

The Swinerton Saga



Marjorie Sybil Nightingale

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The Swinnerton Society

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

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THE SWINNERTON SAGA

**Volume 13
Number 4**

**December
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Editor – I.S.Swynnnerton

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FROM THE CHAIRMAN

It seems hard to believe but it is a year since my last report in the Journal. Unfortunately due to computer and internet problems experienced by Iain Swinnerton my report for the April Journal was not received. This was rather a pity as I had written about a seven week visit to New Zealand which Margaret and I had just made in order to visit our son Nick who had gone to live near Auckland in 2006 with his wife Kelly. Nick is my surfing son (sea not internet) who works for an Australian company called Billabong. Needless to say both are enjoying life to the full and we are planning to visit again in January 2008 so maybe I can give a more detailed report after this visit.

At the AGM in June we had the resignation of Iain Swinnerton as President. As you will all know Iain has been the focal point of the Society since he formed it in 1974. He has over the last 33 years held every post on Council and we look forward to his continued support as editor of the Journal and our expert on the family archives and research. On behalf of everybody I would like to offer Iain our sincerest thanks and best wishes for the future and we look forward to his continued support and involvement with the Society.

At the AGM the Revd Brian Swynnerton was unanimously elected President. Brian has a wealth of knowledge over many years of all things relating to our family history and as you will all know he has been the author of a number of articles and publications including the very interesting Swynnerton Steeplechase, a must buy for all those interested in the history and landmarks of our family in the surrounding area to the village of Swynnerton. The AGM also elected as Vice-President our Knight of the Swynnerton Charter Fayre, Roger Swynnerton, and we look forward to the support of Roger and Elizabeth in our future activities.

During the year we held two Council meetings. The first in Shrewsbury and the autumn meeting in Somerset through the kind hospitality of our members Marettta Jerrett and Liz Yeandle respectively. During these meetings one of the main topics for discussion was the need for assistance from any members with computer and internet knowledge in order to move the Society forward. Your current Council unfortunately does not have the knowhow or experience to do this so we need help.

Any offers?

Another discussion item was the Triennial Family Gathering which is planned to take place on Saturday 7th June 2008 in Swynnerton after the AGM and a family service. I hope you will put the date in your diary and that we can have a good turnout.

Finally Margaret and I send you our best wishes for Christmas and a Happy New Year in 2008.

Barrie Swinnerton

Who Do You Think You Are?

Having questioned all your relatives and written all the answers down, as recommended in the last issue, it would help at this stage to draw up a rough family tree. When doing this, we try and get a date and place of birth or baptism, marriage and death or burial (where applicable) for every person on the tree. If you do draw up a tree at this stage (do it in pencil – it will get altered many times!) it will show you what you are missing.

Civil Registration, the system still in use today to record births, marriages and deaths, began in England and Wales on the 1st July 1837. Scotland followed on the 1st January 1855 and Ireland on the 1st January 1884.

Registry offices and registration districts were set up based on the administrative areas of the old Poor Law. Each registry office keeps copies for its own local area while the Office of National Statistics (ONS) keeps them for the whole of England and Wales. The registers are not available for public consultation but indexes to them are now on the internet (mostly on a pay-per-view basis) and on microfiche in many libraries and record offices.

I started extracting all the Swinnerton entries in the 1950s but, such was the general lack of knowledge in those days, it was five years before I realised that there was more than one way of spelling our name! So - I had to go back to the beginning and extract all the Swinertons, Swynnertons, Swenertons etc as well! As my contacts grew, this task was carried on by John Swinnerton then Ken Armitstead followed by Roger Swynnerton and, finally, by Roy Talbot and we currently have a complete index from 1837 to 2004.

Copies of the actual certificates can be purchased from the ONS or from the local registry office if you know where the event took place. In the case of marriages, you need to know the name of the church. Again, over the last 33 years, we have acquired many actual certificates and these are now being scanned on to disk by Charles and Marettta Jerrett so, if we have it, you can have a copy.

Even though compulsory registration became law in 1837, the onus to register births at first was on the district registrar. It is known that in the very early days, registrars set up a network of informers – doctors, nurses, midwives and even clerics – and would go and visit the homes of the newly born to ensure the records were kept up to date. Their diligence was rewarded because, at first, they were paid on commission!

Nevertheless, some births escaped registration in the early years and so we have to look at church baptismal records to fill the gaps of which more anon..

Marriage records have always been complete because, whether in church or chapel, the minister had to submit a copy to the ONS. However, some are missing from the indexes.

After 1837, of course, you did not have to marry in church, you could marry in a registry office and now, in places such as stately homes, castles and hotels that have been licensed to hold these ceremonies.

Most deaths have been recorded because since 1837, a death certificate has been required before a legal burial can take place.



On the subject of marriages, did you know that the title of 'Spinster' has now been officially abolished? With the passing of the Civil Partnership Act (which came into effect on the 5th December 2005) political correctness now requires both spinsters and bachelors to be entered as just 'single' on marriage certificates. Yet another tradition gone.

Weddings, as we know them, were not a formal institution for very many years, the ancient custom of hand-fasting where simple promises were made in front of witnesses was considered adequate. This did not take place in the church but in the church porch after the priest had first checked the 'the kin book'. This was to ensure that the couple were not related by blood or prohibited from marriage by the Laws of Consanguinity.

I expect many of you remember these, they used to be printed as the first page of the 1662 version of the Book of Common Prayer and provided excellent reading for me as a choirboy instead of listening to boring sermons, most of which were repeats!

The laws were based on the Bible (Leviticus 18 & 20: Corinthians 1, chapter 5 and Matthew 14) and defined some 60 forbidden relationships. Most people can quote the best known – a man may not marry his dead wife's sister (although it did happen and we have instances of it in our family). However, the forbidden relationship that, over the centuries, had caused the most controversy – the marriages of uncles to nieces – was not included. In 1650, Oliver Cromwell introduced the death penalty for those transgressing these laws!

The succession of marriage acts passed since 1907, particularly the 1949 Act, clarified the position and removed one or two restrictions but retained the ban on the uncle/niece relationship.

Any children born as a result of an infringement of the laws were legally illegitimate. The Legitimacy Act of 1926 went some way to removing the stigma of being born out of wedlock and we have now

progressed to the stage where illegitimate children have exactly the same rights as those born in wedlock.

The marriage ceremony became more formalised as time went by and gradually moved into the church ending up in front of the altar as it does today. This was to provide firm evidence of legitimacy of subsequent issue for the purposes of the Poor Laws, first enacted in 1236 and continually modified until they were abolished in 1925. Illegitimate children, if a father could not be found, became a charge on the parish! In 1927, legal adoption commenced – prior to this there was only fostering which had no legal connotation.

The legal age for marriage (with parent's consent) until 1929 was 12 for a girl and 14 for a boy.



Marriage in church or chapel normally required the calling of Banns in the parishes of both bride and groom for 3 weeks preceding the marriage to allow for any possible objections. This was quite an expensive business and you will often find the bride and groom giving the same address or two addresses in the same parish to save money! The old dodge was to leave a suitcase with a few clothes in at a friend's house for the necessary three weeks.

In my case, we had to resort to this, not to save money but because Angela had been living in South Africa and did not have a parish of residence.

After 1823, the period of residence was reduced to 15 days but banns still had to be called three times.

If you wanted to avoid having Banns called, for whatever reason, after 1837 the superintendent registrar could issue a license for the marriage to be held in a register office, a church without banns having to be called and an unlicensed non-conformist chapel. Today, of course, this can include a hotel, castle or stately home licensed for the purpose.

The reasons for a couple obtaining a license were many and varied. Apart from wishing to avoid any objections and get married away from home, it could be that the bride was pregnant or the groom leaving to go overseas with the army or navy.

Marriage licenses were not a new thing, they were first introduced in the 14th century but more on these later.



On the subject of marriages, the picture opposite is of the Golden Wedding celebrations of Thomas Swinnerton of Stoke on Trent (TS.68) and his wife Mary Ann née Cotton) in 1921. They had married on the 20th of February 1871 at Stoke. The picture was taken on the steps of Stoke Town Hall. Thomas was the grandfather of our members Douglas and Roy Swinnerton.



Two mysteries solved.

In *Saga* for December 2006, I said 'even our excellent databases cannot tell us who Elizabeth Cockburn (née Swinnerton) was'. As they say in the pantomimes - 'Oh, Yes they can!' Roy Talbot tells me, in his inimitable style, that *The Reverend Charles Edward Swinnerton M.A. when not doing good in the far east or fighting the Hun found time to marry Grace Dover. The youngest of their three children was Jean Elizabeth Swinnerton [JS150] who in the first quarter of 1956 was married in Kensington to one Robert Waring Pitcaim Cockburn*'.

* * * * *

In the April 2007 *Saga* I asked which Elizabeth was the one whose administration I published. Again Roy came up with the answer – she was Elizabeth of Butterton (ES59) and Mary Blunt was her companion and named in her will of 1774. William Hutchinson was obviously acquainted and there was a man of that name married Mary Swinnerton (MS254) of the Yorkshire Branch at Wadsworth on 20 May 1742.

Now that is most interesting – could it be that we should be looking amongst the Butterton family for John Swinnerton (JS417), the progenitor of the Yorkshire family who was probably born about 1630 and buried on the 14 September 1680 at Handsworth Woodhouse and whose origins we do not know?

* * * * *

Another mystery

Geoffrey Swinnerton has sent me another newspaper cutting from the Weekend Echo of Saturday August 4th 2007 which is offering congratulations to Nathaniel Swinnerton on his 21st birthday. According to our index of Births, Marriages and Deaths he was registered as Nathaniel Jordan Swinnerton at Liverpool in 1986. and his mother's maiden name was Shaw.

A bit of detective work in our records revealed that a William Swinnerton married a lady named Shaw at Liverpool in the last quarter of 1984. But which William?

* * * * *

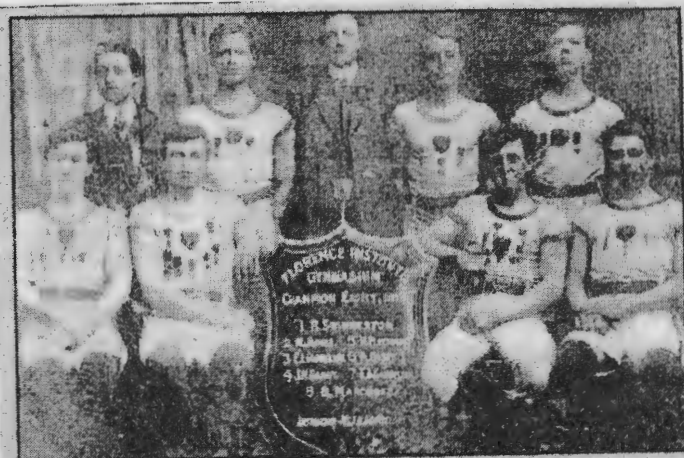
And another.

WW2 Casualties from Whiston, South Yorkshire

A son of William Swinnerton Widman and Marjorie Widman of Rotherham was killed on the 8th March 1945. Taken from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission list.

From the Newspapers

This newspaper cutting was sent to me by Geoffrey Swinnerton of Liverpool. As you can see, the date is 1913 and the first name on the shield is R. Swinnerton. Presumably he was the captain of the team – does anyone recognise him?



LANDLADY Pat Bailey of the Wellington Vaults on Mill Street sent in this old Mersey Memory of the Florrie Institute. "Do any readers recognise any members pictured?" asks Pat.

✱ ✱ ✱

In the *Liverpool Echo* on New Year's Day this year, there was a letter from Mrs J. Swinnerton of Wavertree complaining about the enormous cost of rail travel these days. She said that she and her husband wanted to go from Liverpool to Worthing with their two-year old son as it would have been a great adventure for him but it was going to cost £150 even at off-peak rates. So they drove – not good for the environment, she said, but a whole lot cheaper, she said.

Mr G.J.W. Spickernell and
Miss J. Swinnerton

The engagement is announced between Godfrey, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Richard Spickernell, of Pewsey, Wiltshire, and Joanna, youngest daughter of Colonel and Mrs Iain Swinnerton, of Longburton, Dorset.

Daily Telegraph Thursday October 5th, 2007

Here is yet another cutting sent in by Geoffrey - he has been very industrious this year! It is taken from the *Weekend Echo* of Saturday April 7, 2007.



PUPILS from St Philip's school in Southport are pictured here in 1948. "My late father, John (rear right) is the school master. He retrained as a teacher after four years as a prisoner of war in Germany," says reader Geoff Swinnerton from Allerton.

WELLINGTON (New Zealand) EVENING POST 6th March 1912

New York is rejoicing in its first trio of feminine deputy sheriffs. Two middle aged ladies, Mrs. J. S. Crosby and Miss Cornelia Swinnerton, of the Women's Suffrage League, and Miss Patterson, a journalist, have been sworn in, and received badges, with Mr. Sheriff Julius Harburger's benediction. "You can now," Mr. Harburger said, "exercise your authority wherever the law is being disobeyed. Just flash your badge, and march the culprits to prison. I suggest that your greatest usefulness might be in protecting young girls in public dance halls, enforcing the law forbidding the sale of liquor to children, seeing that the factory laws are obeyed, and, above all, in suppressing the 'mashers' who infest New York's streets and hotels." Mr. Harburger will issue a thousand badges if enough responsible women apply.

Many thanks to Douglas Bolitho of Levin, New Zealand for these fascinating tit-bits (there are more to come) and also for the story of the blind vicar.

Ebay

This internet market place is proving very interesting and several of our members keep an eye open for anything connected with the family that comes up for sale.

Sadly, I was unable to secure recently the World War One memorial plaque (popularly known as the 'Dead Man's Penny') awarded to Arthur Watts Swinnerton of the 6th Battalion, the King's (Liverpool Regiment) who was killed in action on the 25th September 1916 because it sold for over £70. The price was rather more than usual because it was mounted in a very nice polished wood stand.

We do have one, acquired for us many years ago by Ray Swinnerton, for No.15684 Private Herbert Swinnerton of the 18th (2nd) South East Lancashire Battalion, The Lancashire Fusiliers - originally a Bantam Battalion. Herbert was born in West Derby, Liverpool, enlisted at Chester and was killed in action in Flanders on the 24th July 1916.

However, I was able to purchase for our archives the programme for the Abbott Memorial Lecture of Friday 4th March 1932 at University College, Nottingham. It was entitled 'Early man in the East Midlands' and the lecturer was Professor H. H. Swinnerton D.Sc., F.G.S., F.Z.S. The price pencilled on the cover was 2/6d! If any of you are collectors, there is always a lot of Swinnerton China listed for sale.

* * * * *

Annie Swynnerton A.R.A.

Many members have commented favourably on the reproductions of Annie's pictures which we have published in this magazine. I am now trying to compile a complete list of her paintings as we did for Frank Swinnerton's books.

Here are the ones I know:

The Young Mother
The Sense of Sight (1895)
Cupid and Psyche (1891)
David and Jonathan
New Risen Hope (exhibited at the Tate Gallery 1904)
Miss Elizabeth Wilkinson on a Pony (exhibited at the Tate 1906)
Oreads (exhibited at the Tate Gallery 1907)
The Convalescent (exhibited at the Tate Gallery 1929)
Dame Millicent Fawcett..CBE.LL.D (exhibited at the Tate Gallery 1931)

Who can add some more to the list?

Miscellany

Jan Aldhous tells me that she read a book of short stories entitled *The Mammoth Book of Jacobean Whodunnits*. In a story by Peter Tremayne, 'Satan in the Star Chamber', the following conversation takes place between Thomas Egerton, Lord Ellesmore, Keeper of the Seal (Nov 1612) and a Master Drew (fictional Constable of the Bankside) who had been asked to look into the death of Prince Henry, eldest son of King James.

On being asked if he (Drew) knew who Lord Ellesmore was, he replied "Two days ago at the installation of our new Lord Mayor of London, Sir John Swinnerton, you were in attendance, I was nearby and heard Sir John and divers others greet you tenderly by name. I would not think that they all be mistaken in their greeting"

+ + + + +

Colonel Jeremy Swynnerton told me sometime ago that he had attended a lecture by Professor David Loader who included two mentions of Nicholas Swynerton. Jeremy contacted him and Professor Loader said his reference came from A.H.Thompson's edition of the Lincolnshire Visitation Records (1517-31) published by the Lincoln Records Society. Nicholas is recorded as Curate in both 1518 and 1526 but he has found no other reference to him.

He went on to say that there were a number of Swynertons around at that time. John Swynerton, priest, was reported by Bishop John Longland to Cromwell in 1536 for 'bad preaching' in the Woburn area and was later reported to be in London, and was charged with heresy in December of that year. A Thomas Swynerton also appears in Kent at about that time. The references are from the *Letters and Papers of Henry VIII*.

(Editor's note: in case you think I have mistyped the dates – the Cromwell referred to is Thomas Cromwell, King Henry's Vicar-General. He was a bad lot and eventually lost his head (literally) but he did introduce Parish Registers. He was a lineal ancestor of Oliver Cromwell whose name was really Oliver Williams – but that's another story!)

+ + + + +

Calendar of Assize Records, Kent Indictments. Eliz.I
July 1581.

Committee of matrons to examine Margaret Yuge. The names of the 12 matrons are given and includes Alice Swynerton. The committee reported that Yuge was pregnant.

* * * * *

In Arnold Bennett's play *Old Wives' Tale* Matthew Swinnerton – Peel is a central character. Was Bennett influenced by his great friendship with Frank Swinnerton in choosing this name for his character I wonder?

The Inhabitants of London in 1638.

by T.C.Dale BA FSG.
 Edited from Ms 272 in the Lambeth Palace Library
 Volume II. Index and Errata. 1931

There are two entries for our family. Mr Swinnerton is indexed as appearing on pages 89 and 313 and Rowl. Swinnerton appears on page 371A.

I have not seen Volume I but from the date I think it was either Robert Swinnerton, recorded as a merchant of London in 1633, 4th son of Sir John Swinnerton the Lord Mayor or his nephew John who died without issue.

Rowland – an unusual name in the family – is completely unknown.

* * * * *

List of the most active Police Commissioners for Macclesfield

(Active meaning attending most meetings).

Included is James Swinnerton, Printer, Publisher – 61 attendances 1836-52. Very active 1838, 1846-7, 1849-50.

His gravestone reads:

SACRED TO THE MEMORY
 OF
 JAMES SWINNERTON JP
 OF MACCLESFIELD.
 SON OF BENJAMIN SWINNERTON
 OF NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME
 BORN MAY 15TH 1799
 DIED JANUARY 31, 1859

For 53 years Proprietor of the
 Macclesfield Courier and Herald

A LONG AND HONOURABLE LIFE DEVOTED
 TO THE PUBLIC WEAL AS A JOURNALIST,
 GUIDED BY INTEGRITY, TOLERATION, AND
 JUSTICE, AND GRACED BY
 CULTURE, BENEVOLENCE, AND KINDNESS
 CAUSED HIM TO BE
 VENERATED AND HONOURED
 AS THE "FATHER OF THE PROVINCIAL NEWSPAPER
 PRESS OF ENGLAND"

Well done, thou good and faithful servant
 Enter thou in the joy of the Lord"

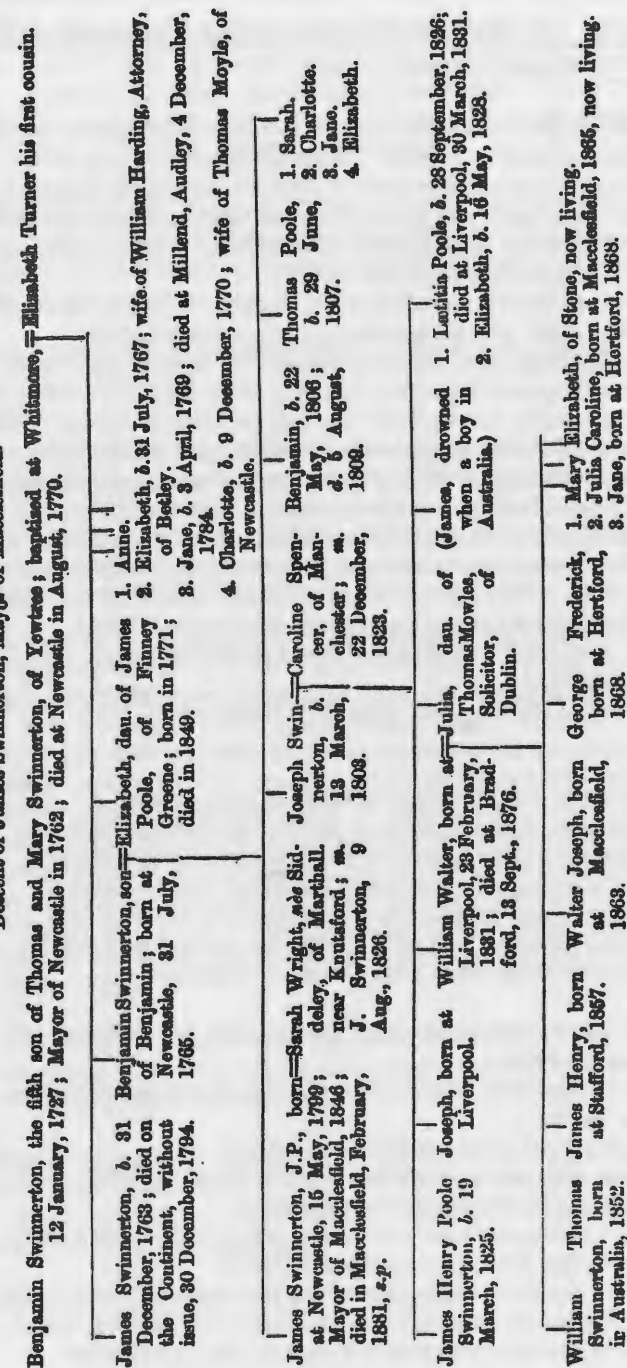
Matthew 2.

He was my great-great-great uncle. Sadly he and Sarah had no children but his next brother Joseph's son, William Walter founded our Australian Branch.

SWYNNERTON OF WHITMORE.

TABLE IV.

Descent of James Swinnerton, Mayor of Macclesfield.



An Index to The Reliquary first series Volumes 1-26, 1860-86

Compiled by Philip Riden

The Reliquary was first published in July 1860 and continued to appear quarterly in uniform octavo volumes for 34 years. The first 26 volumes make up the first series; the last eight form a second series of which the final number appeared in October 1894. The following year the magazine was reborn after a merger as *The Reliquary and Illustrated Archaeologist*, of which fifteen quarto volumes were published until its final demise in October 1909.

The journal was founded and edited single-handed until 1886 by Llewellynn Frederick William Jewitt, who wrote endlessly for it and numerous other antiquarian and art magazines. Jewitt was born in 1816 at Kimberworth, near Rotherham, the youngest of seventeen children of Arthur Jewitt (1772-1852). A considerable topographer himself, Arthur was also the father of Thomas Orlando Sheldon Jewitt (1799-1869), a wood engraver of great talent who illustrated many important archaeological and architectural publications. Llewellynn Jewitt's early life was spent at Duffield, near Derby, before he moved to London in 1838 and afterwards to Oxford. Between 1849 and 1853 he was chief librarian to Plymouth public library and then returned to Derby, where he founded the *Derby Telegraph*, a penny monthly paper, which he edited until 1868. Eight years earlier he founded *The Reliquary*, one of the publications for which he is best remembered, edited first from Duffield and then, after another move in 1868, from Winster in the Peak.

He returned to Duffield in 1880, dying at the Hollies there in 1886.

* * * *

Charles Swynnerton, the first historian of our family was a frequent contributor. Some entries were written as 'Anonymous' (although there is no doubt they were his) - '*Some Bearings of the Swynnerton Family*' published in 1920 (by this is meant, of course, Armorial bearings) and '*A pedigree showing the probable connection of the Swynnertons of Swynnerton, of Hilton, and of Eccleshall, 14th and 15th century*' in the next volume. I think he may also have been the author of '*Manx Crosses*' in Volume 26.

However, the majority were written under his own name and his output was prodigious. Here is a list:

- Vol.18. 'Notes on the family of Swynnerton, of Swynnerton and other places in co. Stafford'
- Vol.19 another article under the same heading.
- Vol.20 'Notes on the war standard of Sir Thomas de Swynnerton, knight' and 'On the armorial ensigns of the Swynnertons'.
- Vol.21 'Notes on the family of Swynnerton, of Swynnerton and other places in co. Stafford' and 'The Swynnertons of Eccleshall'.
- Vol.22 'Concluding notes on the family of Swynnerton of Swynnerton and other places in co. Stafford'; 'The parish registers of Whitmore, Co. Stafford, as far as they relate to the family of Swynnerton' and 'On the first five

- descents in the pedigree of Swynnerton, co. Stafford'.
- Vol.23 'Early Swynnerton Wills at Lichfield and other extracts and The Swynnertons of Salem, Massachusetts, United States'.
- His last contribution was in Vol.24 and was another article entitled 'Early Swynnerton wills at Lichfield and other extracts'

He is listed throughout the index as 'Swinnerton' rather than his preferred spelling of Swynnerton which he adopted about 1870. He also uses Swynnerton for the emigrants to Salem whereas they, in fact, used Swinerton.

Over the years, I have published many of these in this journal.

* * * * *

Charles Swynnerton was a remarkable man. Much of his research into the family history was done by post from India as witnessed by his many letters printed in publications such as *The Reliquary* above, *The Ancestor* as well as his letters to his own and other Swinnerton families around the world. I think he would not be able to do it today because of the unreliability of [postal services].

As our UK members will know, we have recently had some postal strikes causing a huge back-log which, I understand, is still being worked through. Inevitably, some items have been lost because labels have come off or envelopes have been damaged. Might I suggest that everyone puts their address on the back of the envelope as people do as a matter of course in other countries, at least then you will have a chance of getting your packet or letter back. In theory, it should only be necessary to put your name and post code on the envelope flap and I have received back several letters over the years by doing this. Of course, in my days as a 'postie' (nearly 60 years ago when I was waiting to join the army) any such letters or packets would have been opened to find the address of the sender and returned - but life and standards were very different then.

We are lucky in having Email as a substitute but, sadly, letter writing is fast becoming a forgotten art. I use Email a great deal but have not yet tried 'Texting' and don't think I will!

Email has another great advantage – one can send photographs and documents as attachments and not risk them to the vagaries of the post. So – today, I received multiple photographs from America of a new great-great niece born only 3 days ago.

What ever would Rowland Hill have thought?

Family Notes

I am very sorry to have to tell you of the death of Marjorie Nightingale (née Swinnerton) on the 20th April this year. Marjorie had been a member and supporter of our society for many years. In the early days she was a great help to me in racing the Australian branches of the family – her daughter, Glenda Simpson, says she enjoyed the challenge as she had always had an enquiring mind right up to the end.

Accompanied by Glenda, she attended our famous 'Domesday Gathering' in 1986 at which we had 226 Swinnerton descendants from all over the world celebrating the 900th anniversary of the first mention of our name. For many years she distributed our journals to all our Australian members entirely at her own expense. I used to send her them in bulk with just the labels and she enveloped them and posted them on. When the job got too much for her, she recruited Glenda to carry it on.

I visited her out at the farm or in Bathurst every time I went to Australia and she always wanted to know everything that was going on in the society.

Our sincere condolences to her husband Arthur and Glenda and family.

* * * * *

Ray Swinnerton tells me that Shelagh ran her 10th London Marathon and hopes to raise £600 for their local church. He says that she had suffered with injuries prior to the Marathon but was determined to complete it, which she did in 5 hours 5 mins - the time didn't please her, he said, because she wanted to do it in 4 hours 15 mins but the weather was very hot and lots of younger people were collapsing around her, so he thinks that she has decided that she didn't do too badly for an 'Old Bird'.

We have a spate of new arrivals in the family – let's hope they all eventually join the society! Congratulations first to Ray and Shelagh who are now are now proud grand-parents for the first time. Scarlett May Matwiewich Swinnerton was born on the 9th March 2007.

Geoffrey Swinnerton has become a grandfather again! His son Steve and his wife Jane had another daughter Rose on Friday 13th April this year. Quite obviously not an unlucky day for them and congratulations all round.

Congratulations to Andrew and Lisa Swinnerton, both on their marriage on the 23rd September 2006 and on the birth of their daughter Lucy Jude on the 20th July this year. Andrew is the son of our member David Swinnerton of the Yorkshire Branch and says he is going to join the society.

Vice President

William Swinnerton of Melbourne, Australia has resigned as Vice-President (Australia) because of age and infirmity. In recognition of his long service and as the senior member of the family, Council have elected him an Honorary Life Member.

Mr R. TALBOT
(Roy) [Adbaston] 9 Sadleir Road, St.Albans, Hertfordshire AL1 2BL 1985
Mrs M. TAYLOR
(Margaret) MS.185 [Adbaston] 42 The Dell, Sandpit Lane, St.Albans, Hertfordshire AL1 4HF 1982
Lord THOMAS of SWYNNERTON
(Hugh Swynnerton Thomas) [Betley] 29 Ladbroke Grove, London W11 3BB 1994
Mrs A.WADE
(Annabel) AS.61 [Adbaston/YT] The Old Vicarage, Hales, Market Drayton, Shropshire FF9 2PP 2003
Mr R. WADE
(Robin) [London 3] Beechview, 22A Julian's Road, Stevenage Old Town, Herts SG1 3EU 1996
Miss C.M. WATTS
(Claudia Maria) [Warks] 29 Caxton Square, Isle of Dogs, London E14 3EU 1984
Mrs H.Z. WATTS
(Hester Zoe) [Warks] 13 Fitzwalter Road, Colchester, Essex CO3 3SY 1984
Mr N.W.R. WATTS
(Nigel William Roland) [Warks] 9 Furlong Road, London N7 8LS 1984
Mrs B. WEAVER
(Bridgid) [Adbaston/YT] 51 Grange Road, Wigston Fields, Leicester, Leics. LE18 1JL 1987
Mrs E.M. WOOD
(Ena Margaret) ES.161 [Shropshire] The Grange, Little Hulton, Sessay, Thirsk, N.Yorks YO7 3BQ 1975
Mr J.E. WOOD
(Jeffrey Elliott) [Glos] 9025 Westchester Drive, Manassas, Virginia 22111 USA 1991
Mrs E.YEANDLE
(Elizabeth) [Betley] Stile, Wooton Courtenay, Minehead, Somerset TA24 8RG 2000
Mr B.YEANDLE
(Ben) [Betley] 41 Third Avenue, Oldfield park, Bath, Somerset BA2 3NZ 2005



A MONMOUTHSHIRE C.C. BLIND ADULTS' CLASS—MARCH, 1911.

Mr. A. COMLEY, Teacher. Five Pupils—Ages 25 to 45. Rev. J. SWINNERTON, Hon. Sec., Llandevaud, Newport, Mon.

*From Rev J Swinnerton
Many thanks for kind
help & sympathy & for
the letter to the same from
JL*

POST OFFICE
THE ADDRESS TO BE WRITTEN ON THE SIDE



*Mrs. Gifford
Ruth - Hodge
Llandevaud
Mr. Chapman*

Notes on the Irish Family compiled by Ann Barnard**Quakers**

(Note: any items in italic were added by J.W.Swinerton who reviewed the file in the mid-80s or W.R.Swinerton who had the file for several years before his death in 2003. The spelling of the name varies, the original writing is mostly in pencil and very difficult to decipher).

Ann Barnard of Canada (the mother of our member Edythe Seeley), had a voluminous correspondence with me in the 1960s and 70s. These notes she gave me were the basis of my research into the Irish branch of the family which has been ongoing for many years. It has now got to the stage where the tree I originally published in this journal in December 1991 (Volume 8, No.8) on one page of A4 has now grown to a tree some 4 feet long but further research is stymied until I can pay a visit to Ireland.

* * *

The first member of the Friends from England was a Henry Green of Alnwick, Northumberland and among the two earliest members were the two most prominent names still there today – Swenertons and Haydocks. There were quite a few marriages between these two family names over the years up until 1974.

In 1960 the undermentioned names were recorded:-

John Swinarton of Coolhill, Dungannon

Ida W.Swenerton of Lisnamorrow House, Dungannon

W.Eric and Ida J.Swenarton – family:-

1. May I.S. (*Sylvia Isobel May*)
2. William J.
3. Edith M.A. (*Edith Heather Ann*)
4. Hazel E. (*Hazel Emily Elizabeth*)

The 1974 list only has Ida Isobel, widow of William Eric. Ida W. Swenarton is now Mrs Ferguson.

William Eric Swinarton was killed in an accident (I.R.A.) aged 49 in 1970 and John Swinarton aged 96, 1973.

An earlier book, not yet examined, 1686-1784 is still in existence at Lisburn, Co.Antrim. (*Later in the notes it says this book has been examined*).

The Swinerton family have appeared in Grange Meeting records since the early 18th century and the modern spelling of the name is Swinarton.

The Grange Register of Births 1812-1923 (Ref.GM5/4) only has the names Thomas and Susan Swinarton of Carluish (sic), Clon..., Co.Tyrone born between 1868 and 1876 and also several burials in another book.

More current registers records show:-

1. Births of William Swinarton (1861) and Robert Hemington Swinarton (1865), both of Belfast to John and Mary Swinarton.
2. William E. and Ida Isobel Swinarton William John (1952)
3. Edith Heather Ann (1953)
4. Hazel Emily Elizabeth (1956)
5. The marriage of Mary, daughter of Thomas, to James Haydock in 1903.
6. Susan Edith, dau of William and Mary of Carluish (sic)
7. Ida Winifred of Moygashel to Andrew Ferguson 1963.

Ida Winifred is Ida Winifred Ferguson (*née Swenarton*). No family.

No further information on Susan Edith Haydock.

The Grange Meeting Book (ref GM5/1) has been examined and no Swinertons are mentioned.

Quaker Record Book GM5/2

John Swinerton son of Abigail Swenarton was received into membership 1768

In 1769 he married Mary Haddock daughter of Haddock & same meeting (sic)

(The Haddocks or Haydocks are very large and the cemetery at the Grange is full of them from the very early days before Cromwell (Henry).)

Their family was:

1. John 8 mch 1770 – died 1776
2. Thomas 2nd mch 1772 – died 4th mch 1772
3. William 3rd mo 1773 – died 2 mo 1776
4. William 8 mo 1775-1775
5. Thomas 6 mo 1776
6. John 7 mo 1778 married out of society to Mary Haddock
7. Richard 12 mo 1781 died
8. Mary 12 mo 1784 died 9th mo 4 – 1800
9. William 7th mo 1787

Grange Meeting.

Wedding 1811

Witnesses: Thomas Swenarton and William Swenarton (*probably brothers to John who went to USA*).

Wedding 1814

Witness: William Swenarton (*same as above*).

Thomas and William were brothers and apparently sons of John and Abigail Swinarton.

Record sent by Mrs Ida Ferguson, 175 Old English Road, Mulycanon, Dungannon, Co.Tyrone.

There were three in her family:

Edith born Feb 13, 1916 married James Haydock July 18th, 1945

William Eric born July 7th, 1970 married Ida Isobel Neil May 19th, 1950.

Killed by IRA in an accident Mar 26, 1970.

Ida herself was born July 17th, 1918. Married April 3rd 1963.

Her father, William Swinerton, married Mary Young 27th April 1915. He had two brothers and 2 sisters.

Father born 29/7/1872 died 10/3/46. he had 2 brothers and 5 sisters.

Brothers:

Thomas died 28/12/50 age 26

John died 22/5/63 age 96

Daughters:

Annie died 13/4/63 age 93

Minnie (*Mary*) no record

Her dau – Mrs Mannie Haydock, Stangmore, Dungannon, Co. Tyrone

Another contact from Mrs I.I. Swinerton, Cholure (sic) Coolroh, Dungannon, Co Tyrone re letters from 'Uncle John'.

Quaker records from the Grange Meeting House ex. Mrs Ida Ferguson (née Ida Winifred Swenarton) of The Bungalow, Mullycannon, Boland, Dungannon, Co. Tyrone, NI.

Thomas Swinerton married Susan Calvert 19th Nov 1866

Issue:

Mary b. 16 of 8 mo. 1868

Annie b. 5 of 6 mo. 1870

William b. 29 of 7 mo. 1872

Thomas b. 23 of 11 mo. 1874

John b. 21 of 12 mo. 1876

Thomas d. 5 of the 5th mo. 1899

Susan d. 25 of the 8th mo. 1927

William Swinnerton d. 10 or 24 Mar 1946 aged 74.

Mary Young (née Swenarton) d. 11 Jan 1960 aged 84

Children of William:

Susan Edith d. circa 1916

Ida Winifred d.c. 1918

William Eric m. Ida Isobel Neil 19 May 1948 or 1950.

William Eric d. 7 Jul 1920 as a result of a planned accident 24 Mar 1920 (Info from Mrs Eric Swinerton, Cholera, Corleush, 27 Circular Road, Dungannon, Co Tyrone, NI.)

In the Quaker Cemetery at the Grange Meeting House, numerous Swinertons are buried. Only 5 have headstones but records of the others are in the Quaker Records at Belfast. (contact Mrs Cummings, Cornamuckle House, Dungannon, Co. Tyrone).

The name Haydock seems to be frequent in the Swinnerton records. In the library at Sligal there are many references to the Swinertons.

Noted in 1974 on visit to above:

Thomas Swinerton died 28 Dec 1950 aged 76

John Swinerton died 22 May 1972 aged 96

William Swinnatton born 28th July 1872

Died 10th March 1946

Mary Swinerton (young) born 8th August 1877

Died 9th January 1960

Wm Eric Swinerton born 7 July 1920

Died 26 Mar 1970 (was killed in accident IRA)

It would appear that Thomas (No.5), John (No.6) and William (No.9) were the only survivors of this marriage. Therefore, Thomas may also have married in the late 1700s or early 1800s and that one of his sons, was Thomas, and also married a Jane Haddock and their children were Catherine who married Chas. Bolton of Bolton, Ont & Robert who married Sophia Goodwin and also lived at Coventry, near Bolton and it was this group who founded Coventry prior to Thomas's marriage (born Ireland 1821, arrive in Canada 1831) married Eliza Parker (born Coventry 1826) and whom he married in 1846 at Brompton, Ont. And they had 8 children Mary being one of these and my grandmother. They then separated (Thomas) from Eliza and had by his housekeeper two sons Joseph and John. (Joseph died in Toronto and John died in McLeod, Alberta. The original 8 children I have located and know who they married and where they died. One being Albert who has two daughters still living in Toronto.

John Swinerton referred to as a storekeeper in Belfast. Died aged 48 – Oct 23 1866

(father of Wm & Robert Hemington to Canada).

Deaths recorded.

Mary wife of John 1823 aged 70

John 1838 aged 94

Richard (non-member) 1855 aged 21

William (non-member) 1859

Sarah (non-member) 1872

Thomas 1899 aged 73

* * * * *

I am convinced that this Irish Branch of the family descended from Thomas Swinerton, the Captain in Oliver Cromwell's army. After Cromwell's devastating campaign in Ireland in 1649-50. Parliamentary soldiers who had served in Ireland were entitled to an allotment of land, confiscated from the Catholics, in lieu of their wages which Parliament had been unable to pay in full. They were called the 'Forty-niners' and Thomas's name is on the list. However, the first name on my tree is John in 1740 so there is a big gap to fill.

Some First World War Soldiers



Sgt Major James Henry Swinnerton
15th (Service) Battalion (1st Birkenhead)
The Cheshire Regiment.
A Bantam battalion



Sydney Harold Swinnerton
This photograph is endorsed on the back
'believed to be Sydney Harold Swinnerton
But I cannot find an entry on the medal rolls
for him or identify the cap badge.

95 Swinnertons served in the army in WWI and these are the only photographs we have! Can you help – we can copy originals which will be safely returned



Will Swinnerton 1915



Sydney Harding Swinnerton
Private. South Staffordshire
Regiment

A BLIND VICAR - HIS MANY ACTIVITIES

From the "Evening Post" newspaper, New Zealand. 9 July 1910.

"It is a very curious thing that my blindness rather keeps me from getting readily and closely in touch with my people. Some of them are so sensitive about it that they scarcely dare to converse freely with me for fear they should say something that would wound me. Others, with the kindest possible intentions, constantly refer to it, and that is something like telling a lame man, every time you see him, that you notice he is lame."

The speaker was the Rev. John Swinnerton, the new incumbent of St. Nicholas Parish Church, Tolleshunt Major, which is five miles from Maldon, in Essex. Since he was eighteen month old Mr. Swinnerton has been totally blind, yet the sentence quoted above was the only note of complaint he made in the course of a long conversation with a representative of the Daily Chronicle.

Mr. Swinnerton has a motto that others less afflicted would do well to make their own, and which largely accounts for the cheery spirit in which he goes about his work.

"I believe," he explained, "in making the best of things as I find them. It is no good being unhappy about what cannot be remedied, so I try to get all the pleasure out of my surroundings that they are capable of providing."

"I play cricket," said Mr. Swinnerton with a smile, that seemed to indicate that he had imagined the surprise he could not see. "And then I can play cards, chess, and read the Braille newspaper, and bicycle. Oh, yes, I bicycle. Of course I have to ride tandem, so that there shall be someone to steer, but I have ridden thousands of miles on the machine, and enjoy it exceedingly.

"I was good at cricket, too. This (taking up a volume) is a prize I took for bowling at school. It was fine fun.

"We used to have a wicker ball with little bells, so that we could hear where it was. The bowler, when ready, would shout 'Ready?' and the batsman would answer 'Yes,' and the sound of the voices would give each of them an indication of where the other stood. Once the totally blind scholars played the teachers, all of whom, of course, could see. To equalise matters a little we made them take a double run each time to our single."

In music Mr. Swinnerton finds another recreation which is a joy and a service at the same time. Indeed, music was one of the acquirements that helped him to complete his education, for he secured a scholarship as organist, as well as the Gardner scholarship, which was provided, among other things, for the instruction of the blind in music.

The blind vicar was born in Shropshire, the son of the Rev. James Swinnerton, and was sent first to the College for the Blind at Bristol. Then he went to the College for the Higher Education of the Blind, at Worcester, and on to Oxford. At the University he managed in two years to take his degree. Leaving the University after only three years he was ordained in 1901, took a curacy at Magor, near Newport, Mon., in the same year, and two years and a

half later went to St. Bride's Minor, which is near Bridgend, in Glamorganshire.

Mr. Swinnerton went next to the rather "drab" colliery district of Hemsworth, in Yorkshire. "I found the Yorkshiremen," he declared, "somewhat difficult to get to close quarters with at first. There is a certain reserve about them that does not admit of close friendship immediately, or in a hurry. But I found that when once I got within their guard, as it were, they were the truest friends a man could wish to have."



SWINNERTON

NOTES COLLATED BY DOUGLAS SWINNERTON
OF IRVINE, CALIFORNIA

DESCENDANTS OF ROBERT SWINNERTON OF
ISLE OF MAN AND OLIVIA SYLVANIA OF
EDINBURGH.



The original title page of the notes sent to me by Douglas Swinnerton.

Swinnerton

Notes collated by Douglas Swinnerton of Irvine, California.

Descendants of Robert Swinnerton of Isle of Man and Olivia Sylvania of Edinburgh.

These papers were sent to me many years ago and they have been 'in store'. They were not suitable for reproduction because of the manner in which they were set out and I have never had the time to type them all up again. However, John Swynnerton of Sheffield has now retired and is taking a keen interest in the history of his Betley Branch, and he kindly offered to edit the and type them up to make them suitable for reproduction and also so that we could have a suitable edited version for our archives. They included a tree and extract from Vol. VII of the *Collections for a History of Staffordshire* which I have not included as we are all very familiar with it and also a number of photocopies of extracts from newspapers, photographs and other material which are the quality of which is too poor to reproduce. John has included comments by other members of the family who have seen them.

The notes are particularly interesting in that they give personal views of members of the family who are no longer living by people who actually knew them.

THE SWINNERTON FAMILY

This is a brief outline of the Swinnerton Family assembled principally from facts, information and recollections of my mother, Claire Jeanette Swinnerton, wife of Godfrey Joseph Swinnerton, and my father's sister, Florence Gertrude (Auntie Florrie). Other sources of information are identified in the text.

Douglas K. Swinnerton

March 24, 1969

* * * * *

CHARLES SWINNERTON 1813 - 1907

Charles Swinnerton was born in Liverpool, 1813. Went to the Isle of Man in 1833 where he met a Manx girl, Mary Callister, who was a teacher and a member of the Callister family of Cronk Renney, Castletown, Isle of Man, where they were married. They moved to Douglas where he set up business as a stone carver. The Douglas Directory for 1846 lists Mary Swinnerton as a staymaker. Directory of 1857 shows their home, 60 Fort Street, as a boarding house. Business address as Stone Mason was the "Office, Prospect Hill".

Charles was an artist in stone. He carved the pulpit back of the altar wall in the chapel at Bishops Court - reredos of Caen stone in St. Thomas

Church, Douglas. It has since been replaced by wood but Castle Rusben Museum, near Castletown, has pieces of the original. He also carved a famous sun dial. On the face were carved the heads of the different races of people. When the shadow of the hand fell on a certain head, it was high noon in the country represented by the head. It unfortunately has been lost track of.

He became Town Commissioner and the family attended the church of St. Thomas (Episcopal) in Douglas. The Manx Quarterly 1907 - 1909 reported he was a commercial success and a gentleman with a delightful manner. His wife Mary died in 1874. In 1885 he retired from business and moved to a beautiful house in Port St. Mary.

He had a beautiful home on the shore which was never heard called anything but "Portsn Mary" (truly British!). It had beautiful views of the sea and rocks and headlands on every hand and certainly encouraged the artistic talents of his children.

Godfrey and Frances said he never seemed to get over the loss of his wife, Mary, who had been an English schoolteacher and who died in 1874.

Charles passed away in 1907. He is buried at Onchan churchyard (2 ½ miles north of Douglas on the road to Laxey and Ramsey) April 26, 1907. In the records of the Church, his death is entry 463 in year 1907, grave site 661 & 662. He is shown as age 93 and Stanley Walmsley was vicar.

As related by Auntie Florrie -

"In regard to the artistic talent in the family - well, Grandpa Swinnerton was a stone mason. In the Isle of Man that meant a man who carved stone or marble and he had carved some very beautiful figures for grave markers or headstones. Joe Cannell in Cleveland gave me an article to read on "famous Sundials of the world" and it gave a detailed description of a Sundial made by Charles Swinnerton (Grandpa) away back in the eighteen hundreds in Douglas, IOM stating that it had been in the nunnery grounds for many years. It had then been taken to a school for boys in the grounds where it had been defaced by some of the students. It was traced from there to some place in private estate grounds in England and it had been lost track of from there on.

This article described it as having heads of the different races of people cut in the dial so that when the shadow of the hand fell on a certain head, say that of a Chinese or an Egyptian, then you could tell that it was high noon in the country which the head indicated.

Grandmother Swinnerton, my Grandfather was always terribly in love with her. She is buried in the family plot at Onchan, Isle of Man.

I used to go there with Grandpa and there was a high ornamental black iron fence around the Swinnerton burial lot and that was almost hidden with a laurestinas hedge which was always covered with such delicate pink and mauve blossoms, very fragrant and Grandpa used to stand very still beside her grave with the tears running down his cheeks. She was a very refined person, very soft and gentle and frail, tall and slender (this is what I remember Grandpa telling me of her).

She was very well educated and a great reader and a semi-invalid for years before she died. I have seen several pictures of her and whenever I see that famous picture of Whistler's Mother - well, she looks like our Grandma Swinnerton."

Excerpts of letters from Charles Swinnerton to son and daughter-in-law - Mark and Sarah, and to granddaughter - Mary, secured from Stephen C. Saunders, grandson of Mark.

Douglas February 19, 1881

Grandfather to Mark & Sarah: Charles Frederick is a very nice name. 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.

Douglas June 26, 1883

Grandfather to Mark & Sarah: Joseph is to be married on the 6th of next month to a lady artist Miss Anny¹ Robinson of Manchester. She is highly educated and a very clever artist painter. Godfrey arrived at Valparaiso about three weeks ago as Master of the Barque Warwickshire. Fred is just now gone to Brittany for a few days to sketch and paint. He has several commissions. Robert has opened an Establishment in Southport. I am very sorry Charles has lost his wife

The Studio October 8, 1888

Grandfather to Mark: Charles is in India but his little boy is with his Aunt in the Isle of Wight and his little girl is with a lady in England. Fred is very well and went to Bruges to paint some pictures for a Manchester gentleman.

The Studio - Port St. Mary February 20, 1893

Grandfather to Mark: Now in the first place I must tell you that while I was in Manchester I received a letter from Fred which rather surprised me saying that he was married to a daughter of Colonel Angelo of the Bengal Army, her name is Louise and that I might expect him and his wife about the end of February (this month). I then shall have the

¹ According to Colonel Jeremy Charles Angelo Swynnerton "Anny" should be spelt "Annie".

coming. Joseph at present is in Rome finishing a model of a fountain.

The Studio November 16, 1895

Grandfather to Mary: Your Uncle Charles is still in India, and so is Fred whose wife Louise and family of a boy and girl are in "Simla" and are all well. My house here is situated in a very beautiful spot on the margin of the sea and within eighteen feet of high water mark

Within the last nine days we have experienced two very severe gales of wind accompanied by rain, but I am happy to say the house sustained no damage, being protected by a strong built bulwark next to sea.

The Studio August 18, 1896

Grandfather to Mary: I have just received a letter from your Uncle Fred who resides in Simla, India, saying that his wife has just presented him with another little daughter this being the second, the first was a son who he has named Dickey after his original or immediate ancestor Wild Dick Swynnerton of Whitmore, third son of Roger de Swynnerton - Lord of Swynnerton, died in 1298, and it is curious to note that this Richard de Swynnerton in 1350 obtained the King's license to embark at Dover for Rome with a retinue of two chaplains, two valets, two grooms, and two horses. Clement VI was the then reigning Pontiff. Freds first daughter is named Margery and the new baby Catherine Bertha² Mary, after its Aunt Mrs. Blakeley and its grandmother Swinnerton, the name Bertha being of no one particular.

The Studio March 9, 1897

Grandfather to Mary: Fred is also in India and has just sent me a very nice framed Medallion modelled by himself of his wife Louise. He has also modelled his brother Charles, which I understand is very good. He exhibited a number of his paintings in the Simla exhibition and among the rest one of Charles which was very highly spoken of in the Indian papers. I shall most likely have them here shortly. Freds wife is very Artistic, she is working me a beautiful Heraldic Screen, in silk, with the various and different shields of the Swinnerton family and her own emblazoned in their variety of colours something after the manner of the ancient tapestry. Robert as you no doubt are aware is in Los Angeles, and your cousin Frances was married on the last day of December last to a Mr. Edmundson.

* * * *

(to be continued)

Canterbury Marriage Licenses

For the license of John Derricke of Ulcombe, husbandman, bachelor about 21 at his own government to marry Mary Ady, spinster about 24, daughter of Christopher Ady, Yeoman who consents, at St. Margaret's Canterbury, Adrian Swinerton of Ulcumbe, kerseymaker, bonds. Feb. 7, 1631.

² According to Colonel Jeremy Charles Angelo Swynnerton the forenames should be "Catherine Mary" and not "Catherine Bertha Mary".

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of The Swinnerton Society held in Swynnerton on Saturday 2nd June 2007

Prior to the meeting members were shown some of the problems currently being experienced in St Mary's Church by churchwarden Steve Parkhouse.

The Chairman welcomed 13 members to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance.

1.07 **APOLOGIES** were received from Iain Swinnerton, Mareta and Charles Jerrett, Stuart Limb and Elizabeth and Keith Livesey.

2.07 **MINUTES** of the last AGM were taken as read and signed by the Chairman following a proposal by Brian Swynnerton seconded by Anne Swinnerton.

3.07 **MATTERS ARISING** The chairman advised that some of the surplus funds from the Swynnerton Charter event last August had helped to improve the toilet facilities in the Church Hall and were also to be used to assist with some of the current problems at St Mary's Church.

4.07 **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT** Barrie Swinnerton reported that the year had started with the Swynnerton Village Charter day which had been well supported by Council and Society members in general and in particular by Elizabeth and Roger Swynnerton in the Charter ceremony. The Swinnerton Society had been the first organisation to offer their support to this event which turned out to be very successful.

Two Council meetings had been held during the year in Gower and Shrewsbury.

Sadly in April The Revd Barry Brewer retired as rector of St Mary's Church and also therefore as Chaplain of the Society.

5.07 **TREASURER'S REPORT** Alan Jones reported the accounts for the year 2006 and a summary copy is attached. Income had been boosted during the year with the receipt of £862 gift aid. Alan expressed concern that with the falling membership and income the society would have future problems to cover the increasing cost of printing, postage etc as well as supporting research and our charity obligations to the welfare of St Mary's Church. A proposal by Brian Swynnerton and seconded by Roger Swynnerton to reduce the number of journals per year from 3 editions to 2 was passed by a majority vote.

Following considerable discussion it was agreed that the next council meeting should discuss the division of expenditure between the journal printing - research - charity and report back at the next AGM.

It was agreed to maintain the annual subscription at the current level of £10 for 2008 following a proposal by Alan Jones and seconded by Audrey Cherry.

6.07 MEMBERSHIP REPORT Ray Swinnerton reported membership of 147 including new members but also including 24 existing members who had not yet renewed for 2007. Reminders will be sent out again.

7.07 ARCHIVIST'S REPORT The Chairman reported that Iain Swinnerton had referred the meeting to his recent reports printed this year in the April journal.

There was considerable discussion on the subject of accessing data and how this might be achieved via our web site for Society members only. It was agreed we should follow up with Malcolm Smith.

8.07 ELECTION OF OFFICERS Stuart Limb and Alan Jones retire under the six year rule. Alan agreed to stand again in an honorary capacity. Following a proposal by Brian Swynnerton and seconded by Elizabeth Swynnerton all officers, council members and honorary members were re-elected. The Society thus has 1 vacancy for Council.

Council were requested to discuss the Constitution at the next Council meeting as it relates to the membership of Council.

9.07 ELECTION OF NEW PRESIDENT The chairman offered thanks on behalf of Council and the Society to Past President Iain Swinnerton for not only his time as President but also his membership of Council in many capacities during the 33 years since he formed the Society.

Council looked forward to his continued input as Editor of our Journal and his unique knowledge of the archives and our family history.

Brian Swynnerton was proposed by Alan Jones and seconded by Liz Yeandle to replace Iain as President.

Roger Swynnerton was proposed by Alan Jones and seconded by Shelagh Swinnerton to be a Vice-President.

10.07 VACANCY FOR SOCIETY CHAPLAIN After some discussion Brian Swynnerton agreed to cover the position of Chaplain until such time that we have another candidate. This was agreed following a proposal by Liz Yeandle and seconded by Margaret Swinnerton.

11.07 ANY OTHER BUSINESS Brian Swynnerton reported that he had had a very nice letter from Lord Stafford regarding his future involvement with the Society. Unfortunately his very onerous commitments make it impossible at this time but he sent his best wishes for the future of the Society.

12.07 DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT AGM As the meeting next year will also coincide with the Triennial Family Gathering the date of Saturday 7th June 2008 was agreed subject to suitable arrangements being made by the Secretary Mrs Margaret Swinnerton.

Profit/Loss Account Swinnerton Society			
	Year to Dec 06		Year to Dec 05
Income			
Subscriptions UK		£1,188.00	£997.50
Subscriptions Canada		£82.13	£45.91
Subscriptions US		£366.89	£47.27
Subscriptions Aus		£92.79	£112.42
Sales		£153.20	
Interest		£2.81	£7.01
Donations		£169.00	£137.00
Research Income			
Gathering			£933.10
Gift Aid		£862.66	
		£2,917.48	£2,280.21
Expenditure			
Subscriptions paid	£52.50		£40.50
Journal Printing	£839.91		£724.21
Journal Posting	£293.99		£209.31
Other posting			
Stationery	£66.85		£114.11
Gathering			£812.00
Printing of Trees			
Printing of Steeplechase			
Donations	£100.00		£70.00
Misc Supplies			
Research	£40.50		
Books Printed	£175.00		
ISS Expenses			
GS Expenses			
Charter for Archives			
Hire of Room			
Computer and supplies	£515.42		
Marketing	£35.00		
Expenditure for Year		£2,119.17	£1,970.13
Profit/Loss for year		£798.31	£310.08
Balance b/f		£1,679.10	£1,369.02
Profit/Loss carried forward		£2,477.41	£1,679.10

India Records

In connection with the publication of extracts from the India records in the last Saga, Tim Swynnerton tells me that he visited St. Thomas's Cathedral in Bombay when he was last in India – Frederick Richard was his Uncle Dick. He also visited Sewri Cemetery to look at his grandfather's grave (Frederick Swynnerton) and found the cemetery was beautifully kept despite it being in a very poor part of Bombay.

He says that over a period of time, due to pressure for housing, the cemetery wall has moved inwards and his grandfather's grave is now under the wall and the gravestone has disappeared. According to the custodian of the cemetery, the gravestones made excellent ironing boards!

After viewing the wall, they retired to the custodian's office and on looking again at the entry in his ledger, he noticed that the family had not paid for the gravestone. Tim pointed out that the gravestone had disappeared and he agreed so ticked the correct column in his ledger.

Tim says he believes the Sewri Cemetery has been given some form of protection by the Indian Government because of its historical significance.

* * * * *

Colin Swinnerton tells me that his son, the actor Paul Swinnerton, is playing the lead part of the Man in Suit in the film *I Love My Suit*. It is a short black and white, silent film about a man who wears a seersucker suit all the time. It is described as an absurdist comedy. Apparently, dozens were auditioned for the part but the producer said "Paul is perfect for this character. He's got a great physical presence and he really understood the tone of the performance which is a very delicate balance between pathos and humour".

Paul, himself, is quoted as saying the film required him to perform some awkward tasks. "Wandering around town for a few days in just my underpants was a liberating experience. I'd highly recommend it".



Swinnerton – ~~Swinnerton~~ – SWENERTON – Swenarton
Swynnerton – ~~Swinnerton~~ – Swinnington

However you spell it we hope to see you at Swynnerton, Staffordshire
on Saturday 7th June 2008. Book the date now!

PUBLICATIONS OF THE SWINNERTON SOCIETY

Binders for the Saga are now available again. Each Binder holds 12 issues and an index.

The binders are gold blocked on front with badge and on spine with title.
UK £6.00

Some back issues are still available if you wish to try and make up a set.

* * * *

Swynnerton & the Swinnertons by the Rev. Brian Swynnerton

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:

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