

SWINNERTON *Family History*



21st Anniversary



Gathering Issue

THE JOURNAL OF THE SWINNERTON SOCIETY

VOLUME 10 No.2

JUNE 1995

The Swinnerton Society

was founded in 1973 as a non-profit making organisation devoted to the research and publication of Swinnerton family records and the welfare of St.Mary's Church, Swynnerton, Staffordshire. Research into the history of the Swinnerton family had been started by the Reverend Charles Swynnerton FSA. in the 1870s and over the years he wrote a number of articles and papers about the family and gathered together many Swinnertons from all over the world. Interest became dormant after his death in 1928 until the present archivist resumed research in 1952 and re-founded the society in 1973. Today it has a world-wide membership and holds a 'Gathering' at Swynnerton every 3 years. It is registered as a charity in the United Kingdom No. 518184.

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SWINNERTON FAMILY HISTORY

Volume 10 No.2

JUNE 1995

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Editor - Iain Spencer Swinnerton

FOREWORD

The Chairman

This issue of the Journal will be distributed at the Gathering so the meeting will probably be in full swing by the time you have a chance to study it. Old friendships will have been renewed and new ones made as we enter into the 21st Anniversary of the Swinnerton Society.

Time has certainly marched on and it is difficult to realise that twenty one years have passed since Iain Swinnerton circularised a few names taken from the telephone directory asking if they would be "interested in joining a small group who were engaged in researching into the family history". That was in 1973 - he, himself, had been looking into the family origins for 20 years. In 1973 he was joined by the Rev. Brian Swinnerton, John Walter Swinnerton and Ken Armitstead, the latter two, sadly, no longer with us, who had all been delving into their own branches of the family. The response to that letter resulted in the formation of our society in 1974 and the first journal, a single sheet of A4 paper, was published in May of that year.

The original research into the history of the Swinnerton family was started by Canon The Hon. and Rev. G.T.O. Bridgman as part of the *Collections for a History of Staffordshire* published by the William Salt Archaeological Society, Stafford. He invited the Reverend Charles Swynnerton, then an Indian Army Chaplain, to contribute sections on his own branch of the family and their joint efforts were published in 1880 as Part II of Volume VII of the series under the title of *An Account of the Family of Swynnerton of Swynnerton and elsewhere in the County of Stafford*.

Charles had a number of extra copies run off which he had bound up with an extra article he wrote entitled 'An Introduction to the History of the Family of Swynnerton' and distributed them to members of his immediate family. A few copies survive but the Society has re-published both in facsimile and they are available from the bookstall at the Gathering or by post from the Secretary. After the death of Charles in 1928, nothing more was done until 1953 when Iain, as a result of a meeting with his great-uncle George Frederick Swinnerton, decided to look into his own family history and subsequently took over Charles's role as historian of the whole family.

In this 21st Anniversary year, it is gratifying to look back and reflect on the progress that has been made during those 21 years. A total of 93 journals have been published, each containing an enormous

amount of information about our Swinnerton ancestors and those who have carried on the name over the last 900 years.

The first family Gathering was held on the 26th of July 1975 when 65 attended. Further Gatherings were held in 1977, 1979, 1981 and 1983 (all in September) with a mini-Gathering for members in Lancashire at Hambleton on the 9th May 1981.

We then waited 3 years to coincidence with the 900th anniversary of the Domesday Book which was compiled in 1086 and in which we find the first mention of our name. On the 25th September 1986 we held our famous Domesday Gathering to which 250 came from all over the world. There were so many we had to hire a special marquee to house the food and some of the exhibitions.

Since then Gatherings have been held every 3 years, attendances have dropped back to an average 100 - this will be our 9th. Annual General Meetings have, of course, been held in intervening years to comply with our constitution and some of these have even been held in places other than Swynnerton!

One of the objects of the Society has been to support St. Mary's Church, Swynnerton and over the years, thanks to the generosity of the members, we have financed several major projects the first being the restoration of the organ. Next we purchased the former village school from the Church Commissioners who were contemplating selling it for conversion to a dwelling house and gave it to the church for use as a church hall, Sunday School, youth club etc. We followed this by providing new doors for the west entrance and our last contribution was to replace the vestry door all of which has come to several thousand pounds. For ourselves, inside the church, we erected a memorial recording all the names of the Swinnertons who sacrificed their lives in the two World Wars.

We now have a membership of 162 which includes Swinnertons and descendants of Swinnertons from all over the world as well as this country including Australia, Canada, Denmark, Mauritius, New Zealand, South Africa and the United States of America.

Tribute must be paid to those founder members who joined Iain in establishing the Society: the Rev. Brian Swinnerton who wrote the excellent articles which Iain edited and published as *Swynnerton & the Swynnertons*, which was for many their first introduction to the history of the family and the Society (he will be preaching at the service in Butterton Church tomorrow and will be conducting the 'Swynnerton Steeplechase', a tour around Swinnerton country in the afternoon): John Walter Swinnerton, the first Chairman of the Society, who spent so many hours at the General Record Office in London, firstly at

Somerset House and later at St.Catherine's House extracting those vital records for us and Ken Armitstead who did the bulk of the research into the Warwickshire branch of the family and its predecessors. Also to all those members who have acted as chairman, secretary, treasurer and auditor of the society or as members of Council not forgetting their wives (or husbands) who have supported them and hosted meetings and fed and watered us.

We must also say a very big thank you to our overseas representatives who have distributed Journals for us thereby saving the society a great deal of money - Bill Swinarton of Canada (who also produced a special supplement to the Journal for Canadian and American members) and Marjorie Nightingale of Australia and to our subs collectors, Alice Cloherty and Diana Cunningham in America; Edythe Seeley in Canada and Ted Swinnerton and Glenda Hooper in Australia.

We must pay special tribute to our Patron and former President, Sir Roger Swynnerton, who has been a most loyal supporter of everything we have done and a very generous contributor to our Research Fund.

Finally, a special thank you to three ladies who have no connection with the Swinnertons but who have all been a tremendous help to Iain over the years - Mrs Kate Prosser, his one-time secretary who typed and printed all the correspondence and journals for us for the first ten years and Mrs Pauline Saul and Mrs Pauline Litton who have both spent many, many hours helping him with our research. The latter two will be our special guests at the Gathering, unfortunately Mrs Prosser's husband is not well enough to allow her to come.

The "leading light" in the society has, of course, been Iain whose never-ending dedication and devotion as Historian, Journal Editor, Printer and many other designations has inspired a succesful team. Without his unbounding enthusiasm nothing would have been achieved and we can only wish him and Angela good health and longevity to enable them to continue with the good work for many years to come.

Under the Society's rules, I will be retiring as Chairman at this AGM having completed my permitted period of office, so this will be my last foreword. Also retiring under the same rules will be Leslie Swinnerton and Timothy Swynnerton who have both been members of Council for many years and David Brock who has done sterling service as our secretary for the last six years.

In passing on "the flaming torch" we extend our best wishes to our successors and may the Society continue to flourish.

Joe Swinnerton

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY - 1974-1995

| | | |
|------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| Patron: | 1982-1985 | The Rt.Hon. The Lord Stafford |
| | 1982-1993 | Vacant |
| | 1994- | Sir Roger Swynnerton CMG.OBE.MC. |
| President: | 1974-1982 | The Rt.Hon the Lord Stafford |
| | 1982-1994 | Sir Roger Swynnerton CMG.OBE.MC. |
| | 1994- | Mrs Margery Thomas |
| Vice Presidents: | | |
| | | Sir Leonard Schroeder Swinnerton Dyer Bt. 1974 |
| | | Frank Swinnerton Esq. 1974-1982 |
| | | Sir Roger Swynnerton 1975-1982 |
| | | H.Norman Swinnerton (USA) 1975- |
| | | Sir Peter Swinnerton Dyer Bt. 1978-1989 |
| | | The Rt.Hon.The Lord Thomas of Swynnerton |
| | | 1982-92:1994- |
| | | W.G.Swinnerton (Australia) 1992- |
| | | W.R.Swinarton (Canada) 1992- |
| | | Colonel J.C.A.Swynnerton OBE. 1992- |
| Chairman: | J.W.Swinnerton MBE.TD.BSc(Econ). | 1980-1983 |
| | S.K.Armitstead MA. | 1983-1985 |
| | Colonel J.C.A.Swynnerton OBE | 1985-1992 |
| | J.E.Swinnerton | 1992-1995 |
| Secretary: | I.S.Swinnerton | 1975-1989 |
| | D.G.Brock | 1989-1995 |
| Treasurer: | | |
| | I.S.Swinnerton | 1975-78:1979-85:1990-94 |
| | C.L.Swinnerton | 1978-1979 |
| | J.R.Swynnerton | 1985-1989 |
| | P.R.Swinnerton | 1989-1990 |
| | W.K.Livesey | 1995- |

ROBERT WILLIAM SWINNERTON

One or two small errors crept into the tree printed in the last (March) issue of this journal showing the descent of Robert Swinnerton. George Ernest Swinnerton (GS.29) died on the 24th January 1947 not the 2nd and Ernest George Francis Swinnerton was born on the 22 January 1933 not the 23rd.

More importantly, Herbert Swinnerton (HS.39) was not the Herbert who died in WWI and for whom I have a memorial plaque. I have searched the GRO Death Indexes and find that a Herbert S. Swinnerton died in the December Quarter of 1968 in the Haringey Registration District aged 80 which does not quite tie in with the birth date we have of 1880 but is the only Herbert listed.

I am sure you will have realised that I made a mistake in putting in the lines of descent, Charles Guy Dover Swinnerton and his sisters descended from Charles Edmund Swinnerton and not from Kathleen (Livermore). My thanks to our member, the Rev Ernest Swinnerton for pointing these out.

SWINNERTONS IN THE CHANNEL ISLANDS

The late John Swinnerton, our first chairman, used to holiday regularly in the Channel Islands. During his visits there he spent a lot of time examining the historical records of the island and he came across several mentions to a Mr H. Swinnerton.

He, apparently, was an agent for the Royal Liver Insurance company (which may suggest a Liverpool origin) and is first mentioned as living on the island in 1926. He obviously prospered and became a respected member of the community because he was elected a Deputy (Member of the States Parliament) for the 3rd Electoral District of St. Helier and served as such from 1951-54. He died on Christmas Day, 1959 aged 74.

He had two daughters - Gwen who married on the island and Winifred who returned to live in Woodbridge, Suffolk. That is all we know at present but research is continuing.

There was also a brief mention of a Miss Swinnerton who was with the Social Services and was sent to the island in 1979 to conduct an enquiry into some irregularities. It appears that what she discovered caused her to be sent back to the mainland in something of a hurry and the matter, whatever it was, appears to have been hushed up.

Does anyone know who these Swinnertons were?

THE COMPILERS OF THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER

In an old family bible there were found the following entries being a copy of the names of the Compilers of the Common Prayer, Edw.VI, written in copperplate:

s Edw:VI.

Compilers of the Common Prayer

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <i>Dr. Thos. Cranmer,</i> | <i>Archbishop of Canterbury</i> |
| <i>Dr. Goodrich</i> | <i>(Tho) Bishop of Ely</i> |
| <i>Dr. John Skyp,</i> | <i>Bishop of Hereford</i> |
| <i>Dr. Thirley,</i> | <i>Bishop of Westminster</i> |
| <i>Dr. Day,</i> | <i>Bishop of Chichester</i> |
| <i>Dr. Holbrook,</i> | <i>Bishop of Winchester</i> |
| <i>Dr. Ridley,</i> | <i>Bishop of Rochester</i> |
| <i>Dr. May,</i> | <i>Dean of St. Paul's</i> |
| <i>Dr. Taylor,</i> | <i>Dean of Lincoln</i> |
| <i>Dr. Heines,</i> | <i>Dean of Exeter</i> |
| <i>Dr. Redmayne,</i> | <i>Dean of Westminster</i> |
| <i>Dr. Cox,</i> | <i>Almoner to the King</i> |
| <i>Mr. Robinson,</i> | <i>Archdeacon of Leicester.</i> |

Reproduced from the verso of the free (marbled) endpaper of a quarto Bible by J. Hayes, Cambridge, 1670 (DM 701, formerly 553). Bound with BCP and Sternhold in cont. black morocco, gilt fillets and six raised bands on spine. Not lettered or labelled. Gilt edges. Clasps missing, otherwise "v.g.". (Physical condition described to enable assessment as evidence.) Armorial bookplate of Thomas Swinnerton Armiger. (Bought from Thorp, October 1968.)

Addendum to 'The Compilers of the Book of Common Prayer'.

On the blank leaf (A1) of the Bible are many MS entries of events in the Swinnerton family. Most of the entries are by one hand and in the same ink. They seem to have been made or copied in about 1691, possibly by the Thomas Swinnerton, whose birth in 1625 (is) thus recorded. He was son of William Swinnerton, who died in 1678. Thomas died in 1701. Other hands continued the records after 1691 until 1717, when William, a grandson of Thomas, was born. Elsewhere (is) a note made in 1832 that this William died in 1790. He had some dealings with Sir Rowland Hill of Hawkstone, Salop. Other place names recorded include Swinnerton and Trentham in North Staffs.

It seems likely that this Bible was bought by the earlier William, and that it was he who transcribed the list of Compilers, perhaps from family papers, or from an earlier prayer book now worn out by use. The copper-plate lettering cannot be compared with the other MS entries.

The Dictionary of National Biography records one Thomas Swinnerton, son of Robert Swinnerton, born North Staffs, probably at Swinnerton. He published **A mustre of scismatyke Bysshoppes of Rome...** under the name of John Roberts in 1534 (STC 23552). In 1553, on the accession of Mary, Thomas fled to Emden, and died there in 1554. Apparently he had accompanied a party of parishioners led by their pastor, John Laski. Laski, a bishop from Poland, had seceded and was of high regard in Protestant circles. He was known to Bucer, Vermigli, and Calvin. He undoubtedly took part in the discussions on the Second Prayer Book. More significantly, he was Cranmer's guest at Lambeth in the autumn and winter of 1548/9.

The list written here contains the thirteen names listed by Fuller, but they are written in the order printed by Sparrow with the name of Dr. May added at the head of the deans. And the titles are as designated by Sparrow. We conclude that William Swinnerton, presumably born about 1600, was transcribing from a family record or tradition, perhaps derived through the association of ancestor Thomas with Laski. There is certainly here a better authentication than I had supposed of the MS list I presumed to be in the prayer book of 1638

(Frank Swinnerton, the novelist, was born in London. He says in his Autobiography that he came of a family identified with North Staffs since the time of the Norman Conquest.)

John R. Hetherington

Editor's note: These were the Swinnertons of Butterson - the bible has, unfortunately, been given to Birmingham University. Although that branch of the family is now extinct in the male line, it would have been

nice to have had it for the family archives. However, I am arranging to go and see it and have ordered photographic copies of the flyleaf showing the family entries and the book plate.

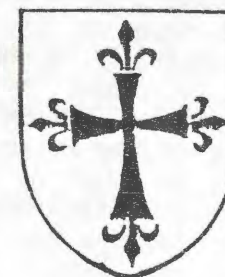
The Thomas Swinnerton who is mentioned as the author of the well-known anti-Pope book died in 1554 and was not an ancestor of the Butterson family, they had branched off from the original family one hundred and fifty years before.

THE BRANCHES OF THE FAMILY

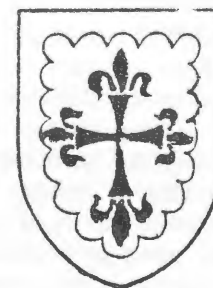
As always, the focal point of the exhibition at the Gathering will be the collection of family trees. These are very complex and so large that they have to be split up into sections. In the case of two of the major branches, it is then not easy to see how they connect to the main tree so I thought it would be a good opportunity to summarise these branches so that you can use this as a guide to the exhibition.

SWYNNERTON of SWYNNERTON

This is the original family which starts with the Domesday tenant and continues for 15 generations until the male line died out with Humphrey Swynnerton who died in 1562. He had no son only two daughters, the youngest of whom, Elizabeth, married William Fitzherbert from whom the present Lord Stafford is descended.



SWYNNERTON of HILTON



This was the first branch to break away when Sir John de Swynnerton (who died in 1340) married Anna de Montgomery and established a separate dynasty at Hilton near the site of the present service station on the M5. That line continued until 1430 when his great-great grandson, John de Swynnerton, died without issue. The estates were inherited by his cousin Anne who married as her first husband, Humphrey de Swynnerton, 9 x great-grandson of the Founder thus re-uniting the two families.

SWYNNERTON of ISEWELL (Eccleshall)



This branch was founded by yet another Humphrey, a distant cousin to the last John of Hilton above. They established themselves at Isewell Manor which, according to the Rev. Charles Swynnerton was a moated manor house and of which, at one time, he possessed the deeds. Sadly, they have now disappeared. This branch of the family, however, only lasted for six generations ending with Hugh Swynnerton of Eccleshall who died in 1622. His father, Edward, known as 'Wild

Swynnerton' is said to have gambled all his estates away.

SWYNNERTON of BUTTERTON

The first to be designated 'of Butters' was Roger de Swynnerton who first occurs in 1401. He was a great grandson of Sir Roger de Swynnerton of Swynnerton. This branch lasted longer than any other and only died out in 1836 with the death of the last Thomas Swinnerton of Butters Hall. He married Mary Milborne and had 3 daughters, from the second of whom, Mary, descend the Milborne-Swinnerton-Pilkingtons. You will see their memorials when we go to Butters Church which Thomas gave the land and money for.



This completes the account of the ancient branches of the family all of which, as far as we know, are now extinct in the male line. We now move on to the modern branches all of whom are descended from Richard Swynnerton of Whitmore who was a 10 x great-grandson of the founder and died in 1547. He used as his arms the traditional black Swynnerton Cross Fleury on a silver shield with a red bend (diagonal stripe) running right across the shield from top right to bottom left and it is these arms which have been used by various members of the Betley family although they should have been differenced for the descendants of the various sons.

The first branch is :

SWYNNERTON of YEW TREE



So called from the small estate known as The Yew Tree, the first to be known as such was Roger Swynnerton who was born in 1585. He was a great-grandson of Richard of Whitmore. The estate was entailed to the eldest son for four generations but this entail was broken in the late 1700s by Benjamin Swinnerton who was Mayor of Newcastle at the time. We don't know why he did this but the estate then passed out of the family. Some of it still survives as Yew Tree Farm and the present farm is built on the foundations of the old house.

The line survived though and our Australian Vice-President, William James Swinnerton, is a direct descendant of that Benjamin and the senior representative of the family today. The new family in Australia which I discovered when I went out there in 1988 and 1991 is also descended from this line but, sadly, none of them have joined the society.

There are other descendants in the society too, through the female line, as Benjamin had a daughter Elizabeth who married William Harding, the coroner for North Staffordshire. They had a daughter, Sarah, who married her kinsman John Swinnerton of the Adbaston branch and from them descend Mary Papps and her daughters Bridgid Weaver and Rebekah Hunt; Jane Barnes and myself and my children Alastair, Kirsty and Jo, all members of the society.

William and Elizabeth also had a daughter Anne from whom are descended our members Elizabeth Livesey and Kay Sabell.

SWINNERTON of WARWICKSHIRE

is the next branch we come to - it was founded by John Swinnerton of Whitmore, a clockmaker, who lived from 1663 to 1712 and was a 3 x great grandson of Richard of Whitmore. His descendants left the Newcastle area, where they had been domiciled for several generations, and moved to the Fillongley area of Warwickshire. The first to do so was Thomas who was born in 1709 and his descendants became very substantial farmers in the area. That particular line died

out but the next line, which I discovered during my long visit to Australia last year has survived and two of its members, Eric and Colin will be at the Gathering. It is curious that both our two senior lines have survived by going to the Coplonies as they were then. Would they have survived if they had stayed here I wonder?

Also descended from this branch is our current chairman Joe Swinnerton and he has enlisted most of his family including his sons John David and Franklin, his grandson James Elliott, neice Sheila Carroll and cousins Lois Williams and Anne Robinson of Australia, David Brock our secretary and his mother May and Nancy and Reginald Wykes. Other descendants of this branch who are members of the society are John Gerald Swinnerton (father of Jane, the former England hockey captain), the Rev. Ernest Swinnerton, Alice Cloherty of Pasadena, California and, of course, the Watts family - Zoe, sister of our late chairman, Ken Armitstead - the principal reseracher of this branch, and her children Felicity, Hester Zoe and Nigel.

The next major branch is:-

SWINNERTON of ADBASTON.

which takes its name from William Swinnerton a 6 x great grandson of Richard Swynnerton of Whitmore, who moved to Adbaston about 1775 to serve an apprenticeship with Thomas Crump, the village blacksmith.

On completing this, he took the classic route to the top by marrying the boss's daughter in 1782, taking over the business when Thomas died the next year. His family had lived in the Shut Lane area of Stone for several generations. He had one daughter and seven sons, of whom six became blacksmiths, the other died young. They established businesses throughout the Staffordshire borders and even over the county boundary as far as Much Wenlock in Shropshire. It was his second son, John, who married Sarah Harding of the Yew Tree Branch which is why Mary Papps, Bridgid Weaver, Rebekah Hunt, Jane Barnes, myself, and Alastair, Kirsty and Jo Swinnerton are all listed as being descended from both the Adbaston and Yew Tree Branches.

Also descended from William are, in alphabetical order, members Anne Hamer, Patricia Holmes, Maretta Jerrett, Elizabeth May, Thomas McClure, Sybil Sawbridge, Norah Scott and Barrie, Eric, Francis Arthur, Geoffrey, Joan, Jeremy David, Leslie, Maurice, Peter, Richard Frank and Steven Swinnerton: our American Vice-President Norman Swinnerton, Roy Talbot and Margaret Taylor.

Our next branch is a very small one and is called

SWINNERTON of SHUT LANE

I mentioned that William of Adbaston's family had lived in the Shut Lane area for generations, his brothers had moved into the Market Drayton area but the rest of the family moved back into the traditional Swinnerton areas of Swynnerton and Whitmore but then moved into the Potteries where they became involved in the pottery industry. Eventually, one of them set up his own business and I know many of you collect 'Swinnerton' pottery.

There are very few descendants of this Shut Lane family left, in the male line the only members are George Ernest Swinnerton and Muriel Swinnerton, the mother of former member Anthony Robert Swinnerton but in the female line we have the Hawleys, father and son, who are descended from Elizabeth Swinnerton, daughter of Thomas Swinnerton and Hannah Williams.

Our final major branch is the largest of all and is called:

SWINNERTON of BETLEY

because its founder, John Swinnerton moved there in about 1735 from Haslington, in the township of Barthomley just over the border in Cheshire. John was a 4 x great grandson of Richard Swynnerton of Whitmore and had three sons. The eldest, John, moved to Chester and established a small dynasty there, all of whom became, and still are, Freeman of the City. A lot of his descendants have been members of the society in the past but, sadly, death has taken its toll and we are now only left with Miss Connie Swinnerton of Abergavenny and her nephew, Dr Guy Swinnerton of Canada.

John's second son, Thomas, stayed in Betley but he had five daughters and only one son who had no issue.

However, the third son, William, more than made up for it! He had four sons and six daughters and every one of those four sons produced large families so, although this is the junior branch of the family, it is by far the largest and its descendants are to be found all over the world.

Many of them are members of the society and include our Patron, Sir Roger Swynnerton, President Mrs Margery Thomas and Vice-Presidents Colonel Jeremy Swynnerton and Lord Thomas of Swynnerton as well as (again in alphabetical order by country) Eunice Byfield, Eileen Cudd, Debra Stenmark and Dennis and Ted Swinnerton of Australia; Hazel Jones, Margaret Stiell and Donovan Swinnerton of

Canada; Valerie Dall of Denmark; Eileen Bolitho of New Zealand; Rowan of South Africa; Steven Saunders of the USA and Betty Greenhalgh, Arthur, Colin, Charles Walter, Harriet, Joan Ethel, Leonard, Peter, Pat (widow of our first chairman, John), Raymond and Thomas Henry Swinnerton and the Rev. Brian, Charles Iain, John Ralph, Roger Alan and Timothy Swynnerton.

UNCONNECTED BRANCHES

We have a number of families who do not, as yet, connect with any of the above branches although I am sure that, with further research, most of them eventually will. The first and largest of these is

SWINNERTON of YORKSHIRE.

This branch starts with a John Swinnerton who was buried in Handsworth Woodhouse in 1680. All attempts to find his origins have so far failed, there were a number of John Swinnertons around at that time and no evidence has been found so far to positively identify him. He and his wife Margaret, whose maiden name we do not know, had a large family from whom are descended our members Audrey Firmin, David Swinnerton and Jack Swinnerton and his family. There is also another much smaller family in Yorkshire who we have not yet connected to the larger one from whom Catherine Gaughan and Margaret Grogan descend.

We next come to a number of branches in Shropshire, movement back and forth across the border of Staffordshire and Shropshire took place from very early times and one of the original family was Sheriff of both counties at the same time.

The first one we actually call

SWINNERTON OF SHROPSHIRE

and it starts with a Thomas Swinnerton who was born about 1711 and appears in the Uffington/Shawbury area in 1744. He and his wife Ann had a large family as was usual in those days: their descendants stayed in the county moving to Market Drayton and Shrewsbury and I believe there may be some in the area still.

The next one is a large branch which we call

SWINNERTON OF WREXHAM

This starts with an Edward and Elizabeth Swinnerton who baptised their first child in Wrexham in 1793. It is highly likely that this family is

connected to the Oswestry and Shropshire branches but the link has not yet been found. Members of the society from this family are Olive Stocks and Ernest, Brian Edward, David Kenneth, Neil and James Swinnerton and Florence Wood. The family of member Pearl Paget of South Africa also appears to have its roots in Wrexham but I have not yet connected the two.

There are also two smaller branches in the Bridgnorth area which are being researched at present and I will deal with these in another issue. I believe they are connected to the original Shropshire branch above but only time will tell.

An important branch which started in Shropshire is

SWINNERTON of LIVERPOOL

The founder was John Swinnerton who I think may well have been another son of Thomas Swinnerton, the founder of the Shropshire branch, and he married twice. By his first wife, Elizabeth, he had a son, also John, in 1793 who became a lock-keeper on the canals. Various promotions eventually took him to Liverpool where the family settled and still are today. Descended from him are our members the Reverend Edward Swinnerton and his children Paula Barrett, Ena Wood and Michael Swinnerton and Peter Richard Swinnerton.

SWINNERTON of AUSTRALIA

John's first wife died about 1795, he married again and by his second wife Anne he had a son Joseph whose son John emigrated to Australia and was the ancestor of our members Marjorie Swinnerton and her daughter Glenda Hooper, Betty Pearsall and Tesla John Swinnerton.

Moving to another county altogether we have a branch called:

SWINNERTON of GLOUCESTERSHIRE

This starts with a George Swinnerton who married Mary Webe in 1719 in Tetbury. She died in 1734 and he was married again to Anne Suff in 1734. He had a large family by each of his wives. The first one stayed in Tetbury but died out in the male line before the end of the century. From his second family, his grandson Samuel, who was born in London in 1772, became a prosperous victualler and inn keeper. He emigrated to America with his family in the early 1830s: the family has now died out in the male line but we have his descendants in the society in Kevin Bowers of Canada, Diana and Bob Cunningham of Texas and Jeffrey Wood of Virginia.

Inevitably, like so many other people, some of the family migrated to London and today we have two distinct branches there who are not apparently connected.

LONDON 1

Commences with Samuel Swinnerton who was born about 1800 and is reputed to have come from Stone in Staffordshire although extensive research has so far failed to prove this. This is the family of Frank Swinnerton, the famous author and our former Vice-President. Descendants in the society today are Brenda Morgan and her children Laurence Morgan and Frances Wood and Alan James Swinnerton.

LONDON 2

Starts with a William Swinnerton who was born about 1790 in Lambeth and married Elizabeth Sargent. Most of their descendants stayed in the London area where some still are. However, one of William's grandsons, another William, was the soldier whose story I told in this journal some time ago. Starting as a boy soldier, he went to India where he eventually rose to the rank of Lt.Col. Some of his family stayed in India, others went to Canada.

Descendants of this branch who are members of the society are Mary Diana Martin and Marjorie Rose Swinnerton (née Richards), the widow of 'Charlie' Swinnerton, the well known musician with Billy Cotton's band whose autograph I have recently been sent for our archives.

Some of the family stayed loyal to our native Staffordshire and, not surprisingly, we have two distinct unconnected branches in the Potteries.

STOKE 1

Begins with a Thomas Swinnerton who was born in Stoke-on-Trent in about 1788. He married Mary Bedson in 1815 and their descendants are still in the Stoke area to this day and include our members Roy and Douglas Swinnerton of the famous 'Cycling Swinnertons'. You will be able to see a display of Swinnerton cycles at the Gathering.

STOKE 2

Commences with a William Swinnerton who married the unusually named lady, Mary Blood, at Trentham on New Year's Day, 1820. Their descendants have also stayed close to their roots and are still to be found in the area of the Five Towns, now of course, the City of Stoke-on-Trent and include our member David Raymond and Ronald Swinnerton.

We have a number of other very small branches called Bury, Dudley, Essex (The Lord Mayor of London's family), Sedgley, Walsall 1&2 and West Bromwich all of which are being worked on and which I will deal with in a future issue.

There are also the major Irish/Canadian and American Branches which will need an issue to themselves.

A TEMPLE SITE RECALLING OUR NAVAL HEROES

by Gareth D. John

COUNTRY QUEST

April 1986

Late on a warm, mid-April afternoon I and my poet-father, Glynfab John, climbed the tortuously steep path that leads to Kymin, perched 840 feet above the ancient County Town of Monmouth in Gwent. "Kymin" is probably an English corruption of "cae maen", an apt name for a grassy area strewn with dozens of conglomerate boulders. As we approached the tree-clad summit we were thrilled by the sheer exuberance of Spring: by its profusion of bright-eyed celandines, violets and wood-anemones, adding their fresh colours to the mossy banks and lichen stones; by the unseen songbirds trilling and warbling in cheerful harmony.

Before us stretched a prospect of incomparable beauty. Far below, the capricious meanderings of the Wye, the Monnow and the Trothy, through acres of lush pasture land and unspoilt sylvan slopes; and further beyond, clearly visible, the beckoning hills of Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Gloucestershire, Somerset, Glamorgan and Breconshire.

Surmounting this rocky outcrop are the Round House and, close by, the Naval Temple. The Round House, with its embattled tower, was built in 1794 after a group of "the first gentlemen in Monmouth" had decided to erect a permanent pavilion, or summer house, and to hold weekly meetings there. In recent years the building has been converted into a pleasant modern home. Originally it contained two circular rooms: the lower apartment was the kitchen and the upper, reached via an external iron stairs, the banqueting room furnished in a neat and convenient manner. A powerful "Telescope", presented by Admiral Sir Charles Thompson, M.P. for the borough of Monmouth, was mounted on the flat roof. The official opening, by Philip Meakins Hardwick, the instigator of the scheme to develop the Kymin as a pleasure ground, took place on May 1, 1794.

The site soon became a fashionable attraction and proved to be so popular with innumerable visitors that a bowling green and stables were added shortly afterwards; extra dining accomodation was provided by the building of Camp House (long since in ruins). The Beaulieu Grove with its picturesque walks and shrubbery was presented by **Thomas Swinnerton**. The Duchess of Beaufort, intent on making the summit more accessible, ordered a fine carriage road "at His Grace's Expense".

The Naval Temple was erected upon a bold ledge in 1800, the second anniversary of the Battle of the Nile in memory, as the inscription on the white marble tablet makes plain, of the naval heroes who made the name of England famous in the French wars. The stone tower was dedicated to the Duchess of Beaufort, daughter of Admiral Boscawen, known affectionately to his sailors as "Old Dreadnought". The temple was opened on June 20, 1801, with a celebratory public breakfast followed by feasting and dancing upon the hill-top.

A statue of Britannia seated on a rock and flanked on either side by two fixed anchors crowns the Temple. Originally, two fine paintings decorated the east and west fronts of the supporting arch, representing "The Glorious and ever memorable Battle of the Nile" and "The Standard of Great Britain waving triumphant over the fallen and captive Flags of France, Spain and Holland". The words "Glorious Victories" and "Britain's Glory" appeared on the friezes on both east and west fronts. Both paintings have disappeared.

The walled enclosure was entered by elegant gates ten feet high. Inside, two pairs of long four-pounder cannon stood like ever-watchful sentinels. Their volleys heralded the arrival of many a distinguished visitor as noisily as they celebrated the news of Talavera. Sadly, both the gates and the cannon have long since been removed.

Below the stepped and stone-tiled roof the broad frieze contains medallions commemorating sixteen distinguished naval commanders and the dates of the victories with which, in 1800, they were most closely associated. The medallions are painted red or blue, indicating the colour of the flag under which each Admiral fought. Amongst those honoured are such famous names as Nelson, Hood, Hawke, Howe, Boscawen, Bridport, Mitchell and Keith.

Nelson, himself, visited Monmouth in the summer of 1802 by boat from Ross.

During the decades following, the Temple gradually fell into a state of neglect. A letter published in the *Monmouthshire Gazette* in 1850 pointed out that the entire hill-top area had become something resembling a wilderness and was a disgrace to the good name of the town. As a result a Kymin Committee was formed to attend to the

repair of the road, clear the fallen trees and restore the Temple to its former glory. During this restoration - and subsequently there were others - the Temple lost its four-pounders and acquired the present rather incongruous rough wooden verandah.

At the beginning of this century, the hill passed into private ownership. Alerted to the possibility of the general public being excluded from the area, the people of Monmouth rallied support and, through local subscription, purchased it back. Subsequently, it became a public recreation area and is now entrusted to the National Trust.

What could be more delightful on a pleasant Spring evening, as Nature burgeons with green, than a leisurely stroll around the hill-top, there to linger and watch the sun dip slowly into the fathomless mountain ranges of South Wales: placed steeped in legend and romance that evoke the tranquility of timelessness. Truly, an unforgettable experience.



The Naval Temple.

SWINERTON'S ORDE[E]R FOR A COTTAGE:

Quarter Sessions Records at the Cheshire Record Office
Reference QJB 3/2.

Northwich 19 April. 22 Charles II. (1670-1)

Whereas it hath fully appeared unto this Courte that Thomas Swinerton of Church Lawton, Webster, being at pr[e]sent destitute of an habitac[i]on for himselfe to dwell in and hath obtayned Lycence signified under the hand and seale of William Lawton Esq^{re}, Lord of the Man^r of Church Lawton afores[ai]d for erecting a Cottage upon some part of the Wast[e] Lands within the afores[ai]d Man^r. It is therefore thought fitt and soe ordered by this Courte that the s[ai]d Mr Lawton bee Confirmed and that the s[ai]d Thomas Swinnerton may erect a Cottage according to the Certificate and Lycence of the s[ai]d Mr Lawton.

(Presumably Thomas b.1623 - d. a pauper 1699).

FAMILY NOTES

Change of Address:

In the March Journal the new address for Mr Kevin Bowers was incorrectly given as [redacted] it should have been [redacted]

Mr J.D.Swinerton to [redacted]

Mr D.H.Swinerton to [redacted]

And finally:-

Our congratulations to our Patron's grandson, Matthew, and our Chairman's granddaughter Verity who both also celebrate their 21st Birthdays this year.

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