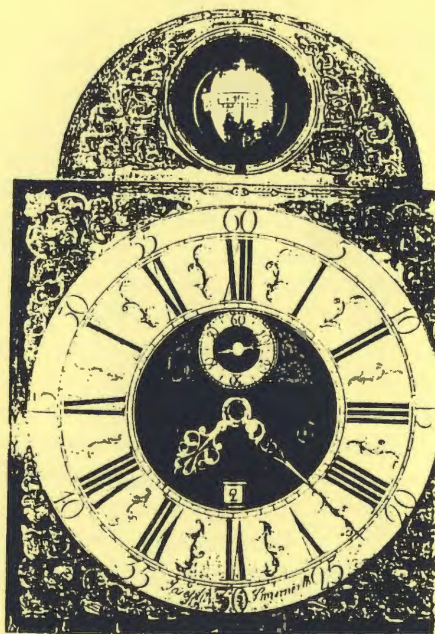


SWINNERTON Family History



*The dial of a clock made by Joseph Swinnerton –
Staffordshire's unknown clockmaker*

JOURNAL OF THE SWINNERTON SOCIETY

VOLUME 10. No.12

APRIL 1998

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

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FOREWORD

The Chairman

As promised, here is a very belated April Journal to try and catch up. The move of house, plus lots of other commitments this year, has really thrown me behind but I am now making desperate efforts to get up to date and there will be another issue soon plus the usual December one to complete our quota for the year.

However, the routine work of the society has gone on: we have had several enquiries about membership – three via the Internet – and the usual crop of enquiries about Swinnertons all over the world.

There is quite a lot of new family news and I will deal with all this together in the next issue.

One very important development is that we have now firmly fixed the date for our Silver Jubilee Gathering next year. It will be held over the weekend of the 4th/5th/6th June 1999 and accommodation can be arranged for those who require it (as we did for our 21st Birthday Gathering) at the Stakis Hotel in Stoke. The main events will be held at Swynnerton on Saturday the 5th and on Sunday the 6th we shall be running the 'Swynnerton Steeplechase' again – a coach/car tour around North Staffordshire to places of Swinnerton interest. Please put the date in your diaries now, booking forms with full details will be sent out with the December Journal.

The computerisation of our records has gone on apace – mainly due to the incredible amount of hard work put in by member Roy Talbot and I really do feel that, at last, we are getting on top of it.

New records are becoming available all the while and we are taking full advantage of these. We now have a copy on microfiche of the 1851 Census of Warwickshire to add to our 1881 Census fiche for the whole of the country and we have the New South Wales Pioneers Index 1788-1888 and 1889 – 1918. These are CD-Rom disks containing the indexes to all the births, marriages and deaths. We have a similar disk of the Victorian Pioneers Index 1837-1888.

I think the time is fast approaching when we shall be making our own Swinnerton records available via this medium.

We have just commenced a total overhaul of our Family Trees in time for our Gathering next year and you will be able to check yourselves that we have all your details correct.

I shall look forward to seeing you there.

Iain Swinnerton

ANTIQUÉ CLOCKS 1988

Early clockmakers of Staffs

In 1750 Newcastle-under-Lyme supported 150 clockmakers; a greater number than any other provincial town in the Kingdom, with the exception of Birmingham. Clockmaking was firmly established here by 1690, with such men as Edward Bailey (fl 1670-85), John Redshaw (fl 1690), and **Thomas Swinnerton** (fl 1675-1708). Newcastle's ascendancy was due to lack of competition. It had a virtual monopoly over the nearby villages of the potteries and agricultural communities of south Cheshire. Longcase, bracket clocks, as well as verge pocket watches were made here by men such as William Nickisson (fl 1798-1817), Edward Massey sr (fl 1763-93), John Bloor (fl 1818-42) and Francis Chambley (fl 1800-18).

Massey's son, Edward Massey jr. is perhaps Newcastle's most famous horological son. He was born in 1768 into an old Roman Catholic family. He was the inventor of the perpetual log and deep-sea sounding machines, patented in 1811. The great accuracy of his inventions, which measured the depth of the sea, and a ship's sailing speed, brought him international fame. Massey lived to be over 80, and retired in his later years to Liverpool.

Edward Bailey worked in Newcastle in the mid-17th century, before moving to Uttoxeter. It was here in 1682 that he was commissioned to make a new clock for Alstonfield Parish Church. The agreement, signed by Bailey, was entered at the beginning of the parish register (1674-1715):

'Memorandum that the clock was set up & finished Septemb ye 2d 1682 by me Edw: Bailey Clockmaker of Uttoxeter. Roger ffarmer vicar, Anthonie Mellor, Wm. Hall, Wm. Burton, Wm. Bradbury, Churchwardens & Cost 4 pound ten shillings besides ye old one: & I do hereby engage to maintain the same for two shillings sixpence per annum dureing my life. Witnesse my hand the day & year above written.

Edward Baylie.'

Nearby Leek supported a goodly number of clockmakers, far out of all proportion to its population. The earliest known maker is Samuel Stretch, Quaker ancestor of the clockmaking families at Bristol and Birmingham. He was a maker of lantern clocks. They were one-day clocks, with only one hand. In addition to Stretch, 17th century Leek had two other known clockmakers, Laurence Brindley (fl 1660-70) and his son Thomas (fl 1680).

Both Laurence and Thomas appear frequently in the Churchwardens' Accounts of Leek after 1666. It was in 1667 that Laurence made chimes, and repaired the clock, at a cost of £11 11s 6d. Before the Brindleys took over the maintenance of the clock it was looked after by 'Mr Sondden of Alverton', or Alton, as it is now known. In 1666 a new dial for the clock was given by a lady with the delightful name of Mistress Jolly.

Leek in the 18th century supported several clockmakers. The most noted was Randle Maddock. He was a maker of both 30-hour and eight-day clocks. Maddock died in 1819. Other mid and late 18th century makers include Thomas Ashton (fl 1756-90), John Steel (fl 1780), and S Taylor (fl 1770).

Joseph Slack worked nearby at Ipstones. Inside his clocks was pasted the verse:

*'Could but our tempers move like this machine
Not urg'd by passion, nor delayed by spleen,
And true to Nature's regulating power
By virtuous acts distinguished every hour;
Then health and joy wou'd follow as they ought
The law of motion and the law of thought,
Sweet health to pass the present moments o'er
And everlasting joy when time to be no more.'*

The family originated at Ford, near Grindon, and appear regularly in the parish registers of Ipstones from 1642.

William Travis was born in 1781, and served his apprenticeship with Joseph Wild of Macclesfield. He set up in business at a shop in the Market Place, where he remained for 37 years. He then crossed the square to new premises, where he worked for a further 37 years. It was Travis' custom to make one clock per week, no matter how busy he was with repairs. With a working life of 75 years this would account for at least 3900 clocks! William Travis died in 1875, in his 95th year. His son Samuel was also a noted clockmaker in Leek. When he was 19, and still an apprentice to his father, he began to make a clock in his spare time. It was fully two years before it was finished. The clock ran for 12 months; a dial showing when it needed winding up. It had a 14in dial and told the day of the month, the month itself, and changes of the moon. It showed the hours, minutes and seconds of the day.

Among the younger Travis' more eccentric customers was the Rev Mather Botham, who was in the habit of sending his orders in rhyme. One day he sent Travis a watch made by a Dublin maker. Accompanying it was the order:

"Mr Travis, I'm willing
 To expend an odd shilling
 For a new finger for friend Madame Pat;
 For the old one's I've proved
 Have never right moved
 Though a good deal of pains I've been at.
 You'll be much to blame
 If you don't teach the old dame
 And make her tell truth on occasion.
 For she's a lying old bitch,
 A knave, or a witch,
 In short she's nought but vexation.
 The above note you'll see
 Is from the Rev.M.B.'

J McKenna 1988

* * * * *

Who was Joseph Swinnerton?

...a little-known clockmaker from the north-west with a penchant for building complex longcases, that's who! Paul Parker investigates.

It would be difficult to describe Joseph Swinnerton as a well-known clockmaker. He rates only the merest of mentions in horological reference works since, in Brian Loomes' *Watchmakers & Clockmakers of the World - Volume 2*, he is relegated to the afterthought: 'SWINNERTON, Joseph. Place not known c1730-40 C'. I have found no other reference to him anywhere.

Now there are obviously very many makers who have passed unnoticed; equally, many makers' names are recorded even though their work was totally unexceptional. After all, a certain Thomas Bartley of Denbigh died in 1811 'Aged 30'. He hardly had time to establish himself as a clockmaker and no clocks by him appear to have survived, yet he is recorded in the pages of Dr. Peake's *Watch and Clock Makers in Wales*.

As a general rule, therefore, it would be reasonable to assume that for a maker not to have been included in any reference work until the last pages of

a recent list must indicate that he did nothing to merit an entry in the parish registers of his locality (or, if he did, that no-one has yet stumbled upon the records) and that he produced no work of note. However, not only did Joseph Swinnerton undoubtedly make clocks, but the clocks that he made were original in their design and of well above average quality.

My evidence for this is the two clocks that form the substance of this article.

The first set of pictures shows a clock which forms part of a series of longcase clocks. At least three identical clocks survive, and I am indebted to Gordon Morris of Wrexham for the details and photographs (figures 1 to 4), which are published with his permission.

Figure 1 shows the dial whose features all unequivocally suggest the first half of the 18th century. The wheatear engraving around the dial edge is said by Brian Loomes to be 'found at the whim of the individual maker on both square and arched dials up to maybe 1735-1740 in the provinces'⁽¹⁾. The spandrels in the dial corners, in the arch and flanking the seconds ring are of patterns commonly used throughout the period 1720 to 1750. The large minute numerals and the numerals on the second ring point to a date of about 1750. Taking these features together, 1730 to 1740 would seem to be a reasonable assessment of the clock's probable date.

The dial arch is a separate component, a fact partly disguised by the wheat-ear engraving across the top of the original square dial. The arch is attached to the main dial by two straps which are riveted to the arch and screwed to the dial (see figure 2). It is clear from the decoration and from the overall design that the arch is original. In any case, there are many other instances of separate but original arches: to quote Brian Loomes again, this practice 'would obviously apply mainly in the 1720s to 1740s'⁽²⁾. Obviously, this is quite distinct from the dial arches added at a later date to add value to a clock.

The three winding holes and the revolving sphere showing both the shape and age of the moon betray the fact that this clock is in a class above the bread-and-butter eight-day longcase. Perhaps the only discordant feature of the dial - and this is a relatively minor detail - lies in the fact that the engraver seems to have run out of space for Joseph Swinnerton's signature, obliging him to squeeze the final 'n' just above the 'o'.

There are two aspects of the clock's appearance, however, which are not immediately apparent from the photograph: one is that the hands are made of brass and the second is that the dial centre is covered in velvet.

Let us first consider the velvet-covered dial centre. English longcase dials of the first half of the eighteenth century are - as far as I can ascertain from my research - invariably brass with engraved and/or matted decoration of

some nature. Certainly none of the books I have consulted shows any other type of dial centre. Here, however, we have three identical clocks, all with a black velvet dial centre, reminiscent of the 'Hague clocks or the French *pendules religieuses* which date from the late 17th century. Illustrations of both types of clock are to be found in the *Country Life International Dictionary of Clocks*⁽³⁾.

Secondly, the hands. Conventional wisdom maintains that the brass hands were introduced in the late 18th century, but here we are dealing with a clock of the first half of the century with original brass hands. True, hands are easily broken and easily replaced, but if all three clocks have brass hands we can assume beyond reasonable doubt that they are part of the original design. Moreover, stylistically the hands are entirely in keeping with the rest of the dial; they are indistinguishable from any number of steel hands of the period, merely made in brass.

The reason for the unusual choice of metal is not difficult to guess: these brass hands stand out far better against the black velvet dial centre than blue steel hands could ever have done. Clearly the two features are in reality only one design feature, properly thought through. What is surprising is that a clockmaker daring enough to produce such an innovative dial should have remained unknown.

What we have, then, is a clock dating from 1735, signed Joseph Swinnerton and with two highly unusual features, suggesting an inventive and stylish maker. There is no place name on the dial but the fact that the three clocks forming the series have surfaced in the north-west implies a possible connection with Cheshire or a neighbouring county.

The movement itself is rather more commonplace although, as I have already pointed out, the use of a revolving moon shows a desire to aim at a more sophisticated market.

Figure 3 shows the movement from the front and **figure 4** shows part of the back plate.

The marking-out is clear in **figure 3** and the components are generally well-made, with a few pleasing details such as the decoration on the non-working end of the rack hook. The movement has five pillars and of these the one immediately to the left of the hour wheel bridge is latched, the others being pinned.

The quarter-chiming is on a nest of six bells controlled by an outside counterwheel, in contrast to the hour striking which is on a rack. A single arbor carries the lifting piece in front of the frontplate, the warning piece between the plates and a secondary lifting piece outside the backplate (see **figure 4**). On the hour the quarter-chiming counterwheel revolves and a pin on it displaces the secondary lifting piece, thus raising the lifting and

warning pieces and the rack hook. This in turn releases the rack. The striking train is now on warning and will remain so until the tail of the secondary lifting piece falls off the counterwheel pin, just as the fourth quarter has finished chiming. This releases the striking train to strike the hours.

As I said earlier, the clock I am describing is one of a set of three identical ones, and if three survive, it would seem reasonable to assume that even more were originally built, perhaps through a subscription club. This in turn would suggest that either Joseph Swinnerton was working in an area with a good number of wealthy clients (clocks such as these would have commanded a relatively high price) or that his reputation travelled far and wide. The latter is unlikely especially when we consider that he does not appear to have advertised his place of trade, and even more so when we remember that he has remained unrecorded until recently. It seems logical therefore to come to the conclusion that he worked in a relatively well-to-do area.

Our knowledge of Joseph Swinnerton has been expanded by another clock by him which has recently appeared and which serves in equal measure to confirm the maker's qualities and to deepen the mystery surrounding him.

This second clock is also of an original design and of much greater complexity. It is housed in a fine mahogany case with full trunk columns (composed of four coupled columns) and satinwood banding and stands over 7ft 6in high.

At first sight it is clearly a complicated clock. The dial (**figure 5**) measures just over 14in across its face and 19½in to the top of the arch and is packed with information. The main dial area shows the changing shape of the moon, the date and the time; in the dial arch (**figure 6**) there are two further features. The first is a 24-hour ring, inside which a brass sun on a green disc revolves once a day; on the inner edge of the disc, the quarter-hours are indicated so that the sun tells the time to the nearest 15 minutes. The second is a semi-circular sector with seven bands of information. The innermost two of these show the age of the moon and the time of high tide; the outer five show the months with the number of days in each month, the signs of the zodiac, the times of sunset and sunrise and finally the amount by which the clock is fast or slow compared with 'sundial time'.

The close-up (**figure 7**) of the bottom left-hand corner of the sector shows how the information has been labelled: A for the Age of the moon, H for the time of High tide; the figures 1, 2 and 3 rather confusingly require further initials. R for sunRise and S for sunSet, but nothing for the zodiacal signs; the F is for Fast (it alternates between F and S across the band with the variation in the equation of time). There remain the two letters J and L: are these the engraver's initials? If not, what are they?

All these details are clear from the photographs; equally clear is the absence of any signature on the dial. This raises two mysteries: how do we know that the clock is by Joseph Swinnerton and why did the maker not sign his work? The first mystery can be answered, but not the second!

On dismantling the clock, an incomplete signature was found on the back of the 24-hour ring in the dial arch (**figure 8**). Initially this posed a problem. I now realise that it reads 'Joseph:Swinne' but to begin with the surname was not clear, particularly since the 'w' is not unlike 'rv' and there cannot be many English surnames beginning with 'Srv'! Fortunately, I took the clock along to Gordon Morris, just across the hills from Denbigh, and thus to the very man with the information to solve the enigma. With the correct Christian name and all but the last few letters of the surname, there is no doubt that this was Joseph Swinnerton's trial signature.

Having established then who made this second clock, and having mentioned the clock's complications, it is now time to come to an additional quirk in its design. **Figure 5** showed the dial with its two winding holes. It is therefore something of a surprise to discover that this clock chimes the quarters on a nest of six bells. True, this is not a unique feature, but it is highly unusual.

The striking/chiming train is powered by a lead weight of 18½lb. The pinions of the striking train are quite badly worn, suggesting either that this is the original weight, or that the weight has had to be increased to overcome the wear in the train. Certainly, it is quite possible that it has always required a heavy weight to run the train, since the striking of the hour and the quarter-chiming nest of six bells is achieved through a pin-barrel having a diameter of only slightly more than 13mm (just over ½in) which is driven from the pinion of the third wheel.

Figure 14 shows a 'flattened-out' diagram of the arrangement of the pins. The barrel revolved through 90 degrees for each quarter peal and through 180 degrees for each hour struck. The transition from quarter chiming to striking is by means of a pumping action.

The power needed to run merely the striking (all the underdial work for the quarter-chiming has been removed) is therefore considerable and even greater power would be required to run the complete quarter-chiming.

Unlike the first clock this one does not operate the chiming and striking through a mixture of counterwheel and rack. Instead it has two racks, pivoting on the same arbor, each with its own snail, the quarter-chiming snail being located immediately in front of the minute wheel. The quarter rack is broken off, whether accidentally or deliberately it is not possible to establish, and as I have already said the underdial work has been completely revamped. This, the exact mechanism for the quarter-chiming is not clear beyond a few

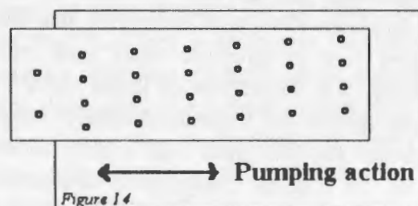
basic details, such as the certainty that the pin-barrel was originally pumped to activate either the quarters or the hours.

The reliability of Joseph Swinnerton's design may perhaps be called into question. If the chiming work has been discarded, it may be that the system was faulty from the outset and that progressive wear and tear led to frustration and finally desperation in a succession of jaded clock repairers. 'Extreme remedies are most appropriate for extreme diseases,' according to Hippocrates, and the remedy chosen for this clock was a fairly extreme one, since it involved dismantling all the original components and then making and replanting a new lifting piece and a new warning piece (incorporating components from the original work); this in turn involved not only calculating a new layout for the parts but also, because of the new layout, making a new suspension cock and replanting the pallet arbor with the result that the arbor now barely clears the hole in the backplate.

This article is not intended to describe a clock restoration. Nevertheless, I think it should be recorded that this clock, which once showed so much detail, has now been shorn of every complication; not even the date wheel still works (the 24-hour wheel and its post have long since disappeared), nor the moon face which has lost all its teeth. The multitude of empty holes on the front plate⁽⁴⁾, the four posts at the top of the front plate which have been filed away, and the unused rollers on the back of the dial are all that remains to bear witness to the original clock. The pointers are no longer driven by anything and the shutters which once rose and fell against the 24-hour dial to show the rising and setting sun have vanished.

As well as showing a photograph of the unhappy-looking frontplate (**figure 9**) which nonetheless illustrates the quality of finish of, for example, the hour-striking rack (the broken quarter-hour rack is hidden behind it), I have also included pictures of a couple of the fine details. These include (**figure 10**) the markings for rating on the pendulum flat and (**figure 11**) the use of a main pendulum bob, held in place by the rating nut in the usual way, but with a secondary bob below which allows fine adjustment.

So far we have not considered the possible date of the clock. It has many of the stylistic features of the first clock I described, in particular the wheat-ear engraving. On clock No 2 the wheat-ear engraving is indeed more prominent, since it is used not only round the dial edge, but also inside the chapter ring and around the moon-face aperture. There are half-quarter-hour markers of a simple design and the minute numerals are smaller than on the first clock. All in all the calendar clock looks that little bit older than the revolving moon clock. Since we eventually narrowed the dates for the first clock down to c1735, we are presumably not far wrong if we suggest c1725 for clock No 2.



A reasonably hypothesis has thus begun to take shape: Joseph Swinnerton was an early 18th century clockmaker with a penchant for a degree of complication in his clocks and clients prepared to pay for this level of sophistication. He worked in the north-west and was prepared to experiment with innovative ideas, producing distinctive and well-made clocks.

Nevertheless for reasons at which it is hardly possible to guess he has remained unknown until now. Did he work for a family business where the clocks were normally signed with a family name? Did he produce other unsigned clocks? Did he perhaps die young? (Allowing for convenient flexibility of the 'circa', the clocks described in this article could equally well have been made within either five or 20 years of each other.)

I have to admit to a feeling of some frustration that this article is of necessity inconclusive. I would have preferred to have been able to end with a neat solution, perhaps a card I had kept up my sleeve *a la* Agatha Christie which would have revealed the true identity of Joseph Swinnerton. No such luck. However it would be quite surprising if there were not readers of *Clocks* with further information to add to the little I provided and, to give them something to work on, I have indeed kept two meagre scraps of information in reserve.

Two Swinnertons are recorded in Brian Loomes' *Early Clockmakers of the British Isles*; they are both late 17th century and both are listed as working in Newcastle-under-Lyme (Staffordshire).

The close-ups (figures 12 and 13) of the engraved numbers show a distinctive '4' in which the horizontal line is thick where it meets the diagonal. This is used on the chapter ring, the seconds ring and the date wheel. Has anyone seen this unusual engraving on any other early 18th century clocks and, if so, where were these clocks made?

With acknowledgments to:

1. *Grandfather clocks and their cases*; p59; Bracken Books, 1989
2. *op. cit.*; p. 151
3. edited Alan Smith; Hamlyn Books, 1979; pp56/57 and 92.
4. I have counted 28 unused holes, five of them tapped.

Editor's note: I am sorry I am not able to reproduce the illustrations but the only ones I have are very smudgy photocopies. The only possible one is on the front cover.

* * * * *

LIBER FEODORUM

Feouda Hervei de Stafford.
1235-6 Suilverston' j. feodum

Baronia de Stafford' de feodo de Moroil. *In rotulo.*
1242-3 Robertus Suinnerton' j. feodum in Suinnerton'.

Baronia Roberti de Stafford'*
1242-3 Robertus de Suinnievertan', Ivo de Cistenovere, Ivo de Waleton ij.
feoda in Swinevertan, Titnesovere, Waleton'.

* The list relates to the scutage of Gascony.

* * * * *

Gentleman's Magazine 1819 No.2 page 91

Death July 3 At Eccleshall, aged 64 Elizabeth, widow of the late Rev. John Swinnerton of Sugnall, Staffordshire & late vicar of Wybunbury, Cheshire.

THE FIRST SWINNERTON IN AUSTRALIA

Exciting news has come from my old friend Laurie Thompson who has been investigating Thomas Swinerton, the Royal Marine, who sailed as a convict guard on the First Fleet of convicts to Australia in 1788.

He wrote to Mr Kenneth Knight, President (equivalent to the English office of Chairman) and Honorary Archivist of the Society of Australian Genealogists because he found evidence of Thomas's marriage to Margaret Williams and subsequent return to England of which we were not aware.

Mr Knight wrote:-

The Society holds little material on Swinerton, the only significant item being a map showing the location of his 1792 land grant of 80 acres at Marsfield¹, with a frontage to the Paramatta.

First Fleet Marines were offered discharge in Australia with land grants in Sydney or Norfolk Island or return home and continued service until the normal time came for their discharge. He was discharged in November 1792 after receiving his grant earlier in the year. Sometime later he sold the land and returned to England, presumably paying his own way. There is nothing about this in the Colonial Secretary's correspondence or in any of the other likely indexed sources. I have not looked at HRA², but no doubt you have access to them, or to the published volumes of the Sydney Gazette which cover 1803-1810. These may contain references to Swinerton.

He is mentioned in the first volume of Copley's Sydney Cove 1791-1792 but only in respect of his receiving the land grant and marrying Margaret Williams at Parramatta on 18 March 1792. He is not mentioned in the later volumes giving a detailed account of the settlement up to 1800.

The two entries for his marriage to Margaret Williams do not signify a military and a civilian marriage. In the pre-1856 period it is common for there to be two entries in the church registers. The "CB" is the code for St. John's, Parramatta and you will find, I am sure, that entry 185 in Vol.3 is the same as entry 53 in Vol.147.

There is no easy way to determining the ship on which Swinerton sailed for England or elsewhere as he seems to have left before the period for which passenger departure indexes exist. If I do come across any relevant references, however, I will let you know.

1. We published that map in this Journal some time ago.
2. Historical Records of Australia.

Laurie explains that there were no records kept, at that time, of people returning to England unless they were Government or Military. Not being mentioned in the later volumes up to 1800 means he must have left fairly soon after the land grant and marriage. Also, there are no births or deaths registered. Laurie has checked the Pioneer Index (which we now have on CDRom disk here) and T.D.Mutch's cards on church records 1787-1814 and the only entry is the marriage as above at which the witnesses were R.J.Robinson and John Taylor.

He has promised to do some more searching for us but, in the meantime, I have to look to see if we have a Thomas and Margaret suddenly appearing in our records around the later 1790s.

The Second Fleeters

WILLIAMS, Margaret (1774-)

Margaret Williams was sentenced to seven years transportation at the 18th February 1788 Bristol Quarter Sessions for the theft of a silver cream jug and 11 silver spoons in September 1787. Alice Fidoe (aged 17, qv) confessed that she had been selling grapes on Bristol Bridge with Elizabeth Siene ((aged 18, qv) and Ann Harper (aged 17, qv) when Margaret Williams, aged 13, had told them she knew where they could steal some silver in a house across the drawbridge. As the others waited outside, Williams stole the silver from Mrs Clutson's house at No.11 Denmark Street. They then ran off to Redcliff Churchyard where they decided to sell some of the spoons to a man on Redcliff Hill, spending the proceeds on victuals. They gave some of the other spoons to Siene's brother, James (qv), asking him to sell them. Harper and Elizabeth Siene were sentenced to seven years transportation along with Williams. Fidoe and James Siene escaped prosecution but were convicted at the next sessions (June 1788) for another theft. By May 1789, Margaret Williams had been embarked on the *Lady Juliana* Transport.

In 1806 Williams was recorded as living with James Roberts (*William & Anne 1791*, tried Old Bailey) and one male child. They were self-supporting, living on a 15 acre farm in the Hawkesbury District held by purchase, owning a horse and 6 pigs, and employing a free man. Roberts had been granted 30 acres

on the east bank of the Hawkesbury River in 1794. He was still holding the grant in 1800 living with an un-named woman and no children (whether this was Margaret is not clear). By 1802 he had sold the grant and was sharing a purchased farm in the Hawkesbury District with Robert Sidaway. In 1814, James and Margaret were still holding land in the area and supporting one child. Roberts was recorded as a landholder there in 1822 and the James Roberts junior, aged 18 born in the colony, listed after him in the muster was almost certainly the couple's son. By 1828, the family had moved over the Blue Mountains to Bathurst where Roberts senior was recorded as a publican aged 63, holding 95 acres (30 cleared, 10 cultivated) with 8 horses and 28 cattle. Margaret's age was given as 53. Their son James, a district constable at Bathurst, lived either in the same household or nearby with his young wife and 16 month old daughter Rachel. He held 60 acres (6 cleared) and owned 7 horses and 5 cattle. James Roberts senior may have been the man of this name who died at Blacktown on 27 February 1851, described in the burial register of St.Matthew's, Windsor as a settler aged 83. His widow's death has not yet been identified.

Notes: It was either the second fleeter's husband or his son and namesake who was poundkeeper on the *Richmond Road* in the late 1820s. Roberts senior was probably the James Roberts granted a license for the Bulls Head public house, Richmond Road, in March 1829.

- 132 *Thomp Evans* *Andrew Kohlman* 138
Mary Dickson *Sarah Williams* +
Isabel Curry + *W. T. Tannan*
Sarah Brown *Elizabeth Tannan* +
- 133 *Matthew Gibbons* *John Howell* 139
Margaret Gordon + *Mary Shepherd* +
James Spurre *Thos Chappie* +
Elizabeth Manning *Thos Chappie* +
- 134 *Isaac Andrew* + *John Chappie* +
Sarah Anderson X *Thomas Prior* + 140
Thomas Swinnerton X *Rebecca Holmes*
Margaret Swinnerton + *Joseph Radford*
- 135 *John Jeffries* + *Ann Baker* 141
Sarah Evans *Elizabeth Anderson* +
Jane Harding + *Thos. Smyth*
Ann Smyth
- 136 *John Stoddell* *Isaac Nichols* 142
Mary Robert *Fredman Doland* +
Isaac Doland *Isaac Nichols* +
Isaac Nichols *Mary Warren* +
- 137 *John Minnis* X *Henry Noble* 143
Ann Harper + *Susan Noble*
Jam. Plowman *Harry Parsons* 144
Martha Middleton X *Mary Swaine* +

THE HOUSE OF ANGELO - A Dynasty of Swordsmen

CHAPTER XIV - THE ANGELO DESCENDANTS

It is some index to Harry Angelo's character that his confessions, apparently so artless, betray little or nothing about his domestic life. His marriage, for instance, normally a milestone in a man's history, goes unrecorded, though once, by sheer accident, he lets slip that he had a wife. He cannot well avoid a casual mention of his successor, Henry, but for aught he says to the contrary we might well imagine that Henry was his only son. In writing about his father, he has no delicacy about disclosing intimate personal details, but his reticence about his own private affairs can be explained only on the theory that his impish humour led him to balk at what he thought might be the impertinent curiosity of posterity.

He overlooked the fact that anything which concerns a striking personality like his own would be of interest to future generations, and he did not count upon the industry of the Rev. Charles Swynnerton, who, seventy years after his death, went to immense pains to establish the genealogy of the Angelo family. Mr Swynnerton, however, like the present writer, was given the advantage of access to the family records, now in the possession of Colonel Cortlandt-Angelo of Brighton.

Actually, so far from having only one son, Harry had four: George Frederick, born in 1779, Henry (Angelo III), born in 1780, Edward Anthony, born in 1787, and William Henry, born in 1789.

(London: The Batchworth Press Printed April 1998)

* * * * *

SWINNERTONS ON THE INTERNET

<http://www.kidpub.org/kidpub/schools/swanhill/the-evil-dream.html>

The Evil Dream - by Dion and Ryan

One dark and gloomy night there was a boy laying in his bed with his teddy bear. Suddenly he fell fast asleep. Meanwhile he was having a very evil dream that he was turned in to a bat because a vampier had bitten him on the neck.

About the Authors: Dion Swinnerton and Ryan Wilkinson are in grade 4. We both like basketball.

This is just one of hundreds of items extracted from the Internet by our Vice-President, Bill Swinnerton. This is from the Australian file - he has also sent me files of American, Canadian and British items. I am gradually working through them and, of course, they are all being fed in to our computerised archives. Meanwhile - who is Dion?

Extracts from COUNTRY REFLECTIONS AROUND CHESWARDINE

1. The first meeting of the Parish Hall Committee was held at the school on Friday, 18th July 1930. The members were:

Mr. G. Atkins	representing	A. O. Foresters
Mr. C. Bradbury	"	Bowling Club
Miss Bradley	"	Girl Guides
Mrs. Curry	"	Women's Institute
Lt. Col. Donaldson Hudson	"	Life Member
Mr. L. Kemp	"	Oddfellows
Mrs. Perry	"	Mother's Union
Mr. Perry	"	Par. Church Council
Mr. J. Lea	"	Parish Council
Mr. J. Pritchard	"	Cricket Club
Mr. H. E. Steventon	"	Wesleyan Church
Mr. W. Swinnerton	"	Parish Church
Mrs. Symons	"	Nursing Association
Mr. W. J. Symons	"	Tennis Club
Mrs. Donaldson Hudson	"	Women's Institute
Maj. Gen. Sir John Longley	"	British Legion
Rev. R. S. Renfree	"	Boy Scouts

The grand opening was at Easter 1932.

Part of the festivities included the planting of a cedar tree in the grounds to the front of the hall. The youngest child attending the village school was chosen for the honour. Young **Master Jim Swinnerton** performed the task with great confidence although surrounded as he was by the many dignitaries present.

On 11th April 1941 the hall was looked at by Mr. Roberts, officer of the Salop War Agricultural Executive Committee with a view to taking it over for housing land workers. The hall was officially taken over on 14th May, on that date there was £286-10s-7d in the bank account.

The contents of the hall to be stored as follows:

A framed photograph of Col. Donaldson Hudson to be put in the safe keeping of Mr. F. W. Cope.

Stored with Mrs. H. Swinnerton - 36 cups with handles, 11 cups without handles, 24 jugs, 12 basins, ten tongue glasses, one stein (cracked) and 65

2. Swinnerton's Transport

Swinnerton's Transport based at Doley is just across the Staffordshire border, but retains a very close association with Cheswardine. In 1939 Les Swinnerton was earning his living from there as an agricultural contractor. The Doley Yard was home to two thrashing boxes, numerous tractors and farming equipment. Les Swinnerton, a product of Newport Grammar School, loved the life, and despite his mother's protests (she thought he should be using his education to better effect) was determined to make a success of the business. In slack periods he used his car and a large trailer to transport animals to and from the local markets. This led to an important decision. In 1941 he expanded by purchasing two cattle waggons and so the haulage side of the business was born. Gradually the lorries replaced the tractors.

The business started to prosper and in 1955 Les was able to purchase Whiteley's Transport, Tern Hill. The assets were three A licences, and three cattle lorries needing much work to make them reliable again.

Tragedy struck in 1959 when Les Swinnerton died at the young age of forty, leaving his wife, two sons and a daughter. Peter the oldest child was fifteen and still attending school. Mrs. Swinnerton who had never liked the haulage business, took control. There was a traffic manager to help with the book work, but Mrs. Swinnerton had to become the boss overnight. It was a particularly hard time, running a business and bringing up a family. Her youngest son, Kenny, was only two years old. Peter couldn't leave school quickly enough to help his mother full time. It seemed an eternity before his seventeenth birthday, when he could officially gain his driving licence. He had, of course, been driving around the yard for years, and at fourteen was very competent at moving lorries from one spot to another. Passing the test was no bother, and Peter immediately set his heart on earning money for the family firm by driving. Unfortunately his youth precluded him from driving any vehicle over five tons. Mrs. Swinnerton, in her wisdom, had a specially constructed, long based lorry with a light alloy body, for Peter. This enabled him to carry bigger loads than would have been possible with a conventional body. Cattle haulage was the mainstay of the business, and a small fleet of lorries was engaged on the movement of the beasts from farm to market and back. Profits improved, all boded well for the future, when in 1967 tragedy struck the area. The dreaded foot and mouth disease reared its ugly head in the Oswestry area, and like the black death of old spread rapidly across North Shropshire. The ministry men worked non stop, the split hooved mammals were slaughtered in their thousands, and buried in crater graves excavated by bulldozers, or else burnt on massive funeral pyres when the ground proved unsuitable for mass burials. Farmers and their families were virtually prisoners in their own homes. Restrictions forced the closure of Village Halls

and Meeting Places. Every market closed, movement of animals was halted. The "Shropshire Star" published daily reports and maps with black dots denoting infected farms. In a few weeks the black dots had almost merged into a black splotch covering the whole of North Shropshire, Staffordshire, and South Cheshire. The area was completely devastated. Morale was low as the dreaded plague engulfed all in its path. The knock-on effect was tremendous, and everyone who depended for a livelihood on the farming community suffered badly. Swinnerton's, with their main income gained from their cattle waggons, soon felt the pinch as business dwindled to a trickle. A depressing sight for the road haulier was to see lorries standing idle in the yard, and Peter and his mother experienced this daily. They decided that if the business was to survive they would have to change their priorities. General haulage rather than specialised cattle movement seemed the likely solution to their immediate problem. They began plying for trade in the Liverpool and Manchester dock areas many miles from their familiar haunts. The move proved so successful that Swinnerton Transport never again went back to cattle haulage. To this day Swinnerton's have remained general hauliers but have retained an agricultural outlook, much of their work involving movement of potatoes, barley, wheat etc. Today Peter and younger brother Kenny run the business from the Doley Headquarters.

3. September 27th 1842. The following persons are appointed to serve the office of Constable:

William Williams, Cheswardine, Blacksmith.
 William Arkinstall, Cheswardine, Tailor.
 John Taylor, Chipnal, Blacksmith.
 William Swinnerton, Sowdley, Blacksmith.
 James Hughes, Sowdley, Cordwainer.

4. The Parish in 1851.

Chippenhall

James Goodhall - farmer and beerhouse keeper (The White Lion)
 Mathew Plant-corn miller
 John Taylor-blacksmith

Sowdley

John Beeston-tailor
 Thomas Buckley-shopkeeper
 William Robinson-beerhouse keeper (Wheatsheaf)
 William Swinnerton-farmer and blacksmith

William Worrall-brickmaker

5. The Parish in 1871

Chipnall

James Goodall-farmer and beerhouse keeper (The White Lion)
 Randle Cooke-Yew Tree Farm
 William Palmer-miller and farmer
 Joseph Sambrook-stone mason
 John Taylor-blacksmith

Sowdley

Thomas Buckley-shopkeeper (*father of George Swinnerton - ed.*)
 William Mate-Hanwood House
 William Swinnerton-blacksmith
 Edward Worrall-beer retailer
 William Worrall-beer retailer

6. The Parish in 1905

Chipnall

Wm. Boyden-farmer and miller (water)
 Joshua Edwards-clerk of works
 George Williams-Lipley Hall

Soudley

Thomas Buckley-beer retailer and farmer (Wheatsheaf)
 Mrs. Harriet Cope-beer retailer (Robin Hood)
 George Dakin-tailor
 Mrs. Esther Hughes-shopkeeper
 Mrs. Henry Kitson-carrier
 Mrs. Elizabeth Shropshire-shopkeeper
 George Swinnerton-baker
 Samuel Swinnerton-blacksmith
 Thomas Swinnerton-butcher
 Edward Worrall-wheelwright
 George Worrall-cowkeeper
 John Whitehouse-coal dealer, Park Heath

Parish - 1917 - Sowdley: George Swinnerton-Baker

Parish - 1929 - Sowdley: Mrs. Mary Ann Swinnerton-shopkeeper

Parish - 1941 - Sowdley: Albert Swinnerton-wheelwright

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