

SWINNERTON Family History



Sir Roger Swynnerton proposing a vote of thanks at the 1977 Family Gathering

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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

Volume 11. No.9

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Editor - Iain Spencer Swynnerton

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Foreword

I have to start this Journal with a very sad piece of news – for those of you who have not already heard, we have lost our Patron, Sir Roger Swynnerton, who died on the 30th of December 2000.

Roger joined the Society in 1975, a year after it was founded and was elected a Vice-President the following year. He was elected President in 1982 when I wrote the following in my Editorial in the June issue of the Journal. *"Sir Roger has been a Vice-President since 1976 but has never been just a name on the letter heading as VPs of most organisations are – quite the contrary, he has been a very hard worker for the Society and a loyal supporter of all our efforts. He has regularly attended Council meetings and many of you will have met him at our Gatherings when he took the chair at our Annual General Meetings.*

Grandson of the original historian of the family, the Revd. Charles Swynnerton, Sir Roger has provided us with masses of information from the Revd. Charles's notes and letters adding greatly to our archives. He has also helped in many other ways, not least financially.

Lady Swynnerton has also been actively involved and, as many of you know, produced the prototype kneeler for us for Swynnerton Church.

I am sure that under Sir Roger's Presidency, the Society will go from strength to strength"

As indeed it did and he continued to give us his generous support and wise advice until he retired at his own request in 1994 and became our Patron.

We shall miss him very much and are grateful for all his contributions to the society.

An account of his distinguished career appears later in this Journal.

* * *

In the last Journal I was able to tell you that we had added another twig to the main family tree. The good news this time is that we have now added two more which have puzzled us for many years. We are making good progress although we must not be complacent, there are still about 12 to go!

We have just heard that the Swynnerton Village Summer Fair is to be held on Saturday the 18th June at the Old Rectory, Swynnerton. We had planned to have our Annual General Meeting on our traditional first Saturday in June but it obviously makes sense to combine the two events so please make a note of the new date in your diaries and I hope to see many of you there.

Iain Swinnerton

Bugle Post Bag. *Black Country Bugle*, 2 March 2000

FILMING AT BILSTON FURNACE IN THE SEVENTIES

I read with interest the article in the *Black Country Bugle* of the 10th February 2000 by Darren Kinsey on "Elisabeth" the blast furnace at Bilston.

During the 1970's, I was a member of the Wulfrun Cine Club, Wolverhampton, a group of amateur filmmakers who met weekly at Compton Grange, Wolverhampton. Among the members was Harold Swinnerton, the Managing Director of Swinnerton & Miller Ltd of Willenhall. Harold was an explosives expert and the company were well known for doing demolition work, like felling chimneystacks and cooling towers.

Swinnerton & Miller Ltd obtained the contract to reline "Elisabeth" in 1976 and Harold decided to record the event on film to which he eventually put an appropriate commentary. Unfortunately, on the day that the furnace was relit, Harold had been called away on other business and he asked me if I could film the re-lighting ceremony for him. The day before, I visited the furnace to get the lie of the land and was given a tour of the site that included climbing to the uppermost platform of the furnace that gave wonderful views of the Black Country and over to Cannock Chase. As I had not expected to have this tour, I had not taken a camera (still or cine) with me, and an opportunity for some excellent photographs was missed.

The following day I arrived and set up my lights to record the re-lighting of the furnace, which was traditionally carried out by a young girl (she could have been the daughter of the manager, perhaps someone knows). The filming went very successfully and enabled Harold to complete his film.

None of us was to know at the time that this would be the last time "Elisabeth" would be relit. Unfortunately, Harold did not live to see the furnace closed as he had died from a heart attack. Some years after Harold's death I was able to obtain the film from his daughter and have it copied onto video. So there is preserved for posterity a record of this short time in the life of one of the Black Country's most famous landmarks.

Jim Evans, [redacted]

Editor's note: Mr Evans has very kindly donated a copy of this video to our archives. The video includes other film on which Harold, a long-time member of this Society, can be seen in action.

Directories, 1680-1830

extracted by Bill Swinerton from the Internet

Swinerton, William

Subscribed to An Essay towards a Natural, Experimental, and Medicinal History of ... Mineral Waters (Vol. 2), 1740, SHORT, Thomas. Sheffield
Subject: science/technology

Swinerton, Joseph & Swinnerton, Thomas

Listed in Bailey's Northern Directory for 1781. Containing Every Principal Town from the River Trent to Berwick-upon-Tweed; with London & Westminster, Edinburgh & Glasgow, 1781. Warrington. Printed by William Ashton

Swinerton, Samuel

Listed in Wakefield's Merchant and Tradesman's General Directory for London, [1790], WAKEFIELD. London

Swinnerton, Thomas

Subscribed to Lexicon Technicum; or, an universal English dictionary of arts and sciences (Vol. 2), 1710, HARRIS, John. London
Subject: science/technology

Swinnerton, John

Subscribed to A New Survey of the Globe, or an accurate Mensuration of all the Empires, kingdoms and islands in the world ... with notes explanatory and political, wherein the numnber of people in all ye principall countries and cities of Europe are severally calculated, 1729, TEMPLEMAN, Thomas. London
Subject: geography

Swinnerton, Thomas & Swinnerton, John

Subscribed to Poems on several occasions, 1733, ANON. Manchester
Subject: poetry

Swinnerton, William

Subscribed to Sermons on several important practical subjects (Vol. 1), 1748, HOOLE, Joseph. London
Subject: religion

Swinnerton, John

Subscribed to Thoughts Moral and Divine. Second edn., 1758, and Third edn., 1759. CALCOTT, Wellins. Birmingham
Subject: philosophy

Swinnerton, William

Subscribed to Ecclesiastical Law (Vol. 1), 1763, BURN, Richard. London
Subject: law

Swinnerton, Edward jun.

Subscribed to The Complete Dictionary of Arts and Sciences. In which the whole circle of human learning is explained, and the difficulties attending the acquisition of every art, whether liberal or mechanical, are removed. The theological, philological, and critical branches, by the Rev. J.H. Croker. The medicinal, anatomical, and chemical, by T. Williams, M.D. The mathematical by S. Clark. And the other parts by several gentlemen particularly conversant in the arts or sciences they have undertaken to explain (Vol. 1), 1764, CROKER, Temple Henry. London, Cambridge, Dublin
Subject: encyclopaedia

Swinnerton, Mr

Subscribed to Cary's New and Correct English Atlas: being A New Set of County Maps from actual surveys. Exhibiting All the Direct & principal Cross Roads, Cities, Towns, and most considerable Villages, Parks, Rivers, Navigable Canals &c. Preceded by a General Map of South Britain, shewing The Connexion of one Map with another. Also A General Description of each County, and Directions for the junction of the Roads from one County to Another, 1787, CARY, John. London
Subject: geography, topography

Swinnerton, William

Subscribed to A topographical survey of Somerset. Lancaster, 1789, TUNNICLIFF, William. Bath
Subject: topography

Swinnerton, John & Swinnerton, Thomas

Subscribed to The History and Antiquities of Staffordshire compiled from the manuscripts of Huntbach, Loxdale, Bishop Lyttelton, and other collections of Dr. Wilkes, T. Feilde, &c. &c. including Erdeswick's Survey of the County, and the approved parts of Dr. Plot's Natural History. Illustrated (Vol. 1), 1798, SHAW, Stebbing. London.
Subject: history

Swinnerton, James

Subscribed to A Topographical Dictionary of England, comprising the several counties, cities, boroughs, corporate and market towns, parishes, chapelries, and townships, and the islands of Guernsey, Jersey, and Man, with Historical and Statistical Descriptions; illustrated by maps of the different counties and islands; A Map of England, shewing the principal towns, roads, railways, navigable rivers, and canals; and a plan of London and its environs; and embellished with engravings of the arms of the cities, bishoprics, universities, colleges, corporate towns, and boroughs, and of the seals of the several municipal corporations. Second edition. With an Appendix, describing the electoral boundaries of the several boroughs, as defined by the late Act. By Samuel Lewis Vol. I., 1833, LEWIS, Samuel. London, Andover Printed by S. Lewis and Co., 87, Aldersgate-Street. Bensley, printer, Andover
Subject: topography, history

Swinnerton, Thomas & Swinnerton, John.

Listed in Bailey's British Directory [for 1784]; or, Merchant's and Trader's Useful Companion for the year 1784 in 4 Volumes. Volume 1. London; Volume 2 The Western Directory; Volume 3. The Northern Directory; Volume 4. The Eastern Directory. The First Edition, 1784, BAILEY. London
Printed by J. Andrews, Little Eastcheap, and to be had of the Author, No. 53, Basinghall-street; No. 4, Queen-street, Cheapside; Mr. Long, Optician, Royal Exchange, and of every Bookseller in Town and Country

Swinnerton, Thomas

Appears in list of members A list of the members of the Society of Antiquaries of London, from their revival in 1717, to June 19, 1796. Arranged in chronological and alphabetical order. [Bodley Gough Lond.119(5)], 1717-1796. London
Printed by and for John Nichols, at Cicero's Head, Red Lion Passage, Fleet-street. MDCCXCVIII [1798]

Editor's note: The two Thomases and William are obviously of the Butterson family; James is the Bookseller and "Father of the Provincial Press" of Macclesfield; John is, I think, the father of the Revd. John Swinnerton, Vicar of Wybunbury but I am not sure at this stage who Joseph or Edward Jun. are.

A Commercial Traveller.

Sheila Rowlands of Aberystwyth, former joint editor of *Family History News and Digest*, the half-yearly journal of the Federation of Family History Societies sent me an e-mail saying:

"I came across this man when searching the 1891 Census of Tenby, Pembs, recently:

RG 12/4528, fol. 51 Sched.8

Tenby, High Street, Cobourg Hotel

Tom W SWINNERTON BD U 25 Commercial Traveller born STS Hanley

Hope he fits in somewhere. The Cobourg has always been one of the substantial hotels, though I haven't checked if it is still there now".

Editor's note: Yes he certainly does. This is Tom Williams Swinnerton, born 25 March 1856 at Shelton, Stoke-on-Trent, who was the elder brother of Bertram John Swinnerton, founder of Swinnertons of Hanley, the family pottery firm and grandfather of our former member Anthony Robert Swinnerton of Bournemouth with whom, sadly, we have lost touch. Tom died in Stone on the 6th April 1943 aged 87.

* * * * *

A new Staffordshire Register.

The Staffordshire Parish Registers Society, with which I have a very long connection of nearly 30 years and who did me the honour of electing me their President in succession to the late Peter Giffard earlier this year, have just published their latest volume – the Baptisms and Marriages for the Parish of Leek 1695-1698 and 1700-1730 and the Burials 1678-1707.

The register contains the burials of **Michael Swinnerton** on the 8th April 1690, of **Sarah Swinnerton**, widow on 21st March 1698 and the baptism of **George**, bastard son of **Crispin Swinnerton** late of Leek and Sarah Pilsbury of Leek Moor on the 23rd June 1708.

Another lovely quote from the Cave Family Journal

Add to your genealogy the fun, easy way – have grandchildren!

Swinnerton of Adbaston – a new twig on the Tree.

We published the tree of this new branch in the December 2000 issue. Since then we have discovered a couple of errors that need correcting.

Elsie Swinnerton married **Edmund** Jones not Edward and Gladys Swinnerton married **Thomas** Jones not Edmund.

Not difficult to see how I got them mixed up! My apologies to our members Alan Jones, Peter Roberts and Audrey Cherry.

* * * * *

Audrey has sent us an interesting little note saying that during a visit to her brother near Perth, Western Australia she noticed in a book entitled *Armies and Warfare of the Middle Ages, The English Experience* by Michael Prestwich the following passage:

“An inventory of goods stolen in 1324 from John de Swinnerton shows that a habergeon with mail fittings, Aventail Pisan and Collaret was worth 10 marks.”

According to my copy of the *Local Historian's Encyclopedia* by John Richardson (2nd Edition 1986), the Mark was not an English coin but was used as a unit in accountancy especially in the Danelaw Countries. It was a weight of metal originally valued at 128 silver pennies (53.3p) but later revalued at 66.6p.

* * * * *

The Swinnerton-Beet Family

Sorting out some files the other day I realised that I had never published the final research into the history of this branch of the family which has been discussed several times in these pages.

John Swinnerton-Beet was born at Nuneaton on the 13th December 1847, the son of John Beet, Butcher and Elizabeth Swinnerton. She was baptised on the 29th April 1821 at Nuneaton, the 7th child and sixth daughter of William Swinnerton and Mary née Truswell of our Warwickshire Branch.

The “other” Swinnerton family in the Isle of Man.

by Stuart Limb

Some of my earliest and fondest memories of childhood centre around the time I spent with my grandmother and my great-aunt, both of whom were born Swinnertons. My grandmother Victoria Mary Thompson (formerly Swinnerton) was born on the Isle of Man but spent most of her life in Nottinghamshire. Her sister Frances May Swinnerton was born in Yorkshire but spent most of her life on the Isle of Man. Consequently, childhood time spent with both of them convinced me that my Swinnerton family originated on the Island. After retiring from a career in teaching I've recently had the time to investigate this further.

Using a few surviving birth and marriage certificates and family memories I started my investigation soon realising that I needed more hard facts to make any progress. Using the 1881 census on CD ROM as a starting point and by a process of elimination and working backwards and forwards in time with census returns, parish records, trade directories and birth and marriage certificates, I think I've uncovered the truth about “the other Swinnerton Family in the Isle of Man” referred to in vol.9 no.9 of the Society's journal.

The Bowling family, long established in the Dewsbury area of Yorkshire, moved to the Isle of Man after 1873 to work as bakers at Onchan. The family was there in 1881 including my great-grandmother Mary Hannah Bowling. In 1885 she married Joseph Swinnerton who said on his wedding certificate that he was born in 1855/6, his trade was a draper and his father, John, was a banker. No mention is made of his birth-place and a family assumption that it was Liverpool has no evidence to support it. My grandmother Victoria Mary Swinnerton was born on 8th February 1887 at 47 Athol Street Douglas I.O.M.

According to the 1881 census however Joseph Swinnerton was not living on the Isle of Man, but there was in 1881 a Joseph Swinnerton living on Liverpool Road, in Stoke-on-Trent working as a draper, born in 1855/6. Whilst researching the Bowling family at Huddersfield archives I found an entry in the 1891 census for Dewsbury showing my grandmother Victoria Mary Swinnerton born 1887 Douglas I.O.M. with her father Joseph Swinnerton and mother Mary Hannah Swinnerton. Joseph stated his occupation to be a draper and his birthplace as *Stoke-on-Trent*. There was a discrepancy over Joseph Swinnerton's age, in the 1891 census it stated he was born in 1857/8 not 1855/6 but the 1881 census national index shows no

Joseph Swinnerton born 1857/8, so it must be a mistake. Furthermore my great aunt Frances May Swinnerton and great uncle Frederick William Swinnerton were born shortly afterwards in 1893 at Dewsbury and in 1897 at Barwick in Elmet.

The family returned to the Isle of Man sometime around the turn of the century. My grandmother told me they kept the Bungalow Hotel half way up Snaefell for a short time and she could remember the first car arriving on the Island. They kept other hotels including the Waggon and Horses at Crosby. My mother – Sheila Limb (formerly Thompson) – thinks that her father John Augustus Thompson, a lace manufacturer, met Victoria Swinnerton whilst she was working at the Falcon's Nest Hotel, Port Erin, and after a whirlwind romance they married and returned to his home in Nottingham. Frances May Swinnerton took over her sister's position at the hotel and spent much of her life there as described in vol.9 no.9. She had no children and neither did her younger brother Fred who was killed in the First World War.

Joseph Swinnerton died around 1919 and his widow helped her daughter as housekeeper of the Falcon's Nest until her death after the Second World War. There was a mention in the aforementioned article that Frances May Swinnerton remembered a "cousin" Charles staying with them but I haven't been able to connect him directly to my family. Strangely the 1881 census returns show the other family – Charles Swinnerton born 1813 living with his son Robert's family at Onchan IOM with a daughter *Frances* aged 8 and a daughter *Olive May* aged 2. My great Aunt was called *Frances May*. Robert's brother Charles became a Chaplain in India and stayed with Frances May but that doesn't prove what the relationship was.

I then traced backwards and obtained Joseph Swinnerton's birth certificate. Unless his birth was unregistered it was the only one that could possibly fit and the GRO and the Stoke Registry Office confirmed this. He was born 16th July 1855 at Prospect Row Trent Vale, Stoke. His father John Swinnerton was a china gilder and his mother was Hannah Mansfield. There is a discrepancy about John Swinnerton's occupation. Joseph said on his marriage certificate that his father was a banker. Perhaps he was towards the end of his life but I doubt it! I think that he made it up to impress his future 'in-laws'. My grandmother was not always complimentary about her father and it is quite likely he changed his father's stated occupation. However I'm as sure as I can be that I've traced my Swinnertons back to Stoke-on-Trent and using census returns, parish records and the IGI I've constructed a family tree. If any members can see flaws in it, which I'm sure there are, then I'd love to hear

from them. I also hope that it goes back far enough to connect to other Staffordshire Swinnerton family trees.

One final twist to the story came when I discussed my findings with my mother and my uncle (Patrick Thompson). When I said that I regretted having no picture of Joseph Swinnerton they both remembered a pair of gilt edged plates with a stern faced man on one and a similar woman on the other. These were hanging on the wall of my grandmother's home but disappeared when she moved to her final home – a small bungalow. It was assumed that they had been disposed of! My grandmother was not overly sentimental! Could they have been Swinnerton pictures? If so it was a real shame!!

Editor's note: Since Stuart wrote this article, we have had several discussions on various aspects of it as I, of course, corresponded with the family and did the original research for the article in the September 1994 Journal. One thing we have established that he did not 'improve' his occupation but was a man who worked on the Pot Bank in the china works – a banker!

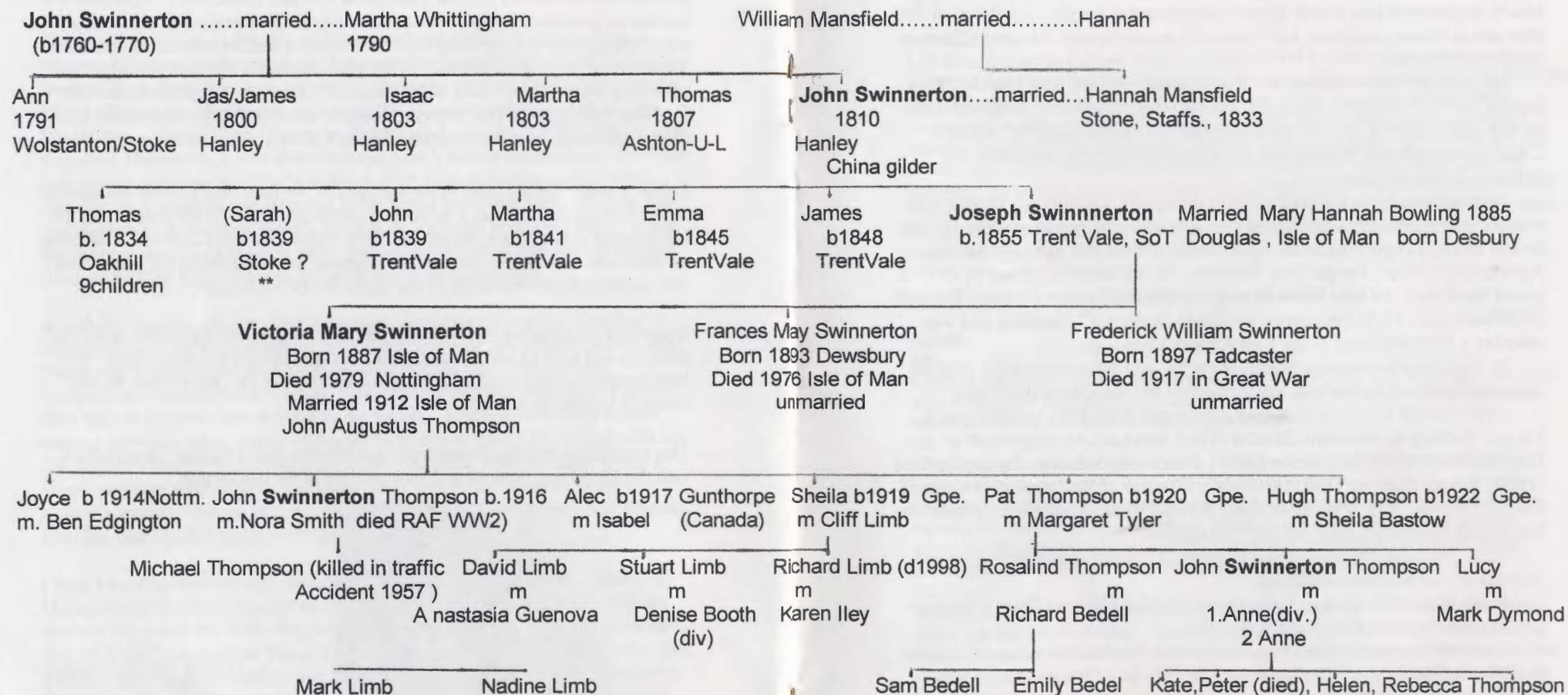
Stuart has provided us with photocopies of all the relevant documents for our archives and is to be congratulated on his research and his persistence. We look forward to welcoming him to the AGM on the 18th June when his full research will be on display.

The connection to John Swinnerton and Martha Whittingham takes us back into the Shut Lane Branch and thus into the main family tree.



*Victoria Mary Swinnerton
1887-1979*

The Other Isle of Man Family



(* Sarah does not appear on the 1851/61 censuses but might have been working away from home)
(1881 census- occupation draper Stoke on Trent ,and worked in the Dewsbury/Leeds area as a draper in the 1890s before returning to the I.O.M)
(In the 1881 census Joseph is living with his brother (in-Law?) and Sarah Heath probably his sister)

Sir Roger Swynnerton CMG.OBE.MC.

Roger John Massy Swynnerton was born on the 16th January 1911 at Mount Selina, Southern Rhodesia, the eldest of the three sons of Charles Francis Massy Swynnerton and Norah Aimee Geraldine neé Smyth. His father at the time was a farmer, naturalist and Tsetse Fly researcher on Gungunya Farm on the Eastern Border.

He grew up on the borders of "Swynnerton's Forest" (see March 1996 Journal) until, in his own words, he was banished to school in England when he was nine years old. From school he went up to Cambridge in 1932 as a Colonial Agricultural Scholar and at the same time joined the University Officers' Training Corps.

After university he joined the British Overseas Agricultural Service with whom he served for the next 28 years interrupted only by war service. He was posted first to Tanganyika as an Agricultural Officer and was later Senior Agricultural Officer, Tanganyika Territory. On the outbreak of war in 1939 he joined the King's African Rifles having been on the Territorial Army Reserve of Officers since 1932. He became a Captain in the 1/6th Battalion and was awarded a Military Cross in the East African Campaign.

In 1942 he was posted to Malta where he used his special skills to assist the Government of Malta with the production of food during the siege.

After the war he returned to East Africa and from 1951 to 1963 was in Kenya. Starting as Assistant Director (Field Services), he progressed to Deputy Director (1954), Director (1956), Permanent Secretary for Agriculture (1960), Acting Minister (1961) and was a Member of the Legislative Council from 1956-1961. His "Plan to intensify African Agricultural Development" in Kenya was popularly known as the "Swynnerton Plan".

From 1961-1962 he was also a member of the Advisory Committee on Agriculture for Southern Rhodesia.

From 1962-1976 he was Agricultural Adviser, Colonial (later Commonwealth) Development Corporation, London.

On the 5th August 1943, he married Grizel Beryl Miller at Dar es Salaam and they had two sons, John Ralph born in 1944 and Charles Iain born in 1946, both in Tanganyika.

For his services to Agriculture he was first made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) and then, like his father before him, a Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George (CMG). He was knighted in 1976.

Amongst his many other distinctions, he was elected President of the Tropical Agriculture Association in 1983.

A truly distinguished career of which the whole family can be justly proud.

Ann Bagot's Diary (continued)

1823

July 28th

Left Shugborough at 2 o'clock joined Lord Ingestre at the Salt works which he good naturedly show'd us - we then went to Sandon to the pillar and then to the Church which Mr. Bonney (?) the clergyman kindly shew'd us - I took Cazzey to see the Digby monument - we then returned to Ingestre where we found Lord Ingestre and a cold collation waiting for us - he took us over the house and gardens. We left him at Lord Anson's gate - We called on Molly Brown who asked after "Miss Digby". We then proceeded through the Hagley grounds to Miss Hopkins who was not at home, returned through the grounds drank tea with Bess and Harriet Sneyd at Brereton and came home about 10 o'clock having shown Caroline a most beautiful county 4 fine places and many friendly people in the course of the day.

Archery at Byrkley. Sudbury Hall

August

3rd

Caroline and I went to Pipe. We found Egerton and his wife very happy and very busy with workmen of many descriptions in the house - their new kitchen is finished and inhabited - Being wet Egerton read prayers at home.

6th

Wm. Gresley came to breakfast with us. Caroline Neave he and I went to Byrkley Lodge where we joined Mr. Mrs. and Miss Sneyd and proceeded to Mr. Arkwright of Dunstall and found 120 people assembled for the archery meeting - the weather showery but not so bad as at Blithfield. We had tents and a large temporary room where we dined and which was prettily ornamented with boughs where the young ones danced. We returned back to Byrkley Lodge about 11 o'clock.

7th

We shot in the morning Caroline for the first time and acted charades in the evening which was my very first essay. I had omitted saying that after the shooting yesterday Mr. Sneyd took us to Sudbury. We went first to the Hall Mr. Vernon shewed Caroline all that was to be seen. I walked to the Parsonage where they followed me where we found dear Anne looking much better and all her five children well. On our return home we met Digby Neave and very glad we were to see him.

13th

The Levetts spent an hour in their way home, they had slept at Pipe and left poor dear Isabel ill and Egerton very unwell I had not understood from Phillimore's letter that she had been more than a little unwell after her premature confinement.

Archery at Holly Bush & Byrkley. Lord Bagot's 50th birthday dinner

September

2nd

Went to Yoxall Lodge where I met with a very friendly reception. Mr. and Mrs. Gisborne and their daughter Lydia, Mr. and Mrs. and Miss Levett of Wychnor came. Went with Mrs. Gisborne and Mr. and Mrs. Levett in the coach of the latter to Holly Bush where 120 people were assembled for another archery the day all sunshine - the sun beautiful everything very pleasant - I enjoyed it very much. We returned to Yoxall about one o'clock.

4th

Mrs. Gisborne took me to wait upon Mrs. Hall at Holly Bush. We found a sumptuous collation and many people - We went to Byrkley where the young people shot and I marked for them.

6th

Return'd home. Called at King's Bromley.

8th

Went to Milford called on Bess and Harriet by the way, went to Hagley where I found Miss Curzon and rejoiced to see her. I thought her altered and unwell.

11th

Went with the Lanes etc. to Blithfield at 2 o'clock to celebrate Lord Bagot's 50th birthday. Many people were assembled the Day beautiful - I went into church to see the restoration of the old window etc. Louisa and I dressed in Mrs. Sneyd's room - we sat down to a magnificent dinner at 7 o'clock in the Hall well lighted the fountains played and the painted glass in the old gallery also lighted looked beautiful - there was music and dancing. We returned to King's Bromley about 2 in the morning.

13th

Cousin Lane brought me home before breakfast.

17th

Lou Levett and Dico came to dinner ditto Genl: Mrs. and Miss Rose Mundy. We played at acting charades in the evening. Dico did very well. We all went to the Archery at Byrkley Lodge the day was beautiful the scene pretty and cheerful to an uncommon degree. We were about 138 at dinner a greater number than has been assembled on a similar occasion though Lord Bagot and Lady Legges and the Talbots from the precarious and indeed Hopeless state of poor Lady Dartmouth (?)

A happy party at Shugborough. Death of Lady Dartmouth

20th

Returned to Yoxall Lodge. Went to church at Yoxall. On looking over the church while waiting for our carriage I discovered a monument on the floor opposite the altar to Thomas Swinnerton 2 son of Butterton who was buried I think in 1717 by his side lay his wife Sarah Ilsley of High Hall near the Forest of which she seems to have been the heiress - no mention of children she died in 1719. I concluded he must have been my grandfather's uncle but I never heard of him before.

22nd

The Gisbornes kindly conveyed me home.

24th

Levett called in his buggy and took me to Milford. Mr. and Mrs. Levett and their son John from Wychnor came.

26th

Lou went to Pipe to see Mrs. Egerton who had miscarried of twins.

October

3rd

Lou, Levett and Henry Legge and I went to the play at Shugboro Douglas Mrs. Richardson acted the Queen ditto to last year Lord Normanby young Norval and old Norval singularly well by Ralph Sneyd the (?) love, law, and Physick very capitally acted by Ld. Anson, his brother Henry Octavius, Mrs. Hilary by Miss Emma Sneyd her father and mother also acted - I was glad to see them at Shugborough surrounded by Ansons and looking very happy - Life is certainly too short for long feuds We dined at Bishton, met Curzons, Bridgemans, etc. and had a pleasant dinner.

6th

Heard of Poor Lady Dartmouth's¹ death at Ingestre so it was reckoned right not to go to the play at Shugborough either tonight or tomorrow which I own is rather a disappointment to me.

15th

Went to Shugborough found a large and pleasant party. In the evening the play of the Roman Father and the farce of Raising the Wind were acted. The whole performance wd. have done credit to any theatre - The next play on the 15th The Honeymoon, and Love and Law and Physick were admirably performed. I went in Lady Anson's pony cart to Milford to get the Levetts if I could but I could not - Charlotte Legge was of the party who thought she ought not to go till Lady Dartmouth and her boy were buried - their funeral having left Ingestre the day before - Lady Bromley I found at Ingestre I was most truly glad to see her not having met since Lord Curzon's death - the Dowager Lady Anson also of the party. I had intended to go to Milford on the 19th but was most kindly pressed to stay for Lord Anson's birthday.

Great Entertainments at Shugborough. A Visit to Somerford.

20th

Went to church at Colwich. Lord Anson's monument just put up; the present Lord A's birthday a large party to dinner and in the evening there was a servants ball where Sir George Anson and I danced a county dance for old acquaintances' sake - the evening of the last play there had been a quadrille ball which kept up with great spirit until 3 o'clock in the morning.

21st

¹ Lady Dartmouth was Frances Charlotte daughter of Charles Chetwynd 2nd Earl Talbot. She left a baby boy 2 months who became the 5th Earl of Dartmouth - Another baby was buried with her.

21st

The remains of the party broke up. The two Lady Ansons took me to call on Mrs. Chetwynd. We then went to Milford where they left me. I found Dick, Lou, Frances and C. Legge.

23rd

I left them to return home. Called at Hagley in my way. Saw Miss Curzon and Lady Bromley. The Sparrows called in so that it look'd quite like old times.

30th

Snow in the evening.

November

2nd

Came from Stowe to the Cathedral. Dr. Gardener preached on "The end of all things is at hand".

8th

A party chez moi I had my old piano tuned which the ladies played and we had a very nice quadrille of 12.

December

3rd

John Monckton came for me in his gig to take me to Somerford - We did not arrive until dusk but met with the usual hospitable greeting. Mr. Monckton not quite well I was the only one not family the others being his 3 sons, 4 daughters and the 4 orphans children of poor Philip - that disagreeable woman Lady Cork also an inmate - She boasts herself the friend of the wise and foolish, Mrs. Carter Hannah Neave and Dr. Johnson the latter upon her asking him some question or other said "Dearest you are a Dunce" - She tells me that my uncle John Bagot was very much in love with her and quotes several verses he had made upon her beauties. I disliked her.

A visit to Chillington - Milford

6th

John Monckton took me to Chillington where we were admitted to Mrs. Wrottesley, her sister and her niece. It was a place I had a ennui to see and certainly its wonderful fulsomeness contrasted with the magnificence of the water and woods quite realized my expectations, we went round the latter by a road so bad it was quite at the hazard of our necks.

7th

Went to Church at Brewood morning - Went in the carriage in the evening.

8th

John Monckton brought me home and spent some time with me.

12th

Charles Bagot breakfasted with me in his road from the Charterhouse to John Sneyd.

17th

Vexed to find the chimney for hot air which has just cost me so much money conveyed cold air and smoke. I came to Milford for dinner where I had the comfort of finding Lou, her husband and 2 dear children.

21st

Went with the 2 Dicks to Baswich Church.

22nd

Levett went into Cheshire and returned at night.

25th

At Milford. Christmas Day - spent happily and calmly with Levett, Lou, Dick and Frances God bless them All!

27th

Went with Lou to Sandon, found Lady Harrowby at home who made herself pleasant.

28th

Went to church at Baswich. Took a long walk with the 2 Dicks on the Hills - one which had been a favourite of old Mr. Levett's and where I have often been with him.

28th

Went with Lou to Teddesley found the Lyttletons at home.

A Children's Party at Teddesley. Butterson. Keel.

31st

Thank God for all His mercies during the year 1823

1824

January

1st

Went with Lou, Dick and John Sneyd to Shugborough

6th

Went to Teddesley at 12 o'clock with the Dicks and Lou where we found altogether 12 children - Littletons, Chetwynds and Wilmots - The children acted Alfred in the evening and had besides a little quadrille - an old man played the fiddle who had done so at Teddesley on the same day for 45 years de suite - came home about 12 o'clock.

11th

Went with Lou and Mademoiselle to Stafford church.

12th

Dear Dico went to Westminster. Mrs. Chetwynd called.

15th

Went with Lou to Seabridge where Aunt Betty had expressed a wish to see me - We found her a great wreck and very tremulous. Lou returned to Milford. I took a walk among that enormous pile of stones now covered with moss and lichens Mr.

Swinerton had collected and visited many old places which brought many and triste recollections

17th

Mrs. Sneyd sent her carriage to take me to Keel where I found her husband, 4 daughters, and Walter and a great relief it certainly was to get there.

19th

Went to Keel church. Lord Sheffield came unexpectedly.

21st

Returned to Seabridge - found Sally Smith indifferent I believe she is faithfully and sincerely attached to us all. I wish I could say so of her mistress - it is tiresome and unpleasant to believe in the hypocrisy of my mother's sister.

23rd

Came back to Milford Aunt Betty Swinnerton's horses brought me to Stafford and found the Levetts all happy and well.

26th

Watt Levett and his bride² came. Went in the buggy to Brocton, Mrs. Chetwynd got in and we drove between the hills.

31st

We took long walks and found the first presentiment in favour of Mrs. Watt amply justified.

A journey to Oxford - via Pipe and Leamington

February

12th

This day 38 years ago I lost my mother - she would not have been very old now had it pleased God to spare her to us - Life has past with me but roughly since I saw her last but I am, I trust and hope, thankful for the many blessings I possess.

20th

Return'd home. Levett called upon me at my garden - he came from Lord Anglesey with whom we had a most gentlemanlike transaction about the little bits of land which belonged to him close to Milford and which if he had so chosen he could have much annoyed him.

March

29th

Spent the whole morning in the garden till 6 o'clock having 6 workmen of one description or the other building my new bungalow and repairing the old one.

April

2nd

A very cold day - called for a minute on Mrs. Mary Gresley as I passed her door in my road to Pipe where I found Egerton and his wife neither of them well but better.

3rd

Went from Pipe to Leamington where I found Mrs. Bagot and her five daughters all well.

5th

After breakfast left Leamington for Oxford where I had a speedy journey arrived at 4 o'clock and had a very cordial reception from my good old friends Dr. and Mrs. Hay.

² Watt Levett married a Miss Sheepshanks. Portraits at Milford.

8th

Dr. Hay took me to see the Vase of (?) granite executed in Siberia which the Emperor Alex: had given to Merton College - The Bishop of Oxford Wm. Legge etc. etc. dined - We dined with Mrs. Sylvester where we met a party of 16 amongst them the Bishop - We played at Whist together as we had done at Dr. Hay's lost all the rubbers but were very merry and glad to meet.

10th

After breakfast left Dr. Hay's hospitable home and got to Worston at half past four - found my dear Honora quite as well as had expected though still very nervous - Augustus still suffering from the gout. Charlotte, George, Wm. Henry - Augusta and Louisa all at home.

17th

Passion week. Spent quietly here.

Anne visits London and its Environs

May

6th

Watt Levett and his wife came here before dinner was over in their road to Edwards, they proceeded as far as Winchester in their journey after tea.

8th

Honora and I with Augusta and Charlotte the latter on horseback had a very pleasant expedition to Micheldever woods.

17th

Charlotte went to Lady Dartmouth in Berkeley Square I rejoiced she is going to have a bit of pleasure.

June

7th

I took leave of the Legges - Charlotte was to return on Wednesday. They sent me to Basingstoke I had a delightful day and arrived about 3 where I found Phillimore, Robert, Bertha Mary and Richard - he was to have brought all the children from London but unluckily Charles had got the measles which obliged him to leave the 3 boys in London.

July

3rd

Left dear Elizabeth³ - and her nice children - past through beautiful country and by West Wycombe⁴ which occasioned many a recollection found Martha upon her couch - Wm. well

³ Elizabeth Bagot Anne's sister married Joseph Phillimore D.C.L. Chancellor of the Diocese of Oxford. They lived in Whitehall.

⁴ Levett's father was Vicar of West Wycombe - the notorious Sr. John Dashwood's country seat. (see later)

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

From Charles Swinnerton to his son Mark, and wife Sarah

Douglas,
Isle of Man

Corner note : I sent you all the books the other day.

21st March 1882

Dear Mark and Sarah,

I just drop you a line to say that, all being well, John Nicholson and myself will be starting probably on Monday next for Venice and from thence to Rome and come back by Genoa. John will combine work with pleasure as he will be sketching as we go along. It will be good practice for Fred as he meets us in Venice and both will go sketching together. I am happy to say that all here are well but I have rhumatics in my right shoulder and arm so bad that it is pain for me to write. I am writing this in the office room which is now denuded of everything save the sofa, 4 chairs and the table where I ? ? today if it takes up as at the present time it is snowing and blowing hard. I am sorry to say that Governor Lock is leaving the Island in a few days being appointed a Commissioner of the Woods and Forests in London. The announcement took everyone aback. I attended a meeting last night for the purpose of presenting him with a testimonial in acknowledgment of the benefits he has conferred or has been the means of conferring on the Island since his sojourn here as Governor.

The High Bailiff occupied the Chair and as usual occupied one half of the time of the meeting talking rubbish and flattering the Governor and his wife to the great disgust of all who heard him.

Just got a letter from Godfrey dated Valparaiso 10th Jany. He is all right and well and had upon the whole a fine passage out. Just heard from Fred, and Joseph who is also well. Blakeley and family are also well. Mrs Murray Baker to whom I sold my yard has built a magnificent house at the lower end which will cost him I would say £1600-. I shall deliver up the keys of this room to him this week.

Things remain just as usual here, nothing strange having taken place since you left. How is little Mary and Sarah, your little things. I hope they are well as for the boy no doubt but he will get along all right. How does Willie ? I hope you will have a prosperous summer.

Sarah - why do you not write to me. Mind that you do. You, Mark, is often enquired after - Mrs. Plugue has just returned from England very ill in fact I fear that she is in the ? ? she looks very badly, poor thing. I am sorry for her. With best love to you all and with kisses for the little ones, believe me,

Yours affectionate
Father Chas. Swinnerton

* * *

From Charles Swinnerton to his son Mark, and Sarah

Douglas
Isle of Man
19th February 1882

Corner note : Write me soon.

Dear Mark and Sarah,

I have just got your letter with inclosed draft all right. I am sorry to hear that your fingers are frost bitten. It must be very sore I should think but I don't wonder at it when the cold ranges from 15° to 43° below zero. I am just thinking that Sarah would be wishing herself in the Isle of Man again.

We have had it very cold here as low as 7° below freezing and I can tell you I felt it pretty cold. It lasted about a month, the ground covered with snow but now it is altogether changed for heavy wet as it is raining continually. You must not have got my last letter as I got the ? birth of a son and heir and forthwith wrote congratulating Sarah for the way she had managed it. I am very glad to hear she is so well and that the little ones are all right. Surely they must have suffered with the cold as it would be difficult to keep them inside ? . It always creates an unpleasant feeling as I pass your house not seeing them or hearing them. They will very soon forget me. I daresay little Sarah has already.

Charles Frederick is a very nice name. I have not heard anything about Willy Skillicorn but he will be sure to go if you drop him a line. I remembered you both to the Clagues and the Hanneys. Mrs Clague continues ill. She has a bad cold at present.

Fred is at Catherines and is painting portraits of all the children. I don't think he will arrive in Rome before a month hence. Joseph is in Rome and was well a few days ago. Got a letter from Charles who complains of his chest being unwell. Maud is well but the little boy is suffering from a bad cold. He also tells me that the Revd. Lloyd Jones' brother has died without issue and therefore he comes in as heir at law for his brother's estate and he will most likely give up his rectory worth £600 per year with house, Glebe land, etc. and he thinks from his letter that he has some intention of offering it to him and if he does so he scarcely thinks the state of his health would justify

him in accepting it. But between you and I this may be all conjecture on his part. However he says that he will write me again on the matter.

Mrs. Blakeley received letters from Godfrey from Hongkong. He was quite well and the tone of the letters were very encouraging, quite different to any he ever wrote before. He seems to accept the sea as his profession but expressed a desire to go into steam next voyage. He speaks of the Captain as a poor, weak, inefficient man to command a ship and quite unfit to have a command of any man's property. He has been very good to him. He also says that he himself could take a ship to any part of the world.

You must understand that it is far from my wish to have put you to any great inconvenience to send me the interest although you know I have to pay the interest of the bonds on my property every six months. Yet so long as I could manage to get along I should be sorry to place you in a difficulty which might be avoided.

(last page missing)

* * *

Charity Commission

Notice is hereby given that the
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of the
SWINNERTON SOCIETY

will be held
on Saturday the 18th June, 2001
in
Swynnerton Church Hall
At 11.00am.

*Refreshments will be served from 10.30am.
Bring your own lunch or dine in the Fitzherbert Arms*

*In the afternoon we shall be joining in the
SWYNNERTON VILLAGE SUMMER FAIR*

Which commences at 2.00pm

*At
The Old Rectory
(next to the Church)*

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Available from Keith Livesey, [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]