

SWINNERTON

Family History



JOURNAL OF THE SWINNERTON SOCIETY

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JUNE 1996

The Swinnerton Society

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

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SWINNERTON FAMILY HISTORY

Volume 10. No.6

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Editor - Iain Spencer Swinnerton

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FOREWORD

The Chairman

We were well represented at the Swynnerton Church Treasure Hunt on the 18th May: your Treasurer and Secretary and Angela were the brains of the team - I was the driver! There were over 40 clues but most teams completed it in about two and a quarter hours. We did not come first but acquitted ourselves honourably - it was a most enjoyable day and caused a lot of amusement. The weather was very kind to us, cool but sunny for most of the time and we certainly saw a lot of Staffordshire. We ended up in a hostelry (of course) for an evening meal which rounded off the day very nicely.

On a similar theme, David Brock has now finished typing up the text of Brian Swynnerton's *Swynnerton Steeplechase* and it has been proof-read and corrected by Brian. At the request of several members, we are going to produce it as a separate booklet so that members can have their own copy for when they are in the area. I had hoped to have it ready for the AGM but I am afraid I ran out of time.

Since our return from Mauritius on 5th May I have attended the Society of Genealogist's Family History Fair in London (the day we landed!) at which most of the family history societies in the country are represented and have spoken in Birmingham, Hillingdon, Worcester, Eastbourne, Lincoln and Wells. I should have also spoken in Ripon but was prevented by a bout of 'flu.

We have also done a 10-mile sponsored walk (my first walk since I came off crutches): entertained our family and visitors from New Zealand and attended two other charitable functions as well as trying to keep my little business going and earn a few pennies!

However the end is in sight. I retire from the printing side in just 302 days time (I'm counting) when I reach the magic age at which a grateful government starts to give me back a tiny bit of what I have given them over all these years! That, I am afraid, will be something we in the society will have to think about as I shall no longer have my own printing equipment.

I am also in sight of the end of my stint as President of the Federation of Family History Societies - my term comes to an end (after what will then be 24 years as Chairman or President) in April 1978. I have a trip to the USA booked in October this year but that may well be my last overseas tour.

I have to say that I am looking forward to retirement very much if only for the opportunity to get down to some Swynnerton Family History and a chance to tie up some of the many loose ends I have acquired over the years. I have many, many, odd references to our family which I have acquired for which I need time to get them all written up and organised. I don't think time will hang at all heavily on my hands!

John Swynnerton

ANCIENT REMAINS IN AFGHANISTAN

From *The Times* 12 April 1880

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir, - In marching from Daka to Jellalabad we passed the little village of Basawal, about ten miles from the former place. Within a mile of Basawal there is a remarkable three-peaked hill of schist lying in the midst of the valley south of the Cabul river. Its peaks are in a line north and south, and these are all about 100 ft. in height from the plain. This hill is one mass of almost indistinguishable ruins. One piece of the old masonry, however, stands exposed, and as it is curious I venture to describe it.

The builders evidently built in regular and carefully measured layers. They appear first to have laid down blocks of white water-worn quartz about eight inches square, with divisions between them also measuring about eight inches. These intervening spaces were then carefully built up with small slabs or bricks of schist measuring about six inches in length, two inches in breadth, and about half an inch in thickness. The next layer consisted of similar slabs of dark schist, laid one on the other, for about three inches in thickness. The third layer consisted of small blocks of a light gray sandstone or grit dressed with the chisel, each block three or four inches thick and six square, and the layer itself in thickness a single block. After this the various layers were repeated in order once more, and so repeated again and again. The effect of this arrangement, both as to form and colour, was most pleasing.

On our arrival at Jellalabad we became aware that there was a ruined Buddhist tope on the brow of one of the low hills about 2,000 yards south of the city. I took an early opportunity of examining it. It was a shapeless mass of ruin, no part of the exterior of the ancient tope apparently remaining. Among the ruined buildings round it, however, I discovered part of an ancient wall exposed, and the style of masonry was precisely similar to that of the masonry referred to above. I had therefore no hesitation in arriving at a conviction that the masonry in both cases was Buddhist. This conviction was strengthened on my visiting Ada, or Hadah, a village five miles south of Jellalabad and peculiarly rich in Buddhistic remains. I here lighted on a scrap of wall peeping out of ruined debris, the exact counterpart

in style of the walls just described. But all doubt in the matter has since been removed. Dr. Creagh, of I Battery, O Brigade, Royal Horse Artillery, and myself rode over to the neighbouring tope for the purpose of examining it more particularly. It was evident that a large slice had been cut off the top of the original monument and thrown over the sides, thus hiding and burying the exterior. At the same time it seemed probable that in more recent Mahomedan time a *bourj*, or tower of large water-worn stones and earth, had been erected, probably for purposes of warfare, on the original tope. We were fortunate enough to detect, about 40 ft. or 50 ft. up the side of the ruin, a thin broken line of *chunam* or white plaster.

As some Sappers were working near at hand, we called for a pickaxe and a spade and carefully removed some of the *debris* from the top of this plaster, when we had the unspeakable satisfaction of finding that we had discovered the ancient cornice of the tope when sprang the dome-shaped dagsha. Twelve inches from the outer broken edge of the plaster we came on the solid masonry itself. It was still covered with beautiful white plaster an inch thick, and six or eight inches up from the top of the cornice there was a round moulding, which indicated the spring of the now, I fear, destroyed dome. We cleared away with our own hands 10 or 12 yards of the cornice, and we particularly remarked that the plaster was covered with a wash of rosy pink. The colour had penetrated the lime a sixteenth of an inch, and it was not the result of percolations through the soil, because it was regularly and uniformly laid on, and invariably of the same tint. Here and there the plaster of the masonry itself had given way, when we observed that the style of building was precisely that of the masonry in the outer walls of the masonry at Hadah and of the masonry at Basawal.

But now may I say a few words about the remarkable village of Hadah? Hadah stands on some low hills entirely composed of conglomerate, and the conglomerate itself stands on beds of sandstone or grit, as I found on an examination of certain deep torrent beds near at hand. The village of Hadah occupies but a small portion of an ancient city of Buddhist temples and monasteries. The name is said to be derived from a certain King Hodah, but as I have no books of reference in camp I am unable to give you the opinion of the learned. The chief interest about the low hills about Hadah lies in the numerous ruined topes, of which I counted upwards of 100, and in the numerous caves, some of them of vast extent, which have been scooped out of the conglomerate.

The whole of these caves are beautifully arched or vaulted and plastered. The plaster is now black with smoke, but in one cave, where the plaster was but slightly blackened, there appeared a fresco, consisting of broad, right lines of black crossing each other at right angles. Most of these caves extend into the hills about 40 ft. But a few have just been discovered of infinitely grander proportions. Let me describe to you one of the largest, the entrance to which was pointed out by a native, and which had never before been visited by Europeans.

We entered this remarkable cave on our hands and knees, and after proceeding some 12 ft. in a northerly direction found ourselves in an immense hall, lying east and west, 70 ft. long and 12 ft. broad. From each end of this hall, as well as from a point somewhat west of the centre, there ran a hall at right angles for 51 ft., into a separate hall, similar in length and breadth to the first and parallel with it. From this latter hall low passages, two in number, proceeded further into the hill, but these were so blocked up with soil that we could not penetrate them. Now, contrary to the opinion of several others in the camp, who called the cave the palace of King Hodah, I venture to think it is not a palace, but a temple. May I state my reasons for this conclusion?

1. The isolated hill which contained this remarkable cave was crowned with the ruins of two Buddhistic topes.
2. The whole interior had been filled up almost to the spring of the roof with alluvial soil and large water-worn riverstones. The entrance, too, had been almost completely effaced with similar conveyed soil and stones. This soil and these stones are altogether

foreign to the geological formation which, as I said before, consists of conglomerate, resting immediately on sandstone. Such soil, however, exists in the adjoining fertile little valleys. Now, the Mahomedans, on conquering this land, were most careful, as we know, to "break down all the images of Baal," and to destroy all the temples of the heathen. These stupendous caverns, however, it was not possible for them to destroy. What, then, did they do? In my opinion, they most diligently broke up all the carved work, as they did elsewhere, and at Hadah simply buried it within the temple-caves under heaps of earth and stones covered in for the purpose. By this means both idols and temples were alike consigned to oblivion.

This cavern, then, is, I believe, a temple which once contained gigantic Buddhas and carved lotus flowers, and other emblems in stone, wood, or metal, of the Buddhist faith. Its true floor is probably six or eight feet below its present floor of alluvial soil, and it probably consists of the lower sandstone rock. I shall feel greatly surprised if sculpture is not found in considerable quantities in these caverns.

The whole of this country is almost virgin soil to the archaeologist, and it is strongly hoped that one of our learned societies may be induced to make grants of money for the purpose of exploring its many historical and antiquarian treasures.

I have here described to you the singularly interesting style of masonry which seems to be characteristic of Buddhist work, and of Buddhist work only, in this part of Afghanistan. I have seen similar masonry in the structure of some beautiful topes eight miles west of Jellalabad, on either bank of the Cabul river; but I wish now, with your permission, to describe a later visit I paid to Hadah, five miles to the south of Jellalabad. As I remarked before, this village occupies a small part of the site of an ancient Buddhist sacred city, the hills on which it stood being entirely undermined with caves, most of which appear to have been filled up by the hand of man.

On Saturday, January 13, I was so fortunate as to discover a set of caves, all of which have domed roofs. Most of these caves are about 14 ft. square, but they are choked with earth to within 3 ft. of the ceiling, while the entrances are so nearly obliterated with accumulated rubbish that I had to crawl in, not on my hands and knees, but literally on my stomach. Archaeologists will be able to say whether domed caves are a discovery or not in the history of Buddhist architecture. All I can say is that these particular caves differ from the rest of the Hadah caves, which are merely vaulted or arched. The diameter of the dome is, as a rule, 12 ft.; but there is one small cave where the diameter is not more than 3 ft. These domes are well moulded in plaster at the edges, and they are beautifully proportioned. In one of the domed caves I was fortunate enough to find unmistakable traces of fresco painting. The dome was surrounded with two rows of Buddhas, bust-size, enclosed in borders, the whole being imitations of panelling. The roof, as in other cases, was dreadfully obscured with the effects of smoke and the plaster had evidently been wilfully broken; but enough remained to show that there were 12 Buddhas in each row; that round the head of each Buddha was the "wheel", giving the whole representation greatly the character of pictures of the saints; and that

some of the colours used by the old artists were certainly blue, yellow, and black. Thus, the ground of the dome was blue, and on this blue ground was painted the Buddhas, apparently in black with yellow outlines.

In another cave of the ordinary kind I found the arched ceiling had been painted in a similar manner; but in this case black only had been used. What were these small, black, domed caves? Were they separate shrines? And why were the domes in their roofs painted blue? Were they typical of the vault of Heaven?

The immense tope called Khaista, or the "Beautiful", deserves a few words of description. I visited it in company with two other officers - Dr. Creagh, of 1 Battery, O Brigade, Royal Horse Artillery, and Captain Bax, of the 11th Bengal Lancers. After passing through Jellalabad we rode along the right or southern bank of the Cabul until we reached its tributary, the Rud-i-Bala Bagh, a mile beyond which there rises a precipitous ridge of rocky mountains with an eastern aspect. The triangular piece of ground at the foot of this ridge contains, probably, three or four square miles of the richest land, and is enclosed by the ridge on the west, the river Cabul on the north-east, and the Rud-i-Bala Bagh on the south-east.

Scattered over this magnificent estate there are the ruins of not fewer than 12 topes. They are all extremely ruinous, but some of them are less ruinous than others. Of these latter, the Khaista tope is by far the most perfect and the most beautiful. It is situated on the apex of a conical hill at the very foot of the mountains. Much of the square base is still entire, as well as most of the round base which stands upon the square base, and about half of the dome-shaped top. Each side of the square base measures 115 ft. in length, and the diameter of the round base is about 60 ft. The height of the entire tope cannot be less than 100 ft. The exterior masonry consists of slabs of dark-blue schist, most carefully cut to size, measuring about a foot square, and not more than an inch in thickness. Built in with these in regular intervals are blocks of quartz. The lower as well as the upper part of the sides of the square base were ornamented with numerous mouldings, bold and deep, and the sides of this base were further ornamented with pilasters a foot wide, divided from each other by spaces in width 5 ft 9 in. The upper half of the circular base was likewise richly ornamented with mouldings and shallow pilasters, with round arches between and a cornice of Grecian type. These pilasters were very narrow, and the spaces between them only 3 ft. They were all built with thin pieces of well-dressed schist. It is

curious that all the other topes here still exhibit traces of the plaster which once covered them, giving smoothness and polish to their exteriors and completeness to their mouldings. From the entire absence of any trace of plaster on the Khaista tope, and from the existence in every alternate panel on the round base of small square holes, which I imagine to be scaffolding holes, I suppose that this beautiful tope was never completely finished. But, finished or not, it still forms one of the most imposing and graceful objects the mind can conceive, and its commanding position, in the midst of so much beautiful scenery of mountain, plain, and river, is striking and picturesque to the last degree.

At the foot of the conical hill on which this tope stands there is an old Mahomedan graveyard, and within the precincts of one of the tombs which this graveyard contains lives an ancient, gray-bearded Fakir. This old man remembers perfectly well the former Afghan war and our occupation of the country. With reference to the tope, he informed us that the English employed a gang of coolies to drive a gallery to the centre of the tope and then to sink a shaft, and that they discovered a small stone chamber, in which were several brazen vessels. In one of these vessels there were ashes, in another a string of pearls, and in another records in manuscripts. It is well known that all our documents, both official and private, were lost in the disastrous retreat from Cabul. It may be, however, that some reference to the opening of this tope and to that of the other topes in the neighbourhood is preserved in the correspondence, either published or not, of some who took part in the events of the occupation of Afghanistan. The publication of any such reference just now, when the archaeological treasures of the country are once more undergoing examination, would be exceedingly interesting.

Yours obediently,

C. SWINNERTON,
Chaplain to the Expedition.

Jellabad, Feb.3.

* * * * *

In the 1871 Census 'Swinerton's Yard' was a given address falling between Regent Street and Derby Place, Nuneaton. All houses were occupied but no Swinnertons.

TO SWYNNERTON'S FOREST

Our Patron, Sir Roger Swynnerton was, of course, most interested in the article by Ray Borrett in the March Issue as it concerned his father and has sent me this article as a follow up.

I thought it might be of some interest to describe my recollections of "Swynnerton's Forest" since I was born on its edge, living there until I was nine before being banished to school in England, returning only once in 1937 to meet up with my father (Charles Francis Massy Swynnerton) who still owned Gungunyana Farm, having one-quarter of the Chirinda Forest.

My father had emigrated to Rhodesia in 1897, had met up with Guy Marshall (later Sir Guy, Head of the Natural History Museum) who had bought the farm which my father managed, payment being by a small part of the farm which my father eventually came to own. My father was so imbued with "natural history" that no more ideal location could have been found on the border with Mozambique. The Chirinda Forest was, perhaps, about 2000 acres (four square miles), one quarter owned by an Afrikaner, the other owned by a Medical Mission.

Our bungalow was about 100 yards outside the forest. There was a long border of Zinnias which attracted lots of butterflies. I remember one species which came out in different colours in the wet and dry seasons. My father had planted a range of crops to test their suitability such as coffee, sisal, oranges and guavas amongst others. There was a wild species of coffee in the nearby Chipete Forest which appeared resistant to the world-wide coffee disease *Hemileia vastatrix*, but it proved no salvation. The plentiful oranges rotted on the ground, attracting numbers of large Charaxes butterflies to get intoxicated. Again, the plentiful guavas proved attractive to the cattle which passed the large seeds which grew into guava woodland in neighbouring grazing areas. *Ceara* turned out to be the wrong species of rubber, *Hevea braziliensis* from South America doing so well in the wetter conditions of Malaya.

The forest had to be protected against forest fires at the end of the wet season by burning a swathe about 100 yards outside the forest edge. A belt of grass was flattened by a span of oxen dragging a bush tree along and burning the trace ahead of the main fire danger, I can remember riding on the branches! Besides

preserving the forest, it also contained the leopard. One night a leopard killed a heifer from the kraal and dragged the body into the forest edge. In the evening, my father climbed a tree above the kill and waited for dusk; when the leopard returned he shot it. I was allowed to go with a herdsman to about 100 yards outside the forest to view the kill. We had the skin for many years thereafter.

With his bent for natural history, my father traversed the country from Rhodesia's south-east border to the Indian Ocean through Mozambique, largely infested by tsetse fly, and met local Zulu Chiefs. In doing so, he built up a knowledge about the tsetse, which was threatening to invade the Rhodesian border, and learned from a Chief about seasonal bush fire control which helped to save his cattle herds. This he put into effect in his later activities in Tanganyika.

But to return to Chirinda, in building up his unique knowledge of the birds and flora of Gazaland, he published two learned papers in the *Ibis* and the *Linnean Society Journal*; the identifications being confirmed by the Natural History Museum and Kew. Also, he wrote about 20 shorter papers, too many to quote here, but on such subjects as:

- "The Nests and Eggs from Mount Chirinda"
- "Mixed Bird Parties"
- "Birds in relation to their Prey"
- "Colouration of the Mouths and Eggs of Birds"
- "Short Cuts by Birds to Nectaries"
- "Experiments on Carnivorous Insects" and
- "Rejection by Birds of Eggs unlike their Own"

all based on his observations in the surrounds of the Chirinda Forest.

* * * * *

THE 21st BIRTHDAY GATHERING

As I mentioned in the December journal last year, it is our custom to make up an album of photographs of each Gathering. Unfortunately, I am always too busy to take photographs and since the deaths of Jack Swinnerton and Ken Armitstead we have not had an official photographer. Anyone like to apply for the post?

In the meantime, if you have any pictures to spare, I would welcome them - Barrie and Margaret Swinnerton and Rosemary Swinnerton kindly sent some but we would like a lot more to make a good record of the event.

MORE SWINNERTON MEMORIALS

Memorials on a stone at the head of a vault in Henbury Churchyard, Cheshire

Side One

IN AFFECTIONATE REMEMBRANCE
OF SARAH
THE BELOVED WIFE
OF

JAMES SWINNERTON
MACCLESFIELD

DIED OCTOBER 15TH 1872

AGED 76

THESE ARE THEY WHICH CAME OUT OF
GREAT TRIBULATION, AND HAVE WASHED
THEIR ROBES AND MADE THEM WHITE IN
THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB. REV.VII 14

Side Two (side of stone damaged)

"I SHALL NOT DIE BUT LIVE" PS 118
HERE RESTS TILL THE MORNING
OF THE RESURRECTION, WHEN
THIS MORTAL MUST PUT ON
IMMORTALITY

ELIZABETH,
RELICT OF BENJAMIN SWIN.....
LAT.....
NEWCAS.....
WHO.....

I WAITED PATIENTLY
HE INCLINED UNTO ME AND
AND HATH SET HIS FEET UPON

Side3

SACRED TO THE MEMORY
OF
JAMES SWINNERTON J.P.
OF MACCLESFIELD
SON OF BENJAMIN SWINNERTON
OF NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME
BORN MAY 15TH, 1799
DIED JANUARY 31, 1859

*For 53 years Proprietor of the
Macclesfield Courier and Herald*

A LONG AND HONOURABLE LIFE DEVOTED
TO THE PUBLIC WEAL AS A JOURNALIST,
GUIDED BY INTEGRITY, TOLERATION, AND
JUSTICE, AND GRACED BY
CULTURE, BENEVOLENCE, AND KINDNESS
CAUSED HIM TO BE
VENERATED AND HONOURED
AS THE "FATHER OF THE PROVINCIAL NEWSPAPER
PRESS OF ENGLAND".

"Well done, thou good and faithful servant
enter thou in the joy of the Lord".

Matthew 25.21

Side 4

IN AFFECTIONATE REMEMBRANCE
OF
ELIZABETH SWINNERTON
DAUGHTER OF THE LATE
BENJAMIN SWINNERTON
OF NEWCASTLE, STAFFORDSHIRE
WHO DIED MARCH 31ST 1883
AGED 72 YEARS.
ALSO OF JANE SWINNERTON,
SISTER OF THE ABOVE, WHO DIED APRIL 10TH 1883
AGED 78 YEARS

LOVELY AND PLEASANT IN THEIR LIVES AND IN THEIR DEATH
THEY WERE NOT DIVIDED.

Notes to the Swinnerton Memorials.

Copies of the inscriptions were sent to me some years ago but before printing them I asked our secretary, Elizabeth, to check them and see that we had all the commas, spaces etc. in the right places. I knew this little task would appeal to her as James was the nephew of Elizabeth Swinnerton, the gt-gt-gt-gt-grandmother of Elizabeth, Kay Sabell and myself. Bill Swinnerton, our Australian Vice-President and present-day head of the Swinnerton family is the gt-gt-gt grandson of Joseph Swinnerton, James's younger brother.

In the event, she and Keith found a number of discrepancies between the wording that I had been sent and the originals and quite a bit had not been copied.

I am happy now that we have an accurate copy and hope to obtain some photographs of the vault to accompany a feature on James which I plan to do.

His descent is in SHC. Volume VII and is as follows:

Swinnerton of Whitmore

Benjamin Swinnerton	=	Elizabeth Turner
5th son of Thomas & Mary Swinnerton		(his 1st cousin)
of the Yew Tree		
bap. 12Jan1727 Newcastle		
Mayor of Newcastle in 1762		
d. Aug 1770		

James		Benjamin	=	Elizabeth		Anne
b.31Dec1763		b.31Jul1765		Poole		*Elizabeth
d. on the Grand Tour		Newcastle				Jane
30 Dec 1794						Charlotte
No issue						

JAMES	=	Sarah Wright		Joseph	=	Caroline		Sarah
b.15May1799		née Siddeley		b.13Mar1803		Spencer		Charlotte
Newcastle		9Aug1826				22Mar1823		Jane
Mayor 1846								Elizabeth
d.Feb1881								
No issue								

↓
(To Australia)

*Elizabeth married William Harding and Elizabeth and Kay are descended from their daughter Anne.
Another daughter, Sarah, married John Swinnerton, my great-great-great grandfather.

MAKARAKA CEMETERY, Gisborne, New Zealand
(previously known as Houhoupiko Cemetery)

No.703 Plot 174

Burial of several Erskines including Jane Erskine 7 April 1938 c/o Mr Swinnerton, Richardson Avenue. No Headstone

No.4198 Block XIV Plot 110

SWINNERTON, Sarah. Richardson Avenue, Gisborne. 66 years d.28 July 1942

'In loving memory of Sarah, beloved wife of E.Swinnerton. 1876 - 1942'

O'NEIL'S POINT Takapuna, Auckland, New Zealand.

JOHN JESSE SWINNERTON

b.31 August 1830 d. 12 Sept 1894

Also

MARY SWINNERTON wife of above.

b. 27 Dec 1834 d. 2 August 1919.

The Mr. or E.Swinnerton referred to is Edgar Swinnerton of the last-but-one branch of the Betley family. His father, Jesse Swinnerton in the O'Neil's Point Cemetery inscription, was a grandson of Joseph Swinnerton of Betley and Hannah Dod and was born in Liverpool. He emigrated first to Australia but moved from Ballarat to New Zealand in 1866 (there is a suggestion that he may also have gone to Canada). He died in Christchurch, New Zealand. His wife Mary (née Hulbert) was a Bristol girl.

Edgar was born in Devonport, New Zealand in 1872 and died in Auckland in 1952. Sarah was formerly Sarah Erskine. Edgar had no Swinnerton grandchildren: the last of this line, his nephew William Edgar Swinnerton, was a member of the society for many years but died, also without issue, in 1985.

* * * * *

MURPHY'S LAWS AS APPLIED TO GENEALOGY

The relative who had all the family photographs gave them all to her daughter who has no interest in genealogy and no inclination to share.

AN UNUSUAL CASE FOR THE ASSIZES!

Source: *The Times* - 23 July 1881

THE ASSIZES

In the Civil Court at Manchester, before Mr. Justice Lopes and a special jury, the case of "*Swinnerton v. the London and North-Western Railway Company*" was tried. The plaintiff, who has a studio in Rome, in August last forwarded from Rome a piece of statuary, consisting of "a figure of Pharaoh's daughter with the infant Moses in her arms", addressed to him at his place in the Barton-arcade, Manchester. The statue, valued at £500, was enclosed in a strong case, 4 ft. wide at the base, with sound parallel sides. On the 11th of August the package was examined by the Custom-house authorities in London, and at that time the case was intact. After examination, the case, described as a piece of sculpture, was handed over to the London and North-Western Railway Company to be despatched to Manchester. In due course it should have been delivered to the plaintiff in Manchester on the 14th of August, but it was not tendered to the plaintiff until the 16th. The packing-case was found to be considerably damaged, and the statue broken in three places, the fracture being apparently of a recent kind. The defendants' case was that the statue had not been properly packed, and that they were not liable. Mr. Russell, Q. C., and Mr. Jordan appeared for the plaintiff; Mr. Gully, Q. C., and Mr. Moon for the defendant company. In the course of the case Mr. Gully announced that the defendants would submit to a verdict of £275, which was accordingly entered.

(This, of course, is the sculptor, Joseph William Swynnerton (JS.91), the uncle of our President.)

BANK'S TOPOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY

Somersetshire p.145

Name of the English Emigrant	New England Parish	Town	Various Refs
SWINNERTON, Job	Taunton	Salem, Mass.	Banks Mss.

NEWS OF THE 1881 CENSUS

Our secretary, Elizabeth, has now finished the mammoth task of typing all the Swinnerton entries (and variations of spelling) into a database I set up using the program *Microsoft Access*. This is immensely valuable and means I can now search it to find family members by using any of the fields. Obviously I can search on the surname and christian name (or forename as we are now supposed to say to be politically correct): I can sort them into alphabetical order to look for a particular person but I can also search for everyone born in a certain parish, of a certain occupation, etc. etc.

It has already been very useful in confirming details we already have, allowing us to place people in their proper families.

Since I last reported in the December journal, we have received the microfiche for Durham, Kent, Norfolk, Surrey and Yorkshire so we now have copies for the whole of England and Wales except for Lancashire and London & Middlesex which have not yet been released. However, I understand they will be released this year.

Out of a total of 26,600,000 people registered in the census in England & Wales, we have so far logged 375 - the new counties above only added 38.

SWINNERTONS IN WALSALL

We have always had two families in Walsall and I thought they were probably linked. The connection eluded us for many years but now, by sheer persistence, our council member Roger Swynnerton has solved the problem.

The first family, that of our late member Charles William Swinnerton, commenced with his grandfather William Swinnerton who, according to the birth certificate of one of his sons, married an Ann Boot. However, try as we might, we could not find this marriage anywhere. Almost as a last resort, we sent for the birth certificate of another of his sons which was a hand-written original and the problem was revealed - her name was Ann Bull not Ann Boot.

This son was already on the other Walsall tree as a child of a William and Ann who died in infancy so the whole of the first family now slots neatly into the second, much larger family which goes back to Joseph and Sarah Swinnerton of Stafford.

Sir Roger de Swynnerton - RS.62

Source: Calendar of Letter-Books preserved among the archives of the Corporation of the City of London at the Guildhall. Letter-Book E

Circa AD. 1314-1337

Edited by Reginald R. Sharpe, D.C.L., of St. John's College, Oxford, and of the Inner Temple, Barrister-At-Law; Recording Clerk in the Office of the Town Clerk in the City of London.

London; Printed by John Edward Francis, Bream's Buildings, E.C. MCMIII

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Writ to the Mayor, Aldermen, and Commonalty of the City, notifying the appointment of Robert de Haselshawe, Provost of Wells, *Roger de Swynnerton, Constable of the Tower*, and John de Dytton, Canon of St. Paul's, together with such clerk as they may think fit to nominate, to be assessors and collectors of the sixth of movable goods granted by the Burgesses in the recent Parliament (nuper in quodam tractatu) at York¹, and enjoining that every assistance is afforded them. Witness the King at York, 2 Dec., 16 Edward II. (AD.1322).

And be it remembered that the above writ was read before the Mayor, Aldermen, and Commonality on Monday next after the Feast of the Circumcision (1 Jan.), 16 Edward 11. (1322-3). the appointed assessors being present except John de Dytton. On which day it was agreed by the said Mayor, Aldermen, and Commonality to send a certain letter under the Common Seal to the King praying that he would grant some abatement in respect of the aforesaid sixth, inasmuch as they had frequently before undertaken divers burdens.

Agreement between John Albon, son of Godwyn le Feliper, and Richard de Rothinge, fripperer (felipar) as to the discharge of a debt due by the said Richard to the said John. Robert Davi mentioned as attorney of the said John. Witnesses, Andrew Horn, the Chamberlain, Richard Pynfoul, John ate Vigne, Henry de Norhampton, Richard de Huggelee, Richard Deveneyns, and others (not named). Dated Wednesday the Eve of the Epiphany (6 Jan.), 16 Edward 11. (AS. 1322-3).

¹ This Parliament granted a tenth from the barons and shires and a sixth from the towns. Stubbs, "Const.Hist." ii. 353n.

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Return: We send you John de Oxonia, Richard de Hakeney, Henry Wymond, and William de Brikelesworth to do, &c, as in the writ is ordered.

The King to the Mayor, Sheriffs, Aldermen, and the Commonalty of the City, commending to their notice *Roger de Swynnerton*, whom he was sending to them on important business. Witness the King at the vill of St.John, 7 Sept., to Edward 111, (AD.1336)

A similar letter addressed to the Mayor, Sheriffs and Aldermen alone.

Another copy of the writ to the Treasurer and Barons of the Exchequer, forbidding them to exact Queen's gold on certain sums paid by the City and dated from the vill of St.John, 1 July, 10 Edward III [AD.1336]

* * * * *

PEDIGREE OF PILKINGTON NOW OF CHEVET

Source: *Fosters Yorkshire Pedigrees*

Sir William Pilkington of Chevet married 25 June 1825 Mary daughter and co-heiress of Thomas Swinnerton Esq., of Butterton.Co. Stafford, by his wife Mary, daughter and heiress of Charles Milborne, Esq., of Wonaston, and of the Priory, Abergavenny, by Lady Martha Harley, his wife, daughter of Edward, 3rd Earl of Oxford.

Son - Sir Lionel Milborne-Swinnerton-Pilkington of Chevet Hall, co.York, b.7July 1835 succeeded his brother as 11th bart. in 1855 took by royal licence the names of Milborne Swinnerton mar. 3 February 1857 to Isabella Elizabeth Georgiana only child of the Rev. Chas. Kinleside rector of Polling, co. Sussex. High Sheriff of Yorkshire in 1859 (had issue).

* * * * *

Shelton, Staffordshire Parish Register.

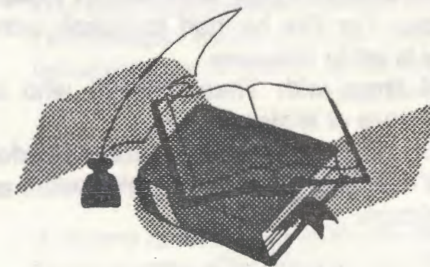
17 Sep 1834 James Swinnerton from Snow Hill, aged 20, Buried
(This entry also appears in the Register of Madeley)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

On the 22nd June at Swynnerton we are holding our *Annual General Meeting*, following which we shall be attending the *Annual St.Mary's Summer Fayre* in the grounds of the Old Rectory, Swynnerton at which I hope to see many of you. It starts at 2.00pm.

On the following day, Sunday the 23rd June (not 24th as I mistakenly put in the last diary), the *Reverend Brian Swynnerton* has been invited to preach and celebrate Holy Communion at St.Mary's at 10.30am and will conduct a guided tour of the church afterwards for anyone interested.

On the 29th and 30th of June there is to be a *Family History Fair* on York Racecourse from 10.00am to 5.00pm each day. This is the first time this very popular event has been held in the North and I hope some of you who live in the area will be able to pop in. Look out for me or, if we have not met, ask for me at any of the stands but particularly those of the Federation of Family History Societies or the Birmingham & Midland Society for Genealogy & Heraldry and they will find me.



BOOK REVIEW

Rocky the Cat by A.R.Swinnerton

Rocky is a cat in a million; ugly, pugnacious and aloof, he seems an unlikely pet, but he soon proves his worth. He sees off some angry Dobermanns by boxing them with his forepaws; he saves Grandma from wasting money on a priceless vase that turns out to be a fake; he saves his new owner, Bryan, from being bullied and, as Bryan's

masthead, he helps him to nose ahead into first place in the Non-Boat Race.

This is an engaging and readable book from the start: words roll off the page with ease and the story is told without cliches or sentiment. The descriptions are original and inventive - 'a flea-bag of a dog that was as grouchy as a scorpion with a hot foot on all twenty legs' - and the writing is refreshing and lively throughout. Suitable for older readers, 8-12.

Joanna Swinnerton

(Arnold Reber Swinnerton lives in America and is the 4th son of Bertram John Swinnerton, founder of Swinnertons of Hanley.)

FAMILY NOTES

Paul James Swinnerton, the younger son of our member Colin Swinnerton, has been much in the news lately. He is in his final year at the Central School of Speech and Drama and is making something of a name for himself as an actor. He recently appeared as John Morrison in Ena Lamont Stewart's play *Men Should Weep* at the Embassy Theatre, London. For this he had to speak with a strong Scots accent as the play is set in Glasgow.

He has appeared several times with Theatr Clwyd who are shortly to have a visit from the Prince of Wales.

By a curious coincidence, my daughter Joanna has recently done a spell editing 'The Spotlight', a directory of the acting profession and she was able to send me this picture.



Height 6ft 3ins

John Fletcher 1995

Blue eyes

PAUL SWINNERTON

Central School of Speech and Drama
(Leaving July 1996)

THE SPOTLIGHT
0171-437 7631

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