry Brewer and then meeting the Bishop of Lichfield, the Right Reverend Keith Sutton.

We sang and prayed together and heard readings from T.S.Elliot's "The Rock" and St.Luke's Gospel, Chapter 14 v.16-24.

The Bishop told us how important the community spirit is for us all and how, at all times, we all depend upon one another.

After the service lunch was served in a marquee. Unfortunately, Brian and I were unable to stay. However, by all accounts the whole day was a great success for the parish. Congratulations to all concerned.

ANNE SWYNNERTON

The Christmas Fair.

This will be held this year in Swynnerton Village Hall on Saturday 22nd of November at 2.30pm.

There will be Carol Singing round Swynnerton on Tuesday 16th December at 7.00pm.

Family Notes

We were very sorry to hear of the death of our former member Lois Williams in Australia, sister to member Anne Robinson and cousin to Joe., We send our sympathy to her husband Peter and sons David, Robert and Mark.

Very belated sympathy to members Leslie and Peter Swinnerton on the death of their mother on 28th September last year. She had always taken a keen interest in the society and her late husband drew a lot of our early trees.

Leslie's daughter, Kate, has now completed her degree course in Health Care at Oxford Brookes University and is now working as a Health Visitor.

Colin Swinnerton is reversing the usual trend and following in the footsteps of his son! He says he is treading the boards (in his mid-50s!) for the first time in September when he is appearing in *An Evening with Gilbert and Sullivan* at the Grove Park Theatre, Wrexham. His son is, of course, a professional thespian and recently appeared in an episode of *Soldier Soldier*.

Finally, our Chaplain the Reverend Edward Swinnerton, was asked to take the service at the biennial conference of the Federation of Family History Societies at York. He promptly retaliated by delegating me to read the lesson! As it was that lovely passage from Corinthians XIII, I did not really mind.



■ PC Swinnerton applies the marking technique to a bicycle frame

Picture: STUART BOULTON

Gearing up to fight crime

YOUNG cyclists had their bikes stamped yesterday with a special invisible security mark as a crime-fighting measure.

Stockton police are offering the service for a charge of £1 to any children who turn up at the stamping days, today, tomorrow and Thursday. The first session was at Stockton police station yesterday, where PC Elfion Swinnerton used the Alpha Dot method of fixing an arrangement of very small dots to the frame. The owners are then listed in a register.

When a bike is recovered after being stolen,

police can identify it by reading the Alpha Dot marking with a machine and return it to the owner.

The bikes are clearly identified as being marked by Alpha Dot, to deter thieves. Today's bike marking session is at Billingham police office, town centre, from 10am to midday, and tomorrow's session is at Thornaby police office, Milbank Lane, 10am to midday. The final session is at the same time on Thursday at Yarm police office, Church Wynd at Yarm.



An unusually hirsute Iain Swinnerton at the Birmingham and Midland Society of Genealogy and Heraldry luncheon. Also in the picture are Pauline Saul, vice-president of the society and Dr Chris Leigh, the chairman.

Double celebration for Iain

During the past few weeks Col Iain Swinnerton has been on the receiving end of two presentations marking highlights in his long involvement in the family history world.

At the conference at York (see report below) he was presented with a portable microfiche reader and a number of books to mark his retirement as president of the Federation of Family History Societies (FFHS). This was followed, on Sunday 5 October, by another presentation at a luncheon organised by the Birmingham and Midland Society for Genealogy and Heraldry, this time, to mark his 25 years in the office of president of the Society.

Like Anthony Camp, the other "retiree" mentioned on these pages, Iain has devoted a tremendous amount of his spare time to family history. Since the formation of the FFHS, he has been its only president and has seen it grow from a small number of English societies to a worldwide organisation encompassing more than 200 family history groups with British interests. ■

SWINNERTON SOCIETY PRODUCTIONS

THE SOCIETY TIE. Made in Woven Jacquard with a single Swinnerton Society Cross and Horseshoe badge. Available in Navy Blue, Maroon and Grey at £5 each including postage. Set of 3 – 1 of each colour – £14 post paid.

BINDERS FOR JOURNALS. Red with Swinnerton Family History embossed in gold on the spine and the society's badge in gold on the front cover. Each binder holds one complete volume (12 issues plus index). £3.50 each post paid.

AN ACCOUNT OF THE FAMILY OF SWYNNERTON.

A facsimile copy of the original history of the family published in 1886 by the William Salt Archaeological Society, Stafford. Over 200 pages of the family history with trees of the various branches. Every Swinnerton family should have a copy.

All the above are obtainable from the Secretary, Elizabeth Livesey (address inside front cover).

THE BOER WAR DIARY OF EDWARD SWINNERTON.

A vivid personal account of a soldier during the campaign fought in South Africa almost one hundred years ago. £4.50 including postage.

A HISTORY OF THE VILLAGE OF SWYNNERTON AND THE SWINNERTONS OF WARWICKSHIRE.

A general synopsis of the history of the village and the original family who lived there. Plus the history of some of their descendants – the Warwickshire branch of the family. Also an article on the Heraldry of the Family by our archivist. Researched and produced by our chairman Joe Swinnerton. £7.00 including postage.

FIRE AND FURY OVER ENGLAND. The Second World War – 10 lost months. The diary of our chairman, Joe Swinnerton, telling of his service in the army in World War II. 120 pages with many illustrations. A\ very good 'read'. £7 including postage.

The above three books obtainable from J.E.Swinnerton, [redacted]

All prices quoted are for orders from the UK. Overseas members please send a sterling cheque or International Money Order in sterling.