

SWINNERTON Family History



DR. SWINNERTON HEAP.

*Charles Swinnerton Heap
Choirmaster to Sir Edward Elgar*

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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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SWINNERTON FAMILY HISTORY

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Editor - Iain Spencer Swynnerton

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Foreword

The Chairman

Our Annual General Meeting this year was very much a departure from our normal practice as we chose to hold it outside Swynnerton for the first time for many years.

It coincided with the 90th birthday of our member Norman Meek, father of our Council Member and former Secretary Elizabeth Livesey, and a descendant of William Harding, Coroner for North Staffordshire, and Elizabeth Swinnerton, who lives in Llandudno so that is where we went.

It was an excellent weekend, very efficiently organised as usual by Geoffrey Swinnerton, our Membership Secretary. We held the AGM in the morning in the Kensington Hotel where most of us were staying: the afternoon was left free for sightseeing and was followed in the evening by a 90th Birthday Dinner in honour of Norman at which we were joined by his great-grandson who behaved impeccably throughout and, I fear, stole a lot of the limelight from his great-grandfather. Altogether a memorable occasion.

This month some of us will meet again at the Swynnerton Village Millennium Celebrations at Swynnerton Park Cricket Club on the 18th. It is a combined celebration by the villagers of Swynnerton and Yarnfield and is billed as a "Fun Day". The attractions include all the usual village fete stalls plus the band of the Staffordshire Army Cadet Force, tours of the adjacent army training camp (which is normally closed for security reasons) on a open top bus and some rather unusual attractions such as viewing a sidewinder missile and sitting in an ejector seat! We, along with other organisations, will be having a stall displaying the work of the society and some of our archives. I hope we may see some of you there.

At the AGM it was resolved to hold next year's AGM in the North East to give our members there a chance to attend. We held a meeting in the North West some years ago and that was a great success so we have decided to repeat the experiment. 2002 will be a Gathering year, of course, so we shall be back at Swynnerton.

On September the 8th Angela and I leave for a long tour during which we shall be in contact with Swinnertons or their descendants in South Africa, Australia, New Zealand and the USA. In Australia I am one of the three keynote speakers at the Australasian (Aus and NZ) Millennium Congress and I am being persuaded to give a few lectures in New Zealand as well. A new experience will be attending a family gathering in Australia but this time not Swinnertons but my maternal family of Spencers/Barcrofts.

Iain Swinnerton

Leather Armchairs

The Chivas Regal Book of London Clubs by Charles Graves. 1963.

The Reform Club 1834.

The Library, also on the first floor, is very much the same shape, though twice as large as the Travellers'; not surprisingly because both were designed by Charles Barry. Under a glass case are a number of letters written by 6 famous former members such as Henry James, and a first folio of Shakespeare which, however, is incomplete and not therefore as valuable as it might be. At one end is 5th rather skinny, pink little armchair which was presented to the club by Asquith. There is also a snuff box in the club. Next door is the small smoking room with a television set.

One corner of the library used to be known as Bolo Corner, named after the character in the Dreyfus Case. Here Frank Swinnerton, H.G. Wells, Arnold Bennett, A.G. Gardner, Lord Runciman and Frank Fletcher indulged in a free-for-all conversation. They were sometimes joined by Lord Rhayader, formerly Mr Leif-Jones, who was naturally known as Lord Tea-Leaf because he was, too, a teetotaler.

(Extracted by David Swinnerton)

* * * * *

Curates and Vicars.

St. Laurence, Gnosall.

1777 Joseph Cattlow
John Swinnerton. Resigned 1784.

Mucklestone

1314-1344 Nicholas de Swinerton
1345-1356 Nicholas de Swinerton

(As Roy Talbot, who sent me this points out – this has to be a double act).
They certainly shouldn't have been father and son!

* * * * *

Also in Gnosall register is recorded the baptism of *Jonne, daughter of John and Jonne Swinerton of Madeley in Staffs* on the 12th of February, 1600.

HOORAY FOR THE INLAND REVENUE!

Keith Livesey

In his pre-Budget speech, in 1999, the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced modifications to the Gift Aid Scheme. As a result, the tax advantages to the Society that previously only existed if membership fees and other donations were paid under Deeds of Covenant are now extended to all payments covered by a Gift Aid Declaration.

Thus, whilst the basic rate of Income Tax remains at 22%, for every £10.00 paid to the Society under a Gift Aid Declaration it can claim repayment of tax of £2.81. The Society will therefore receive £12.81 in total for your subscription - £10 from you and £2.81 in repaid tax.

So - if a member simply provides, once and for all, an appropriate Declaration, the amounts he/she pay to the Society under the terms of that Declaration (be they "one off" or one of a series such as the annual subscription) will be treated as having been made after deduction of Tax at the Basic Rate. For a Declaration to be effective, obviously, the member has to have paid tax on his or her income (which includes the State Pension) or Capital Gains during the year in which the Gift Aid payment is made.

As the Declaration automatically continues until rescinded by the member, we no longer have to worry about a Deed of Covenant running out. Payments made under Deeds of Covenant already in existence at the 6th April 2000 will continue to give rise to a repayment of tax to the Society, but new Deeds need not be drawn to replace expiring ones.

It is important that you understand that this will not cost you anything - the Society will simply receive money FROM THE INLAND REVENUE that you have already paid away in tax.

This could be of tremendous benefit to the Society and increase our funds, which we use to finance research and support Swynnerton Church, very considerably.

If you would help in this painless way, we would be most grateful. A Declaration form is enclosed, please send this to the Membership Secretary when you next renew your subscription or make any other donation.

* * * * *

As Benjamin Franklin, a famous President of the United States who lived from 1706 to 1790 (a great age for the times), said in a letter to Jean Baptiste Le Roy in November 1789: "In this world nothing can be said to be certain except death and taxes".

Charles Dickens in *David Copperfield* was equally certain: "It was as true", said Mr Barkis, "... as taxes is. And nothing's truer than them".

SMALLPOX - The Great Scourge.

We have received a letter from Professor R.A. Shooter in which he says:

"I am writing to ask for your help. As a member of the Jenner Educational Trust, I am searching for things related to smallpox - a disease unique in that it is the only infectious disease that has been eradicated by deliberate action so far.

"The Jenner Trust is based on Jenner's house in Berkeley, Gloucestershire where he carried out his first vaccinations against smallpox. I would like to think that future visitors to the Jenner Museum will be able to learn about smallpox and how it was eradicated, and perhaps to take something away that helps in the eradication of another disease.

"In the past it is possible that families of some of your members were victims of smallpox. I would be most grateful if you would spare the time to put a note in your newsletter asking any of your members with references to smallpox or to vaccinations to send them to me.

"In case you are this way, I enclose a leaflet about the Jenner Museum - now open for the summer."

Professor Shooter's address is [redacted]

[redacted] and the Museum is in High Street, Berkeley, Gloucestershire. It is open from April to September from 12.30 to 5.30 Tuesday to Saturday and Bank Holiday Monday and from 1.0 till 5.30 on Sunday.

* * * * *

Edward Jenner, the discover of vaccination and Father of Immunology was born in 1749, the youngest son of the Vicar of Berkeley. He began his medical studies at the age of 14 and later went to London to study at St. George's Hospital. He was 23 when he returned to Berkeley and settled into the life of a country doctor. Over the next 25 years he made detailed observations of local birds and mammals, performed various scientific experiments, wrote medical papers and tended his patients.

For centuries, smallpox had been the greatest killer of mankind. Dr Jenner knew of the belief of country people that those who caught cowpox, a mild disease, would never catch smallpox. He reasoned that if he could transmit cowpox from person to person, he could protect them from smallpox. Finally, in 1796, Dr Jenner vaccinated a local boy, James Phipps, with cowpox taken from a milkmaid and showed that the boy was then immune to smallpox.

ANOTHER DOMESDAY ANTECEDENT

Roy Talbot

In or around 1221 the incumbent of Newbold Pacey passed on. There then followed a dispute between the prior of Nostell (Nostell priory in Yorkshire is still with us) and Robert de Hastang as to who owned the advowson. The former presented to the Justices in Eyre for Staffordshire sitting at Coventry a charter sealed of Eytrop de Hastang gifting the advowson to the priory. The latter claimed that the family seal had been stolen from a trunk once held at Leamington Hastang (whence, one suspects, the toponym) and that the charter was a forgery. One is inclined to believe Robert since the prior went further and produced a second charter apparently from Eytrop de Hastang, son of the above Eytrop, also gifting the church, which, certainly from the point of view of twentieth century genealogists, is too good to be true. At the request of both parties the case was referred to a higher court in Westminster scheduled for 20th January 1222.¹ We are not told the outcome directly, however the Charter Roll dated 12th November 1280 at Westminster lists the gifts known to have been made to the church and its canons, and includes the churches of Lymyngton and Newbold of the the gift of Aytropius son of Humfrey Hastings. It is worth noting that one Nicholas de Hastang was being presented by the prior of Nostell to the vacant vicarage of Estlemynnton in 1328 (*Register of Bishop Roger Northburgh of Coventry & Lichfield*) so the connection remained intact.

Happily, in order to demonstrate his entitlement Robert was obliged to provide a tree connecting himself to Eytrop I which gives us an agreeable chunk of Hastang pedigree.² It further demonstrates the family naming pattern to be the simplest kind – the eldest son being called after the father, a practice which has the merit of making the identification of line much easier and the demerit of making difficulties in distinguishing to whom any given reference refers. Here we are dealing with one Humfrey, two Eytrops and five Roberts in that order. The latter are referred to hereinafter as the great-grandfather, the grandfather, the father, the son, and the baron, respectively. It is the grandfather who brought the civil plea above. It is the father and the son who are described as acquiring from the Dean of Lichfield 22 acres in the wastes of Eccleshall.³ The barony is dated 19th December 5 Edw II [1311].

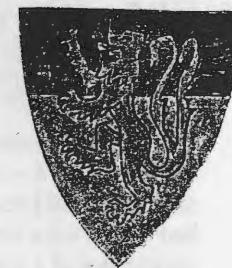
The baron may be found in copious detail in the *Complete Peerage* along with his brother John and John's descendants. Humfrey appears in Domesday book as lord of Chebsey, Staffordshire, a property still held by the baron, as is Newbold, much else in Staffordshire and various estates in Yorkshire and elsewhere. We are advised by *Complete Peerage* that the original charter was given in 'about 1121-1126', though it fails to say from whence this information is garnered. Wrottesley² says 'The grant of advowson of Newbold, by Aitrop, son of Humfrey Hastang, was confirmed by Henry I early in his reign'

[1100-1135]. In either case it is not unreasonable to assume that Humfrey, father of the benefactor Eytrop I, is also the Domesday tenant.

The first association recorded of Swynnerton and Hastang occurs in 1212 when a dispute over land in Handsworth in what is now Birmingham is to be settled by a grand assize of twelve men to be chosen by, *inter alios*, Robert de Swinerton, Knight (RS184). Among the selected jury to appear on the quindeme of St. Michael [13th October], is Humphrey Hasteng, whose meddling in a plea of 1212 being fought by Adam Hasteng, son of Eytrop II, suggests that he too was one of the progeny of Eytrop II. (*Curia Regis Roll Easter 13-14 John m. 4, 7d*). However it was Joan de Hastang, daughter of the son, who caught the eye of Roger de Swynnerton (RS39) in the latter half of the thirteenth century and became mother thereby to the band of homicidal ruffians who terrorised the Staffordshire of Edward II indulging freely in rape, murder, and pillage⁴ begetting in their odd spare moments numerous sons who, between them, are forefathers of us all.



The arms of the son: azure, a chief gules, over all a lion rampant or; and of the baron: azure, a chief gules, over all a lion rampant or queue – fourché.⁵



¹ Rolls of the Justices in Eyre for Gloucestershire, Warwickshire & Staffordshire 1221-1222. [Warwick Record Office]

² Pedigrees from the Plea Rolls, Major-General, The Hon. G. O. Wrottesley [Public Record Office]

Wrottesley appears unsure which Robert he is dealing with, the Warwick Assize Roll 5 Hen.3 m. 9 dorso being equivocal. The Rolls of the Justices, however, are unequivocal, if convoluted.

³ Two Early Staffordshire Charters (ii), The Rev. Charles Swynnerton FSA [Swinmerton Society publication]

The Rev. Charles gets himself thoroughly confused. 'Robert de Hastang the Father ... He first appears as Head of the House in 1266'. This is correct, and consequently he, let alone his son, are not the 'persons mentioned' in a charter dated 1226. It is the great-grandfather and the grandfather who are the recipients. The former pair, if they are involved at all, would appear on the *inseximus* of 1292, though they are not mentioned here in that connection.

⁴ The Antiquary, June 1887, subsequently reproduced in this Journal V pp 160-6

⁵ The Knight in Medieval England 1000-1400, Professor Peter Coss [Alan Sutton Publishing Ltd.]

Ann Bagot's Diary (continued)

Went with Jane and took Major Laughton with us to see the old books at Dyers. He believed they had 150,000 vols! I bought some and should very much have liked to have bought more.

A Visit of Powderham Castle -

April

- 18th Went to Church.
- 19th Went to Church.
- 20th Good Friday. Went to Church twice.
- 21st Went to Church.
- 22nd Went to Church twice.
- 27th Went to a ball at Mrs. Veales'.
- 30th Heard of a lock of Queen Elizabeth's hair having been found at Wilton, Lord Pembroke's in an old Arcadia with a note in Sir Philip Sydney's hand that it was her gift to him - I have seen a variety of people during the month whose names I have not mentioned. My time has, to the most part past very pleasantly.

May

- 7th Mary - Charlotte, Elizabeth, Caroline and myself all went in a car to Powderham. I was delighted with the sea view and thought the shrubs the most beautiful I had ever seen, but was struck with the singular bad taste which had converted a venerable ancient castle of several centuries standing into the appearance of a modern house. Mr. John Furze rode with us and came in the evening.
- 10th Left Exeter at about 3 o'clock by the coach - Rebecca and myself, Col. Morland, a pleasant gentlemanlike man, a vulgar woman and child the latter admitted by sufferance. I was sorry to part with Mrs Bagot and the five girls and hope it will not be long before we meet again. My journey was prosperous. I arrived at Sutton a little after nine where I found Augustus¹ carriage waiting for me; very glad I was to find myself with the party assembled at Worston - viz: Honora, Augustus Henry their four daughters - too glad to see them to wish to go to bed which I did not do till evening having been out of it for the first time in my life for 36 hours - Levett, Louisa and little Baby came to dinner so we were a very happy party.
- 21st Mr. Ricketts and his daughter called. Very anxious to know what his fate, in this pecuniary reform, may be as Rec.¹ Gen. as we are about William.

¹ The Hon. Augustus Legge - fifth son of the Earl of Dartmouth - Rector of Worston and Prebendary of Winchester.

- 24th Levett, Louisa and Baby Frances returned home.
- 26th Snow in this southern county of Hampshire.
- 27th Went to church. Snow, hail - if this weather continues perhaps the plenty which seems impiously grumbled at, may leave us.
- 28th Augustus left us to begin his progress as Chancellor. Charlotte to Lady Charlotte Duncombe in London for a few weeks' gaiety.

An Evening in Oxford

June

- 8th Augustus came back from his progress in the evening which had been pleasant. He brought us some cheddar pinks for the rooks. He had dined with the Sneyds in Bath.
- 12th My 47th birthday - oh! May I get wiser and better, more fit for my latter and as I approach nearer unto it.
- 19th Left Worston with Henry we got to Oxford at 5 o'clock where we dined in the evening. George and William both students at Christ Church joined us and 3 nicer young men could not easily be found. I quite felt happy and proud of my nephews. We had a pleasant evening - slept at the Kings Arms.
- 20th Henry was entered a member of Christ Church; I breakfasted with the provost of Worcester and Mrs. Laudon - they begged I would never again go to an inn. I came on to Witney.

Visits to Sherborne Park and Bibury Court

June

- 20th Whitney - I should like to have walked about the places where I had first visited the Legges but found Lord Sherborne's carriage waiting for me - I got to Sherborne at 4 where I found a kind welcome Lady Sherborne, her two daughters, their governess.
- 23rd Lord Andover came. He drove me in a phaeton after dinner to Bibury.
- 24th Went to Church twice.
- 26th Left Sherborne after a pleasant visit. Mr. Lenthall (descended from the Speaker Lenthall) had dined one day with us - They sent me to Stow in the Wold from whence I proceeded through Halford Bridge to Barford. It was agreed I should go next Monday to Meredon.
- 27th Mrs. C. Mills came for me early. We went to Warwick where I saw the church, and afterwards to Leamington where I had never been. It is singular to see in England so large an erection of buildings so entirely modern. I said it was what I could fancy an American town, so I supposed was right as I heard afterwards of an American who had been there and said it had put him in mind of his own country.
- 28th Walked in the garden with Mrs. C.M. who gave me many beautiful slips.

Went in the barouche to fetch two ladies to dinner from Warwick, took them back in the evening.

July

3rd Left Barford and went to Meredon. I found Mr. Digby looking as well as he did a year and a half ago. A better man does not live. I found Mrs. Charles Mills, Miss Somerville and I was glad to meet Lord Somerville

Coronation Festivities in Lichfield

July

4th Went to Pipe where I found Egerton and Wm. Legge. Came home after an absence of 4 months.

7th Went twice to the Cathedral. Capt. Phillimore came to tea.

8th Captain P. called, Mrs. R. Gresley and her son in law to talk about the latter and Wm. Legge going with Captain P. to Ireland to see the King land - The king's horses and carriages in the town today. I worked hard in my garden which I found full of roses; my radical neighbour Fisher had built a pigsty close to my bench which is a sad nuisance.

13th Drank tea at the Deanery - helped to make the ornamental flowers to ornament the Charity children's dinner for the approaching Coronation.

16th Wm Gresley drove me to Captain Parkers in the gig to dinner where I met Mr. and Mrs. Levett, Miss Levett, Mr. Dobson and Miss Jelly. We all went to the Birmingham play in the evening which was Bella mira and the pantomime of Friar Bacon in which Grimaldi performed. We all enjoyed ourselves very much.

17th Spent the morning in Shenstone.

19th The Coronation of George the 4th. Went in the morning to the Cathedral where I heard a most excellent Tory sermon, afterwards I proceeded to Miss Levett's where many people were assembled and where, from the top of her house I saw about 3,000 people eating their dinners very comfortably, tables being spread

for the purpose the whole length of Boar Street. Mrs. Mary Gresley and I went to see the charity children at dinner afterwards. Mr. and Mrs. Richard Gresley and I went to see some poor children she had assembled eat their cake and wine. I dined at Miss Levett's who had good naturedly invited me, my own two maids being engaged by Miss Woodhouse to wait on the charity children. I went with the Deanery party to the Ball in the evening which was sociable and pleasant and I met several people I knew, amongst them Egerton and Wm. Legge. The tradespeople all there and everything went off exactly as could be wished.

Visited and walked with Martha, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Gresley Miss Woodhouse, spent a sociable evening with us, received a delightful account of the Coronation from Catherine Phillimore where she witnessed the King in all of grandeur human art can give and the Queen refused admittance standing amidst the lowest rabble, clapped by one half and hissed by the other even of that scanty number.

Wm. came from Meredon, returned with him and Martha to Colwich and very

snug and comfortable I found it. This time 12 months how little I thought of visiting those two in that place.

25th Rode Martha's spotted donkey to Milford by myself through Lord Anson's plantation and very rich I felt at having two such houses so close to each other. I met Levett coming to see after me - found Lou and Baby very well. Dick (young) walked back part of the way with me.

29th I heard from Honora the acc. of poor Aunt Betty Bagot's death at ½ past 1 yesterday morning tranquil and happy, a better kinder hearted more excellent creature never died. God help poor Aunt Harriet the sole survivor of 16. The same post also mentioned the sudden death of the Dowager, much talked of Lady Jersey.²

August

1st We were all very busy about a Coronation Fête.

4th Spent most of the day in the garden where Michael Turner followed me with a note and a little parcel from Aunt Harriet the latter contain'd a pair of bundle belonging to Aunt Betty one of my grandfather (Sir Walter) as a child, the other a hair one of Lady Brudenells'.

A Bagot Funeral

Aug.

5th As the funeral had not pass'd did not think it right to go to so publick a place the Cathedral.

6th Poor Aunt Betty's funeral slept at the Swan Inn.

15th Aunt Betty sent old William and her carriage which conveyed me to Colwich - I rather believe old Wm. to be the most ancient postillion in England. I think I must have known him in that capacity for at least 40 years. On my arrival at Colwich I found assembled at the door Wm. and Martha Aunt Betty Lord Bagot Chig: Chester Wm. Legge, Mr. and Mrs. Sneyd and the two Dick Levetts, it was a pleasant sight -

18th I returned with the Levetts to Milford.

19th Went to Church at Baswich - Levett did the duty.

22nd Returned home, called at Ravenhill in my way.

September

11th Went to the Race Ball with Lady Oakeley and her party.

October

² Frances wife of George Bussey 4th Earl of Jersey - mistress of George IV. Mother of Caroline wife of 1st Marquess of Anglesea (after her divorce from the Marquess Caroline married 6th Duke of Argyll). Frances's youngest daughter married the Hon. Right Rev. Richard Bagot Bishop of Bath & Wells.

10th Mrs. Bagot, Jane, Agnes, and Ralph came to see me I had a party in the evening and we all went to the Race Ball which though not a brilliant one was I hope pleasant to the girls who were very much admired particularly Agnes and had plenty of partners. The Lanes sent their carriage for me and I went to King's Bromley where I had the satisfaction of seeing Mrs. Lane much better than she had been but she has suffered sadly with the gout in her head. Newton and Leveson both at home.

13th Came home though pressed to stay and go to a ball at Hollybush where Mrs. Hall had asked me.

15th Was a busy day. I went to the Palace from thence to Stowe and

proceeded to Kings' Bromley where I had my luncheon found the Anson carriage waiting for me at Yoxall and a very kind and friendly reception from its owners at Sudbury also another invitation from the Halls which, as they had taken so much trouble about me, Frederick and I determined to go. Anne not feeling quite equal to sitting up. We found a very good Quadrille Ball where I wished much for Jane and Agnes. I enjoyed myself very much, we returned to Sudbury about 12.

A Bow Meeting

15th Anne, Frederick and myself went again to Holly Bush where we found ourselves in a party of between 30 and 40 people at a Bow meeting the sport and the day beautiful and everybody sociable and good humoured. Miss Mary Curzon a girl of 15 won the first prize a gold pencil case.

21st Went to Church at Sudbury where the Archbishop of York preached us a very good sermon. We went in the evening to the hall where I met a party Lady Hannah amongst them who I liked of whose invitation to visit her in London if ever I return there I shall avail myself.

29th I left Sudbury called at Kings Bromley in my way. Came home - felt that it was solitary.

November

12th I proceeded to Milford met Louisa and Mrs. Bagot at Brereton we stopt at Ravenhill for a few minutes where I got out to see Mrs. Madan. We found Jane Agness Levett and Baby at Milford. Thank God for finding all this house so well and as happy as they richly deserve to be. We took a long walk on the hills Ralph came. Lady H. Bagot and the Sparrows came. Mrs. Lyttleton called, invited me to go to Teddesley the first week in December which I declined. Greville and Mary's kind offer of Ralph's holding the living of Ashted arrived - most thankful do I feel if he can but get ordained in time.

Staffordshire entertains the Duke of Wellington

November

18th Louisa went to fetch Martha and Wm. who are just returned after she has been spending nearly 3 weeks at Wynaston with her father and William in London about the business his plan (?) his interview with Lord Liverpool as anything which is not yet decided can be.

20th Louisa, Levett went to Teddesley to meet a large party and the Duke of Wellington.

21st Sir Charles Wolseley just released from his prison at Abingdon harangued the mob at Rugeley from the dicky of a chaise and told them "neither gaol or gibbet shall ever make him alter".

22nd Left Milford called on Martha and Wm. Levett gone to the Chase of Deer with the Blithfield blood hounds for the amusement of the Duke of Wellington. Came home.

December

2nd Went twice to the Cathedral.

3rd Invited all my neighbours and most of them came. Lighted up the dining room, hall and kitchen and gave the girls (Jane and Agnes) a Quadrille ball with which they and my other guests appeared much pleased.

10th Mrs. Bagot, Jane and Agnes and myself all went to Kings Bromley where we found a most hospitable reception and a pleasant party.

Mr. Sparrow dead at the age of 85.

11th Sir Thomas Constable and his two daughters and Gen. Dyott dined and slept.

13th Mrs. Bagot, Jane and Agnes went to Yoxall Lodge where I refused to accompany them and returned to my solitary home.

At Milford for Christmas

24th I came to Milford where I found Dick, Louisa their 2 dear children and Watt Levett.

25th

Christmas Day. Went to Baswich Church. William, Martha and Ralph came to dinner. Oh! may I be thankful as I ought for many and kind friends I possess.

27th Lady Anson (called) and her little girl the latter bringing Baby a very pretty chain and locket with her hair from Geneva, also Anne, Frederick and their 3 boys all in deep mourning for old Mrs. Anson.

30th Did not go to Church - Another year is gone. May I be thankful for all the blessings it has brought with it, look forward with trust and hope and gratitude for whatever it may please the giver of all good to bestow or withhold in 1822

1822

January

1st At Milford with Levett Louisa and their two dear children

23rd Ralph and I walked by the Navigation and round by Baswich Church.

Lou and I walked to Tixall grand pits. Levett went to shoot in the Blithfield woods- Elizabeth wrote to tell us the joyful intelligence of Phillimore being made one of the commissioners of the board of Control long may he hold it unmolested.

29th Wm. and Ralph dined and slept Martha being gone to Butterton to see her father and more especially Mary I suppose.

30th Levett intended to take Dick to school but they were both obliged to stay another day from the coach being full. Went to Tixall to see Lady Constable went an airing with her and her daughter Isabella to Weeping Cross.

A Visit to Elford and BlithfieldFebruary

1st Lou and I walked on the hills where we met Edward and John Monckton. I had not seen the latter since he was a boy at school which is many years ago.

8th Egerton and I went to Bishton where I found Mrs. Sparrow in her weeds looking I should think as pretty as an old woman of 80 can look. I wonder how much prettier Ninon de l'Enclos was - Came home. I had much to do which prevented me feeling solitary.

19th The Levetts took me to Lichfield where Mary Howard brought little Frances to meet her mother and I returned with her to Elford where Martha and Wm. had arrived before us. I met with a very cordial reception from both Greville and Mary and was glad to find myself here again, many alterations which were improvements and many old things I rejoiced to see again. John Sneyd dined Wm. went to London to enquire his fate respecting the Receiver Generalship.

26th Mr. and Mrs. Meynell of Hoar Cross came. I had never seen her to speak to before. Walked with Mrs. Meynell to the end of Lady Park - Dick Bagot and Sir Chester came from Blithfield. Went with Martha to Hopwas Wood Our party separated after two days of very pleasant society - I came home.

March

2nd Lord Bagot sent his carriage for me. Called at Brereton in my road found the Sneyds. Lord Bagot and Augustus were standing at the door at Blithfield when I drove for the first time through the new gateway - Egerton, Honora and Harriet soon followed. We had a pleasant sociable dinner, talking

over old times and seasons - We dined in the Library the Great Hall being all pulled to pieces - Mrs. Sneyd and her four daughters came. Walked all about and saw all the improvements, Lord Bagot as friendly and kind as possible Hervey - the only one of his children at home

3rd Went to Church. Called on Lady Ht's she was churched for Frederick. The children said their catechisms in the church beautifully. How my heart had beat when I had been called out in my own childhood. I was sorry to see Henry remain in his pew his father and I said it together with all the other children as our father had done before us. I am very happy here and enjoy my visit very much but there is a wonderful mixture in my feelings which the lapse of so many years has not obliterated. John Talbot dined and slept. Lord Bagot showed me the Stafford manuscripts which he has lately at great cost acquired. The last Lord Stafford wrote a very abusive letter to the Richard Bagot of the day, that part of that letter was utterly and entirely false that Lord Stafford wrote it knowing it to be so; these papers after an interval of 230 (years) have completely proved I think the letter was written in 1589 to me it appears a singular circumstance whether it may to anybody else I know not -

4th Drove Honora through the Warren lodges, round the pillar to commemorate the site of the old house in Bagots' Bromley. Drove myself in Lady Ht. Bagot's little carriage to Milford - found Levett Lou and Baby and had much to tell them.

Packington - Pipe - Milford and Shugborough

March

20th Came home after a fortnight of much enjoyment and I hope very grateful to the giver of all good for the manifest kindness of the friends I have seen. Most uncommonly fine weather. I have worked very hard in my garden

April

5th Good Friday. Went twice to the Cathedral.

29th Louisa came - Went back with Louisa to Milford. Found the 2 Dicks, Baby and Ralph. Went once to Baswich Church - Edward Monckton, his nephew poor Philip's orphan son and General, alias Puss Monckton came. Returned home by the mail for the first time travelled with a tidy woman and a very fat man. Caroline and Charlotte came to me from Exeter having visited at Bath and Worston in their road - We are very thankful Wm. has got his appointment to the Receivership renewed. With the girls in Mrs. Gresley's high car to Packington did not find Mrs. Levett. We drank tea at home.

May

7th Ralph came in the morning. We took him with us to Pipe where we found Egerton and Roland Wingfield and his wife - I had seen the latter only once since we used to be together in my youth at St. Asaph when I carried her across the Elwy on my back. We came home by a short cut to prevent our being too late for dinner. We were very glad to meet in our old age. Came home

30th I went to Milford in the high car passed the Ansons going to the same place in the Hills we all went to Stafford Castle - Frederick drove his two girls and myself to Shugborough where we spent a good bit of the morning pleasantly in walking about the grounds and gardens.

Theatricals at Shugborough

June

10th I had so bad a cold though the weather was intensely hot I could not go to church. Levett went to fish at Blithfield. Wm. dined at Milford. Levett came for me in his buggy and drove me home. Charlotte and Caroline came from Pipe to me in the evening and rejoined us - Went to the Palace with Caroline and Charlotte - a violent thunderstorm.

18th The Gisbornes sent their carriage to take us to Yoxall Lodge where we found a very hospitable reception - Mr. Hodgerson, a very entertaining Liverpool merchant lately returned from America where he had been travelling 8,000 miles, came.

21st The Gisbornes sent us to Sudbury where we found Anne Anson and 6 of her children.

22nd Anne drove me in the pony carriage to Uttoxeter.

23rd Went to church in the morning. Called on Lady Vernon and Miss Greaves - A great thunderstorm prevented us from going to the Hall in the evening.

* * * * *

Found in the Militia Returns in the Public Record Office, Kew.

WO13/1979 2nd Battalion King's Own Staffordshire Militia
Corporal Joseph Swinnerton - Militia Reserve
No.6703/8791
Reserve Regimental No. 390
Enlisted 1873.

General Quarter Sessions held Friday, Oct 20th. 1843

Emma Swinnerton & Ann Swinnerton.

That she, the said Emma Swinnerton 23rd September 7th Victoria did steal 1000 tips value seven shillings property of John Barrs and that she the said Ann Swinnerton did feloniously receive same well knowing them to have been stolen.

Emma 1 day Gaol. Ann 1 Calendar Month House of Correction h. 1.

(John Barrs was an umbrella make of 30 Great Charles St. Birmingham and W.Barrs & Son, 7 Edmund St. Birmingham, Manufactory)

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Swinnerton Society held in Llandudno on Saturday 10th June, 2000.

The Chairman, Iain Swinnerton, welcomed 15 members to the meeting. There was a special welcome to Norman Meek, father of council member Elizabeth Livesey, who was celebrating his 90th birthday.

1.00 APOLOGIES. There were no apologies

2.00 MINUTES of the last AGM were taken as read and signed.

3.00 MATTERS ARISING. "The Steeplechase Notes" are now in publishing form, but need some illustrations. There will be one copy free for every member, and some copies will be on sale in St. Mary's Church in Swynnerton, at 35p each.

During the year, photographs had been taken of the Banner. Copies of these should be sent abroad to those people who had contributed to the work on the Banner. There was also the possibility of producing cards, using the Banner as a design.

4.00 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT. Iain Swinnerton reported that the Council had met twice since the last AGM - in Liverpool and in Newcastle-under-Lyme. He mentioned that Annie Swynnerton's paintings are now on the Internet. He reported that there had been a letter from Prof. Shooter, in connection with the Jenner Museum. Prof. Shooter would like our cooperation, if we had any information on smallpox certificates. Initially, vaccination certificates had been issued, as some people objected to being vaccinated. These certificates give useful information on names and dates of birth. Further details will be published in the next Journal.

Iain reported that there was now a church window dedicated to Bill Swinnerton in a church in Abergavenny.

5.00 ARCHIVIST'S REPORT. The Chairman expressed his appreciation of all the hard work Roy Talbot had done in putting all the trees of the Swinnerton family on disc. There are now six discs, and an index disc with 3195 entries. Iain reported that he now has a CD-writer which works well.

6.00 TREASURER'S REPORT. The accounts, which are attached to the Minutes, were presented by Keith Livesey. Keith also mentioned that there are funds in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and America. The accounts will now be taken over by Cynthia Howe, who expressed her

thanks to Keith for the extra work he had done this year while she was recovering from an illness.

7.00 MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT. Geoffrey Swinnerton reported that the number of members with covenants or standing orders that he deals with, had increased from 45 last year to 63 this year. There are now 186 members world-wide, of whom 143 are paid-up members. Sadly, the death of Audrey Firmin was reported.

8.00 ELECTION OF OFFICERS. The Constitution of the Society states that Officers can only serve six years, and therefore the Reverend Brian Swynnerton has to stand down this year.

The other members of the council indicated their willingness to stand again. Peter Swinnerton, seconded by Norman Meek, proposed that the other members of the Council should be re-elected en bloc. The Chairman mentioned that next year, a group of Council members would have to stand down, including himself as Chairman and our joint secretaries as they will have reached the end of their permitted time.

9.00 ANY OTHER BUSINESS. The Society hopes to have a stall at the Millennium Fair in Swynnerton on the 15th August. Geoffrey Swinnerton would liaise with the organizer of the Fair. Some members of the Council planned to attend.

Iain Swinnerton reported the death of the Society's President, Margery Thomas.

He suggested that her son Hugh, Lord Thomas of Swynnerton, should be invited to become President. This was agreed unanimously.

Iain Swinnerton suggested that Council members might write short Pen Portraits of themselves to be included in future issues of the Journal. The next Council meeting will be in London in December. Geoffrey Swinnerton plans to organise an evening visit to the Tower of London.

10.00 DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT AGM. It was agreed that this would take place on Saturday 2nd June, 2001 in the North-East, the actual venue to be agreed at a later date.

• * * * *

At a meeting of Council the next morning, the Chairman proposed that the Reverend Brian Swynnerton should be appointed Vice-President (UK) vice Lord Thomas and this was agreed unanimously.

THE SWINNERTON SOCIETY ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1999

REVENUE ACCOUNT.

Opening Stock	320.47	(345.47)	Closing Stock	277.97	(320.47)
Subscriptions:			Subscriptions	630.40	(810.66)
Goons	12.00	(12.32)			
F.F.H.S.	41.90	(36.80)			
G.R.D.	19.25	(18.00)			
Archive material	24.00	(nil)	Xfer from USA	nil	(369.78)
Journal: Printing	368.75	(189.62)	I. Tax rep'yts	577.70	(8.66)
Postage	Inc at *	(inc above)	Bank Interest	3.64	(12.40)
* Research	235.49	(261.48)	Bld Soc Interest	n/k	(0.22)
Donations	900.00	(nil)	Donations	550.00	(176.00)
Purchases	nil	(19.10)	Sales	42.50	(26.84)
Gathering expenses	797.80	(N/A)	Gathering r'cpts	1420.50	(N/A)
D.P.A	75.00	(N/A)	Customs Refund	nil	(42.73)
Supplies	nil	(257.43)			
Repairs	nil	(58.75)			
Surplus	708.05	(568.79)			
	3502.71	(1767.76)		3502.71	(1767.76)

CAPITAL ACCOUNT.

Surplus b/f	2398.49	(1829.70)	Computers b/f	278.13	(278.13)
surplus of year	708.05	(568.79)	additions	653.95	(nil)
Surplus c/f	3106.54	(2398.49)	Fiche printer	100.00	(100.00)
			Flag	125.73	(125.73)
			Bibles	55.00	(55.00)
			Stock	277.97	(320.47)
			1881 Census	522.95	(522.95)
			Topographical		
			dictionary	95.00	(95.00)
			Tapestry	394.23	(344.87)
Loan	50.00	(50.00)	Balance at: Bank	601.51	(554.27)
			: Building Society	e50.22	(50.22)
			Petty Cash	1.85	(1.85)
	3156.54	(2448.49)		3156.54	(2448.49)

FAMILY NOTES

We are very sorry to have to report the death of Mrs Audrey Firmin on the 22 May this year in the Derby City Hospital of cancer. Audrey had been a member and loyal supporter of our society since the very early days. A member of the LDS Church, she was of great help to me in our early years extracting Swinnerton details from their records long before they became as widely available as they are today. We send our sincere sympathy to her husband Peter and her family.

We welcome a new member – Mrs Margaret Joy Davies (née Swinnerton) of [redacted] Mrs Davies is a member of a branch of the family that have lived in the Wrexham area since the mid 1800s. I have recently been able to tie them in with another small group who lived in the same in the area, the ancestors of our member Pearl Paget in South Africa, and identify them all as descendants of William Swinnerton, Blacksmith of the Adbaston Branch born in Wombridge in 1836.

We have a new addition to the family – Thomas Joseph Swinnerton born on the 14th March this year at the East Surrey General Hospital. He is the third grandson of our member David K.S. Swinnerton of Middlesborough.

Anticipating a little, congratulations to Roy and Doris Swinnerton of Stoke on Trent who will be celebrating their Golden Wedding on the 21st October. As Roy and Doris have 7 children who, between them, have produced 21 grandchildren (12 boys and 9 girls) that will be quite a party!

The Revd Brian Swynnerton has deposited a biography of his uncle Noel William Swinnerton with the Regimental Museum of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers in Caernarfon Castle. Noel's medals are already there in the new Medal and Colours Gallery in the Chamberlain Tower (Case 214. Left Row A) if any of the family are holidaying in the area and visit the castle.

Lastly, with regard to the memorial window reported at the AGM, Brian Churchward has sent me the following extract from the *Goetre and Llanover Church Magazine*, Easter 2000.

Nellie Swinnerton. Nellie was brought up in Pontnewydd and lived with her parents in the Public House they kept there. During her working life she taught at Goytre School. She lived with her late husband Bill at Brynheulog, Nantyderry for many years. They were very much part of the community and were regular worshippers at St. Peter's. Nellie was a life-long member of the Mother's Union and was for many years Enrollong Member of the St. Peter's Branch. Bill and Nell very generously donated a stained glass window to our church in memory of the Swinnerton Family which can be seen immediately opposite the main door of the church as you enter.

PUBLICATIONS OF THE SWINNERTON SOCIETY

Swinnerton Family History (The Quarterly Journal of the Society)

Vol.1 1974-5. Vol.2 1955-1977. Vol.3 1977-79.

Each volume contains 10 issues, is fully indexed and bound in A4 Binder.

Price per volume - UK £2.50 USA \$5 Canada \$8 Australia \$6

Volume 4.1979-82. Volume 5.1982-84. Volume 6.1984-87. Volume 7.1987-89

Volume 8.1990-9 Volume 9. 1992-94 Volume 10 1995-98

Each volume contains 10 issues, is fully indexed and bound in A5 Binder.

Price per volume - UK £5.00 USA \$10 Canada \$14 Australia \$12

A5 Binders for your loose issues. Each Binder holds 10 issues and an index.

The binders are gold blocked on front with badge and on spine with title.

UK £3.50 USA \$7 Canada \$10 Australia \$8

Swynnerton & the Swinnertons by the Rev. Brian Swinnerton

Two Early Staffordshire Charters by the Rev. Charles Swynnerton

Two Ancient Petitions from the PRO by the Rev. Charles Swynnerton

Introduction to 'A History of the Family of Swynnerton'

by the Rev. Charles Swynnerton

Each of the above:

UK £1.00 USA \$3 Canada \$4 Australia \$3

A History of the Family of Swynnerton.

Facsimile reprint of the original history of the family published in 1880 complete with family trees and index. 208 pages.

UK £12 USA \$20 Canada \$30 Australia \$27

Daughter of the Raj by Margery Thomas

Our President's personal story. Born in Simla in 1894, she tells of her childhood in India in the days of the Raj; of nursing on the Eastern Front in the Great War as a VAD; of England after the war completing her training at Barts Hospital and then to Africa with her husband in the Colonial Service. A truly fascinating story of life in a bygone age.

UK £5.00 USA \$12 Canada \$15 Australia \$15

All prices include postage and packing.

Overseas members please send dollar notes as the commissions deducted by the banks for exchanging dollar cheques are prohibitive.

All the above are available from Mr Keith Livesey, [redacted]