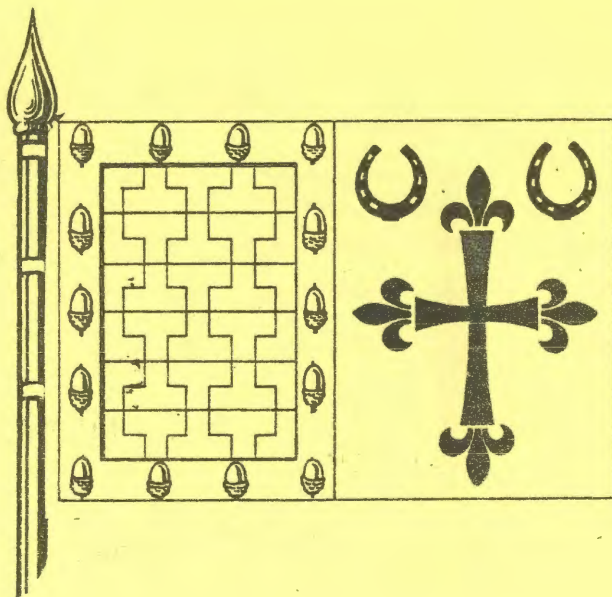


SWINNERTON Family History



JOURNAL OF THE SWINNERTON SOCIETY

VOLUME 10. No.11

DECEMBER 1997

The Swinnerton Society

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

Registered as Charity No.518184 in the United Kingdom

Officers - 1995-96

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SFH-December 1997

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SWINNERTON FAMILY HISTORY

Volume 10. No.11

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Editor - Iain Spencer Swynnerton

Cover Picture: The arms of the Chairman as President of the Federation of Family History Societies.

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FOREWORD

The Chairman

As promised, here is another issue of the Journal to complete our quota for the year; a very eventful year for me as I said which is now drawing to a close. The last but one major event in which I am involved is that we are joining members of the Anglo-German Family History Society for a weekend visit to the Christmas Fair at Cologne and I shall be very interested to talk to some of them to see how they cope with research in two countries! I have not been to Germany since I retired from soldiering in 1980 and not to Cologne or Boppard, where we are staying, for much longer than that so I am looking forward to it very much.

I am not sure that I am looking forward to the last event quite so much – guess who has been cast as the (only) Ugly Sister in a mini-panto for charity?

With the Secretary and Treasurer, I recently attended a meeting of the Council of Family Societies at the new Family Records Centre in London. I must say I am most impressed with the new FRC: it is in Myddleton Place and houses all the indexes to the Births, Marriages and Deaths since 1837 which were previously in St. Catherine's House and the Census records which were previously at the Public Record Office in Chancery Lane.

It is a nice light, airy building on two floors with much more space to move around and work than either of the two previous locations. In addition, there are cloakrooms with refreshment machines in the basement and plenty of seats where one can retire when completely exhausted by the search! Altogether, a tremendous improvement. The only pity is that the powers-that-be have decided to take all the wills from Somerset House to Holborn: they are a vital source for research and how marvellous it would have been to have had the three main sources for family research under one roof.

The Council of Family Societies (CFS) is an organisation that was set up a couple of years or so ago to provide a meeting place for One-Name Societies such as ours. The Guild of One-Name Studies, to which I belong (to represent you) and in which I played a part in founding 18 years ago, refuse to admit One-Name Societies to membership and will only admit individuals. The majority of their programme is, and always has been, directed to individual studies and so a few of us got together and set up the CFS to provide a forum (and that is what we call our newsletter) for One-Name Societies to meet and exchange views and ideas and to pool knowledge.

The Guild saw us as a threat to their status, thinking we were setting up in opposition, but I think they have now come to realise that we are not – and never were. We are all individual members of the Guild, no-one has resigned

some Guild members did everything they could to stop us forming: amongst other things they ran a series of seminars supposedly catering for the One-Name Societies but, in fact, because societies have always been a very small minority in the Guild, the main attenders were ordinary researchers and there was a certain amount of grumbling amongst the ordinary members that the Guild's resources were being devoted almost exclusively to societies.

However, as I always thought it would, it has now all sorted itself out: the CFS went quietly on its own way, meeting twice a year in different parts of the country. Progress was very slow at first with only five societies joining but that has steadily increased and now numbers 15 (including our first Clan society) representing over 1500 members with more in the pipeline. Each member society sends two or three delegates to the meeting and we are working towards a 'Gathering of the Clans' with as many members of each society as wish to attending. The Guild do now print a list of One-Name societies at the back of their directory.

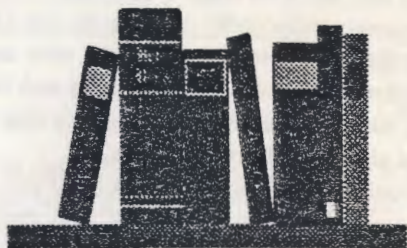
I always find the meetings most interesting and always come away with at least one new idea. This time it came from a member who said her society always had a page for each overseas country in which they had members – an excellent idea and one I am going to try. So many one-namers only deal with the family in this country and forget the large quantities who emigrated and founded new dynasties overseas when times were hard here.

One of the persons who opposed our formation was heard to say scornfully that the CFS was only a talking shop! He was quite right, of course, that was precisely what it was always intended to be and very valuable I find it.

May I close by wishing you all a very happy and joyful Christmas (which you will probably spend surrounded by grandchildren as I shall so it will be anything but restful) and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.



Iain Swinnerton



Book Review

We Passed This Way: A Coast-to-Coast Bicycle Trip with Historical Reflections. Dick Swinnerton 1997: published by Easy Break First Time Publishing USA.

The American Coast-to-Coast bike ride has become something of a cult symbol, not only in the USA but also to many cyclists in this country and quite a few notable riders have completed the trip. Most, however, tend to treat the journey as a challenge against time and indeed there is a Pacific-Atlantic bicycle race which was shown here on TV some time ago.

Recently-retired Dick Swinnerton and two other fifty-plus friends, however, had, I am sure, a far more fulfilling and enriched experience on their 3800 mile ride as is very ably described in Dick's excellent book.

75 days for the epic journey, including crossing the Rocky Mountains and at times 'dicing with death' with juggernaut lorries on state highways, was quite remarkable considering the places visited, the terrain and the time spent absorbing various aspects of American culture and life along the route (and deviations off the route).

The author has done his research well and the historical connections are extremely interesting; the Oregon Trail, the Indian Problems, General Custer, the British, French and American conflicts all find a place along with the motor car's development in Detroit and how the name "Uncle Sam" was coined. Also intriguing is the contact with the Amish and Mennonite communities.

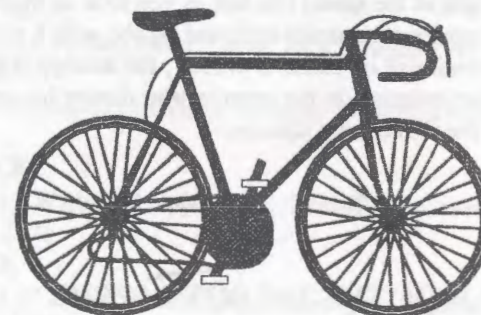
The three men had never before exceeded 75 miles riding in a day before starting on this, and one of Dick's comments to his companions who had stands on their machines was "real cyclists don't have kickstands on their bikes!" They were really no 'marathon men' but they tackled this very formidable task with determination and confidence and, despite one or two minor tumbles (and 14 punctures), they enjoyed the experience and were really rather sad when it was all over.

Riding a bicycle is certainly a wonderful way to see the country. Dick Swinnerton and friends completed the ride two years ago and he says he still cannot get the trip out of his system. "It was a grand adventure but it was not the excitement of it that lasted, rather it has been the deeper understanding of and appreciation of our country that came as we slowly absorbed it, farm by farm, town by town"

I found *We Passed This Way* an interesting, informative and entertaining book.

Roy Swinnerton

(Roy Swinnerton is, of course, a very, very experienced cyclist and he and his family have been involved in the sport all their lives at every level up to the Olympics. They run a family firm supplying cycles and equipment of all types from the ordinary roadster to the very expensive, hand-built specialist machine.)



Editor's Note: I ride one of Roy's semi-mountain bikes and have a folding bike for my boat so, as a practical (if only occasional) cyclist I am also enjoying reading Dick's book and am full of admiration for his courage in tackling such a marathon.

My favourite quote from the book I think (although there are several gems) is "Stop only at the top of a hill". "Never have ice cream on pie" runs it a close second!

ERRATA

In the last issue (page 190) I said that Michael Barthrop was a former officer in the Staffordshire Regiment. Colonel Jeremy Swynnerton has pointed out that this was not correct, he was, in fact, in the Northamptonshire Regiment.

I also omitted to caption the illustration on the front cover – these were the arms of myself as President of the Birmingham & Midland Society for Genealogy & Heraldry. The society was founded in 1963 and was granted arms in 1984 to celebrate its coming of age. . It covers the old counties of Staffordshire, Warwickshire and Worcestershire: when I joined it in 1970 it had just 180 members, it now has 5000 world-wide

When an armigerous individual holds office in an organisation that itself has arms, he is allowed to 'impale' the arms of the organisation with his own but the corporate arms take precedence and occupy the most important position i.e. the right of the shield (the left as you look at it) and his go on the left. This is the position normally occupied by the wife's arms in a married couple's achievement and in 'Arms of Office', the armiger's go here because he is deemed to be 'married' to the organisation during his term of office. A good example is the Bishop of a Diocese.



A CALENDAR OF THE TALBOT PAPERS

in Lambeth Palace Library and the College of Arms {H.M.S.O. 1971} Volume M Folio 75

Fulke Greville to the Countess of Shrewsbury, from the Court at Oatlands, 23 September 1602. The Lord Marquis [William Paulet, fourth Marquis of Winchester] is offering his house for sale at £5,000 and [John] Swinnerton, a merchant, has made him an offer of £4,500. The Countess and [Anne Russell,] Countess of Warwick are both tenants to the Marquis and Greville cannot believe that they would wish to be next to 'such a fellow' as Swinnerton. The Queen is well. If the Countess desires anything from the carrack [cf. folio 51], he asks that she should let him know (c) there are calicoes, sleved silks, jams, spices, damasks and ebony wood.

2pp. Endd. Add.: 'of ye L. Marquis' intent to sell his house in Broad Street; of the carrack goods'. (Lodge, ii.580)

Mrs M.A.A. THOMAS
 (Margery Augusta Angelo) MS.57 [Betley] 37 Cornwall Gardens, London
 SW7 UK 1974
 Mr R. WADE
 (Robin) Beechview, 22A Julian's Rd, Stevenage Old Town, Herts SG1 3EU
 UK 1996
 Miss C.M. WATTS
 (Claudia Maria) [Warks] 13 Fitzwalter Road, Colchester, Essex CO3 3SY UK
 Dr. F.Z. WATTS
 (Felicity Zoe) [Warks] 9 Edburton Ave, Brighton, Sussex BN1 6EJ UK 1984
 Mrs H.Z. WATTS
 (Hester Zoe) [Warks] 13 Fitzwalter Road, Colchester, Essex CO3 3SY UK 1984
 Mr N.W.R. WATTS
 (Nigel William Roland) [Warks] 60 Ripplevale Grove, London N1 1HT UK 1984
 Mrs B. WEAVER
 (Bridgid) [Adbaston/YT] 51 Grange Road, Wigston Fields Leicester Leics.
 LE18 1JL UK 1987
 Mrs J.P.R. WILSON
 (Janet Provine Ross) [Irish/NA] 265 N. 4th West, Rigby Idaho 83442 USA 1983
 Mrs N.R. WILSON
 (Nicholyn Ross) [Irish/NA] 12040 Avondale Place, NE Redmond,
 Washington 98052 USA 1983
 Mrs E.M. WOOD
 (Ena Margaret) ES.161 [Shropshire] Garden Apartments, 2 Coppice Drive,
 Harrogate, N.Yorks UK 1975
 Mrs F. WOOD
 (Florence) FS.62 [Wrexham] 4 Middle Hill, Egham, Surrey TW20 0JQ UK 1980
 Mrs F.C. WOOD
 (Frances Clare) [London] 28 Westfield Close, Baschurch, Shropshire SY4
 2EW UK 1991
 Mr J.E. WOOD
 (Jeffrey Elliott) [Glos] 9025 Westchester Drive, Manassas, Va 22111 USA 1991
 Miss N. WYKES
 (Nancy) [Warks] 2 Featherston Court, Tachbrook Road, Leamington Spa,
 CV31 3DX UK 1976
 Mr R.C. WYKES
 (Reginald Charles) [Warks] 6 Rectory Close, Whitnash, Leamington Spa,
 Warwickshire CV31 2QS UK 1986



Minutes of the Annual
 General Meeting held at
 Swynnerton on Saturday,
 7th June 1997.

Members were welcomed by Chairman Iain Swynnerton

1.97 APOLOGIES were received from David Brock, Joe Swynnerton, Roger and Elizabeth Swynnerton, Sir Roger Swynnerton and Jack Swynnerton (Liverpool).

2.97 MINUTES of the last Annual General Meeting were taken as read and signed.

3.97 MATTERS ARISING The chairman reported that two Council Meetings had been held since the last Annual General Meeting.

Subscriptions had been increased as agreed.

The Revd. B T Swynnerton had received a quote for printing the Journals but Iain had managed to produce two Journals almost at the old price. The number of Journals per year has been reduced to three.

The Steeplechase notes compiled by Rev B T Swynnerton are ready to be printed as soon as finances allow, hopefully in the autumn.

4.97 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT. Iain Swynnerton reported that steady progress is being made with the computerisation and archiving of our records. We have a new recruit, Roy Talbot, who lives in St. Alban's. Using Joe Swynnerton's old computer, Roy is working hard in-putting information. Roger Swynnerton has finished in-putting Census details. Work has now started on Parish Register entries. David Brock's hard work is also much appreciated. We have received a number of newspaper cuttings which show that some Swynnertons were thoroughly bad lots!

5.97 TREASURER'S REPORT Keith Livesey presented the accounts for year ending 1995 which have now been audited. He explained a discrepancy which appeared - Building Society interest had previously been an estimated figure and now the exact figure has been included. Keith thanked Nigel Sabell (Auditor) for his advice on ways of improving the account-keeping.

The balance sheet for the year ending 1996 was explained. There is a healthy surplus. Keith invited questions and explained DPA (Data Protection Agency). We are required to be registered at a cost of £75 for four years.

The chairman queried the item 'Bibles'. The treasurer explained that the money had been donated by Joe Swinnerton to purchase 2 family bibles from the Warwickshire Branch and referred Iain to the 1995 balance sheet.

The society has purchased a facsimile copy of Lewis's Topographical Dictionary of 1831 (four volumes reprinted in two) which has proved to be a valuable research tool and well worth the money. .

Running expenses for the Society last year were £800. Keith Livesey estimates that this will rise to £1000 this year but there should be sufficient funds to cover this increase. No overseas assets have been included. It was felt that there should be enough funds to cover the cost of printing the Steeplechase notes. Rev Brian mentioned his calendars as a possible source of income and also volunteered to revise 'Swynnerton and the Swynnertons'.

6.97 MEMBERSHIP REPORT Keith Livesey reported that membership is staying stable. There are 113 UK and 67 overseas members with one new member joining only last week. Mrs. Davies is to be made an honorary member. Subscriptions are coming in steadily, although 37 members have not yet paid.

The Revd. B T Swynnerton again expressed concern about the cost of subscriptions to elderly and young people and felt that it might deter some people from joining what is, after all, a family society. He would welcome the opportunity to allow a concessional subscription at a nominal rate as well as the occasional honorary membership. This proposal was discussed in some detail. Ron Swinnerton then proposed that there be a Senior Citizen/Student concessional membership. Seconded by Rev B T Swynnerton. Keith Livesey is to work out a figure based on cost of production and postage of the Journal and there will be further discussion at the September Council Meeting.

7.97 ARCHIVIST'S REPORT Iain felt that this had been covered in his Chairman's Report

8.97 Chairman Iain Swinnerton Proposed: Keith Livesey
Seconded: Kay Sabell

Rest of Council/Officers} As at Proposed: Iain Swinnerton
Auditor Nigel Sabell } present Seconded: Rosemary Swinnerton

All elected unanimously.

There is still one vacancy on Council. No volunteers were forthcoming at the meeting.

Nigel Sabell suggested issuing through the Journal an open invitation to members to join Council members and their families at the autumn week-end. This idea was warmly welcomed. The proposed date is 26 - 28 September 1997 in York. The accommodation is yet to be arranged.

9.97 ANY OTHER BUSINESS Iain Swinnerton explained about the Silver Jubilee Banner. Kay Sabell now has charts for flags and shields and is awaiting the outlines of some of the churches. Kay will remind Revd. Brian who is to provide them. When all has been received Kay will send off to Cross-stitch 2000. Kay has received several volunteers to do the work on the individual panels.

10.97 DATE OF NEXT MEETING The Annual General Meeting is usually held on a date to coincide with the Swynnerton Village Summer Fair. It was agreed that we should defer fixing our meeting until a date has been decided by Swynnerton PCC.

* * * * *

Abstract from the will of John SWYNNERTON of Whitmore 5 Jul 1547

(half page + half page inventory)

Dated 21 June 1547.

Body to be buried in the churchyard of Witmore.

Bequests: to Church at Witmore xijd ; to JANE OLDERSHA, my daughter - a heifer styrke; to Elisabeth, my daughter a heifer styrke; to Rogers ij chyldr John & Jane - a heifer; to Elisabeth & Margett OLDERSHA - a calfe; to Sir thoms my cuzon - xijd.

Rest & Residue: to wife and children. Wife Alys and Rogr my son to be the executors.

Witnesses: Roger LOW of Wytmore, John OLDRSHA, Raufe ALEYN
Wt od (= with others)

"Inventory: mostly cattle, 2 pigs, hens, pob, bedding, household goods, come, plough, wain, yokes, harrow

The Swinnerton Society: Accounts for the year ending 31 December 1996.Income & Expenditure Account

Opening Stock	370.47	651.82)	Closing Stock	370.47	(370.47)
Purchases	nil	(99.00)	Sales	81.00	(165.50)
Subscriptions:			Subscriptions	849.00	(552.00)
GOONS	8.00	(8.00)	US Remittance	nil	(265.00)
FFHS	33.20	(31.40)			
GRD	18.00	(16.75)	Income Tax		
PUG	nil	(5.00)	Repayment	nil	nil
BAIS	10.00	(15.00)	Gathering		
Journal:			Surplus	nil	(291.49)
Publication costs	322.50	(545.45)	Interest:		
Mailing	151.54	(195.85)	Building Socy.	2.69	(3.45)
Other postage	40.78	(72.30)	Bank	4.77	(6.21)
Supplies	79.95	(nil)	Donations:		
DPA registration	75.00	(nil)	Research	291.50	(226.75)
Secretary's Exs.	nil	(nil)	General	nil	(184.00)
Charity Gifts	nil	(55.00)	Bible	nil	(20.00)
Research Costs	140.50	(314.66)			
Surplus in Year	349.49	(27.44)			
	1599.43	(2084.87)		1599.43	(2084.87)

Balance Sheet

Surplus B/F	1166.75	(1139.31)	Net Assett Value		
Current Year	349.49	(27.44)	Computer etc.	2.00	(2.00)
C/F	1516.24	(1166.75)	Add	276.13	(nil)
Creditors:					
Journal	nil	(116.00)	Flag	125.73	(125.73)
Stationery	nil	(5.00)	Bibles	55.00	(55.00)
BAIS	nil	(9.00)	Stock	370.47	(370.47)
Purchases	nil	(40.00)	1881 Census	522.95	(nil)
Postage	nil	(74.37)	Drs & Prepymts	nil	(74.20)
Loan	50.00	(nil)	Balances:		
			Bank	184.76	(326.08)
			Cash	nil	(5.00)
			Building Socy	29.20	(452.64)
	1566.24	(1411.12)		1566.24	(1411.12)

STRANGE BUT TRUE ?

*Many, many years ago when I was twenty three
I got married to a widow who was pretty as could be,
This widow had a grown-up daughter who had hair of red.
My father fell in love with her, and soon the two were wed.*

*This made my dad my son-in-law
And changed my very life.
My daughter was my mother,
For she was my father's wife.*

*To complicate the matters worse,
Although it brought me joy,
I soon became the father
Of a bouncing baby boy.*

*My little baby then became
A brother-in-law to dad.
And so became my uncle,
Though it made me very sad.*

*For if he was my uncle,
Then that also made him brother
To the widow's grown-up daughter
Who, of course, was my step-mother.*

*Father's wife then had a son,
Who kept them on the run.
And he became my grandson,
For he was my daughter's son.*

*My wife is now my mother's mother
And it makes me blue.
Because, although she is my wife,
She's my grandmother too.*

*If my wife is my grandmother,
Then I am her grandchild.
And every time I think of it,
It simply drives me wild.*

*For now I have become
The strangest case you ever saw.
As the husband of my grandmother,
I am my own grandpa.*

SAW MILLS,

Mr. Salt

Nuneaton May 31st 1902

Jolly Sailer Hotel

To Swinnerton & Son.
English & Foreign Timber.
AND
SLATE MERCHANTS.

Apr 9	To 1898/- 2 1/2 seed	2 1/2	11 10
	- 160 - 3 1/2 - 3 1/2 -	1 1/4	16 8
	- 132 - 2 - 1	2 1/3	3
	- 16 - Prime Handrail	2 1/2	3 4
	- 134 - 1 - 5 - winter 1/2		6 3
	- 367 - — — — — —		
	In the side 1530 1/2 13/4		19 11
	- 446 - 7/8 - 5/2 seed 1/2 20 205 1/2 1/4		18 6
15	- 1 dozen turned ballusters		6 6
June 3	- 1 - 35 for sole		8 6
		£	4 14 6
	Image rendered.		73 6 11
		£	78 1 5
May 24	(w. day cheque)		20 -
		£	58 1 5
	Ans 27		5 -
		£	53 1 5

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.