

# SWINNERTON Family History



1790.



1790.



1793.



1796



1800.



1801-1805.



1810.



1814.

*Costumes of Anne Bagot's time*

JOURNAL OF THE SWINNERTON SOCIETY

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APRIL 1999

# 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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SFH-April 1999

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## SWINNERTON FAMILY HISTORY

Volume 11. No.3

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*Editor - Iain Spencer Swynnerton*

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## FOREWORD

### The Chairman

You will note from the inside front cover that we have moved house again! Twice in eight months is sheer masochism and not to be recommended. We have been in a rented house on a Duchy of Cornwall farm at Martock since last May while we looked for a house to buy which we have now found. It is in the little village of Longburton which straddles the road from Sherborne to Dorchester and is about 2 miles south of Sherborne. It is a very convenient location being so close to the town and there are a few buses a day if we don't want to get the car out. The village has a church, St. James the Great, which is a very interesting building with some wonderful heraldic tombs which I have yet to examine thoroughly: a well-known pub, the Rose and Crown and what appears to be a very active community with lots going on.

The cottage itself is one of a semi-detached pair (the other being the Old Post Office) and is surrounded by open fields which, at present, are full of sheep with their lambs – just like Shropshire from whence we came.

The greatest advantages are, of course, that our grandchildren are now only eight minutes away instead of some four to five hours: our eldest daughter has a house in the next village and the other one in London is now only just over two hours away on a main line instead of five hours with a change. The front part of the house is about 200 years old, the middle portion about 150 and the rear, modernised kitchen etc about 50 with a reasonably sized level garden instead of nearly two acres of Shropshire hillside.

If any of you are this way, I do hope you will call and see us.

\* \* \* \* \*

Now I am afraid, I have some very sad news to tell you. Joe Swinnerton, our long-time member and former chairman, died on the 26th of March aged 86. He had had a massive stroke some 10 days before and, being the hyper-active man he was, would not have wished, I think, to have gone on like that. May Brock, his cousin and Society member, attended the funeral on the 6th April with her son David, our former secretary, together with Keith and Elizabeth Livesey and myself. The Reverend Brian Swynnerton officiated with the Vicar of St. Margaret's, Great Barr where the service was held. I was honoured to be asked to read the lesson on behalf of the Society which was that old favourite, St. Paul's Epistle to the Corinthians, Chapter XIII which was particularly apt for such a generous man as Joe. A tribute to Joe will appear in the next journal.

*Iain Swinnerton*

## WHO WAS GRANNY SWINNERTON ?

Malcolm Smith

When indulging in the activity of tracing ones ancestors, it is to be expected to find difficulties in distant generations but recent generations should be no trouble. As fate would have it I encountered difficulty in tracing both my own maternal grandmother and that of my wife.

My wife's grandparents were John and Rose Ellen Swinnerton, John being descended from the Adbaston branch of the family. Now, although the Swinnerton family tree is already quite comprehensive, I have been adding detail to our branch and following back some of the lines which had joined by marriage.

According to family knowledge, Rose Ellen's maiden name was Blair and she was born in Milnthorpe on 2 February 1877 so I searched for the registration of birth but could not find the entry. I already had a copy of Rose Ellen's death certificate which gave her age as 74 at her death in 1951 and this put her date of birth at 1877 as expected. The death certificate actually gave her name as Rose Helen Swinnerton, the name Ellen was on the certificate but had been crossed out.

I went back to the birth indexes to look for a suitable entry with the name Helen Blair but there was none. I next obtained a copy of the marriage certificate which gave the age of 24 at marriage on 14 April 1901 further confirmed the date of birth at 1877. However, there was more confusion regarding the name which was given on this certificate as Rose Thexton Blair, her father being Thomas Blair who was a stonemason.

Once again I searched the birth registrations but still to no avail. I then looked at the indexes to the 1881 census for Westmorland and Lancashire which revealed two families with fathers who were called Thomas that were stonemasons and were the correct age. There was a son called Jonathan in one of these two families and Rose Ellen had a brother by this name but there was no sign of her listed with this family. The nearest child of the correct age and born in the expected area was with the other family and was a girl called Agnes Blair so I obtained her birth certificate but this, not surprisingly, proved to be a false trail.

I now had to consider that Rose had been born out of wedlock but I did not have her mothers name. The alternative names Rose Ellen and Rose Helen had not led me anywhere so I decided to follow the names on her marriage certificate - Rose Thexton Blair. I am a believer in looking at the middle name of a child, particularly a daughter, as being the maiden name of the mother so I applied the logic to this situation.



I looked at the 1881 census indexes for Rose Thexton or Ellen Thexton but there was no name anything like that nor any Thexton in a Blair household. Back to the register of births once more where I found Rose Helen Thexton born in Kendal in 1877 so I sent for the certificate and at last the pieces started to fall into place.

Rose Helen was the daughter of Sarah Thexton and was born in Kendal on 2 February 1877 so the date of birth fitted. From the 1881 census information, Thomas Blair, a stonemason from Milnthorpe, had married Sarah and they had two children, Jane aged 2 and Jonathan aged 6 months so now the father and brother fitted equation.

So Rose Helen was her name and she was born before her parents actually married but nonetheless was an equal member of the family with her brothers and sisters. She was always known by her own children as Rose Ellen and this is confirmed by inscriptions on some of the family photographs. In fact, she signed her own name as Rose E Swinnerton.

That is my story. Now tell me, do you really know your own granny?

#### SOME ENGLISH AND SCOTS IN THE CRIMINAL DOSSIERS OF THE COURT OF GUELTERS AND ZUTPHEN 1453-1795.

Extracted by Roelof K. Vennik

The author says that during the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries a great number of Scottish and English people went to the United provinces (what we know today as Holland). They were soldiers, merchants, sailors or craftsmen. After a while some of them went home but many of them stayed and produced children and grand-children whose descendants still live in the Netherlands.

However, he says, not all of them were always of irreproachable behaviour and several appear in the Criminal Dossiers of the Courts. Amongst those listed on the 24 January 1596 are Francis Swinerton, soldier. Francis was court-martialed for insubordination, convicted and gave notice of appeal to the court.



Noted in *Family History*, the journal of the Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies and kindly sent to me by Mrs Betty Jones. Another early soldier for our list. (It looks as if the well-known (to Swinnerton wives in particular) male Swinnerton characteristic of b...y mindedness, but which we prefer to call single-mindedness, was asserting itself even then!).

## AS115: THE CASE FOR EXCISION Roy Talbot

Roger de Swynnerton m. Joan de Hastang  
(The Baron of Parliament)  
(RS.39)

Sir Roger  
(RS.62)

Richard  
(RS.63)

Stephen  
(SS.65)

Alexander  
(AS.115)

The case revolves around the whether 'de' implies any blood relationship, a constant difficulty with the toponymic in mediaeval records. In this case, however, there is much evidence against.

The secondary source seems to be Bridgman, though even he, in a long discourse on the brothers of the Baron (Sir Roger), writes only "*and perhaps Alexander de Swynnerton, who was killed by James de Stafford was another*" (brother). The first of the primary sources is the petition dated 13EdwII in which a sentence of inordinate length contains the phrase "*et estre ceo un Alisaundre son baillif tuerent et un Richard son frere maherement et nafrent taunqz ala mort*". Richard is defined as brother and Alisaundre as baillif. Were he also brother, surely mention would have been made.

The second of the primary sources is of the Assize held in 17 EdwII wherein reference is made to the damage done by James, son of William de Stafford, and John his brother to Richard de Swynnerton. No mention is made of Alexander.

The offending document is the pardon dated 27th October 1322 wherein James and John de Stafford are pardoned for the death of "*Alisaundre de Swynnerton, by them slain*". Richard is not mentioned by name therein. There seems no good reason to assume that the toponymic, which is only mentioned here, in a pardon issued at York, implies any blood relationship.

Note also mediaeval naming patterns which in most families, and certainly the Swynnertons, before this century is repetitive and predictable. There is no other Alexander anywhere – an unprecedented and unlikely state of affairs.

Additionally, Alexander is a Scottish name, uncommon in England. The Baron and his kin had been campaigning in Scotland before and, conceivably, during Bannockburn. Brother Stephen would subsequently be granted the manor of Moreton in Dumfries.

There remains only the question of why the Swinnerton Family Trees all say "*slain before 1324*" when the perpetrators of the crime were eventually to be pardoned in October 1322. Unless this implies that there is evidence not here mentioned, it is submitted that Alexander de Swynnerton is a myth.



Editor's Note: This is a very well-reasoned and thought provoking article and I would welcome other member's comments on it. Also – please may we have more such!

\* \* \* \* \*

## JIMMY SWINNERTON - American artist and Cartoonist.

by Roger Swynnerton

Jimmy Swinnerton was an extraordinary man who was born in California in 1875 and lived to be 99. He was an artist – famous for his cartoon characters – but also a painter in oils of hundreds of canvases of the deserts of the American Southwest. Harold Davidson wrote a very well illustrated book about him – *Jimmy Swinnerton – the artist and his work*, published in 1985 and now sadly out of print. The book has many excellent colour illustrations of Jimmy's paintings of the deserts that he loved and painted with great artistry.

His grandfather was a farmer who moved to California in 1853 in search of gold. He realised that he was a better farmer, and prospered growing prunes. His three sons all went into newspapers. One son, James, later became an attorney-at-law, married a Canadian woman in 1871 and in 1875, Jimmy Swinnerton was born, an only child. He was only 15 months old when his mother died and he was brought up by his grandparents, an arrangement which worked very well until his father remarried in 1879 and the four-year old was returned to his new stepmother. This didn't work and he was shuttled back and forth between his parents and his grandparents, eventually running away from home at the age of 15 and setting off for San Francisco.

He was traced by his father and taken home. Jimmy wanted to be an artist but this was disapproved of so he ran away again. He worked with the Cleveland Minstrels, decided he didn't like it, went home to his father and presented him with an ultimatum. "Send me to Art School, or I'll go back to the Minstrels". He won and enrolled at the San Francisco Art Association School in 1891. In the classroom he amused himself with caricatures of his instructors. Some of these were seen by the famous newspaper magnate, William Randolph Hearst, who hired Jimmy as a staff artist, and thus began a life-time association between the two men.

It is not certain who was the first person to create a comic strip in a newspaper, but Jimmy Swinnerton was certainly a pioneer, creating many characters, the most famous, perhaps, were "Little Jimmy" and "The Canyon

twenties Jimmy almost died with a bout of tuberculosis, perhaps as a result of his gargantuan appetites for food and drink. Hearst sent him to Palm Springs to recuperate, and it was there that he began painting oils of the desert scenery, paintings that now fetch high prices.

There is not enough space here to recount the story of Jimmy's many wives, and his many adventures. He mixed with the famous and when he died twenty-five years ago in July 1974, one of the largest churches in Palm Springs was packed with mourners.



James Swinnerton, "The Little Bears."

Overleaf: A montage of characters by Jimmy Swinnerton from a half century of creativity. Mr & Mrs Swinnerton appear in lower right.





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Further copies of letters in the possession of Stephen C. Saunders addressed to his grandfather Mark Swinnerton and his relations from Mark's father, Charles Swinnerton of the Isle of Man, and other relations.

To Robert from his brother Godfrey (Mark's brothers)

San Francisco  
Dec. 13th 1877

Dear Robert and all at home,

We heave out from the wharf tomorrow and shall most likely sail for Portland, Oregon, on Saturday. We have 400 tons of ballast on board. I can't say how long we will be on the passage. It depends entirely on the wind and weather and the bars at the entrance of the Portland River. I have received no letters from Robert or Mark tho' I have been looking for one since we came in. I am getting on pretty well. I shall write to you from Portland, also to Fred, etc. I shall expect letters from all of you at that place. I suppose Mark will know the city well.

I have made enquiries about Burrards Inlet and from what I can learn it is not a very inviting spot for large vessels during the winter months but when I am in Portland I shall find out all about it.

The (?) Bereno is somewhere outside. She has been spoken. I suppose she is becalmed. She left Newcastle only an hour after us and must have gone a different way, and so fell into the track of bad winds and calms. We shall be very busy tomorrow as we have several heavy sails to bend, and we will drop the ship into the stream the same as we came alongside without a try. Then we had to get everything ready for sea before Saturday morning.

I trust you all continue well. I hope Mark won't take it in his head to go to America again before I come home. He will no doubt find it very dull in the Island at this time of year, but of course he will see a great difference in summer. I hope I shall be home next summer and we will have some excursions. Sade might write a fellow a letter. I am just longing to see the youngsters. San Francisco is getting more God forsaken than it was when I was here before. Even the Minister whom I heard preach seemed to be little better than a hoodlum.

Trade all over the States is very bad and the working men here are vowing vengeance against the Chinese and I should not wonder if there is a row before long. The Irish are the principal agitators as far as I can learn. I hope Joseph still continues well. I should have liked a letter from Maud. I don't think I shall write. I have got a copy of that pedigree affair from Chas.



Best love and kisses for all the youngsters at home in any event, Grances & (?) & the others. Upon my word, I wont be able to count them soon. I hear Charles is starting afresh. What a host of napkins you must use between the lot of you. Goodbye until I see you again from the (?).

Your affectionate brother, etc.

Godfrey L. Swinnerton

PS. (A marginal PS over-written on the text is difficult to decipher - it starts I suppose Robert

From Godfrey to "all at home"

San Francisco

Dec. 14th 1877

Dear all at home, etc., etc.

We sail tomorrow. Have received Robert's letter with enclosure.

Thanks. Hope all are well. Have to go in the boat to talk to Capt Ashmore. Great news that England has declared war. Guess I'll be off to the Siberian Mines if those Russian scoundrels catch us outside. Goodbye for a while. ? How roars Swinton as Fred says.

Love to all, Yours

Godfrey. L.Swinnerton

From R.P.Blakeley (brother-in-law) to Mark and Sarah

78 Bristol Street,  
Hulme, Manchester.

Jany 7 1878

My dear Mark and Sarah,

We were glad to hear from you. Robert arrived on Friday night and started for Eden on Saturday morning.

On Friday night Jos gave our children and a number of their young friends a little party; they all seemed to enjoy themselves much. What a little it takes to please children. Gerty is more cheerful and we are getting her ready to come to you. I should like to cross over with her, but fear I cannot do so before Saturday 19th. Will that date suit you? Catherine can, by then, have all Gerty's things ready and the sail over will I daresay do me good, and the pleasure of seeing you both in addition. Joseph has made us a present of a beautiful canary which sings splendidly from morn to night. It is really delightful to listen to the little songster, reminding one of the woods and dales - frequented in the days of our youth - alas gone. I enclose Godfrey's last letters received last Wednesday - evidently he is getting along well. He is looking forward to his seeing you both very much. We join in best love to you both and father and kisses to wee Mary.

Your affec. Bro.

R.P.Blakeley

## How useful the Internet can be.

Sender:

Date: Fri, 27 Nov 1998 14:47:47 -0500

To: Iain Swinnerton

Iain Swinnerton wrote:

Keith Livesey received a note from Steve Swenerton, saying that Kenry Kells Swenerton died in Newport Beach, Cal. Apr.29 1998 and giving the following details.

H.K.survived by his wife Eloise and four sons and their families:  
Steve(b.1943) & Pamela(b.1943 m.1965) - children Kristin(1969) and Jeffrey (1973),  
Jeff(b.1945) & Carolyn (m.1973) - children Jaime(1976) & Tracy (1981),  
Jim (b.1957) & Deborah  
John (b.1960) & Lisa - children Sarah (1989)& Tyler (1992)

He ordered some books and said some of them hoped to attend the Jubilee Gathering next year.

Here's a copy of an email to you, back in June.

=====

Date: Wed, 03 Jun 1998 00:31:41 -0400

From: Bill Swinarton

To: Iain Swinnerton

Subject: Henry Kells Swenerton deceased

Hello, Iain:

I do not have confirmation of the following news article I just found on the Internet, but 'Hank' Swenerton's last Christmas newsletter did tell of his illness. The following news article is not necessarily complete as would havebeen printed in the Los Angeles Times (Orange County Edition), they usually give a few lines and then sell the complete article. The date of death is unknown, likely a day or two before the May 9th printing date.

(Los Angeles Times News Article.)

Former Edison Executive Swenerton Dies;

## Orange County Edition

Newport Beach resident Henry K. Swenerton, a retired Southern California Edison executive who was well-known for his involvement in church and community activities, has died. He was 81.

=====

Since that message, I have been able to locate the full obit on the Internet, as follows.

Los Angeles Times Saturday May 9, 1998  
Orange County Edition Metro, Page 4  
Type of Material: Obituary

Newport Beach resident Henry K. Swenerton, a retired Southern California Edison executive who was well-known for his involvement in church and community activities, has died. He was 81.

Swenerton had served as an elder at La Canada Presbyterian Church and St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Newport Beach. He also had been on the boards of La Canada Unified School District, the Los Angeles Area Boy Scouts of America and was vice president of the founding board of Junior Achievement of Los Angeles.

Swenerton graduated from Occidental College in 1939 with a bachelor's degree in economics and political science. He did graduate work at UC Berkeley, CalTech, UCLA and the Claremont Graduate School. He worked at General Dynamics in San Diego as director of labor relations and director of wage and salary administration; and at Gladding, McBean and Co. in Los Angeles, where he was vice president and general manager. In 1963, he joined Southern California Edison in Rosemead, where he worked as manager of executive development and manager of the department on organization until his retirement in 1981.

Swenerton died April 29. Services were held May 2 at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Newport Beach.

Swenerton is survived by his wife of 56 years, Eloise; and four sons and their families: Stephen and his wife, Pamela; Jeffrey and his wife, Carolyn; Jim and his wife, Debbie; John and his wife, Lisa; and six grandchildren.

=====

By the way, the Swenertons are all part of my Irish-Canadian branch, they should be in your records.

Bill.

## ANNE BAGOT'S DIARY

An old carbon copy of this fascinating document, typed on old-fashioned foolscap paper, was given to me many years ago by Mrs Dyoneses Haszard of Milford Hall, Stafford, a long-time member of the Society.

Anne Bagot was the daughter of Anne Swinnerton, the youngest sister of the last Thomas Swinnerton of Butternon, who married the Reverend Walter Bagot in 1754. Ann was Mrs Haszard's great, great, grand-mother.

Roy Talbot has now typed it up on to computer and so I am able to share it with you. It covers the years from 1819 to 1841 and is a remarkable account of the life of a lady of the country gentry of the time.

The diary runs to over 200 pages in this format so I shall serialise it in the next few issues.

ANNE'S RELATIONS

<u>Mother</u>	Anne Swynnerton of Butternon
<u>Father</u>	Walter Bagot. Rev. Parson of Blithfield
<u>Step Mother</u>	Mrs. Bagot née Ward
<u>Grandfather</u>	Sir Walter Wagstaffe Bagot
<u>Grandmother</u>	Lady Barbara Bagot née Legge
<u>Brother</u>	Egerton Bagot of Pipe Hayes
<u>Brother</u>	Wm. Bagot
<u>Sister</u>	Honora, married to the Hon. Augustus Legge
<u>Sister</u>	Louisa, married to Revd. Richard Levett of Milford
<u>Sister</u>	Elizabeth married to J. Phillimore, Chancellor of the Diocese of Oxford

<u>Half Brother</u>	Ralph
<u>Half Sister</u>	Mary
<u>Half Sister</u>	Caroline, married to Edward Daniel, Barrister
<u>Half Sister</u>	Jane, married to Rt.Hon. Sir Edward Vaughan Williams, Judge

<u>Half Sister</u>	Agnes, married to J. Farquhar Fraser
<u>Brother in Law</u>	Richard Levett of Milford
<u>Nephew</u>	Dico Levett
<u>Niece</u>	Frances (Baby) Levett
<u>Sister in Law</u>	Martha Swynnerton, wife to William Bagot
<u>Cousin</u>	Lady Pilkington
<u>Cousin</u>	Mrs. Neave
<u>Uncle</u>	Charles Chester Bagot
<u>Uncle</u>	The Rt.Revd. Lewis Bagot Bishop of St. Asaph.



<u>Uncle</u>	The Rt.Revd. Lewis Bagot Bishop of St. Asaph.
<u>Uncle</u>	1st Lord Bagot (decd.)
<u>Aunt</u>	Barbara Bagot - Mrs. Ralph Sneyd of Keele
<u>Aunt</u>	Maria Bagot - Mrs. Rowland Wingfield
<u>Aunt</u>	Harriet Bagot
<u>Cousin</u>	Wm. 2nd Lord Bagot
<u>Cousin</u>	Sir Charles Bagot GCB. PC.
<u>Cousin</u>	Richard DD Bishop of Bath & Wells, married to Harriet, daughter of the Earl of Jersey
<u>Levett's sister</u>	Mrs. Anne Anson married to Frederick, parson of Sudbury
<u>Cousin</u>	Mary Howard of Elford - Levens and Ashstead Married to the Hon. Greville Upton (Assumed name of Howard)

and many others.

### COUNTRY HOUSES MENTIONED IN DIARY

#### Key Today

P.	.. Pulled down	Sch.	.. .. . School
U	.. Uninhabited	PA	.. .. . Public Admitted
G	.. Golf Club	PH	.. .. . Private House.
+=	.. Nunnery or Monastery		
FH	.. Family Home inhabited by descendants of same family		
O	.. Owned by a city or firm or Museum or University		

Milford	PH	Levetts
Elford	P	Howards
Wolseley	U	Wolseleys
Bellamore	P	Blounts
Bishton	Sch.	Sparrows
Blithfield	FH & PA	Bagots
Armytage Park )	+=	Listers
Pater Hawksyard )	+	Listers
Brereton	Sch.	Sneyds
Shugborough	PA	Ansons
Ingestre	O	Talbot
Brocton Hall	G	Chetwynds
Brocton Lodge or Villa	PH	Chetwynds
Hagley	P	Curzons
Trentham	O	Staffords
Drakelow (Derbyshire)	P	Gresleys

Ravenhill Rugeley	O	Madans
Pipe Hayes (Warks)	P	Bagots
King's Bromley	P	Lanes
Butterton	P	Swynnertons
Teddesley	P	Littletons
Adderly (Salop)	?	Corbets
Attingham	PA	Berwicks.
Acton Burnell (Salop)	?	Smythes
Pitchford (Salop)	O	Jenkinsons
Sudbury	U	Vernons
Sudbury Rectory	?	Ansons
Yoxall Lodge	?	Gisbornes
Byrkley Lodge	?	Sneyds
Holly Bush	PH	Halls
Wychnor	PH	Levetts
Packington	O	Levetts
Tixall	P	Cliffords
Meredon (Warwickshire)	?	Digbys
Hints	?	Shaws
Oakeover	FH	Okeovers
Sandwell	?	Dartmouth
Patshull	P	Pigots
Loxley	O	Kinnersleys
Somerford	Flats	Moncktons
Four Oaks		Barnard
Stretton	PH	Rossmores?
Himley	?	Ward
Maple Hayes	P	Uxbridges
Wrottesley	?	Wrottesley
Manley	P	Manleys
Aston Hall	?	Leighs
Keele	O	Sneyds
Eccleshall Castle	PH	Bishops of Lichfield
Freeford	FH	Dyotts
Colwich	+	Bagots then Nunnery
Sandon	FH	Harrowbys
Catton	FH	Hortons (Anson Hortons)
Godsall	?	Howes
Merevale		Dugdales

Houses mentioned in Diary which are still family homes inhabited by same family: Okeover (Sir Ian Walker Okeover), Blithfield (Nancy, Lady Bagot) Milford (Col. and Mrs. Haszard (née Levett), Sandon (The Earl of Harrowby), Freeford (Mr. Giffard), Catton (Mr & Mrs Nielson)

## ANNE'S DIARY

1819

May

I have always thought & often said that the keeping of a common place book in which the unguarded conversations of those with whom you associate were written down was a breach of that tacit confidence without which society must be very constrained and you must live with your friends according to that abominable maxim of Rochefoucault's "as if they were one day to be yr. enemies" which would completely take off, from what in my mind, is the one great source of happiness in this world, indeed perhaps the only thing to which upon the globe that heavenly word really belongs viz: a friendly open and reciprocal combination of your hopes, your wishes, and your opinions, with those whom you esteem, love and consequently upon whom you could depend But yet I hope the keeping a Diary in which nothing was inserted (which could, were it seen, hurt or injure your neighbour), which should chiefly at least contain no follies but your own and merely what would either be to the praise or of no consequence as to what regarded others, might be a very salutary monitor to yourself, in convincing you of the silliness of your own wishes or by setting in array before you your own error and your own faults, even according to your own favourable views of them, make you more lenient to those of others and more aware more severe upon your own and perhaps still have a higher view by contributing to make you put more entirely and more firmly your whole trust in God by showing you in your best regulated projects apparently founded upon good and disinterested motives how little you can trust to yourself and how often even with the best intentions and motives which (when you strictly analyse you will be ashamed of) will creep into your mind and sway your actions. It is rather late for me to begin such a survey of myself but, though getting old, some years may be before me. Oh God, grant that I may employ them as I ought in the true and certain hope that all will finally work together for good to those who put their trust in Thee - Oh - let not my age be solitary and sickly but if it is thy good pleasure, give me the only fortitude that strength which belongs and belongs only, to a Christian to bear my trials as I ought to do - Oh! make me also thoroughly sensible of the many and great mercies Thou hast bestowed upon me from my Youth up until now - Teach me to love thee as I ought - To put my firm reliance upon the mercies, the mediation and the sacrifice of my blessed Saviour through thy holy Spirit I shall not fear the grave.

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Thomas Swinnerton, Mary, dau. of William of Buterton, Esq.; Abnet of Bursdon Hall, co. Stafford, Esq.; bur. at Trentham, 9 March, 1716, from London, aged 86. bapt. 13 Feb., 1677-8; mar. 26 Dec., 1712.	Hannah, dau. of John Edwardes, Esq., of Langleyford, co. Durham; 1st wife; d. s.p.	John Swinnerton, bapt. 12 Feb., 1693.	Elizabeth, mar. 28 April, 1716, to Richard Beech, of Newhouse, in the parish of Stone.	Jane, mar. in 1713 to Thomas Whitehurst, of Hanchurch. died unmarried in 1724.	Mary, bapt. 15 Dec., 1691; died unmarried in 1724.
Margaret, dau. and heiress of Blest Colclough, Esq., of Eccleshall, co. Stafford; buried at Trentham 1 Oct., 1757.	William Swinnerton, of Buterton, Esq.; Barrister-at-law of the Inner Temple, Vice-chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, and Recorder of Stafford and Newcastle; died 12 Oct., and buried at Trentham 19 Oct., 1790, aged 72.	Eliza, died unmarried. 1827; bur. at Trentham.	Mary, mar. to ... Vaughan, Esq., of London; buried at Trentham 9 March, 1779.	John Swinnerton. =	
Blest Colclough Swinnerton, ob. inf., bur. 26 March, 1761.	Thomas Swinnerton, of Buterton, Esq., Barrister-at-law, and Recorder of Stafford; Sheriff of Staffordshire 1796; bur. at Trentham 21 May, 1836.	Mary, dau. and heiress of Charles Milborne, Esq., of Wonaston; died May, 1795.	Margaret, d. Elizabeth, d. 1795; mar. 7 Sept., 1754, to Rev. Walter Bugot, Rector of Blithfield; bur. at Blithfield 18 Feb., 1786.	John Swinnerton, Rec- Anne, d. tor of Wyburnbury, co. unmar. Cest., and chaplain to the Bishop of Lich- field; mar. ... dau. living of ... Hinckes, of Stone, but died s.p. 1835.	
Martha, dau. and coheiress, twin with her sister Mary; mar. to her first cousin William Bagot, Esq., but died s.p.	Mary, dau. and coheiress, mar. to Sir William Pilkington, of Chevet, co. York, bart.; bur. 24 Dec., 1854, leaving issue.	Elizabeth, dau. and coheiress; mar. to Charles John Kenneys Tynte, of Halswell, co. Somerset, Esq.; died 10 May, 1838, leaving issue.			



- Aug 23rd Went to the Cathedral twice. In the morning Mr. Nares preached a very good sermon for the Society of the Propagation of the Gospel in foreign parts. There were 34 pounds gathered at the door - I only gave half a crown, a sum many others bestowed - I called at the Deanery and staid tea and had a pleasant social evening. The new Vicar and his wife Mr. & Mrs. Gordon drank tea with me. Also the Probyns and Darwins. We had one whist table and a mercy work table for the other..
- 25th So sharp a frost the Potatoes were all but cut down and considerable mischief done in the gardens besides. Levett came to me in his buggy with his usual good nature to drive me back to Milford. I had the comfort of finding Lou and little Frances very well.
- 28th Levett drove me in the buggy to Baswich Church. Levett lent me his buggy and in it I went to spend the day with my cousin Swinnerton at Sugnall and met Aunt Betty. I walked with Miss Mary Swinnerton about the grounds of what had been Mr. Turton's house - Considering we had never met but twice before the confidential talk we had together was rather extraordinary how freely we gave our opinion of things, events and people . . The eldest Miss S. very sick and out of health. She had a family likeness which sent me forcibly back to the days of my youth. They showed me the picture of our mutual ancestor over the fireplace. Nothing could be more kind than their reception of me. I return'd to Milford late at night.
- 30th My fortyfifth birthday. I left Milford and came home. Mrs. Mary Gresley has sent me on my return home a very pretty turban.
- June It was a beautiful fine day. I went in the Deanery carriage to Elford - Oakleys, Purbys, Heathcotes to the number of 25 dined in the Hall, walk' about till evening when we return'd home - Mary<sup>1</sup> Howard had given me permission or of course I should not have thought of such a thing.
- 8th Levett came for me in his buggy. His coachman being unwell. Mr. Wilbraham brought dear Dick home for his first holiday, gentle and pleasant as before he went to school.

<sup>1</sup> Mary Howard daughter & heiress of Richard Bagot & Frances daughter of Wm. Viscount Andover - Richard Bagot assumed the name of Howard. - Mary married the Hon. Fulke Greville Upton brother of 1st Viscount

Aug.

- 3 Poor John the coachman died after a very rapid attack of typhus. He had been moved out of the house to the Parsonage which was uninhabited except for his nurses, he was buried as soon as possible. Went with Louisa to Wolseley she wishing to call there that Lady W. might not feel herself neglected by the conduct of her husband. We did not see her. Went on afterwards to Bellamore - much admired Mrs. Blount's flower garden - Walked with Miss Hopkins to see Rugeley Church which is growing fast.
- 4th They lent me their open carriage which I drove to Armitage Park -- on my return found Charles Bagot - He had called on me in his road from Washinton to Blithfield. Return'd home.

Rumours of Rebellion1819Aug.17

Sad reports from Manchester of riot rebellion.

Mrs. Buckridge took to Little Aston to take leave of the tenants before she went abroad. It is a place always fertile in melancholy associations - Miss Bailey had a letter from a Manchester friend which mention'd singular circumstances of a woman by the name of Margaret Parkinson who lived in New St. Eccles - She had been one of the rioters in the morning of the Great riot. Had flung her bonnet in the air and wish'd "she might not live out that day if the Revolutionists did not get the better" - In the evening, she with many other women, were leaning upon a rail which broke precipitated them into an area. She was Killed upon the spot.

Sept.

- 6th Went to Bishton. Found Mr. Mrs. & Miss Sparrow. Walk'd to the Mount in the morning - Bess & Harriet Sneyd, the Madans
- 7th Mrs. Inge & Levett dined.

Elford - Lichfield, Castle Rising, Norfolk, Ashstead Park, Surrey and Levens Hall, Westmorland. Mary was the last lineal descendant of the Lords of

- 9th Baby very unwell. Lady Anson<sup>2</sup> called upon me found her handsomer than from what I had heard had expected thought her very civil.
- 11th Baby so much better we all went to a Turtle feast at Mrs. Chetwynd's. We met the Walhouses - 2 or 3 men there.
- 25th Poor<sup>3</sup> My Lady came a very wreck of her former self but good natured satisfied pleased with my little attention shewn to her.
- 28th My Lady went to Blithfield and as she wished to call upon Mrs. Chetwynd in her road I went there with her to take care of her And walk'd back again.
- 30th Levett brought me home -
- Oct.
- 5 A good deal distress'd by hearing of poor Aunt Harriet's having broken her thigh at her age a terrible misfortune. I have written to offer to go to Park St. if they wish me.
- 6th Went in the evening to the Cathedral. They were putting up the painted Glass in the South Transept.
- Prince Leopold comes to Lichfield
- 14th Went to see Prince<sup>4</sup> Leopold go through the town.
- 23rd Went down to Mr. Gresley with an invitation to go to the Deanery to see Prince Leopold tomorrow.
- 24th Went to the Deanery at 3 o'clock where most of the Lichfield Ladies & several neighbouring ones were let into the Cathedral. Prince Leopold and his attendants arrived ½ after. <sup>5</sup>Lady Anglesea and the Lady Paget were with him. I should think that Lady Anglesea must have felt the decided cut she received from every female present all of them belonging to her own neighbourhood. Service, which was very fine, began at 4. A great crowd at going out the Cathedral being quite full. Went with the Probyns who I had helped about seats to drink tea.

<sup>2</sup> Lady Anson wife of the 2nd Viscount was Louisa Phillips of Slebeck Hall, Pembrokeshire.

<sup>3</sup> Lady Bagot. She was Louisa, daughter of 1st Viscount Bolingbroke and was the widow of the 1st Lord Bagot.

<sup>4</sup> Prince Leopold, consort of Princess Charlotte of Wales who died in childbirth in 1817 - The baby prince died also -

<sup>5</sup> Lady Anglesea Lady Charlotte Wellesley née Cadogan had been divorced

- 25th Went to the Town Hall to hear Mr. Levett speak to the Prince and an excellent speech he made. Lady Anglesea, not daunted by the reception she had yesterday met with same again.
- Nov.
- 24th Set out from home with Temple a little after seven slept that night at St. Albans where the waiter at the White Hart knew me by my likeness to Mrs. Sneyd.
- 25th Went round to Totteridge to see dear Dick who was quite overcome when I went. Also saw Henry Bagot. Got to White about one - when I found besides Elizabeth and her 2 girls, Charles, Honora, Arthur, Louisa, all well, Phillimore came h dinner.
- 26th Went to Park St. sat near two hours by Aunt Harriet's bedside who I found cheerful and well.
- 27th George & Willy Legge came to see me from Westminster & 2 nicer lads do not live.
- 28th St Thomas Neave took me & Temple to Brighton through Croydon & Crawley. We got to dinner and had the pleasure finding my dear old friend better - Her two nice girls behaved to me like two affectionate nieces - Her eldest son Digby with her, a very intelligent gentlemanlike man. The sea was very tempestuous which to my inland eyes was a great delight.



THE "PETERLOU MASSACRE" MANCHESTER, 1819. (FROM AN OLD PRINT)

1810. He had been previously married to Caroline daughter of 4th Earl of



## MORE MEMBERS ON THE INTERNET

From: "Guy Swinnerton" [redacted]

To: IainSwinnerton [redacted]

Dear Colonel Swinnerton,

I have just received the December issue of "Swinnerton Family History", and was delighted to see that a number of the members of the Society are on e-mail. Consequently, I am sending you my e-mail address. As you can see it is <[redacted]> This is my work e-mail address in the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation at the University of Alberta where I am Professor of Parks and Outdoor Recreation and Program Coordinator for the Recreation and Leisure Studies Degree Program. In terms of the Swinnerton Directory I am GS.33[Chester].

It was also mentioned that Swynnerton church has a home page. I wonder if you could provide me with the relevant http address. Many thanks.

Best wishes for 1999.

Guy

Colin Swinnerton from Wrexham has also sent me a message saying he is on [redacted] and Kerry Swinnerton from Australia tells me she is on [redacted]

### **And useful information from a fellow One-Namer**

Sender: alan\_lindfield [redacted]

for <IainSwinnerton [redacted]>; Sun, 28 Feb 1999 16:53:13 -

Reply-To: "Alan Lindfield" [redacted]

Subject: Afghan War

Date: Sun, 28 Feb 1999 21:54:06 -0000

Iain,

I just noticed one of your lot - a gunner to boot - in the Casualty Roll for the Afghan War 1878-80. I expect you have the details already, but just in case you missed him:

5070 Swinnerton, Alfred k 27 July 1880 Maiwand

Best regards

Alan

(No - I hadn't so many thanks to Alan).

## Extract from a Local History.

Unfortunately, whoever sent it to me did not include the title. Does anyone recognise it?

### Chapter Two: The Early Years

Norton Canes claimed to have rights of pasturage over the woods and wastes of Essington. Robert was successful in proving that they had no such rights in his manor. He was not so successful against William Hillary of Bescot Hall, Walsall, who as a freeholder also claimed to have rights of pasturage at Essington.

As might be expected a man like Robert of Essington would always be on the scene when there was any trouble that he could exacerbate. During the often troublesome and rebellious reign of Edward II, the county of Stafford saw some of the hostilities. In 1307 Robert or possibly one of his descendants was once again at odds with William Hillary. Robert had seized a number of horses belonging to Lord William. The latter sought the protection of the courts and was awarded damages. Robert induced his overlord John de Somery of Dudley to obtain the King's pardon for trespass, thus freeing him from payment and from every other liability.

Secure in the King's favour, Robert considered himself to have a free hand in tackling William Hillary for having the temerity to complain about being robbed. With a band of about fifty-three ruffians Robert attacked Bescot Hall laying such a siege to the place that the defenders could not bring in food. When he finally lifted the siege he took away with him a large quantity of wood and chattels belonging to Hillary.

A general terror and pest to his neighbours, Robert was finally brought down by someone whose own past made Robert's look like mere playfulness. This was **John de Swynnerton I.**, Seneschal of the Forest. A less reckless man than Robert might have thought twice before crossing swords with John for his own manor lay within the jurisdiction of the Forest and therefore under the Forest Laws administered by John. In 1320 Sir John had served in the Scottish War under the banner of the Baron of Dudley. He also joined an expedition to Guienne when France threatened war. In 1322 he was Sheriff of Staffordshire and Salop and representative in Parliament for Stafford County. Despite his high office John appears to have been a turbulent and flamboyant character. He was implicated in various offences including rape, murder, mutilation and highway robbery. Although their neighbours probably thought that there was little to choose between them, this is the man who put a stop to the exploits of Robert.



Robert went to law against John, three of his brothers and others and lost his case. John de Swynnerton then sued in his turn but the process was too slow for one of his impatience and so he took it into his own hands. He set out with a sufficient number of men and on a bright June morning, three hours after sunrise, shot Robert through the heart with a barbed arrow fired from a longbow. Robert expired in his wife's arms. The murder took place in a garden called Berard Orchard. The murder of Robert was a bloody affair as we know from the charges that were brought against the assailants. Roger the Parson's son of Bushbury was charged with wounding Robert with an arrow shot into the right breast; John Charles with shooting the victim in the back; Thomas de Dunesby who stabbed Robert through the heart and many more were arraigned.

The murdered man left a son and heir also named Robert and he appears to have followed the path trodden by his father. In 1324 he was prosecuted for riotous trespass. In the same year after one nasty deed he sought shelter in Rushall Hall causing that place to be laid siege to by his enemies. Two years later he was charged with entering the house of John de Ruyton at Hilton, breaking open his chest and stealing his title deeds. The following year he was charged with assaulting and beating Richard Gryffin of Great Wirley (sic).

As mentioned earlier, after the Conquest of 1066 William rewarded his followers with lands. This was not just a thank you for services rendered; those given the land were expected to exercise their authority under the King by governing a particular section of territory. The ever present danger however was that some of the nobles might try to flout the king's authority. To prevent this happening, any lord falling out of favour with the king could have his lands confiscated and given to his peers. The threat of confiscation and the expectation of others was a way of reducing the danger of rebellion.

Although the manors and villages given by William changed hands over the years, the idea that there should be one local dominant family became recognised practice. Shareshill and Great Saredon belonged to a large part of the county of Stafford given to Robert, the younger son of Roger de Treni who was the standard bearer for William I. He took a new family name and became Robert de Stafford. He retained the title "overlord" but the lands themselves were in the hands of landowners and tenants who owed allegiance and other dues to the overlord. Little Saredon did not form part of the lands that were given to Robert. By 1182 the overlordship was in the hands of the Prior of Dudley, where it remained until at least 1630.

*(To be continued)*

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The above three books obtainable from F.J.Swinnerton, [redacted]

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