

SWINNERTON Family History



James Guilford Swinnerton

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The Swinnerton Society

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

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157

SWINNERTON FAMILY HISTORY

Volume 10. No.9

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CONTENTS

Foreword - The Chairman	157
Shropshire Archaeological Society Transactions	158
More Swinnerton Memorials	161
James Guilford Swinnerton	164
Some Miscellaneous Finds in Parish Registers	174
The Guilds and Companies of London	175
Society Matters	176
Family Notes	176

Editor - Iain Spencer Swinnerton

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FOREWORD

The Chairman

1997 is a very special year for me because it is the year when, on St. George's Day, I reach the age when a grateful(?) government start to pay me back a very small part of all I have paid them in taxes and insurance over the last 49 years, in other words the day on which I officially become an OAP! It also marks the day of my (semi) retirement and the day on which I can actively start on my project to fulfill one of my life-long ambitions. Jemima is the new lady in my life who is going to help me do that!

She is a 25ft, centre cockpit, cabin cruiser which I purchased on St. David's Day (March 1st for those of you with no Welsh ancestry) with the help of a little insurance policy I started in 1960 and which came to fruition 20 years ago but has been preserved for just this. She was built in 1976 by Dawncraft Cruisers of Kinver, Staffordshire whose yard, by a curious coincidence, was on the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal not much more than 200 yards from my great-grandfather's house whose fields sloped down to that same canal.

The forward cabin contains two single berths right up front which can be converted to a double, a full galley with two-burner, grill and oven, gas cooker, sink with hot and cold water and lots of storage cupboards. In a separate compartment there is a 'porta potti' toilet and shower with h.& c. The aft cabin has two beds, wardrobe etc. and its own washbasin also with h.& c.

So it's quite well equipped, and I shall look forward to welcoming some of you on board as I progress round the country for that is my project - to circumnavigate England by river and canal (with a brief foray into Wales to Llangollen) taking three to four months over it. I did quite a lot of short trips 40 years ago but have always wanted to go all the way round.

I have promised my son Alastair to write the story of my voyaging for the family and, in particular, for my grandchildren to read in years to come so this is the first instalment. I shall have my notebook computer and mobile phone with me so shall be able to stay in contact and you will still be able to write to me because the Poste Restante system still operates and Angela will send on mail.

I am casting off on April 28th - look out for me!

Iain Swinnerton

REFERENCES IN THE SHROPSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY TRANSACTIONS

Notes on the Manor of Westhope, Shropshire

by Evelyn H. Martin (née Swinnerton-Dyer).

Printed in 4th Series, Volume I, Part 3 1911)

Swynnerton-Dyer References in Register of the Palmer's Guild of Ludlow.

Edward II 1307-27 Agnes le Dyer p.ten in qu^d pr. eius manebat. Vj^d

Henry III 1509-49 Abbots John Dyer of Blokely, near Stowe,
Armigers.
Mr Robert Swinnerton of Eccleshall and Elizabeth
his wife. Mr Thomas Swynnerton of Swynnerton,
Stoke.
William Dyer and Margaret his wife xiiij^s, iiij^d

Miscellaneous

William 3rd son of Sir Anthony Fitzherbert of Norbury. Judge of the Common Pleas, married Elizabeth dau. and coheir of Humphrey Swinnerton of Swynnerton, she married secondly John Gatacare of Gatacare.

John son of William Mytton of Weston by Margaret dau. of Thomas Corbett of Lee, married Anne dau. and heir of Thomas Swinnerton. 3 Edw.IV. 1464. John Mytton died in 1439.

Richard son of William Mytton of Salop. Sheriff 1544, died in 1591 aged 100. He married 1st Anne dau. of Sir Edward Grey of Enville. 2nd a dau. of Jenkin Pygott. 3rd Elinor dau. George Harbourne.

Ellena, sister of Richard Mytton, married William Gatacre of Gatacre and died 1577. Their son Francis married Elizabeth dau. and coheir of Humphrey Swinnerton of Swinnerton. Francis died 1590. Inquisition Post Mortem of Sir Richard de Sandford Kt. 1306, 1347 was made before John de Swynnerton, Escheator, 10 Mar. 1347.

Humphrey (son of Sir Thomas Peshall Kt. of Chetwynd) by his second wife Alice, dau. and coheir of Roger Knightly married Matilda, dau. of Sir Robert

de Swinnerton. He died in 1385 and was 4th in descent from Stephen de Swinnerton one of the sons of John de Swinnerton who died in 1254 and his wife Eleanor de Peshall, so Matilda and her husband were cousins. Matilda married secondly Sir Wm. de Ipstones Kt. He died Oct. 1399. Roger de Swinnerton was slain by Sir John de Ipstones Kt. 1394.

Sir John Chillington (ob.1556) who married firstly Joan, dau. of Thomas Hoorde of Bridgnorth, who died 8 Dec. 1841, leaving issue:-

1. Cassandra - wife of Humphrey Swynnerton of Swynnerton.
2. Dorothy - wife of 1st John Congreve, 2nd Francis Shirley of Leicester, daughter Anne married John Brooke, Madeley.

William Fitzherbert, 3rd son of Sir Anthony Fitzherbert, Judge of Common Pleas married Elizabeth, younger coheir of Humphrey Swynnerton - she married 2ndly John Gatacre of Gatacre, Salop.

Thomas de Swynnerton (1343) of Swynnerton, Knight Bannaret, was heir to his elder brother Robert. He was trained to arms from his youth and greatly distinguished himself in the French campaign of 1346-7, where he was present at the Battle of Cressy, and the Siege of Calais. As a reward for his great services Sir Thomas obtained a grant of the forfeited lands of Thomas de Creswell and in 1347-8 he was Chamberlain of the Kings Court. The member was again engaged in the Scotch Wars of 1356 where he was taken prisoner, but ransomed, the King himself contributing £100 towards the ransom money. In 1358, Sir Thomas had the honour of being the King's Proxy in France to receive the Oath of the Dauphin and then was charged with the duty of keeping the King's French Prisoner in the Savoy. In 1359 Sir Thomas was exonerated from assessment on his lands by reasons of his having served in the King's retinue from the date of the passage of Hogue throughout the French Campaign. Previously to this Sir Thomas had taken a prominent part in Civil Affairs being Sheriff of Shropshire and Staffordshire in 1341. In December 1345 the Sheriff of Staffs was ordered to escheat all the property of this member in that County on account of various contempts or misdeeds but doubtless his great military services wiped out this trouble. Sir Thomas married Matilda dau. of Sir Robert Holland. He died in 1361 and was succeeded by his son Sir Robert. Sir Thomas was Knighted before 1341.

MORE SWINNERTON MEMORIALS

St. Thomas's Church, Butterton

To the lamented memory of Sir William Milborne Swinnerton Pilkington of Butterton Hall, Baronet 2nd son of the late Sir W. M. Pilkington of Chevet Baronet who departed this life November 12th 1855 aged 24 years and is interred in the vault beneath this Church.

"In the morning it is green and groweth up but in the evening it is cut down, dried up and withered" 90 Psalm 6 verse.

C. Lewis S. C. Cheltenham

Notes made in 1964.

The arms are quarterly: first and third a cross formée fleury, second and fourth a cross fleury counterchanged red and white with a red leopard's head in the bottom left hand corner and a white leopard's head in the top right hand corner, the same in the third quarter, and the first and second quarter is a cross fleury but a white field with a red border all the way round. Then there is a bend gules all the way along, in the centre there is an escutcheon of pretence with a blue St. Andrew's cross and in the middle is a shield with what appears to be the lion rampant of Scotland within a tressure and a crown on top of it. Underneath there are three pegs as if there has been something removed. There are three crests, the left hand one is a red lion on a torse of red and silver with his head and mane all in white, his tongue and mouth and eyes in red and holding in his paws a red leopard's head proper. In the centre is the Swinnerton crest on a torse of black and white with a green mount, it's a full boar and it has the black cross fleury on its flank. On the right hand side on a red and white torse, a figure of a man moustached, half black, half white, the face is proper and he has a scythe in his hand. The outside of the main shield is lined with a thin black line and it is painted gold. The scythe at the end of the handle has a peculiar turned back piece.

"Within the walls of this Church which have a piety erected to the glory of God lies interred in hope of joyful resurrection the body of Mary Milborne Swinnerton relict of Sir William Pilkington of Chevet Bart. She died December 11th AD 1854 aged 60 years"

"The patient abiding of the meek shall not perish for ever".

To the endeared memory of his mother this monument is erected by her affectionate son, Sir W.M.M.S. Pilkington Bart.

S. Lewis S.C. Cheltenham.

The arms are in the main a cross flory which has a bordure again, in a canton there is a St. Andrew's cross with the red lion of Scotland and a crown on top, in the centre there is an escutcheon of pretence quarterly first the Swinnerton cross flory with a bend, second a chevron of what appears to be ermine with three left hands, two and one, third a plain cross flory and fourth three lions, two and one. The background of the three hands appears to be small squares, the background of the three lions is palewise, the left hand side vertical stripes, the right hand horizontal stripes, and the bend in the first quarter has vertical stripes as does the bordure to the cross flory.

The main stained glass window says "To the glory of God and in memory of her mother Christmas MDCCCXCV and again in the bottom centre it has the arms, in this case the first quarter and the third are the cross flory, silver on a silver background with a red bordure, the second is the cross formee flory with a red bend and the fourth is the same half red, half white cross with the leopard's heads.

The other memorial says "In affectionate remembrance of Sophia Portia second daughter of Sir William Pilkington, Eighth Baronet of Chevet and wife of the Reverend Clark Watkins Burton, Rector of Cliburn of Westmorland, she died 19th September 1861 aged 34 years and is buried in the churchyard of Cliburn but this temple was erected by her brother, Sir Lionel M. Swinnerton Pilkington Baronet."

Then in the other end of the Chapel there is another stained glass window which says "To the Glory of God and in memory of Thomas Swinnerton obit. May 9th 1836" and in the bottom the arms are straight cross flory.

In a little handout about the Church, it says:
St. Thomas's Church, Butterton. In 1845 when Butterton Church was built, the community of Butterton was a typical rural Victoria village, a cluster of small houses accommodating agricultural labourers, a manorial house - Butterton Hall and a landed family - the Pilkingtons. It was the Pilkingtons who provided the funds of over £2000 required to make good the absence of a place of worship for this community. Today the Hall no longer exists having been demolished after the discovery of widespread dry rot but the Pilkington connection has not been lost because the family vaults survive beneath the floorboards of the Church.

The first incumbent of the Church was the Reverend W. Stone, he was succeeded by the Reverend W. Tyson who served St. Thomas's for 35 years until his death in 1909. A tablet and stained glass window were erected to his memory in the Church.

In 1908 a Vicarage was built and for many years there was a resident Vicar. However, some years ago when the benefice was united with that of Newcastle-under-Lyme, the vicarage was sold.

The first music in the Church was provided by a harmonium which later found its way to the village school where it was played for many years at morning assembly, the harmonium was replaced by an organ which was dedicated on the 19th June 1887.

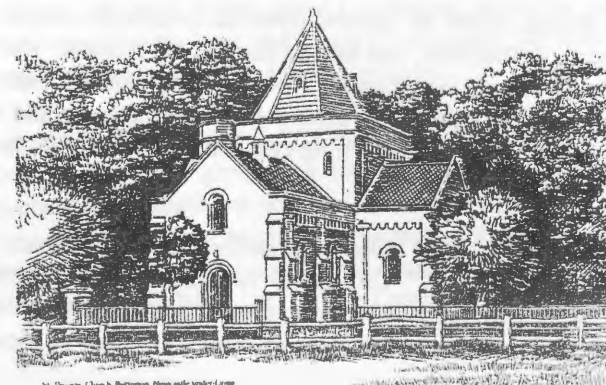
Hanging in the Church is a painting which could be a Renei (although no-one will definitely confirm whether it is an original or a copy). This painting was discovered in an attic at Butterton Hall when it was demolished.

The Church is now lit by electricity but within the memories of the present congregation lighting was by paraffin lamps hanging from the roof and by brass candle lamps at the end of pews.

There is no burial ground at the Church although application has twice been made in the Church's history, permission has been refused because the natural drainage is not satisfactory and the drinking water is taken from a lower level than the church ground.

In 1977 it was discovered that dry rot responsible for the demolition of the Hall was also present in the Church. After discussion in which the demolition of the Church was seriously considered, it was decided in view of the considerable local concern for the future of the Church to go ahead with the restoration work. Subject to the continuous supply of the necessary funds the future of the Church is thus secured.

I hope to persuade the Reverend Brian Swynnerton to draw these memorials for us so that we can reproduce them in this journal.



St. Thomas's Church, Butterton, from under the ground

JAMES GUILDFORD SWINNERTON

Jimmy Swinnerton, as he was always known, was born on November 13, 1875, in San Francisco, Stockton, San Jose, and Eureka. Each of these cities was proffered by the affable Jimmy at different times during his career. Lacking birth-certificate verification, presumptive evidence points to Eureka, California.



His grandfather, also known as James Guilford Swinnerton, farmed in Wisconsin before moving to Norris, Illinois, where in 1853 he was struck by California gold fever. Despite having been warned against travelling alone across the prairies because of hostile Indians and other dangers, he decided to make the trip anyway. At a time when most westbound travellers moved in long caravans for mutual protection, he set out with his wife and four young children in a single covered wagon.

They followed the Oregon Trail. At first the trip was uneventful, but matters changed quickly one night as they camped near the western boundary of what is now Nebraska. Mother was baking biscuits in her prairie oven and Father was looking after the horses and securing camp for the night.

The Indians appeared without a sound. There were perhaps a dozen of them, and as they sat their ponies and quietly watched, they looked mean, tired, and dirty. But there was no danger. The wonderful aroma of hot, baking biscuits was working Big Magic on the Indians.

Mother took several of the hot biscuits from the oven and, without a word, broke them open, walked over, and handed them to the Indians. Each quietly broke off a chunk and ate it solemnly. Then the entire band turned and rode off into the gathering evening. The parents exchanged glances and turned to the covered wagon. Four pairs of young eyes, more curious than frightened, had been watching the drama.

Next evening, many westward miles later, another group of Indians suddenly appeared over a small rise. This group included several squaws. The performance of the previous evening was repeated. But this time the squaws received the biscuits and broke them into several pieces, and suddenly it was

Ladies' Night on the plains. Mother and the squaws all started to talk at once, ending with a sign-language lesson in baking. The future artist's grandmother gave the Indians a sack of flour, and with many grunts and signs they once again disappeared into the dark.

Mrs. Swinnerton's oven and biscuits had saved them twice and continued to keep the family from trouble for the remainder of the journey. By means of the Indians' mystic telegraph system, tribes many miles apart came to hear about "White Man's Biscuits," and by paying this simple tribute, the Swinnertons' safe conduct was assured. The tribes passed them along to the next band, and occasionally the Indians brought a sack of flour for the cook. The source of the flour was unknown, but it probably had been stolen from unfortunate pioneers or settlers.

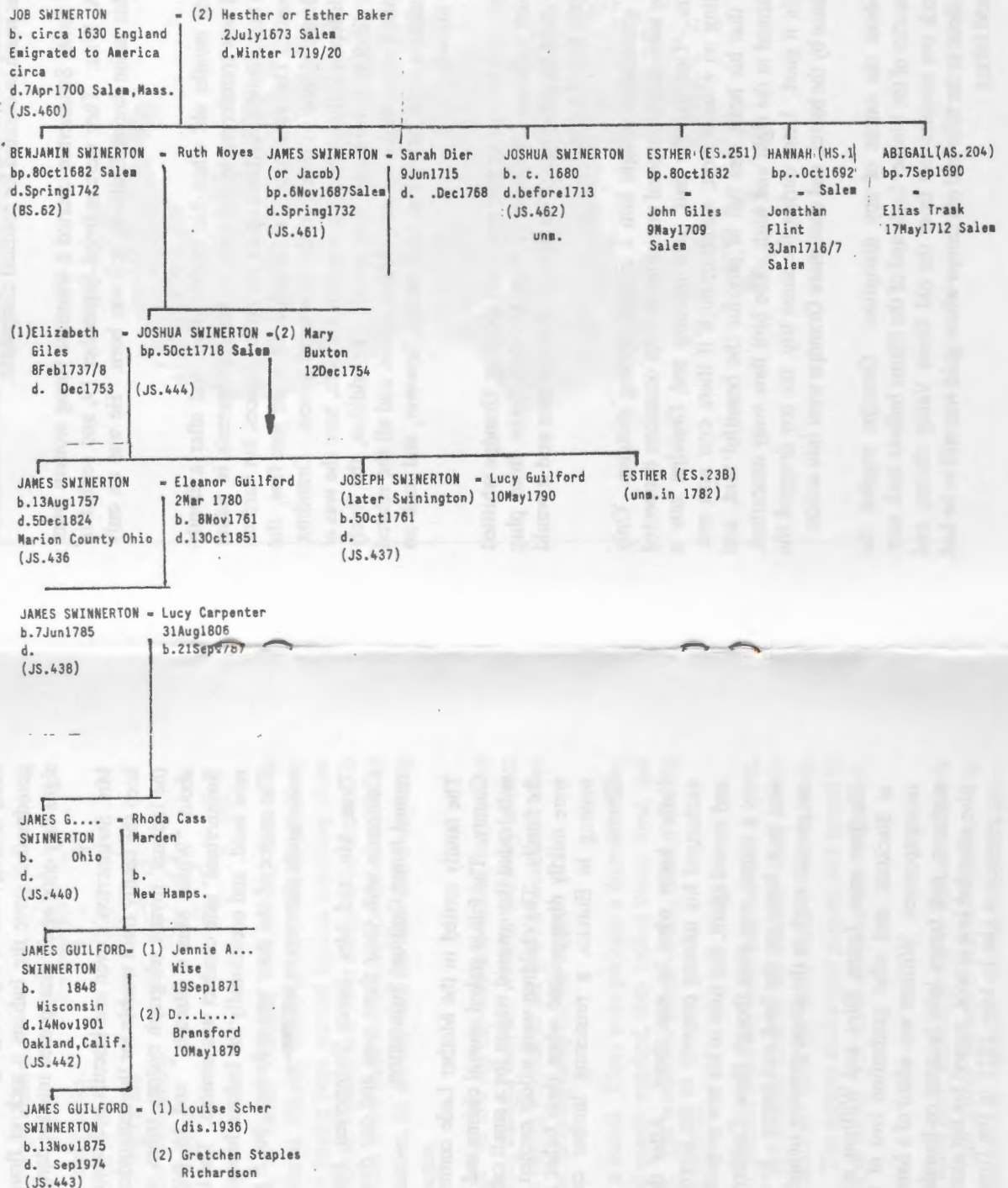
Thus, Mr. and Mrs. James Swinnerton, late of Norris, Illinois, came to California with their three sons and one daughter. One of their sons was named James Guilford Swinnerton.

The family settled in the Mother Lode community of Dutch Flat, in Placer County. The father staked several claims and became a gold miner, while his wife traded the covered wagon for a small cabin and set up housekeeping for the family. The children were wildly excited by their new surroundings, and were mildly disappointed when their father announced that the family was moving to Eureka, a roistering lumber camp in California's Humboldt County.

Father knew what he was about. After their safe arrival in Eureka, he exchanged his mining property in the Sierras for Santa Clara Valley land, and moved again, this time to his new property. He realized he was a farmer, not a miner, and even though these Californios called his farm a ranch, he was back home on the land and happy. Eventually, he won recognition for his pioneer work in the prune-growing industry.

His three sons, James, Silas, and William, attended the College of the Pacific at Stockton, and after graduation two of them launched their careers as newspapermen. William was editor of a Santa Clara newspaper when he was eighteen, and James later became co-founder of the Humboldt *Star*. James also attended law school, passed his bar examinations, and was registered as an attorney-at-law in May 1871 in the Great Register of Humboldt County.

OUTLINE TREE SHOWING THE DESCENT OF JAMES GUILFORD SWINNERTON FROM JOB SWINNERTON.



He was later appointed a judge of the Supreme Court in Stockton and, being an able orator, was much in demand for political campaigns.

In 1871 attorney James Swinnerton courted a winsome young woman from Canada, Jennie A. Wise. They were married September 19, and settled in Eureka. From this union James Guilford, Jr., was born. He was an only child.

Jimmy was fifteen months old when his mother died, and after a family council the child was transferred to the care of his grandparents in Santa Clara. It was the best solution available under the circumstances, but hard on ageing grandparents. The youngster and Grandpa hit it off just fine, the oldster having plenty of time to invest in the new arrangement. Grandma, however, was a different matter. After raising four children, here she was at an advanced age feeding a voracious new mouth. In addition, the lively youngster grew like a weed, requiring new clothes, shoes, and all the related peripheral expenditures. His father provided money, however, and took an active interest in his son.

When little Jimmy cried because of sore gums and teething, Grandpa whittled a six-shooter from softwood, decorated it with tin stars taken from plug tobacco, and the child happily gnawed on the toy. The old man said it would also give Jimmy the feel of a gun.

Years later, his grandfather bought him a muzzel-loading shotgun. Only twice was the boy subjected to corporal punishment, both occasions connected with this firearm. One day the pair were hunting and Grandpa saw a meadowlark sitting on a fence post, a sitting duck if there ever was one. Jimmy recalled that his heart was full of pity for the beautiful bird, and accordingly he aimed to the right and high. The bird flew away unscathed, but Jimmy caught it good. Later during the same trip, the boy dragged the gun through a fence by the barrel, and once more Grandpa went into action.

But that was about the extent of any discipline. Grandpa regaled the youngster with stories of the Mother Lode and of the Plains Indians back east. They would check ore samples left from the old Grass Valley claims, and envisaged excursions to the hills and old camps where gold was still to be had for the looking and taking.

Jimmy's father remarried in 1879, and the four-year-old was returned to the



*Judge James Guilford Swinnerton,
Jimmy's father*

original owner. The boy was young, the stepmother was new, and there was mutual dislike. As a result, little Jimmy was bounced back and forth between his grandparents and his father's home until the old couple no longer had the strength to raise a young lad. Rambunctious beyond his years, he was unable to get along with his stepmother. At the age of fifteen he ran away from home and the old Pala School near San Jose, and set out for San Francisco - the nearest Mecca and City of Gold.

Hoping to become a jockey, Jimmy drifted to the old Bay District Fairgrounds Race Track and hung around the stables. He soon found that a jockey's life consisted of a diet of no food; so, easily making the adjustment, he became an exercise boy instead.

His father traced the missing youth to the racetrack in San Francisco, took him home, and then began talking about his future. Jimmy had been drawing since he was old enough to hold a pencil, and as several of his friends had left for an art school in San Francisco, he wanted to join them. The judge said he would never permit his boy to become either an artist or a lawyer.

"So I ran away again," Jimmy said later.

As he told the story to the *San Francisco Examiner*, November 18, 1894:

I was fourteen years old then. Cleveland's Minstrels was the company I ran off with and I remained with them several months. Because of my large mouth and peculiar face, I made quite a hit as the negro kid and had the position next to the end man, with the promise of elevation to that highest pinnacle of minstrel fame, the End Man's Chair. But I found the work of barnstorming too hard and left the company down San Luis Obispo way, though I was offered \$20 a week - big pay for a sixteen-year-old lad - to return to my burnt cork. When I went back home I told my father that if he didn't send me to the art school, I'd go back to the Minstrels. That settled it. "I'd rather you'd become a minstrel than a lawyer," he said, "but it's minstrels or the art school, so pack your traps and take the morning train for the school."

Jimmy Swinnerton enrolled at the San Francisco Art Association art school in 1891. In an interview, he said, "So it was I came to San Francisco and the Art Association, where I studied about a year and a half under Arthur Mathews, who still asks me when I am going to quit fooling and go back to work. They wanted to make a colorist of me at the school, but my real ambition was to become a portrait painter."

Many future artists were among his classmates. Edward Borein, who went on to a colorful career painting the western scene, passed through the school in a record thirty days. Maynard Dixon, another student who eventually gained recognition in the same field as Borein, was a more serious student, as was Homer Davenport, the future Hearst political cartoonist. Their association at the school engendered lifelong friendships.

The art school was an academic institute typical of the time. In the usual beginning classes, the students copied plaster casts of cones, cubes, cupids, horses, and Hermes. It was rumoured around school that there was a life class somewhere in the building where there was draped, and possibly undraped, models posing for the advanced students. Whether this was true was not really known, but one and all aspired to become advanced students as soon as possible.

Landscape sketching was a popular class instructed by a well known British artist, Raymond D. Yelland. The basic reason for its popularity was the twice-a-week field trips away from the stuffy classrooms. The class would travel with their sketchbooks and materials to the old San Francisco waterfront. There on rambling East Street was the water boundary of the infamous, but always fascinating, Barbary Coast. Some ships lay alongside the battered plank wharves, their bowsprits with curvaceous figureheads jutting over the street. Later, Jimmy commented, "There was at least one murder every night on the Barbary Coast, and the scene and action were sturdy."

On one trip, when the sketching class tried to draw sailing ships moored at the waterfront, the tough boys from Telegraph Hill stoned them away. Jimmy, being younger than other members of the class, lingered and got into a ball game. The Telegraph Hill gang discovered and ace shortstop and asked him to join the team. Jimmy bargained; He'd play in their regular games if they'd let the sketch class work on the quay below. They agreed; and Jimmy has said he regarded this feat as his great contribution to art, since Maynard Dixon, Gottardo, and Xavier Martinez were all members of the sketch class. During Jimmy's art school period he met William Keith, the painter who later was dubbed the "California Old Master." During one visit to Keith's studio he met George Inness, the great landscape painter, and Emil Carlsen, the Danish-born artist who eventually became a National Academician. The three older men gave the youngster advice and

encouragement, but Keith lost interest in the boy when Jimmy later took a job with a newspaper.

In the classroom Swinnerton took time out to caricature his instructors, a pastime that did not endear him to his serious teachers. Some of his humorous sketches had been seen by William Randolph Hearst, who hired him in 1892 as staff artist at the going rate of ten dollars a week. Thus was begun a career and a lifetime friendship. William Randolph Hearst always considered Swinnerton his personal protégé.

Hearst's father, George, a staunch Democrat who later became a senator, purchased the Democratic *San Francisco Examiner* in 1880. The paper had been staggering along in debt and owed him a considerable sum of money he had advanced in loans. Moreover, he felt the newspaper would be useful as a propaganda sheet for his political campaigning.

William had been bounced from Harvard after a bizarre academic career and had found a job as a cub reporter on the *New York World*. Bitten badly by the newspaper bug, William persuaded his father to give him the *Examiner* in 1887. George Hearst, by now elected to a full term as senator, fervently hoped the resulting headache would cure his son of the base ambition to become a newspaperman. Swinnerton later said, "The young Mr. Hearst's genius for picking men showed up at once. He staffed his paper with as fine a gang of pirates as ever scuttled a ship."

Jimmy was literally in another world. "I was making ten dollars a week," he said. "But you could live well on that then. Room and board were five dollars, and the rest you could throw around town."

His art-school pal, Homer Davenport, ran out of funds and took a job as staff artist on the *Examiner*. One day, "Davy" was missing from his desk and the art editor was having a fit. Two notorious train robbers, Chris Evans and John Sontag, surprised in their mountain cabin hideout north of Visalia, had killed two members of a posse and made their escape. A local correspondent had wired in a description of the cabin. This was before the days of newspaper photographs; all illustrations were line drawings. The editor needed a drawing of that cabin. He came into the art room and asked whose life could be spared without loss to the *Examiner* - and Swinnerton was the unanimous choice.

The assignment was a scary one. He and Charlie Michelson, then a cub reporter, were sent to cover the Evans-Sontag manhunt, and were sworn in as deputies on a sheriff's posse. The *Examiner* men found the cabin, and Swinnerton's drawing was sent back to San Francisco and promptly used as an illustration for the story of the manhunt. The hunt ended when the bandits were lured to Visalia and riddled by the local constables. Sontag later died of a gunshot wound, but Evans was caught and served a long term in Folsom prison before being paroled.

After his manhunt experience, Jimmy was accepted into the newspaper fraternity by fellow writers and artists. The art department was separated from Mr. Hearst's private office by a thin partition through which voices, if not actual words, could be heard. William Randolph had a penchant for funny stories and told them to friends and members of the staff. The artists could recognize all the visitors by their laughs; and soon Jimmy, strictly for the ears of his fellow newsman, was putting on an imitation of Hearst's high, querulous voice, Ned Hamilton's basso belly laugh, Cossey Noble's chuckle, Arthur McEwen's cackle, "Second Mate" Palmer, the art director, heard the imitation of Hearst and roared, and before long Jimmy had performed for everybody on the paper except Hearst. Then one day "the Chief" encountered Jimmy on the stairs and asked for the imitation. Sweating blood, he gave it, but the boss's laugh sounded hollow to him. Swinnerton bade everybody good-bye, but there was a raise in his next pay envelope instead of the expected pink slip.

Jimmy's job was that of a sketch artist, and he drew everything - court trials, society events, prize fights, and Barbary Coast violence. "Line drawings were the only process of reproducing in those times, and I might draw a murder in the afternoon, and a prize fight that night." He would accompany a reporter to a news call, then draw the scene to correspond to the written article.

(Extracted from *Jimmy Swinnerton - The Artist and His Work* by Harold G. Davidson)

[James Guilford Swinnerton (his father and grandfather also bore Guilford as a middle name - it came from his great-great grandmother Eleanor Guilford born in Pittsfield, Massachusetts in 1761) was a 6 x great-grandson of Job Swinnerton, one of the founding fathers of Salem Colony, Massachusetts, who emigrated to America about 1628. If you have not seen the play 'The Crucible' or the new film of it just out, you should because it is the story of the famous Salem Witch Trials. Although Job does not feature in it as he was one of the 6 village elders who managed to stay clear of the controversy, lots of the families who inter-married with Job's family do.]

SOME MISCELLANEOUS FINDS IN PARISH REGISTERS

St. Thomas Bath Row Birmingham

Oscar Thomas son of John and Ann Swinnerton Ruston Street North
Blacksmith 18th Aug 1861

Kirbymoorside

1 Nov 1917 Married by License

John Bernard Swinnerton 26 bachelor, dentist otp son of Oscar Thomas
Swinnerton tradesman & Edith Clough 22 spinster otp daughter of Wm
Clough printer

Witnesses: T.H. Cooper & Oscar Thomas Swinnerton

24 Aug 1918 Dorothea Madge daughter of John Bernard and Edith
Swinnerton otp dentist (b. 30 Jul 1918)
No more to 1940

Alsager Cheshire

George son of William And Elizabeth Swinnerton, Alsager, gamekeeper
baptised 31 Dec 1848 (born 8 Nov)

St James Clerkenwell

1842-55 Baptisms	Swinnerton to Henry & Ann of 18 Tysoe Street		
<u>Born</u>	<u>Baptised</u>	<u>Forename</u>	<u>Father's occupation</u>
21 Sep 1845	30 Nov 1845	Emma	Warehouseman
15 Jun 1849	12 Aug 1849	Alice	Corn Dealer
20 Oct 1851	23 Nov 1851	John Radcliffe	-do-

St. Matthews Manchester

1867 Nov 14 Adolphus Bury 25 Bachelor, Corresponding Clerk, Cobden St
son of Adolphus Bury, General Consul & Sarah Annie Swinnerton 24
spinster, Cobden St., daughter of William Swinnerton, Farmer

Taunton St Mary Magdalene

John Corrick and Martha Susanne Swinerton 24 Dec 1764

Wakefield, All Saints

1850 Oct 27 Geo Walker & Elizabeth Limb Wits: John & Joseph Swinnerton
-do- John Swinnerton & Sarah Rodgers Wits: Joseph Swinnerton &
George Walker

THE GUILDS AND COMPANIES OF LONDON by Geo Unwin

ATTENDANCE AT SERMON

Each Assistant had to pay 1s. and each member of the livery 16d. towards the further cost.* The great occasions when the generous foresight of the deceased rendered such contributions superfluous were deemed worthy of solemn commemoration. At a bountiful dinner provided by the gift of Mr. Swinnerton, a departed Master of the Merchant Tailors, there was openly pronounced "a grace or thanksgiving drawn by a learned Divine upon the Motion of a grave and Worthy ancient master of the Company intituled a Commemorable grace at a funeral dinner in the Hall for a good brother deceased."+

Attendance at church on the day of the election of Master and wardens was also still insisted upon. By the Clothworkers' ordinances of 1587 and 1639, the election was fixed at eight in the morning, "and presently after the election, as well the Master, wardens and assistants as also the rest of the Livery, by two and two shall orderly and decently go in their livery from their hall into St. Dunstan's Church in the East . . . to hear divine service of some goodly sermon or both, and shall in like decent order return from thence to their Common Hall

. . . there to do . . . such necessary business as to them shall seem meet, and so to dinner or drinking there, and not to depart thence without licence of the Master and wardens till dinner or drinking be ended the same day."++ The Grocers not only attended divine service at St. Stephen's, Coleman Street, before their election, but went on the following day to hear a solemn sermon, after which they took the sacrament.\$ On Court-days at the Merchant Tailors' the chaplain of the company offered a prayer before business was proceeded with, and in 1578 the Master and wardens order a Bible to be set up in their Common Hall, so that those who

* Welch, Pewterers, I. 261, 272, 275.

+ C.M. Clode, Memorials of Merchant Taylors, p. 137.

++ Clothworkers' Ordinances.

\$ Herbert, I. 193.

SOCIETY MATTERS

The computerisation of all our entries from the Censuses of 1841-1891 is now complete thanks to the hard work of our secretary Elizabeth Livesey and Roger Swynnerton. They have now turned their efforts to entering into a database the hundreds of entries from Parish Registers that we hold.

Meanwhile David Brock has been struggling with my handwriting and has typed up the first batch of miscellaneous records concerning the family that I have accumulated over the last 40 years - a valiant job and most worthwhile. One or two I have used in this issue. It has been so long since I looked at some of them that I had forgotten some.

The team has now been joined by a new volunteer. My predecessor as chairman, Joe Swinnerton, has kindly given us his old computer and printer which, after an overhaul, has gone to member Roy Talbot who has just completed typing up the first batch of wills.

I really do feel, after struggling along for so many years on my own, that we are at last making real progress in establishing a strong family archive.

FAMILY NOTES

Very belated congratulations (but it was a long time before I heard about it and then I missed it out of the last journal!) to our member Michael Paul Swinnerton on his marriage to Eve Chapman at Byfield, Northamptonshire on the 1st December 1995.

Also belatedly, I am sorry to have to record the death of our former member Dr Mary Pollock, eldest daughter of Professor Henry Hurd Swinnerton and sister of our member Margaret Taylor. Dr Pollock was an eminent gynaecologist, working in the Royal Free Hospital, London and in many clinics for fertility and family planning.

You will also be very sad to hear that Miss Constance (Connie) Alice Swinnerton of Abergavenny died recently. With her sister and brother and his wife she was a regular attender at our earlier Gatherings and was the joint indexer of the first three volumes of our journal. The sole representative of that family now is her nephew Dr Guy Swinnerton of Canada.

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