

SWINNERTON Family History



JOURNAL OF THE SWINNERTON SOCIETY

VOLUME 10. No.8

DECEMBER 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.8

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Editor - Iain Spencer Swinnerton

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FOREWORD

The Chairman

As I type this (in late November) the snow is falling heavily and sticking - I can see, based on past experience, we are in for 6-7 inches in the next few hours. That means we shall be back to living as in the days of our ancestors and our only means of getting anywhere will be on foot whereas many of them did have horses. We are at 1000 feet here and although we are sheltered to a certain extent in a dip, the lane climbs both ways to get out. Modern economics dictate that our county council is seeking every possible way to save money and almost the first measure they announced was that many minor roads would not be gritted at all this year.

At least we shall still have some of the modern comforts we are so used to: mains water which was laid on 15 years ago, prior to that it was hillwater and wells; electric lights; cooking using calor gas stored in a tank up the hill; central heating from the same source and a refrigerator and deep freeze kept well stocked with food and the basics of milk and bread, providing, that is, the power isn't cut off which it frequently is in bad weather.

Then we really know how our ancestors had to manage - heating and cooking by log fires and stoves illuminated by candles and paraffin lamps. Quite romantic you might think! Not at all, I assure you.

The more I read and the more I see such splendid period productions as *Far From the Madding Crowd*, *The Mayor of Casterbridge*, *Moll Flanders* and the spate of Dickens and Bronte productions we have seen in recent years, which portray so well how the majority of our ancestors - the ordinary people, not the central characters - had to live and survive, the more I respect them. We moan about our modern lives, the restrictions placed on us and the taxes we have to pay but we are so much better off than they were. The 'Good Old Days' is probably one of the greatest misnomers of all times - they were anything but good and I am full of admiration for those of our ancestors who managed to weather the appalling conditions under which they had to live and yet raised children to carry on the lines. And yet, I think they were probably, on the whole, happier than we are! Life was so much simpler.

May I wish you all happiness and prosperity in the coming year and a peaceful Christmas with their descendants - your families.

Iain Swinnerton

FROM OUR CHAPLAIN

The Reverend Edward Swinnerton

Christmas 1996



The Four weeks leading up to Christmas are generally more concerned with shopping trips, posting mail and attending pre-season parties which can develop into confusion, frustration or disappointment.



How often do we hear the remark - "Christmas is the time for the children"? Perhaps we all need to 'become like children' in order to grasp the full significance of the Feast we are celebrating. Otherwise, we become so involved in the practical and physical preparations that we become oblivious to the most important aspect of Christmas.



Behind the tinsel, the coloured lights and Christmas Carols lies the greatest gift of all - the Child of Bethlehem - the Wonder of God with us.



May God give you a Happy and Blessed Christmas.

THEY SERVED THEIR KING & COUNTRY

List No.1 1642 - 1913

Captain SWYNNERTON. Captain of a Royalist Troop of Horse.
Captured at Chirk Castle

We know nothing further about this man at the moment - not even his Christian name (to be politically correct now I am supposed to say forename!) He was captured on the 3rd July 1644, the castle being then in Colonel Mytton's hands. I suspect he was one of the Butters or Whitmore Swinnertons but I have not yet managed to check Edward Peacock's *The Army List of Roundheads and Cavaliers* which was published in 1863 and revised in 1874. Again, to be politically correct these days, I am supposed to say Parliamentarians and Royalists. I also need to check the Staffordshire Muster Roll of 1640 which, unfortunately, is not indexed. Two of the many jobs on my list!

Captain THOMAS SWINNERTON

Captain of a Parliamentary Troop of Horse. With Cromwell in Ireland 1649
A 'Forty-Niner'.

The same records need checking for him and, in addition, I am trying to find out more about the 'forty niners'. As I understand it, they were soldiers who were given land to settle on in lieu of arrears of pay owing to them. In an extract entitled *Ireland during the Protectorate* from a book on the political and constitutional history of Ireland, kindly sent to me by Mrs Pauline Litton, it says "Bad as the condition of the native Irish undoubtedly was, parliament soon proceeded to make it worse. Except for the comprehensiveness of their scheme for the settlement of Ireland, there was nothing novel about it, for it was based upon the plantation system that had commended itself to all rulers of Ireland from the time of Philip and Mary. Indeed a step in that direction had already been taken in 1642, when an act had been passed confiscating two and a half million acres of the holdings of Irish rebels, and allotting this land to those who would 'adventure' money for the reconquest. To these original creditors were now added the merchants and others who had advanced cash and goods and the soldiers whose heavy arrears of pay were to be satisfied from forfeited Irish land. Thus the parliament hoped at one and the same time to punish Irish rebels, reward English soldiers and 'plant' an honest people.

The article goes on to say that it was commented at the time that if the Irish were allowed to remain in the 'plantations' which most of them did, "the English may degenerate, and turn Irish unless a separation by transplanting one from the other be observed; and to this purpose experience of former ages has urged. These fears proved justified, for the Cromwellian soldiers in two generations tended to become Roman catholic in religion and Irish in sentiment. The government foresaw the danger, however, and prohibited mixed marriages. The soldiers were forbidden, under heavy penalties, to take Irish women to wife unless there was clear proof that the latter had been converted to Protestantism. But the order was ignored. The result was that the large landlords remained protestant and became divided from the small farmers and peasants, who remained catholic".

I am sure that there is a link between this Thomas Swinnerton and the next man in Ireland of whom we have a record - Joseph Swenarton who was born around the 1720s and who is the ancestor of a large family in the USA and Canada today. I am, at the moment, in correspondence with a specialist in Irish research with a view to having some work done on these records as I obviously cannot do it myself.

MORE SWINNERTON MEMORIALS

GOATHURST, Somerset

Sacred to the memory of ELIZABETH KEMEYS TYNTE,
wife of CHARLES JOHN KEMEYS TYNTE Esq., M.P.,
3rd daughter of THOMAS SWINNERTON Esq. of Buttenton (sic) Hall
County of Stafford & Martha his wife
(only daughter and heiress of C.Milbourne Esq., M.P.
and the Lady Martha his wife)
obit 10 May 1838.

She was exemplary in her pure and unaffected life as a sincere and pious
Christian, as a faithful and most devoted wife
and as a tender and affectionate Mother

This tablet is erected by her sorrowing husband and children

RECORDS OF THE PARISH OF BARROW, CHESHIRE

Revised edition 1963, published by the Barrow Women's Institute

HENRY LACY, 10th & last Baron of Halton died in 1310 and the Barony reverted to the Crown. RANDLE DE BLUNDEVILLE, Earl of Chester, (1181-1232), seems to have been given the right to grant the lands, and he granted Barrow to THOMAS LE DISPENCER, with a charter of free Warren, which exempted the villages from all Forest Laws and Services.

Thomas le Despencer gave half of the Mill at Swynford to the Abbey of Stanlaw.

He was succeeded by his brothers, Henry and Hugh, the latter was a friend of Simon de Montford and was killed at the Battle of Evesham, 1265.

A later HUGH LE DISPENCER, Earl of Winchester, by exchange, got back the half of Swynford Mill, for the closing of a deer leap from the Bishop of Lichfield's Park at Tarvin into Hugh's Park at Barrow, to be kept stopped as long as the Bishop held office.

He, and his son Hugh were exiled in 1321 and their lands seized, but they were soon back in England and Hugh, senior, obtained the Manor of Little Barrow and 20 acres in Great Barrow, from Robert le Chamberlain, who is thought to belong to the family of Frodesham and to have taken the name from the office of Chamberlain of Frodsham which he held.

ROBERT LE CHAMBERLAIN seems to have held land here in 1294-5. Hugh le Dispencer enfeoffed Adam de Moldsworth of the Manor of Little Barrow.

Hugh le Dispencer was hanged in 1326, and his son Hugh was hanged in 1327 and the Manors were forfeited to the Crown.

There was a family BARROW of BARROW, and Ormerod says that one branch appears to have held land in Barrow throughout the 15th Century.

In 1326 Edward II committed the lands of Hugh le Dispencer in both Cheshire and Staffordshire to SIR ROGER DE SWINNERTON, Knight Banneret. He was head of an important Staffordshire family and is described as a man of great ability.

He instituted one of his younger sons, ROBERT DE SWINNERTON, as Rector of Barrow in 1335 who on the death of his father and elder brother or brothers, became the head of the family. He kept the living of Barrow for 11 years and then resigned in favour of his Uncle Nicholas de Swinnerton.

In 1343, 7th year of Edward III, the Manor of Little Barrow is valued thus:-

"a Capital messuage, with bovery and vivary val: 13/4 per annum".
(Enclosures for Cattle & other Animals).

A dovecote val: 6/8 per annum.

25 acres in demesne, Val: 18d. each acre per annum.

7 acres meadow 4s each acre per annum.

2 acres wood, 30 of moor, pasturage of which yearly val: of 13/4.

2 parts of a Water Mill 35/6½

9 Freeholders rendering yearly 18/10½ & terminar 11 rendering yearly 11/6½. Total val: less 4/1 pd. to the chief lords of the fee, £8.0.8½.

The Cheshire Acre seems to have contained 10,250 sq.yds. while the statute acre contains 4,840 sq.yds., and as late as 1868 the Barrow mole catcher was paid by the Cheshire Acre.

Sir Robert de Swinnerton is thought to have died about 1349, when he was succeeded by his brother, SIR THOMAS DE SWINNERTON, who served as a Knight Banneret at the Battle of Crecy (1346) and also at the siege and capture of Calais in 1347.

In his time one Ralph de Horton was convicted of entering the free warren at Barrow, killing a swan, and cutting down an oak tree. The jury gave damages:- 40s for the swan, and 12d for the cutting down and carrying away the oak tree.

Sir Thomas died in 1361 and his son SIR ROBERT DE SWINNERTON was heir.

Sir Robert had a daughter, MATILDA or MAUD, by his first wife, and a son, THOMAS, by his second wife, and though Thomas inherited and held the Staffordshire lands without dispute, there were long law-suits between the half-brother and sister about Barrow.

Matilda married as her third husband, JOHN SAVAGE, son of Sir John Savage of Clifton, and in 1364 they were finally established as owners of 2 parts of the Manor of Barrow and the Advowson of the Chapel of the said Manor.

The next JOHN SAVAGE was knighted at Agincourt by Henry V in 1415. He died in 1450 and was succeeded by his son JOHN SAVAGE Knt., who died in 1463, to be followed by his son, SIR JOHN SAVAGE Knt. who married Dorothy, daughter of Sir Ralph Vernon of Haddon, and had 10 sons and 5 daughters. He was made Knight of the Bath by Edward IV in 1465. He was selected as one of the Knights to bear Edward's body into Westminster Abbey on 17 August 1483. He is said to have commanded the left wing of Henry VII's victorious army at Bosworth in 1485. He was Mayor of Chester 1484 and 1485, and Henry VII granted him Estates, and made him a Knight of the Garter. He was killed at the siege of Boulogne and buried at Macclesfield, where the Savage family have a Chapel, which contains many fine tombs.

His eldest son having been killed, he was succeeded by his grandson, JOHN SAVAGE (the 5th) and the lands he then inherited at Barrow were valued at £60 per annum. They consisted of:-

30 messuages, 300 acres of land, 100 of pastures, 60 of meadow.
20 of wood, 1 Water Mill, a frank rent of 11/3½ and a red rose frank rent in Gt. & Lt. Barrow, together with advowson, parcel of the Manors of Gt. & Lt. Barrow with 18 messuages, 300 acres of land, 40 of meadow, 300 of pasture, 100 of moor, 10 of wood, residue of the above Manors held of the King, as of his lordship of Halton as half a Knight's fee. Value £31. 3. 11 p.a.

* * * * *

WALTER SAVAGE LANDOR

The famous Victorian romantic artist has a connection with our family in that he was descended from Robert, the eldest son of James Launder of Swynnerton who married Cassandra Beardmore at Swynnerton in February 1578. Cassandra was the god-daughter of Cassandra Swynnerton, mentioned in an earlier issue of this journal, who was godmother to thirteen children and remembered them all in her will. James and Cassandra's second son Thomas Launder, baptised at Swynnerton on the 14 August 1602, married Anne, daughter of Thomas Swinnerton of Buterton at Trentham on the 15 July 1631. Presumably his second name, Savage, was from the same connection as above. The marriage of Sir John Savage and Maud or Matilda de Swynnerton features in many American genealogies as 'gateway ancestors' and is now even appearing regularly on the Internet!

The Enemy is Listening - The Story of the Y Service.

by Aileen Clayton
p.196.

"It became an unwritten law for us (in Cairo)(She was a WAAF Officer) to telephone some of your girlfriends. There was always some party or other at which (an Officer on leave) would be most welcome. I remember there was one boy - 'Swinn' - who looked even younger than my kid brother but he was nevertheless a brave and competent flight commander. His greatest pleasure was to come round to my flat 'to have tea out of a china cup with a tray cloth on the tray, and feel civilised again'. He was an only child and when later, during the Sicilian battles he was shot down, I received a letter of thanks from his elderly parents which reduced me to tears. Thanking me - for doing what? Perhaps for just being around. I believe that it mattered".

The reference in the Index is "Swinnerton - Flight Lieutenant W". This was, of course, Walter William of the Betley branch who has featured many times in these pages.

EDDOWES SALOPIAN JOURNAL - 25 MAY 1864

Thunderstorms of unusual violence passed over a great part of the country on Thursday and Friday last. We regret to say that its effects on this county have been more fatally disastrous than any we have had to record for many years. Two men named Morris and Fletcher were killed by a lightning stroke at Little Drayton on Thursday. At Cheswardine it struck a tree near the blacksmith's shop, close to the place where a similar thing occurred two years ago. The lightning entered the smithy and Mr Swinnerton had a very narrow escape. It also knocked down a servant girl at Mr Mate's of Hanwood near Cheswardine and a galvanised iron bucket she was carrying was driven some yards across the farmyard, but the girl was not injured. At the village of Cheswardine the storm was fearfully heavy. Large hailstones fell and there was a perfect deluge of rain. At Hodnet, five sheep grazing in a field were killed by the electric fluid, and on the Hawkestone estate a waggoner and two fine horses were deprived of life by this fearful agency. Close on the borders of the county at Buerton near Audlem a home belonging to Mr Vernon was struck by lightning and almost totally destroyed. The electric fluid also struck a tree at Chester Castle and glanced off the bayonet of a sentry without doing any material damage. At Wynnstay, the seat of Sir W W Wynn, the feeder's house was struck and the door was damaged; and a fine oak in the

park was split to pieces. At Ludlow, Ironbridge and other districts of this county the storm was severely felt. On Friday, London, Liverpool, York and the whole of the north of England appear to have suffered severely, much damage being done by the sudden rise of rivers and brooks to the tillage in their neighbourhoods.

This was Samuel Swinnerton of the Adbaston branch.

* * * * *

STATE PAPERS 3 Edward III. (1328-29).

27. At Westminster in the quinzaine of Trinity; between Robert Fiz Payn and Ela his wife, querents, by Thomas de Lutteswell in their place; and Jordan de Byntre parson of the church of Wroxhale, deforciant; for the manors of Kyngeston and Sevenhampton. Jordan granted the manor of Kyngeston to Robert and Ela to hold to them and their issue, and he granted also that the manor of Sevenhampton which Petronilla de la Stone holds for life the heritage of Jordan which after the decease of Petronilla ought to revert to Jordan should remain to Robert and Ela and their heirs; and if it happen that they die without heirs their issue then to remain to the right heirs of Ela. For this Robert and Ela gave Jordan marcs of silver.

(Endorsed.) As to the manor of Kyngeston, Stephen de Swynnerton and Margaret his wife put in their claim. John son of Thomas de Leukenere, cousin, and the heirs of Ralph de put in their claim.

HAILEYBURY SCHOOL REGISTERS 1862-1900

After seeing the same article by Mrs June Morley of the Linnington One-Name Study in a family history magazine, our member Malcolm Smith just beat me into writing to her by sending me a message on the Internet saying that he was investigating. What a marvellous technological age we live in!

There was just one reference:

Charles Edmund Swinnerton
born 29th July 1881
son of Rev.G.I.Swinnerton
St.Luke's V., Kingston-on-Thames
Bartle Frere House 1895.3.
St.John's Coll. Oxf. Jan 1900

NEWS FROM SWYNNERTON

Important events during December are:

16th Carol Singing round Yarnfield. Meet at 7.00pm
St. Barnabas Church.

17th Carol Singing round Swynnerton. Meet at 7.00pm
St.Mary's Church.

All are invited to join in so, if you live near, go along and have a go.

20th & 21st Christmas at Yarnfield House. 7.00-10.00pm.

Go and see the floral Xmas arrangements and enjoy mulled wine, mincepies and coffee. Tickets, strictly limited, £3 from Mrs Pat Simcock) or Judi Brewet) or David Harman

22nd Toy Service

The annual Toy Service will be held at St.Mary's Church at 10.30am. Toys and Christmas gifts for children at the Elizabeth Trust will be dedicated. Wrap your toy and take it along. Further details from Joyce Pemberton

On the same day at 7.30pm will be held the Annual Carol Service, also at St.Mary's. This is an ecumenical service and both the Anglican and Catholic Churches will be taking part. There will be a special collection for the Children's Society.

And - next year

Jan 25th Trivia Quiz

7.30pm St.Mary's Church Hall

Go and join in the fun and compete for the 'Brewer Trophy'

I am sure you will be as disgusted as I was to find that in 'Discovering Staffordshire' by Joan P.Alcock published in 1973, (No.175 in the Discovering Series), Swynnerton doesn't even get a mention! In what purports to be 'A motorist's guide to places of interest, including nine circular tours and a gazetteer of main towns and villages', how could she miss out one of the prettiest villages in the county?

Hear Hear

J.W.Swinnerton

(This article, by the late John Swinnerton, was first published in the journal several years ago but is being re-printed now at the special request of our last chairman, Joe Swinnerton, for the specific benefit, he says, of all those members who have joined since then.)

In our studies of Family History we become so absorbed in compiling written records that we tend to forget that modern technology has given us other media with which to compile our archives. Photography has become commonplace, but we should not forget the newer techniques of video and sound recording. Video recording, with its associated use of a videotape machine, is still sufficiently expensive to be out of reach of maybe the majority of us, but the same does not apply to the sound cassette recorder, which can be purchased for as little as £20 and its associated cassettes are relatively inexpensive.

So why not invest in a cassette recorder to perpetuate the memory of your 'elders' while they are still with you? Now that cassette dimensions and speeds have become standardised, they can be preserved into the foreseeable future, provided always that 'transfers' to new techniques can be made as they supplant today's standard methods. As a parallel development one can cite that in the 1930's it was possible to cut a small 78rpm recording disc which very few record players could reproduce today.

"Have machine, will record" is all very well, but the material needs to be thought out and regulated. Five minutes of Uncle Cecil reciting poetry would give a thorough exposure to his voice but would be incredibly boring, as would be precious seconds wasted by tongue-tied Auntie Flo.

The following are a few points to bear in mind if you are to make the best use of the material available.

1. Fix the date and location 'on tape' by mentioning them - a 'Master of Ceremonies' is useful for this purpose, acting as interviewer or commentator, not forgetting the age of the 'subject'.
2. Decide beforehand what topics are to be covered. They might include:
3. a comment on current events to set the social scene.

4. a brief description of some aspect of the subject's life and upbringing. "Grandfather remembers" can be fascinating.
5. Comparisons of life 'then and now'.
6. These topics should be thoroughly discussed before the actual recording and brought out by means of key questions asked by the interviewer.
7. Scripting is to be avoided, as it makes the proceedings artificial. A little hesitancy is natural.
8. Humour is not out of place when it occurs naturally and expands the personality of the 'subject', but staged humour is to be avoided.
9. Children, especially young children, should not make formal recordings: the occasion will make them 'dry up'. Record them when they are unaware, possibly on a second tape which can then be 'spliced in' and don't forget the date/age tag.

So - start chatting now - just for the record. And if you can afford video recording, so much the better.

* * * * *

List of Exchequer, Queen's Remembrancer, Port Books

Part 1. 1565 to 1700, f.15

A parchment book, approximately 10" x 14" generally in good condition. folio 193. [199v.] 29 Nov 1630

In the vintage [of London, from Virginia]

Rbt Swinerton [Swinnerton] imported 15000 lbs Virginia tobacco

'whereof 7500 is free by the Ld.Treas's warrant dated 16 Dec 1631 [7500 lbs, 'more 7500lbs allowed by warrant']

The value of the tobacco was: subsidy 3s-4d per lb. and for the Imposition, 1s-8d. per lb. The money demanded for the subsidy and the Imposition was 5% of each of the relevant valuations.

(This was Robert Swinerton (RS.20) son and heir of Sir John Swinerton, the Lord Mayor of London).

THE LANCING COLLEGE MAGAZINE. DEC. 1899

OLD BOYS' NEWS

As we have been constantly asked for news of C. F. M. Swynnerton, the following extracts from a letter kindly given us by the Rev. The Chaplain, will be found of interest to many of our readers.

September 6th, 1899. "SCOTT'S HOPE," MELSETTER, RHODESIA,

..... You will have noticed from the heading that I am no longer in Salisbury. As a matter of fact I am now quite out in the wilds of Portuguese Gazaland, living by myself in a dilapidated mud-hut - 60 miles by road from the nearest white settlement - Melsetter - in the capacity of farmer. I am running a farm of 6,000 acres for a Salisbury friend. A couple of huts have been put up and half-a-dozen gum trees have been planted by a Dutchman, who once occupied the place, but, beyond this, no other work has ever been done on it, so I have the difficult but enjoyable task of converting a howling wilderness into a well-ordered farm. . . . This is a beautiful country, very hilly and picturesque, and what is most important, healthy. My ----- for courtesy's sake, I'll call it homestead, is situated on the top of a high hill and commands a splendid view. The only drawback is that we are frequently enveloped in mist. The clouds come rolling up the valley below me and just catch my hill. One lives here very cheaply, bartering nearly all one's food from the natives, in exchange for beads, calico, salt, blankets, &c. . . . I have three neighbours - an Englishman with a wife and family, two miles away, a German settler, six miles away, and a Portuguese commandant and two officials, one mile away. So I *do* get some one to talk to occasionally. The natives here call themselves Shanganns. They are a branch of the Zulus, and are a much finer and pluckier race than the Mashones. I want to make a collection of their weapons, but it is difficult to induce them to part with them, for they need them for protection against wild beasts which are very plentiful in this part of the country. I had not been here a week when lions killed a cow and calf of mine (that is to say Scott's, the owner of the farm) and a cow belonging to my English neighbour Gifford. We had a big hunt but failed to find the culprits, so Gifford put down poison, and the next morning found a lion and two lionesses dead. During the next week we killed in this way two cheetahs and nine hyaenas. A week or two before our arrival cheetahs had killed seven of his calves, and on the day of our arrival, carrying one of their number who had been badly mauled by two lions. His brother had driven the brutes off three times with his assegai. A few weeks ago a leopard attacked a native not far from here, who succeeded, after being

badly bitten, in killing it with his assegai. Another leopard was seen a week ago rolling in the dust in my German friend's garden, unfortunately when he was away. . . . Last night again something - a lion or a leopard - was after my donkeys which are tied up to the waggon every night. (I use donkeys for ploughing and for general work of the farm). My dogs were in a pitiable funk. I went round with my rifle and lantern, and failing to see or hear anything I made all my Kaffirs tumble out with their assegais and we beat all the long grass round the hut for some distance, but failed to find anything. However the noise and light served my object which was to drive the brute away. The Kaffirs didn't enjoy hunting lions at midnight at all. Game is pretty plentiful, but owing to the dense and in many parts quite impenetrable, grass jungle, which covers the whole country at this time of the year, it has been impossible to do any shooting so far. The buck are reedbuck, waterbuck, durka, bush-buck, eland, sable antelope, and occasionally koodoo. Wild pigs, too, are common, as are also guinea fowl, black pheasants, and partridges of two or three different kinds. The pigs are very destructive to the crops. In the "low veld" only eight miles away are found elephants, hippopotami, rhinoceros, zebras, giraffs, buffaloes, and ostriches, as well as most kind of South African buck. If a man has any luck in shooting he can live for next to nothing in this country, for the natives will barter their goods in exchange for meat in preference to anything else. Therefore when the grass is burnt and my kitchen garden is in full swing, I have hopes that my cost of living will not exceed that of the cartridges I fire away. . . . It is a delightful life, quite what one reads of in books of adventure. I have six Kaffirs working for me, and the results of my work so far are a "kraal," i.e., a strong stocked enclosure to protect the cattle from wild beasts at night, a pigsty and yard, a hen-house, a verandah to my hut, a shed for the cattle, a hut for the "boys," and a fair sized kitchen garden. Before the wet season arrives, viz., in two months' time, I hope to get the following work done:- 20 acres cleared of roots and stones, ploughed, sown with Indian corn and harrowed, the kraal cobbled, both my huts re-thatched, a three-roomed house built (of poles and planks), stables for the donkeys, a drying room for tobacco, a small crop of tobacco sown, the above 20 acres fenced to keep out the wild pigs, a water-race brought out to the homestead from a stream 600 yards away, materials (timber and stones for foundations), collected for a big brick house which I shall build next year. If you take into consideration that I have almost exhausted the little timber there was within a mile or two of the huts, and shall now have to bring all I want, all the way up hill, from a wood three miles away with my donkey and a sleigh, you will understand that I can get not a moment to myself outside my farm work, except in the evenings. Unfortunately I find it impossible to use the waggon in this hilly country. . . ."

Register of Bishop Richard le Scrope of Coventry & Lichfield

Source: Lichfield Joint Record Office: B/A/1/6 f.142r

23 March 1387 Lichfield cathedral church

Ordines celebrati in ecc'a Cath' lich' die Sabb'i [qua] cantat' Officiu'
Scientes vid'lt x K'ln Aprilis Anno d'ni Mill'io CCC^{mo} lxxxvj p ven' p'rm
d'nm Will'm dei gr'a Pharen' Ep'm de licen[cia] Reu'endi viri Mag'ri Ric'i
de Bermynch'm Cano[nici] Lichen' ven' p'ris d'ni Ric'i dei gr'a Couentr' &
[Lich'] Ep'i vicar' in sp'ualib' gen'al' F'cis monico[ib'] in eisd, ordinib'
quibus sup'

Diaconi

[Wi]ll'us de Swynnerton' ad. t'. do. H. s' Joh'is Lich'

Orders celebrated in the cathedral church of Lichfield, Saturday on which the office of Sistentes is sung, to wit, 10 Kalends April 1386[7] by the Venerable father lord William by the grace of God bishop of Pharos, by licence of the Reverend master Richard de Bermyncham, canon of Lichfield, vicar-general in spirituals of the Venerable father lord Richard by the grace of God bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, monitions having been made in the said orders, as above

Deacons

William de Swynnerton by title of the house of the Hospital of St John, Lichfield

B/A/1/6 f.142v 1 June 1387 Sallowe [Sawley] church

Ordines celebrati in eccl'ia p'bendali de Sallowe. p ven'abilem p'rem d'nm
Will'm dei gr'a Pharen' Ep'm vice & auct'e ven' p'ris d'ni Ricardi dei gr'a
Couentr' & Lich' Ep'i virtute co'missionis eid' ven' Pharen' Ep'o fact' die
Sabb'i q'tuor t'prm in Septi'ana Pen techost' vid'lt p'mo die Junij Anno d'ni
M^oCCC^{mo} lxxx^o septi'o Et cons' d'ci P'ris Couentr' p'mo F'cis monico'ibus
in eisd'm ordinibus quibus supra

P'bri

Will'us Swynnerton' ad ti. do H. s'ci J. Lich'.

Orders celebrated in the prebendal church of Sallowe by the Venerable Father lord William by the grace of God bishop of Pharos, in the place and by the authority of the Venerable father lord Richard by the grace of God bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, by virtue of the commission made to the said venerable bishop of Pharos, Saturday, Ember Day, in Whit Week, to wit, 1 June in the year of the Lord 1387, and of the consecration of the said father of Coventry, the first, monitions having been made in the said orders, as above.

Priests

William Swynnerton by title of the house of the Hospital of St John, Lichfield

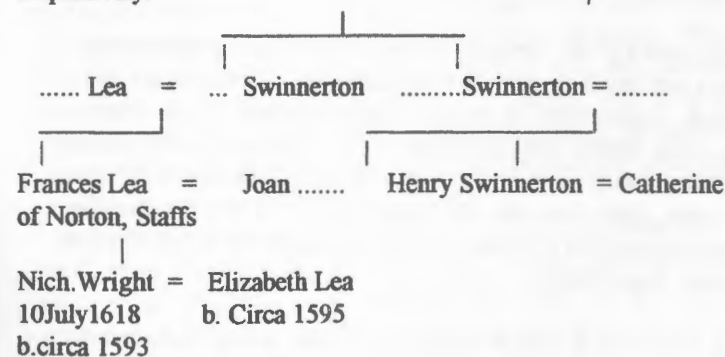
* * * * *

ESSEX MARRIAGE LICENSES 1579-1669

(at Society of Genealogists p.116)

Wright Nich., of St Margaret's Patens "in Rode", London, pewterer, 25, (at own disposal), & Eliz Lea of Eastham, sp, 23, dau of Fran Lea late of Norton, co.Staffs, gent, alleged by Cath Swinnerton, wife of Hy Swinnerton of St. Dionis, Backchurch, London, Pewterer, whose uncle married the grandmother of Eliz Lea (consent of mother, Joan Lea or Norton aforesaid), at Eastham. 10 Jul 1618. AEA/30

This gives us this little tree but it is all a bit of a mystery at the moment: Henry is a very rare name in the family and although I have come across Henry the Pewterer before, the only Henry in our records is the one who married Ellen Symmings whose wills were proved in 1589 and 1587 respectively.



SOCIETY MATTERS

I have seen various versions of this poem in several magazines all attributed to different authors and I have also been sent copies so I don't think I am infringing anyone's copyright by reproducing it here but it is so true. You read a piece again and again and in the end, I am convinced, you see what you want to see.

THE -YPOGRAPHICAL ERROR

The typographical error is a slippery thing and sly
You can hunt 'til you are dizzy but it somehow will get by
'Til the item itself comes off the press it's strange how still it keeps
It shrinks down in the corner and it never stirs or peeps

That typographical error, too small for human eyes
'Til the ink is on the paper when it grows to mountain size
The writer stares with horror, then grabs his head and groans
The reader drops his head upon his hands and very quietly moans

The remainder of the item can be clean as clean can be
But the typographical error is the only thing you see.

I am the world's worst and slowest typist so I hope you sympathise!

On the subject of my job, my old friend, the editor of the Sant family newsletter, has decided that, after 20 years, it is time for him to retire. In trying to find a successor, he compiled this job description:

"To collect all references to the surname. To collect certificates, photographs, letters, documents and artefacts relating to the surname. To record all birth, marriage and death registrations, to extract references from census returns, parish registers, poll books and directories. To respond to all queries received. To build up family groups and learn and write about the individual members, their work, their lives and their movements. To contact families with the surname at home and overseas. To edit and publish a newsletter and create interest in the family name".

I could not have put it better myself except to add the words *and research* after 'collect' in the first line and, at the end, *and run a Family Society*.

As he says, there is still much to be done and does everything now go into mothballs to await someone with a passionate interest in their family name to come along? Is that what will happen when I decide the time has come to ease up (and I have been collecting for 45 years and running the society for 23)?

I have had great help over the years from such stalwarts as John Swinnerton and Ken Armistead who both did a great deal of 'collecting' but left me to do the researching and from Pauline Litton and Pauline Saul, neither of them members of the society or with any Swinnerton connection but who gave up many hours, just from friendship, to help me with that research.

Today, we have progressed to a team who are proving enormously valuable. Our Treasurer has taken all the financial administration off me and our secretary not only does the usual minutes but is also actively entering data into the archives. She is currently extracting the Swinnertons from the last piece of the 1881 Census (Lancashire) on which I hope to do a final report in the next issue after which she will go back to entering Parish Register extracts of which I have two files full.

Roger Swynnerton has now finished inputting the entries from the 1851 Census into the database and is now working on the 1861 and 1871 entries but there has never been a systematic search of these years and it badly needs doing. David Brock has just finished the massive job of entering the Adbaston tree into the computer so we now have all our trees in a master index.

But there is still much, much more to be done both in typing up the masses of references I have acquired over the years, a file full of wills for instance and pages of entries from directories, many of which are still in my execrable handwriting (I was sent a note some time ago to say that Thomas Swinnerton was the enumerator for the Parish of Astley, Warwickshire for the 1851 Census and William Swinnerton for the same parish in 1861 and that their writing was *extremely good considering they were Swinnertons!*). There is also help needed with checking references in libraries and record offices; hundreds of photographs need classifying and labelling and a great bundle of deeds to be copied.

Believe it or not, I still get occasional enquiries about 'new' Swinnertons who I have not come across before and I cannot always answer. We have made great progress but we need to make more still so if any of you could spare a little time and would like to help, we would be extremely grateful.

FAMILY NOTES

Having been missing from our pages for some time since her retirement from international hockey (although she is still manager of the England hockey team), Jane Swinnerton-Ions, as she now is, recently made the news again when she took Chris Evans, the controversial media presenter, to task for his comments on the sexuality of the England women's team. She protested strongly to the BBC about his totally unwarranted remarks - quite right, more of us should stand up and be counted in protesting about some of the perfectly dreadful stuff that is put out on the media by these grossly over-inflated, self-important people. Bully for her.

I was sorry to hear of the death of (Eric) Jack Swinnerton at Longbridge, Birmingham on 7th October aged 82. Eric belonged to the Warwickshire branch of the family and, until a few years ago, was a member of the society for many years.

I was very happy to see the announcement of the marriage of Mrs Joan Swinnerton, widow of our former member John Swinnerton of the catering family, to Mr Alex Cameron of Ramsey, Isle of Man in Gibraltar on the 12th November. We wish them every happiness.

Our congratulations to the Reverend Brian Swynnerton on his election as a Councillor for the Loggerheads Ward of the Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Councillor.

Our congratulations, also, to Jacqueline, wife of our member David Swinnerton of Middlesborough, who completed the BUPA Great North Run - the only Swinnerton in a field of 33,000.

Incidentally, David has found us another named road - Swinnerton Avenue in the A-Z Index of the City of York. Now who could that have been named after?

The Times for Monday June 3rd 1996 records the marriage of Mr A.R. Swinnerton and Mrs J.M. Pollock at St. James Norlands, Holland Park on May 12th.

It goes on to describe him as Tony Swinnerton of Swiss Cottage, London NW3. Does anyone know if this is our former member Anthony Richard Swinnerton?

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