

The Swinnerton Saga



*A Coalport jug inscribed to James Swinnerton, Knighthton, Staffordshire 1831.
Painted with a view of a man leading a horse on one side and a verse to its
treatment on the other. Recently on sale on Ebay for £100-150.*

THE JOURNAL OF THE SWINNERTON SOCIETY

The Swinnerton Society

A non-profit making organisation devoted to the research and publication
of Swinnerton Family Records and the welfare of Swynerton Church
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THE SWINNERTON SAGA

**Volume 13
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Editor; I.S.Swynerton

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FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Spring has arrived with the usual mix of weather and not surprisingly for South Wales we have had more than our share of rain and storms. The stream flowing through our garden has been a raging torrent at times and yesterday wind speeds were more than 80 mph at Worms Head very near to our home.

Since the last Council meeting in October Margaret and I have made another visit to New Zealand to visit our son Nick and his wife Kelly. Whilst we spent most of our time with Nick we did make a few short visits to the Coromandel Peninsular and the famous "birding" area of Miranda on the Thames estuary and also managed to get down to Napier to coincide with the Hawke's Bay Wine Festival. In 1838 a group of French missionaries established a Marist mission in New Zealand planting grapes for both sacramental and table wines. Today Mission Estate is one of Hawke's Bay's largest wineries with an excellent restaurant also.

Our last Council meeting was held in March in the church hall of St Mary's in Swynnerton. We had plenty of things to discuss in particular the Triennial Family Gathering to be held on Saturday 7th June 2008. The day will follow a similar format to past gatherings with everybody meeting in St Mary's Church Hall for coffee from 10 am. At 11 am we will hold a short AGM in St Mary's Church and then our President the Revd Brian Swynnerton will lead an ecumenical family service followed by a guided tour of the church. At 1 pm we will take lunch in Swynnerton Village Hall which will be decked out with all the family memorabilia, archives and family trees. We will also be showing a film of the 2006 Charter celebration of Swynnerton village. I have asked Iain Swinnerton to give us a talk on the history of the Society and our family which I know will be of great interest to everyone present. This will be followed by a talk by Shelagh Swinnerton our own marathon runner who will also let us into the secrets of defeating the pain barrier.

We hope as many of you as possible will be able to attend the Gathering so please put the date in your diary and let Ray Swinnerton have numbers as soon as possible so that we can confirm the catering arrangements. We have held the price down once again at £12.

Under the Society's rules this will be my last AGM as your Chairman and Council member. I will be retiring with my wife Margaret as secretary and Alan Jones as treasurer under the same rules. The Society will therefore be looking to appoint three new officers at this meeting.

This will therefore be my last foreword in the Journal so thanks to everybody who has helped me during my time as Chairman and in particular my fellow officers and Council members.

Barrie Swinnerton

Who Do Think You Are?

Having got back as far as July 1837, as described in the last *Saga*, we have come to the end of central registration of births, marriages and deaths and our next recourse is to Church Registers which commenced nearly three hundred years previously in 1538.

However, before we start looking for those we have one more governmental source of records with which you will all be familiar – the Census.

Census taking is a very old institution, the Babylonians were probably the first to count their population, the early Chinese and Egyptians also held regular counts followed by the Greeks and the Romans. The best known is, of course, the five-yearly Roman census in which Joseph and Mary were obliged, not just to state where they were born as we do, but to actually return to their place of origin – see St. Luke Chapter 2.

The first census in this country was, of course, the Domesday Book. Others followed – in Elizabeth's reign, the Bishops were ordered to count the number of families in their diocese and report the numbers to the Privy Council. Her successor, King James did the same.

Taking a regular annual census of the population of this country was first proposed as long ago as 1753 but it was fiercely resisted and the Bill was defeated in the House of Lords.

No-one knew the exact size of the population; various estimates had been made but the obvious rise in numbers and the increase in poverty (because of a succession of bad harvests) made it imperative that the Government should have a reasonably accurate knowledge of the number of people they had to maintain. The Poor Laws, which were first introduced in 1601, were proving unable to cope with these increases.

Another Bill was therefore brought before Parliament in 1800 and this time was quickly passed through both Houses without dissent. The first census was held on Monday 10th March, 1801 and the results were announced on the 21st December – quite remarkable. The population proved to be about 9 million as opposed to the previous estimates which had ranged from 8 to 11 million. This census and the next three, which were taken in 1811, 1821 and 1831, was simply a count of heads and houses.

It was not until 1841, that the census taken on Sunday the 6th of June required the enumerators (35,000 were employed) to deliver pre-printed forms to each household on which the name, age and occupation of every person in the house on that night had to be listed. They also had to answer 'yes' or 'no' as to whether they had been born in the county in which they were now residing (or 'S' or 'I' for Scotland or Ireland) and whether they were blind, deaf or dumb.

These forms had to be collected by the enumerators and copied into pre-printed books. For some strange reason, accurate ages were only

required to be given up to 15, above that the enumerator was instructed to round them down to the nearest five years. As it is estimated that less than 40% of the population could read or write before the introduction of compulsory education in 1880, it is obvious that many forms had to be completed by the enumerators.

Ten years later, on the 30 March 1851, things had changed and they were now required to state their married status, their relationship to the head of the household, an accurate age, their occupation and exactly where they were born.

This basic format was used again in 1861, 71, 81, 91 and 1901 which is the latest census we are allowed to see under the 100 year rule. The present government has relaxed this rule and the 1911 census will be available in 2009.

These censuses are a most valuable source for the family historian because not only do they give details of the individual ancestor but of their family groups, parents and siblings and often grandparents as well. Visitors, lodgers and servants living in the household are all shown. Institutions such as barracks, hospitals, asylums and prisons are also shown – in the latter case, usually only the initials are shown. Even gypsies and canal people were counted and the crew of ships in harbour.

When I started tracing the history of our family I used to have to go to London and search through the original enumerators' books. Seated pouring over an enumerator's book one day, I was asked by a fellow researcher if I could interpret a name for her. Having managed to decipher the writing, I commented on the atrocious handwriting at which she gleefully turned to the front of the book to show me that the enumerator was a Swinnerton!

Over the years, this has all changed – many county and regional family history societies, started in the 70s and 80s, made it a priority to transcribe and index the censuses for their area. Now, the whole of the censuses are available on various websites on the internet. However, one has to take care. The transcription of many of them have been outsourced to commercial firms, often on the Indian Continent, who lack any local knowledge and this produces some interesting results!

Roy Talbot tells me that he has discovered that the Cold War, which seems to be with us again, was not just a 20th century phenomenon! Before the Crimean War, the Russians were already spying. In Chelmarsh, Shropshire.

In the dark days of 1841 there existed a fellow in the census whom the casual reader might readily interpret as Humphrey Swinnerton, 29, agricultural labourer.

Happily twenty-first century indexers are not readily taken in and have unmasked him. He may be found in the GRO index in his true colours as Humphrey Swinarski masquerading as an ag.lab.

The First Americans 1607-1690

A History of American Life Volume II by Thomas J. Wertenbaker
Published by Quadrangle Paperbacks, Chicago.
p.175

The medical profession should have been foremost in pointing out the folly of the belief in witchcraft, but unfortunately it often lent its support to the delusion. Many a physician, when his concoctions failed to bring relief, excused himself by complaining that the patient had been bewitched. Few seem to have had any conception of the real nature of insanity or of epilepsy, and the ancient theory of demoniacal possession was generally accepted. Dr. John Swinerton, of Massachusetts, was a notable exception to the rule, and throughout the Salem witchcraft craze used his influence on behalf of the victims.



The Old Newark Burying Ground by A. Baldwin and R.W. Cook Essex County (USA) Gravestones - *Sunday Call* 8 September 1901

The old Newark burying ground¹ was located where the present Branford Place runs from Broad Street to Halsey Street and adjacent area. It received interments from the late 1600's until 1818, although after 1790 most burials were made in the graveyard behind the new Presbyterian Church across Broad Street. The old cemetery gradually deteriorated, becoming a dumping ground for refuse, and interfering with the orderly progress of the city. Over a period of many years, through legislative actions and court cases, the city strove to eliminate the burial ground and turn the property to other uses. In 1887 the city began removal of the remains, but it was not until about 1900 that arrangements to dismantle the cemetery were completed.

To receive the remains, a crypt was prepared in Fairmount Cemetery, Newark, under a monument dedicated to the first settlers of the city. The gravestones from the old burial ground were mounted along the walls of the crypt (which was an underground passageway, about six feet wide and possibly eight feet high) around the foundation of the monument. Unearthing the old cemetery was completed in 1888 and the bones which were dug up were placed in wooden boxes. These boxes were deposited in the crypt, November 26, 1889, being stacked in three parts of the passageway to a height of perhaps five feet. Services of recommitment and dedication of the monument took place on December 19, 1889.²

In 1890, before the crypt was closed, Mr. James Swinnerton, at the request of the city authorities, spent several days with a candle, making pen-and-ink sketches of the devices and inscriptions of the tombstones which lined the walls of the crypt.³

In 1925 the New Jersey Historical Society published abstracts of the inscriptions in its *Proceedings* (New Series, Vol. X, pp. 193, 321, 424). The article relied on Dr. John S. Condit's 1847 copy of the inscriptions (owned by the Historical Society), checked against Mr. Swinnerton's sketches. Over the years, doubt has been expressed about the accuracy of some of the inscriptions given in the article, and it was believed that a check of the stone in the crypt might clear up some of the questions. Accordingly the Genealogical Society of New Jersey made arrangements with officials of the Fairmount Cemetery and the proper authorities of the city of Newark, for permission to enter the crypt and copy the inscriptions found there. This work was done during several visits made in the fall of 1995.

The actual copying and checking of the inscriptions proceeded under great difficulty. The wooden boxes containing the bones had completely disintegrated over the years and it was not always possible to push the loose bones aside in order to examine gravestones set in the wall. Because of this, some of the inscriptions could not positively be checked; and if there were any gravestones set in the floor, under the bones, they too could not be reached. Most of the inscriptions, in any case, were found and copied. Afterwards, the copy thus obtained from the original stone was checked against the Swinnerton sketches, now in possession of Newark Public Library.

The original place of burial in Newark was on a knoll to the west of the burying ground. It was on private property and disappeared many years ago.

²See article by David L. Pierson in *Newark Evening News*, April 24, 1916.

³See letter from James Swinnerton of New Berlin, N.Y., to the editor, Newark



California Kids:

A Bilingual Book edited by Jim Silverman.

Three children born in California around 1840-1850 tell their own true stories. Lucy Young, a Lassik Indian girl, recounts her grandpa's prophetic dream about the coming of the "White Rabbit" (white people); Ygnacio Villegas, a rancho boy near Monterey, recalls his first stagecoach ride and two scary encounters with grizzly bears and Eleanor Swinnerton remembers the exotic toys unpacked from the two baskets a Chinese peddler carried on a spring pole in the days when gold nuggets were common currency.

Adapted from memoirs. In English and Spanish.

The Home Forum. May 30, 1984

Joinings by Emily A. Swinnerton

Out here in Idaho
I face my kitchen window,
wrists in warm and sudsy water.
Pastured horses lift their heads, alert,
backs arched to joyous winds,
electric with anticipation.

At dusk across these fields
a row of lights winks on
where town begins
and fields leave off.
It happens every night -
A signal, greeting -
reaching out through twilight
space. A welcome.

"Look. We're doing this for you.
We speak. You won't feel lonely."
I love their promise.
A kind of light in me flows out.
I know they feel it too.
The horses race the wind from gate to corner.
The distant lights draw near,
and each in our own way,
we rise into the night
embraced in light
out here in Idaho.

(I think this is Emily Chessmore, wife of Gerald A. Swinnerton of the Shutlane branch.)



Revolutionary War Soldiers living in Ohio in 1818-19

This is a government listing of Pensioners living in the State of Ohio commencing 5th Sept1818, ending 4th of Sept1819, inclusive.

SWINNERTON, James. Private. Massachusetts

Anne Bagot's Diary

Another excerpt from this fascinating diary of a Georgian lady. To remind you, she was the daughter of William Bagot and Martha Swinnerton, eldest daughter of Thomas Swinnerton, the last Squire of Butterton
(Continued from Volume 12. No.7 August 2004)

1825

December

Lord and Lady Howe's children are the 4th generation I have known - Lady Caroline and Mr. Poulet, Mr. and Mrs. Norbury, Mr. and Mrs. Hartopp in the house besides Miss S. Moore Montague, 2 Curzons, Fieldings and Babingtons.

6th

There is a full length picture of Handel with the music before him which he wrote here - old Jennings (?) supplying him with the texts.

7th

Put on my hat etc. to go with Lady Howe to see Lady Anson but it was so wet I thought it more prudent to stay at home.

8th

Left Gopsall after a very friendly pleasant visit and a kind invite to repeat it. Lord Howe sent me to Orton where I dined and slept.

A Visit to Lord and Lady Barnard of Four Oaks

9th The Dugdales sent for me and I went to Merevale. I was glad to find myself with Mrs. Dugdale - a bit of old Staffordshire is always refreshing.

10th Mrs. Dugdale, Mrs. Madan and myself set out to see Lady Chetwynd at Grindon, but meeting Lady Howe, Mrs. Hartopp and Lady Denbigh we turned back with them.

13th Mrs. Okeover sent her little pony carriage for me and I spent part of the morn with her and Lady Anson. The latter asked us to dinner but we could not go. Walked about the old Abbey and woods with Mrs. Dugdale.

17th Left Merevale after having spent a pleasant sociable week. They sent me to Tamworth where I took a chaise and went to Four Oaks. I found Lord and Lady Barnard there, Lady Augusta Paulet and Lady Barnard's sister.

18th I did not venture to church as it was very wet - the chairs in the hall here which are all of wood and handsome with a crest upon them were the property of the Rebel Fleetwood (*General Charles Fleetwood, Cromwell's Lieutenant-General of Horse*) from whom the Hartopps are descended - his pale visage is also in a picture by the side of his papa in law Cromwell.

The Internet.

In his latest browse of the internet, our Silver Surfer Ray Swinnerton found the following fascinating snippets of information. How would we possibly have known about these without this marvellous invention?

History of St.Pancras

With the gloriously restored station, the new terminus of the high-speed trains to Paris and Brussels, being much in the news last year, it is interesting to know that in 1656, Colonel Gower and Major John Bill of the Parliamentary Army together with Mr George Pryor, were feoffees (trustees) of the revenue of the income belonging to the church of St Pancras. The land belonging to the rectory was subsequently leased by various persons until, in 1794, it was vested in a **Mr Swinnerton** of the 'White Hart' Inn, Colebrook. It then passed into the hands of a Mr Agar who made the place notorious by granting short building leases. This created Agar Town and its miserable surroundings. The whole was eventually cleared by the Midland Railway Company - hence the station. 'Mr Swinnerton' was the ancestor of our American Vice- President Diana Cunningham.

* * * * *

OPSI

No doubt most of you will be unaware of this acronym but it stands for the Office of Public Sector Information. Like the majority of such government organisations, it has a website which is divided into seven sections. In the legislation section Ray found

- Act ...Authorising Dame Mary Pilkington to change her name to Milborne Swinnerton Pilkington and authorising Sir William and Dame Mary Pilkington to bear or quarter the arms of Swinnerton of Butterton and Milborne and their second son and his issue and to assume the name of Milborne and to bear or quarter the said arms.
- 1854 Sir William Milborne Swinnerton: change of name to Milborne Swinnerton Pilkington; partial repeal of the Act of 1836.
- The Education (Designated Institutions in Further Education) Order: King Edward VI College, Nuneaton, the Trustees of the King Edward VI Foundation and the **Swinnerton Bequest** appointed under the terms of the Charity.
- Thomas Swinnerton's will: effecting provisions relating to the erection of a mansion house and church at Butterton (Staffordshire).

Lady Godiva

Everyone, I am sure, is familiar with the story of Lady Godiva although modern historians have cast doubts on its authenticity. Godiva was the wife of Leofric, Earl of Mercia and the mother of Ælfgar, Earl of East Anglia and grandmother of Edwin and Morcar, Earls of Northumberland. She also had a daughter Aldgyth who married Gruffyd, Prince of Wales. Legend has it that she rode naked through the streets of Coventry

According to the popular story, the beautiful Lady Godiva took pity on the people of Coventry, who were suffering grievously under her husband's oppressive taxation. Lady Godiva appealed again and again to her husband, who obstinately refused to remit the tolls. At last, weary of her entreaties, he said he would grant her request if she would ride naked through the streets of the town. Lady Godiva took him at his word and, after issuing a proclamation that all persons should keep within doors or shut their windows, she did ride through Coventry, clothed only in her long hair. Only one person in the town, a tailor ever afterwards known as Peeping Tom, disobeyed her proclamation in one of the most famous instances of voyeurism. In the story, Tom bores a hole in his shutters so that he might see Godiva pass, and is struck blind. In the end, Godiva's husband keeps his word and abolishes the onerous taxes.

The interest in all this for us is that when there was a revival of interest in the story in the late 17th century, it became the subject of an annual procession. In the first one of which there is a record, the part of Lady Godiva was taken by **James Swinnerton's son** and a medal was struck to commemorate the event. I wonder if any of those still exist?

Debates in Parliament 1671.

Debating an "*Act to prevent malicious maiming and wounding*" in the House of Commons, the arguments raged back forth as to whether it was a greater offence to maim or wound a Member of Parliament than an ordinary man, Sir John Birkenhead said "**Swinnerton** quarrelled with Ipstock and killed him; it was but as killing another man Parliament men will be afraid of one another Riding armed in three several Parliaments, "within the liberties of Westminster, unless His majesty's officers", (should be) an integral part in that Proclamation.

History of Bishopsgate (London)

Lord Winchester died in 1571, and his son, having sold the monuments at Austin Friars for £100, took the lead off the roof and made stabling of the church ground. In 1602 a fourth Marquis was so poor as to be compelled to part with Austin Friars to **John Swinnerton**, a London merchant, afterwards Lord Mayor. Fulke Greville (Sir Philip Sidney's friend), who lived in Austin Friars, wrote in alarm at this change to the Countess of Shrewsbury, one of his neighbours.

Gazetteer of Markets & Fairs to 1516.

Staffordshire

SWINNERTON. 3852,3355. 1334 Subsidy £46.50

M(arket). (Charter) Wed; gr(anted) 19 Oct 1306 by K.Edw.I to **Roger de Swynnerton**

(CChR, 1300-26, p.72). To be held at the Manor.

F(air) (Charter) f. Assumption (15 Aug); gr. 19 Oct 1306 by K.Edw.I to **Roger de Swynnerton** (CChR 1226-57, p.72) To be held at the manor.

Derbyshire.

REPTON 4303.3271. 1334 Subsidy £66.19.

M(arket) (Prescriptive) Wed; recorded 1330, *mercatur*, held by John de Brittan', P(arish) of Repynd, William de Clynton and Juliana his wife, Robert le Beck, William de Handsacre, Emma, who was the wife of Robert de Alto, **John de Swynnerton** and Cristiana who was the wife of John de Segrave (QW, pp 139-40). The enquiry was not held because Cristiana had died.

F(air). (Prescriptive) 1 Jul. (*feria*) recorded 1330, held by John de Brittan', P(arish) of Repynd, William de Clynton and Juliana his wife, Robert le Beck, William de Handsacre, Emma, who was the wife of Robert de Alto, **John de Swynnerton** and Cristiana who was the wife of John de Segrave (QW, pp 139-40). The enquiry was not held because Cristiana had died.

Australian Bravery Decorations.

In the Governor-General's list issued from Government House, Canberra on 27th February 2006 is the name of Mr Luke Swinnerton of 1/10 Maroomba Road, Terrigai, New South Wales 2260 as having been awarded The Bravery medal for an act of bravery in hazardous circumstances.

Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital

Small and Special is a collection of resources relating to the early years of the famous Hospital for Sick Children at Great Ormond Street, London, England's first in-patient children's hospital. Here you can trace a patient, learn about childhood diseases, or investigate a member of the medical staff.

Small and Special includes a database of patient admission records - from the Hospital's first in-patient in 1852 to the last admission in 1914; a collection of articles on the early history of the Hospital and pen-portraits of the Hospital's personalities; and a gallery of images.

Admitted Sex Age First name Surname Diseases Registration district
17 Aug 1888 F 11 Harriet Swinnerton Cyst knee Islington
17 Jun 1889 M 9 Bertie Swinnerton Hydrocele Outside London

Cost of a telegram

Roy Talbot

John Swinnerton, JS236, was not the sort of individual content to labour in rural Staffordshire as had his ancestors since time immemorial. He married Elizabeth Stinton, a Middlesex girl, in Southwark in 1845 and spent his working life in Lanarkshire in the manufacture of paint. There was only the one surviving child, Thomas, TS91, married to Catherine Millar Yool, a draper's daughter from Fifeshire. John had the pleasure of seeing three grandchildren approach adolescence. He was not to know, however, that there would be an afterthought, for on 22nd March 1895 was born Ethel Margaret, ES130.

Meanwhile Bernard St. George Hamilton came into the world on 24th January 1892 in Lowestoft, third son of a Baptist minister John Miller Hamilton and his wife, Ellen Josephine Baines.

He served HMG as a 'second division clerk' in Dublin 1st May 1912 to 12th September 1912 and subsequently 'in excise' before enlisting in Glasgow for four years service in the United Kingdom Territorial Force on 30th June 1913 as a private in the 9th Battalion, Highland Light Infantry, Regimental Number 1903, at which point he had arrived at a height of six feet and a weight of twelve stone. The war involved him serving with the B.E.F. in France 4th November 1914 to 25th January 1915 and again 26th June 1915 to 29th October 1915. Whilst there, on 23rd July 1915 he applied for a temporary commission in the regular army for the period of the war, aided no doubt by attestations of satisfactory moral character from George William Bartlett, Justice of the Peace and Sir George Watson Macalpine, Chairman of the Altham Colliery Company amongst other prospering commercial enterprises. The application form reveals that he had obtained a pass in the London University Matriculation Examination in First Division, not to mention the London Chamber of Commerce Junior Examination and 'First Class College of Preceptors Examination in Honours Division'. The application was granted on 6th October 1915.

Doubtless the year that followed involved much officer training. Whilst doing that his eye had lighted upon Ethel Margaret to the extent that they were married on 14th August 1916 in Wishaw, Lanarkshire.

They had a few precious weeks before he was dispatched to rejoin the B.E.F. 13th October 1916 joining the 15th Company Machine Gun Corps of the 13th Battalion Highland Light Infantry in France a week later. Home leave was granted 1st February 1917 and he rejoined the company 21st March.

Their future together terminated laconically when the telegraph boy knocked on the door of Orchard Lee, Wishaw on 2nd July 1917 with a telegram for Mrs. Hamilton. "Deeply regret to inform you Lt. B. St. G.

Hamilton M.G.C. was killed in action June twenty eighth the Army Council Express their sympathy."

He had made a will dated 7th October 1916 of the 'all to wife' variety which was duly processed by Logan, Sloan & Rae, Solicitors., Wishaw on 21st August 1917 evaluating his estate gross as £186 11s 1d and arranging the administration for the grantee, Ethel Margaret Swinnerton, widow at Orchard Lea, Kirk Road, Wishaw, the executor.

Eternal widowhood was not to be the fate of Ethel Margaret however. She had a liking for lieutenants and on 2nd September 1919 in Glasgow she married Walter Howard Schofield of the Royal Engineers based in Welling, Northamptonshire.

(One of the pleasures of having had one of the nation's leading researchers into military personnel as the President of the Society is that one has only to mention as an aside that one of our number was married to a great war casualty and within days there appears on the doorstep a file an inch thick comprising a dossier of the entire military career thereof. It is from that dossier that the above is derived. RT.)



SOME LIVERPOOL RECORDS from Brian Swinnerton

Liverpool freemen's apprentice roll

Date of enrolment 26 Jan 1828
DANIEL SWINNERTON
Master JOSEPH BROOKES YATES. Merchant
No. of years service: seven
Date of indenture 24 Jan 1828

This is Daniel the son of Joseph & Hannah. The name of his second wife was Margaret Yates. Brian says 'Looks like he married the boss's daughter.'

North Toxteth Ward Register of Freemen Voters

Joseph Swinnerton No. 10603
House in Lodge Lane "This I think is JS308"

Southport Directory 1951

Rev William Swinnerton 191 Balmoral Drive Retired Methodist Minister
"The Rev was at this address until 1955. The next available directory was 1960. He was not there then."

To the Editor, The Swinnerton Saga.

Sir,

I was dismayed to read in paragraph 5.07 on page 109 of the December 2007 issue of The Swinnerton Saga (the "Saga") that it had been decided at the Annual General Meeting (the "AGM") to reduce the publication of the Saga from three times a year to twice a year. The decision was not unanimous. The reason given was 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".

It would have been helpful for the 80% or more of members who did not attend the AGM to have been given a breakdown of the financial numbers so that they could appreciate how this decision was arrived at, especially as it was only passed by a majority vote. I think it would have been more appropriate to ask all paid up members to vote on it. This could easily have been achieved by asking paying members to tick an appropriate box on the annual subscription renewals form.

Why do people continue to be members of the Society? I expect that it is because they receive information about the family, both past and present, through the Saga. My own preference and I expect the preference of the majority of members is that they would prefer to have 3 Sagas a year (absorbing two thirds to three quarters of annual membership subscriptions) and that the remaining annual membership subscriptions should be spent only on research and the Swinnerton Society website.

Emphasis was put at the AGM on our charity obligations to the welfare of St Mary's Church. However, it appears we also have other charitable obligations. The objects of the Society as given on the Charity Commission's website are:

- (a) To advance public education in the history of Swynnerton and the County of Stafford and, in particular, to assist in research into the history of the Swinnerton family and to publish the results of such research; and
- (b) To assist and make grants towards the upkeep and maintenance of St. Mary's Church, Swynnerton, in any manner that may be thought fit.

I believe that the information and research published in 3 Sagas a year together with more family history information put on the Swinnerton Society website would fulfil our obligation in (a) above.

With regard to (b) above, I believe that this is not an annual obligation but one that can be undertaken on 'ad hoc' basis. Consequently, I think that

the Society should undertake specific fundraising or appeals for any grants it thinks fit to make (e.g. the doors a few decades ago and the aumbry recently). Therefore, no members' subscription monies should be used for the upkeep or maintenance of St. Mary's Church.

I am sure that the printing costs are the cheapest available. Whilst it would be a retrograde step, I would prefer to receive 3 black and white Sagas rather than 2 Sagas in colour. Also, companies encourage shareholders to save the planet by receiving information electronically, couldn't the Society do the same by asking as many members as possible to receive their Saga electronically rather than incur the cost of printing and postage? I realise that a lot of our members are elderly but many of them will be silver surfers – indeed, a 94 year old member has an email address!

John Swynnerton (JS.383)
Sheffield

(John Swynnerton was Treasurer of the Society from 1985-1989 and is a member of the Betley Branch)



We have also received representations on this subject from two of our overseas representatives – Diana Cunningham (USA) and Glenda Simpson (Australia). There will be an opportunity to discuss the situation at the AGM on the 7th June.



Errata

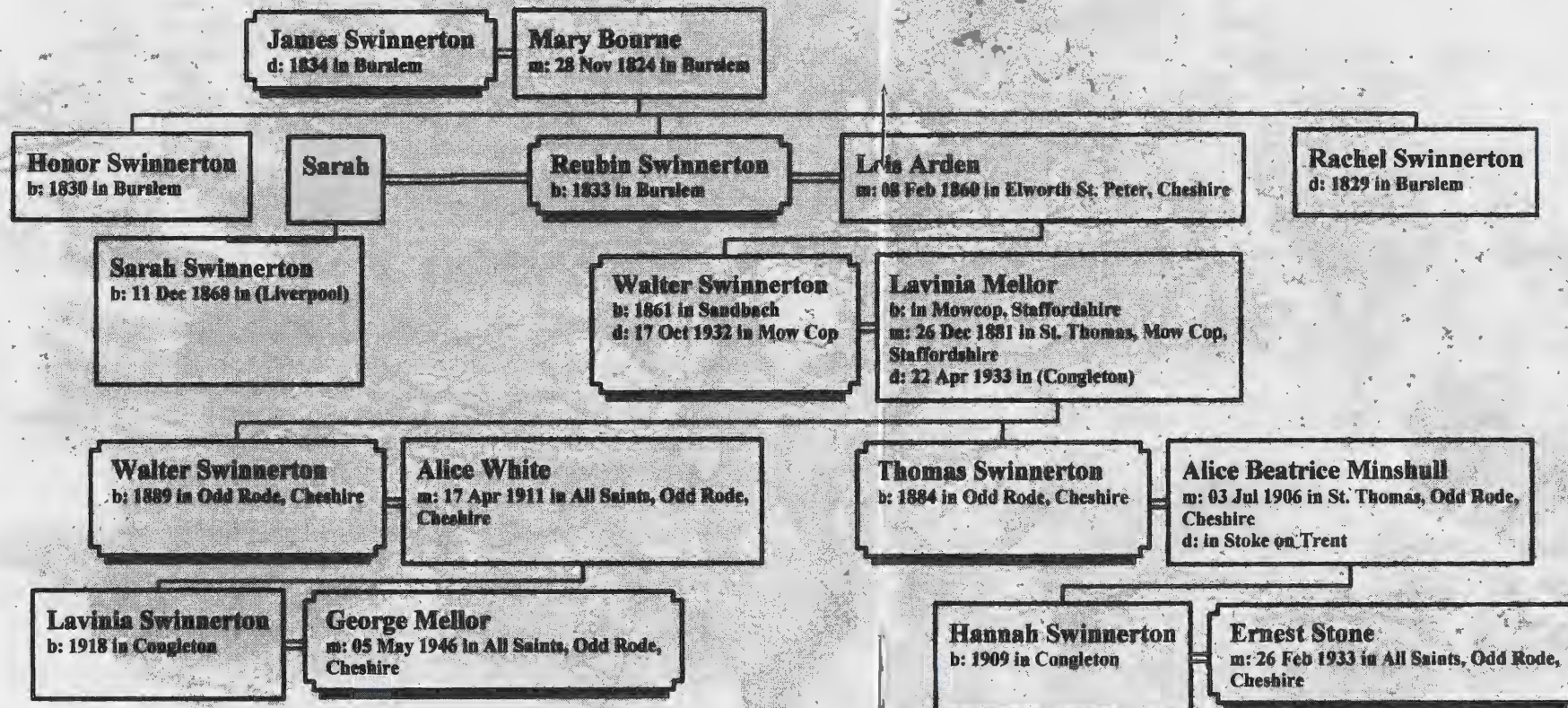
In the last issue of Saga I erroneously labelled the fourth photograph as being Sydney Harding Swinnerton – it should have been just Harding Swinnerton. His full name was, in fact, Shadrach Seth Harding Swinnerton but he never used the first two!

In the list of members I wrongly attributed Audrey Cherry to the Wrexham Branch – this should have been the Adbaston Branch.



No more pictures of World War One soldiers have been received despite my request. Surely members of the family somewhere must have some of the 91 we don't have.

Descendants of James Swinnerton of Burslem



This is one of our unidentified families.

Notes collated by Douglas Swinnerton of Irvine, California. (continued from Volume 13 No.4)

**CHARLES SWINNERTON'S PROPERTY AND HOME
PORT ST. MARY, ISLE OF MAN**

The following is a description of this property from the time Charles Swinnerton originally purchased it in 1887. This information was secured from the present owners of this property when they were visited by Douglas and Marion Swinnerton in the summer of 1968.

May 12, 1887 - George Drinkwater Lucius Cary¹ of the Calf of Man, Esq., and Sarah Ann Cary, his wife, to Charles Swinnerton lately carrying on business in the Town of Douglas as a stone cutter. Sale Price £20.

Original description of the property - All and singular, that small dwelling home with the garden thereto attached, situated near the Smelt Mill in the Parish of Rushen and now in the occupation of John Corkill, and bounded on the north by a garden and premises the property of Samuel Watterson on the east and south by the pathway leading along the Shire of Gansey Point and on the west by a field called Ringwillan, the property of the Vendors.

October 1, 1887 - Charles Swinnerton to Frederick Swinnerton of Port St. Mary in the Parish of Rushen - artist. Sale Price £450.

November 6, 1895 - George Drinkwater Lucius Cary of the Calf of Man, Esq., and Sarah Ann Cary, his wife, Vendors to Charles Swinnerton. Sale Price £40.

(This was for a small strip of land behind the house to enlarge the garden.)

February 16, 1901 - Frederick Swinnerton of Simla, India - artist, and Louisa Oldfield Swinnerton, his wife, to Charles Swinnerton of the Studio Rushen, gentlemen. Sale Price £200.

May 28, 1901 - Will of Charles Swinnerton leaving everything to "Trustees Upon Trust".

¹ Jeremy Swynnerton wonders if there is a connection been the above Cary and the following Carys. Henrietta, daughter of Sir Lawrence Tanfield, married Sir Henry Cary, 1st Viscount Falkland. Their eldest son was William Lucius Cary (born in Burford in 1610). At age 19, he inherited Burford Priory from his Godmother, Lady Tanfield. His father had died in 1633 and had left him Great Tew, which is still the house of the Carys.

November 5, 1907 - In the matter of the Estate of Charles Swinnerton, formerly of the Studio Port St. Mary in the Parish Rushen - Trustees of the Estate were Rev. Charles S. Swinnerton, son, and son-in-law Robert Platt Blakeley. Blakeley pre-deceased Charles Swinnerton and the Rev. Charles S. Swinnerton certified to the fact that Robert Platt Blakeley had pre-deceased his father, having died in 1906.

January 22, 1908 - Rev. Charles Swinnerton, surviving Trustee of Will of Charles Swinnerton, formerly of the Studio of Port St. Mary in Parish Rushen, to David Mitchell Robertson of Brunswick Road, Douglas, Artist. Sale Price £460.

August 27, 1923 - Grace Robertson of 15 Ferme Park Mansions, Crouch End London North, widow, to Christian North of Elsinore Victoria Road, Douglas, wife of Alfred North. Sale Price £550.

November 10, 1939 - Christian North of Elsinore Victoria Road, Douglas, widow of Ellen Quiggin of 15 Sea View Road, Onchan, married woman. Sale Price £900.

September 11, 1954 - Ellen Quiggin, formerly of 14 Sea View Road in the Village District and Parish of Onchan, married woman but now of the Studio Gansey, Port St. Mary in the Parish Rushen, widow, to William Bullock of Blue Waters Beach Road, Port St. Mary, aforesaid gentleman. Sale Price £2,100.

August 23, 1966 - Dorothy Bullock of Blue Waters Beach Road, Port St. Mary in the Parish of Rushen, widow, to Eves Dorothy Hudson of Sea Winds Endfield Avenue, Port St. Mary in the Parish Rushen, married woman. Sale Price £2,500.

CHARLES SWINNERTON

Charles was one of H.M. Bengal Chaplains and later, I believe, was head of the Diocese of Calcutta. He had four children, but the only one I heard about was Maudie who Frances said was badly spoiled for Uncle Charles, who grieved terribly when he lost his wife, "granted her every wish" I guess, and constantly referred to her as his "little motherless girl". I have a faint recollection of his losing the other children. Also by the "fever".

He once came to Los Angeles to visit Godfrey's family and he did not create too good an impression here because by both his nationality and his position, especially in India, he had been waited on hand and foot and expected it here. He was a very brilliant man and scholar. Wrote a number of books. One I think was a translation of poems from India and dedicated, by her permission of course, to Her Majesty the Queen. Frances had a copy of it.

He later married again - the daughter of the head somebody or other of Westminster Abbey. Anyway, both he and Maudie married into the Peerage.

As related by Auntie Florrie -

"Charles Swinnerton was an Episcopal Minister. He was Senior Chaplain of the Bengal Volunteers stationed in Delhi, East India. He wrote several books among them being Raja Rasulu - but the one he received distinction for was one that he dedicated to Queen Victoria (and you had to have Royal permission before you could dedicate in print any writing to a member of the Royal Family). The title of this book was "Indian Nights Entertainment". It consisted of short stories (folklore) illustrated, of India, and as he had translated them "as is" as he had heard and gathered them from the Natives, I who read part of them was terribly shocked but they were true to life and called a spade a spade and not a shovel."

FREDERICK SWINNERTON 1848 - 1918

Frederick was an artist who is well-known by his works over Europe. He lived in Rome also and was an interpreter in Italy during and after World War I. He died not long after the war. As I write that, I wonder, did he become an Italian citizen? I never heard if he did.²

² Colonel Jeremy Charles Angelo Swynnerton on page 83 of Volume 8 No. 5 of The Journal of the Swinnerton Society commented on the above as follows:-

"I regret that a number of the comments by my cousin Douglas Swinnerton about my grandfather Frederick Swynnerton are not quite correct and this note is to put the record straight.

Frederick Swynnerton (born Swinnerton) was born in the Isle of Man on 8th June 1858. As a young man he studied painting in Paris and later joined his elder brother Joseph and his sister-in-law Annie Swynnerton (who was one of the first woman ARAs) for further study in Rome. Although Frederick became a very accomplished artist he did not become "well-known by his works over Europe" and sadly does not seem to feature in any of the standard works of reference. Frederick certainly did not serve as "an interpreter in Italy during and after World War I" nor did he become an Italian citizen.

It is not clear when exactly Frederick moved to India to join his brother, the Reverend Charles Swynnerton, but it must have been about 1890 as he married Louise Oldfield Angelo (daughter of Colonel Richard Fisher

In 1893 he married Louise Angelo³, daughter of Colonel Angelo of the Bengal Army, and lived in India a great portion of his life. They had five children - Richard, Charles, Joseph, Margery and Catherine.

Copy of letter from Fred Swinnerton to brother - Mark. Secured from Stephen C. Saunders, grandson of Mark.

60 Fort Street
Douglas
Isle of Man
August 14 1870

Dear Mark

I hope that you are very well at present. Father took ill on Sunday last, but is now much better. He got ill with eating plums. Godfrey is gone to Shrewsbury yesterday, for he has got a situation there. I am going to a Mr. Clucases⁴ School, but now I have got a sore foot. Are you ever thinking of coming home. Would you mind trying to collect me a few foreign stamps. Have you got any more curiosities, write and tell us if you have. Joseph has won two medals a first class one and a second class medal. Father is just now facing me writing a letter to Joseph. Mother is sitting on my left reading the Daily Courier. We are in the Drawing Room. I was fishing down on the jetty, and caught a good many fish. I remain your affectionate brother

Frederick Swinnerton

PS. Please excuse my bad writing.

(to be continued)

Angelo of the Bengal Army) in India in 1892, and all five of his children were born in India.

Frederick must have become quite a well-known painter in India as he painted a number of Maharajahs and Rajas including the Maharajah of Nepal who gave him a silver mounted Kukri which is in my possession. Indeed alert tourists in India may well discover a portrait by him on the walls of the palaces of Indian Rulers."

³ According to Jeremy Swynnerton her full name was "Louise Oldfield Angelo".

⁴ It appears that Frederick initially spelt the surname phonetically 'Cluckas' but then corrected it to Clucas by crossing out the 'k'. It was the 'school of Mr Clucas' and so Frederick added 'es' at the end of the surname rather than add an apostrophe after the 's', as we would now. According to the 1871 Isle of Man census, Clucas appears to be a common surname in the island.

Copy of letter from Fred Swinnerton to brother and sister-in-law, Mark and Sarah. Secured from Stephen C. Saunders, grandson of Mark.

(Corner note: Bonnie Moor P.S. I send you my photo)

Simla, India
July 9th 1891

Dear Mark & Sarah

I received the copy of the beautifully printed paper you sent also the copy for Charles. He however has left India for England on a year's leave, so he will see it in England. I congratulate you very much on your being made the first Mayor of Marysville and if I were about should paint your portrait in your robes, etc., to hang in your council room - if you have one - so that future generations of Marysvillians(?) should know that a Swinnerton was their 1st Mayor - an event which marks the beginning of what will probably be a great city one of these days. Send me your photo - Cabinet - in your robes and I will make a gift of your portrait to Marysville to be hung in your "city hall". It will be a precedent likely to be followed if I come around Puget Sound way one of these days. But I really had no idea that Puget Sound was inhabited by any sane Flathead Indians. "Niggerheads" are more common now I suppose.

I hope Sarah and the children are all well. You are awfully stingy of letters I must say & Father complains bitterly that you never write to him. Don't be so damned unfeeling old fellow!

I am in the summer Capital of India painting great nob. Also keep things going by keeping pupils. I have plenty of friends and orders. Sometime I hope to do Japan Australia and home by the new ocean route, in which case I will most certainly look you up in Marysville and do a little collecting and shooting. Also paint your successors in the Mayorship.

I see you are a landed proprietor, etc. - Good! From Puget Sound to the Himalayas is a good step and I rather think the mother that bore us would be astonished at seeing her sons scattered in this fashion. Charles only returned from the Black Mountain Expedition a short time ago.

Now look here Mr. Mayor. Drop me a line soon and send that cabinet photo, - in robes etc. - wig?

I suppose the two babies have grown to big girls now?

Give my best love to them and to the others and to Sarah and with the same to yourself.

I am

Your affectionate Brother

N. B. But do write to Father!

Fred

GODFREY SWINNERTON

Godfrey was a sea captain with the "Lloyds". He was a joker like Uncle Charley (Godfrey's brother) and when he wrote from the City of Tokyo asking the family what they thought of his taking a Japanese wife, they took him seriously and nearly had a fit! Afterward his ship became a target for cholera and many of his men died - he himself took his time nursing the sick, contracted the malady himself and died. He is buried in Tokyo.

As related by Auntie Florrie -

"Captain of Merchant Vessel plying between Liverpool, England, Japan, China, and New York, USA. Died on board his ship of cholera after helping nurse his entire crew through the same disease. He was a grand person, young, jolly and so very good looking."

JOSEPH SWINNERTON

Joseph was a well-known sculptor who lived in Rome. He married Annie Robinson, an artist, who was famous for her paintings of angels. She was, I believe, the only woman for a long time who was a member⁵ of the "Royal Academy". She is listed in the Los Angeles Public Library as one of the "World's Famous Women Painters". Uncle Joseph's works are scattered over Europe and one of Mother Swinnerton's great regrets was that they left pieces of his work "back home" - thinking, I guess, in a "new, brash country" they would have no place.

As related by Auntie Florrie -

"Uncle Joseph, the Sculptor. He married a lady who was a Roman Catholic. Her name was Annie. I saw her shortly after they were married. They visited at our house and she was absolutely the ugliest woman I ever saw! I have often wondered about that because Uncle was such an admirer of beauty. She had a large bony frame without an ounce of flesh. Her eyes were sunken very deep in the sockets. Her forehead and cheek bones were very prominent and she had a very large mouth with protruding teeth! But, she was an artist and like her husband she became a very famous one. She was the first woman to be elected to a chair in the Royal _____. I cannot remember that name. It is a great Academy of Art. I think Charlie can tell you the name of it. Frances sent

⁵ According to Jeremy Swynnerton, she was the very first elected ARA (1922). Dame Laura Knight was the second (1927).

⁶ Note from Jeremy Swynnerton to Iain Swinnerton - I have this from newspaper cuttings in my possession.



me the news clipping from an English paper in regard to it and an illustration in the same paper showed me that the years had put some flesh on her bones.

Years ago the Italian Government bought several groups of Statuary from Uncle Joseph created by him in white marble including "the Fountain of Youth" and had them placed in the gardens or parks of Rome and Milan. He I know is dead but I have not had news of Aunt Annie in ten years. They were very wealthy and I imagine she will, or has, left it all to the church. She was very devout."

KATHERINE SWINNERTON BLAKELEY

Katherine married Robert ⁷Blakeley. They lived in Manchester, England where he was a banker and from what Frances has told me, he was apparently wealthy. Her children and Godfrey's older brothers and sisters were very close friends and visited back and forth a good deal. I especially heard Frances talk often of "Gertrude and Charley Blakeley". They corresponded I know, all thru the years and she visited them when she took her trip back home in 1920.

As related by Auntie Florie -

"Father had only one sister, named Katherine. She married Robert Blakeley, President of the Bank of Manchester. A very handsome and a very devout man. When we left the Island for the USA we stopped overnight in Manchester. We had to take the boat from the IOM to Liverpool where we were to take the steamer for the USA, and we went from Liverpool to Manchester to say Bye to Uncle and Aunt staying in their mansion overnight - and in the early morn we came down to breakfast to discover that Uncle read prayers (all on our knees) for a half hour before breakfast!!! and I was hungry !!!"



Katherine Swinnerton Blakeley

⁷ According to Jeremy Swynnerton his full name was "Robert Platt Blakeley".

SWYNNERTON CHURCH - Inventory of goods in the year 1553

Among the Records deposited in the Public Record Office, London, (Ed.:now The National Archives, Kew) to wit, Inventory of Church Goods, 6 Edw 6, Stafford - it is thus contained -Swinerton

(Note: for 'on' read 'one' in every case)

Fyrste 11/ vestements of blake saten with an albe on cofre of saten.

Itm on vestment of blewe saten with an albe 11/ corporases with a case.

Itm on vestement of whitte clothe with an albe & V. Alterclothes.

Itm on tenacull of yellowe sarsenett V. towells & surpleses.

Itm on chales of silver with a patent, on crosse of coper and gilte.

Itm on Senmsor with a sheppe of brasse, on part of brasse, 1/ cruets.

Itm 1/ peaces of a Candlestike that beres the tapers on th alter.

Itm on bason on yower of Maslen, on lavo of brase for holiwater.

Itm 111/ belles on the stepull, a sanchus bell and 1/ handbelles.

1/. Sacring belles.

Swinerton

Ind Delyv'ed by the right honorable Water Viscount Hereford Lorde
Ferrers of Chartteley Sir Thomas Fitzherbert Knight & Edward Lytleton
Esquier Commissioners to the in the Countye of Staffs for Churche
Gooddes to Thomas Hakyne & Wylyam Snopstones Churchewardyns of
Swynnarton. One chalice of Silver to a patent foure belles and a sacringe
bell in the steeple. linnen clothes for Holly Comunyon . Table & a surples
for the Curatt savely to be kept untill the King may Pleasure. be therin
further knowen. In witnes whereof as well the said Comissioners as the
said Churchewardens to thus prentes have enpch'ungeably put theyr
hands the Vth daye of May in the V11th yeare of Kinge Edward the V1th
and one of the belles is unpaid for.

Thomas Hakyn Wylyya Snawpstones

I hereby certify the above to be a true & authentic copy of the Physical
Record in custody of the Master of the Robes preserved in the Public
Record Office pursuant to Stat 1 & 2 Vict. C. 94. the same being sealed
with the seal of the said office pursuant to the said Statute.

H. I. Sharpe
Assistant Keeper of Public Records
21 July 1860

The die stamp of the Record Office, dated "Jul 21 1860" is impressed
twice on the first page.

NOTES: It would appear that during the 14th century the Church
Authorities were obliged to deliver an inventory of the "church goods"
which were owned by each church to the Public Record Office in London.

For some reason, on 21st July 1860, a "Mr Edwards" asked for a copy
of the return made in respect of the "goods" belonging to "Swinerton".
The copy was sent to Mr Edwards and attached is the receipt for three
shillings and one penny which consisted of three shillings for "Inspection,
Copy and Authentinn" and one penny for postage. The actual copy which
was sent to Mr Edwards, together with the receipt, is contained in the
archives of the Swinnerton Society. It is written in a clear, almost copper
plate, script on a lined two-fold foolscap size sheet of good quality paper
and the above are the contents as far as can be deciphered. The spelling
of some of the words are "suspect" but they are as recorded at the time
the return was made (the Vth daye of May in the Vllth yeare of Kinge
Edward the VIth) Edward VI reigned from 1546 to 1553 and the spelling
would have been in common use and understood by those concerned. It
will be noted, however, that the spelling of the words in the first two lines
and the certification at the end by H. J. Sharpe, the Assistant Keeper of
Publications at the Record Office in 1860 (300 years later), are more
understandable and as we would spell to-day.

*Do come and join us at the
Family Gathering at Swynnerton
on Saturday the 7th of June..*

*Meet your old friends and make
new ones, have a guided tour of
'our' church, enjoy the exhibition of
Swinnerton memorabilia and
family trees.*

Mary Swinnerton of Butterson - MS.75

Source: A history of the Douglas family of Morton in Nithsdale (Dumfriesshire) and Fingland (Kirkcudbrightshire) and their descendants by Percy L.Adams FSA. Published by the Sidney Press 1921

pp 501-2. Letter dated Ponsonby (Cumberland) August 8th 1822 from Mrs.Morgan (née Douglas) to her aunt, Mrs. Ann Jeffreys, at Worcester, when staying with her cousin, Mary Stanley.

"....Mr.Stanley, his sister, and Miss Swinnerton are just set off for Whitehaven on their way to Keswick. We breakfasted a little after seven and now, at eight, they are gone and we have a long morning before us. Perhaps I mentioned before that Mr.Stanley and his sister were going to Rydal to visit Lady le Fleming. He goes on to Carlisle on Monday, and we do not expect him back till Saturday week. Miss Swinnerton we are very sorry to lose; she is a most agreeable person and we shall miss her extremely: she expects to meet her father today at Keswick. I have most kind invitations from both father and mother to visit them in Staffordshire on my return, or in Monmouthshire later in the autumn. This last mentioned residence is only six miles from Harry's vicarage, and they will be glad he will be so near, and if I visit him there, it will be a great pleasure to meet again with such a companion, as Miss Swinnerton. She and I and Mary have been reading Italian together most days; and should I ever visit, we are to go on with German which she understands a little...."

Believe me my dear Aunt,
Your very affectionate niece
F.A.Douglas

p.545. Diary of Henry Douglas, Chaplain to his uncle William van Mildert, and curate of Ewelme Oxfordshire (entries dealing with a visit to London) 1821 May 17 Thursday: Breakfasted with Robert. Went to George St. and accompanied the Bishop (of Llandaff ?).Mr.V.M., cousin Mary and Miss Swinnerton to St.Pauls to witness the Anniversary of the Sons of the Clergy. Renel preached....."

(Mary was the daughter of Thomas Swinnerton of Butterson, the last of that line, and Mary (Milborne). In 1826 she married Sir William Pilkington.

FAMILY NOTES

Firstly, I am very sad to have to tell you of the death of Mrs Patricia Mary Swinnerton who died in hospital on 11February following a stroke.

Pat was an Honorary member of the society in recognition of the great support she gave to us right from the start of the society – she was the wife of our first chairman John Walter Swinnerton of the senior line of the Betley Branch.

Pat and John were great friends of ours outside the Swinnerton Society and we visited each other often as well as meeting regularly at society functions. John and I had an extra link in that he was the Signals Officer of 67th (Worcestershire) Field Regiment, RA at Dunkirk, a regiment in which I later commanded a Battery and would have commanded the Regiment had Harold Wilson not disbanded it (and many others) in 1967!

Patricia Mary Wise was born on the 1 November 1919 at Chester. She married John on the 28 January 1942 at Chester and they had two children, Meriel Anne and Michael John to whom we send our sympathy..

She was a lovely lady, always bright and jolly and we always enjoyed her company. Like most vicar's daughters, she was a bit of a rebel! I shall always be grateful to her for the support she gave to me when I founded the society and particularly when John was the Chairman.

† † †

I am also sad to have to tell you of the death of another keen supporter of the society – David Kenneth Shaw Swinnerton of the Wrexham Branch. Although the progenitor of the branch came from Wrexham, the family have spread far and wide, to South Wales, Liverpool, the North East and America. David was born in Middlesbrough on the 19 March 1944. His father had married a Middlesbrough girl and moved from Brymbo to live there.

David was my best newspaper spotter and kept me supplied with a constant stream of newspaper cuttings about the activities of the Swinnertons in the North East.

The 'Shaw' in his name came from his grandmother Elizabeth and has been carried on to each of his sons, Kristayn, Gregory and Eifion and to his grandsons, Richard and James. We send our sympathy to his wife Jacqueline and to all his family. Eifion told us that the wreath on his coffin was made in the form of our society badge – the Swinnerton Cross and Golden Horseshoe.

Now for some more cheerful news.

We have a welcome crop of new members.

Patrick Keefe of

is a great grandson of Mary Elizabeth Swinnerton of the Wrexham Branch, born 12 July 1859, who married Cornelius Keefe in Wrexham on the 21st July 1915. Patrick tells me the Swinnerton name was carried on in the person of his great-uncle Cornelius Swinnerton Keefe, Mary's eldest child who died in an RAF bomber crash in Sardinia during WWII.

Next we have two new Canadian members. Gareth John Swinnerton, and Siân Elizabeth Svendsen.

who are the son and daughter of our member Dr Guy Stretton Swinnerton of Edmonton, Alberta.

We also have two new American members. Kyle Swenerton of

and Ryan Kells Swenerton (to whom my apologies, I wrongly listed him as Swinnerton in the list of members in the last issue of Saga) of

Robert Parshall of

tells me he is descended from John de Swynnerton who married Eleanor de Peshale and whose youngest Richard was given the manor of Peshale as his portion of the family estates. Eleanor was the sister and heiress of Robert de Peshale who died childless. Richard then adopted the name of Peshale as was the custom.

Finally Mrs Ginny McCarthy of

I. Her story is told on the next page.

Change of Address

Mrs Patricia Swinnerton-Cooper to

Ginny's Story

Having applied to join the society and giving an outline of her Swinnerton connection but no dates, her letter was passed to me, of course, to follow up. Ginny then told me that she had extracted information from the 1901 Census in which her great-grandfather William Swinnerton was shown as being 46 and living in Normanby.

He was married to Sarah Jane who was 38. She subsequently obtained details of the marriage and found Sarah's maiden name to be Smith. They had two daughters living with them – Sarah J. who was 11 and her grandmother Esther for whom she had a birth certificate showing that she was born on the 23rd June 1893 also a younger brother Thomas William who was born on the 12th January 1896. Ginny's mother thought that there were also two other children Margaret and James.

So far so good except that we had no record of an Esther Swinnerton being born at or around that time. This, of course, fell within the period of General Registration as I described in the last issue of Saga and we have a complete index of all the Swinnertons from 1837 on.

So another email went off telling her that William was WS225 of our Dudley Branch and could we see a copy of Esther's birth certificate as we had no record of it.

All was revealed when it was received as Esther was recorded as the daughter of William SWILLERTON and Sarah Jane Swillerton formerly Smith.

Now we were able to put a tree together and William's son James turned out to be the progenitor of another small branch of the family which had been firmly rooted in Teeside.

We were also able to give her full details of her great uncles and great aunts and of their progeny.

So – a good result, two more branches tied together but slightly worrying because, when we extracted all the Swinnertons from the General Register Office indexes, we looked at Swinerton, Swynnerton etc but never thought to look for surnames starting with Swil. How many more are out there?

New Zealand "EVENING POST" 7-9-1910

SEVERAL HOUSES DESTROYED.

AUCKLAND, 6th September. A serious fire occurred this afternoon at King Edward's Parade, Devonport, resulting in the total destruction of Ventnor House, a large boardinghouse of thirty-two rooms, and four dwelling-houses, nothing being left but a mass of smouldering debris. Three other places were damaged. The fire broke out in Ventnor House, as a result of some clothes being left near the kitchen stove to dry. The Devonport Fire Brigade turned out, and made a good fight, but were unable to stay the progress of the fire till a clean sweep had been made for over one hundred yards. The flames were so strong that members of the brigade were wrapped in mattresses to enable them to stand the heat while playing the hose on to the burning houses. The following is the list of the places destroyed or damaged, with the insurances, as far as can be ascertained :

Ventnor Boardinghouse, owned by A. Watson, and occupied by Mrs. Lewis, totally destroyed; building insured for £2000 in the Alliance Company; furniture for £850 in the South British.

Six-roomed house, owned by A. Watson, and occupied by Miss Hood, totally destroyed; building insured for £270 in the Alliance Office; furniture for £130 in the Royal.

Three two-storied houses, owned by the Auckland Grammar School Board, and occupied respectively by Messrs. W. Wright, Williams, and Spinley, totally destroyed. Each building was insured for £400 in the New Zealand Insurance Company. Mr. Williams had £150 insurance on his furniture in the Norwich Union Office, and Mr. Spinley £200 in the New Zealand Company.

Six-roomed house, owned by the Grammar School Board, and occupied by Mr. Warbrick; partially destroyed; insurance on the building £200 in the New Zealand Company.

The houses of Mrs Swinnerton and Mr G.Sanford were slightly damaged.

* * *

The story behind the picture on the back cover

The headline said "Marathon effort by injured Shelagh" and the caption read "A 59-year-old from Brereton Green took just five hours to run the London Marathon. Shelagh Swinnerton completed the gruelling 26.2 mile run dressed in a pink fairy costume despite suffering with sciatica and hip, knee and back injuries.

And her marathon effort raised almost £500 for Brereton Church. Mrs Swinnerton said "After 23 miles I hobbled to the finish line, I'd not been able to run for six weeks before the race so I was glad to see the finish. It was incredibly hot and people were dropping like flies".

The ardent athlete has been running for South Cheshire Harriers for 20 years and has completed the annual London run for the last 10 years".

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:

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

* * * *

A History of the Family of Swynnerton.

Facsimile reprint of the original history of the family published in 1880

complete with family trees and index. 208 pages.

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

All prices include postage and packing.

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



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