

# *The Swinnerton Saga*



*The marching band for Jack Swinnerton (see page 163)*

**THE JOURNAL OF THE SWINNERTON SOCIETY**

**VOLUME 13. No.6**

**December 2008**

## The Swinnerton Society

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

*Registered as Charity No.518184 in the United Kingdom*

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## THE SWINNERTON SAGA

**Volume 13  
Number 6**

**December  
2008**

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Editor; I.S.Swynnerton

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### The Future of the Society

As the founder of the society, I was asked by the President and remaining members of Council, to chair the re-convened Annual General Meeting which was held in Swynnerton Village Hall on Saturday the 25th October.

Apologies were received from the Patron and 16 members. The minutes of the adjourned Annual General Meeting were approved and adopted.

On proceeding to the unfinished business of the AGM of 6<sup>th</sup> June, sadly I have to tell you that no volunteers were forthcoming for the position of chairman and so the meeting could not proceed. As advised to you all in the letter sent to you last month, therefore, I was duty bound to propose the dissolution of the society. This was seconded by the President and passed unanimously.

The society will, therefore, cease to exist on 31<sup>st</sup> December and the assets will be disposed of in accordance with the letter you received. It was proposed and approved that a sum of up to £500 be allocated to purchasing archival folders and binders to preserve the family and society records.

I asked if, as a final act, we could make a donation to the Royal British Legion in memory of the members of the family who had given their lives for our country. This was granted and a sum of £100 was proposed by John Swynnerton, seconded by Barrie Swinnerton and approved. A poppy will now be planted in our name in the Field of Remembrance.

I believe we have generated enough support to continue the production of *The Swinnerton Saga* – more details of this are given in the enclosed letter.

So – after 35 years we have come to the end of the road. It is a very sad day for me and I am sorry we could not find volunteers to carry on the work. However, I believe we can look back with some pride on what we have achieved in that time. We have brought a vast amount of information about their history and origins to many of the family which they had not previously known: we have assembled a sizeable archive on the family which will be preserved and we have supported Swynnerton Church financially with donations of several thousand pounds.

Thank you all for your support over the years.

*John Swynnerton*

### Annie Louisa Swynnerton [née Robinson]

[26<sup>th</sup> February 1844 – 24<sup>th</sup> October 1933]

by John Swynnerton

Annie was the eldest of seven daughters of Francis and Ann Robinson. She was born on the 26<sup>th</sup> February 1844<sup>1</sup> at 3 Vine Grove, Hulme, near Manchester.

She went to the Manchester School of Art about 1870 and left there in 1874. A brief course in Julien's studio in Paris was succeeded by a two year visit to Rome with her old friend and contemporary, Miss Isabel Dacre, after which she left Manchester for London.

Her work was first exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1879 and the following year she exhibited a portrait of her friend Isabel Dacre (the painting is now held by Manchester City Art Gallery), with whom she later formed the Manchester Society of Women Painters.

Charles Swinnerton, in a letter dated 26th June 1883 to his son, Mark, and daughter-in-law, Sarah, wrote "Joseph is to be married on the 6th of next month to a lady artist Miss Annie Robinson of Manchester. She is highly educated and is a very clever artist painter. They are to be married in London." She married Joseph William Swynnerton [JS.91] on the 6<sup>th</sup> July 1883<sup>2</sup> at the parish church in the District of St Mark, St Marylebone, London, after banns. The witnesses were her friend Susan Isobel Dacre and Paul W. Chapman. Annie's address was 5 Langham Chambers and Joseph's was 23 Alma Square. Annie was given no occupation in the marriage certificate and her father was listed as Frank Robinson, solicitor.

They never had any children. Charles Swinnerton in an undated letter, although the postmark on the envelope read 30 Nov 87, to his

<sup>1</sup> See also England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index: 1837-1983; Name: Annie Louisa Robinson; Year of registration: 1844; Quarter of registration: Jan-Feb-Mar; District: Chorlton; County: Lancashire; Volume: 20; Page: 303.

<sup>2</sup> See also England & Wales, FreeBMD Marriage Index: 1837-1983; Name: Joseph William Swynnerton; Year of registration: 1883; Quarter of registration: Jul-Aug-Sep; District: Marylebone (1837-1901); Volume: 1a; Page: 1073.



son, Mark, wrote *"I forgot to say that Joseph has no children and never will have by this wife as she is far too old in my opinion."*

Initially, they lived in Rome. For several years they had a studio first at Piazza Trinit dei Monti. Later they built a house at Via Montebello 2, near Porta Pia, which overlooked the garden of the British Embassy.

By all accounts they lived mainly in Rome until Joseph died in 1910. In 1888 they were spending some time in London, according to Charles Swinnerton. For in his letter dated the 8<sup>th</sup> October 1888 to his son, Mark, he wrote *"Joseph and his wife are in London. In fact he has left Rome as a residence and has taken a studio in London. They come over here now and then. His address is - 5 The Avenue, Fulham Road, London."* This is confirmed by Frederick Swynnerton in his letter of 30<sup>th</sup> October 1888 when he wrote to his brother, Mark, *"At the end of my year here I calculate upon making a start in London, where as you perhaps know Joseph and wife are flourishing."*

Annie was no beauty. Indeed, Florence Gertrude Dickinson (née Swinnerton) [1880-1945] recollected in 'Notes collated by Douglas K. Swinnerton: *"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! (ed: see her picture in our last issue and judge for yourself), 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 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."*

In 1889 Annie Swynnerton signed the Declaration in Favour of Women's Suffrage and in 1897 signed the Claim for Women's Suffrage, both published by the Central Committee. In October 1891 the Central Committee hoped to commission a marble memorial to Lydia Becker from Joseph Swynnerton; nothing appears to have come of the plan.

In 1902, after a gap of sixteen years, Annie again exhibited at the Royal Academy, in fact she frequently exhibited there right up to her death.

In July 1911 she headed the section of Chelsea artists in the Coronation Procession organised by the Women's Suffrage Societies.

In 1922, Annie Swynnerton S.W.A (a member since 1889) was the first woman to be elected an Associate of the Royal Academy. The year after her election there was an exhibition of her work at Manchester City Art Gallery.

She died on 24<sup>th</sup> October 1933 at 'Sicilia', Hayling Island, Hampshire.

\* \* \* \* \*

### Principal Exhibitions

Liverpool Autumn Exhibition: occasionally 1878-1934

New Gallery, London: c.1890

Royal Academy, London: 1879-86:1902:1906-9:1912-14:1920-33

World's Columbian Exposition, Chicago: 1893

Grosvenor Gallery, London: 1882-7

Manchester City Art Gallery: 1923 (individual)

\* \* \* \* \*

John has now compiled what he hopes is a complete list of Annie's paintings and this will appear in the next issue of the Saga.

**Miscellaneous notes and jottings****Great Western Railway shareholders 1835-1910.**

<u>Last name</u>	<u>First name(s)</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>County</u>
SWINNERTON	Anne	1895	Warwickshire
SWINNERTON	Geo W	1905	
SWINNERTON	William Weston	1892	Warwickshire
SWINNERTON	William Weston	1895	Warwickshire
SWINNERTON	William Weston	1900	

**City of London Burials 1742-1904**

<u>Last Name</u>	<u>First Name(s)</u>	<u>Place of burial</u>	<u>Year</u>
SWINERTON	Alfred John	Golden Lane	1843
SWINERTON	George	Bunhill Fields	1824
SWINERTON	Louisa	Golden Lane	1847
SWINNERTON	Elizabeth	St Clement Dane	1842
SWINNERTON	James	St Clement Dane	1821
SWINNERTON	Jane	St Clement Dane	1832
SWINNERTON	John	St Clement Dane	1829
SWINNERTON	John	St Clement Dane	1834
SWINNERTON	Margaret	St Clement Dane	1823
SWINNERTON	Mary	St Clement Dane	1823
SWINNERTON	Mary	St Clement Dane	1832
SWINNERTON	Sarah	St Clement Dane	1837
SWINNERTON	Susan	St Clement Dane	1829
SWINNERTON	Thomas	St Thomas, Southwark	1835

**Army Roll of Honour WW2 - soldiers killed in action**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Birthplace</u>	<u>Residence</u>
SWINNERTON, Jack	London SE	Birmingham
SWINNERTON, Leslie	Manchester	Glamorgan
SWINNERTON, Samuel	Staffordshire	Staffordshire

**The Dental Surgeon's Directory 1925**

Swinnerton, John Bernard. 10 Burgate, Pickering, Yorks. LDS  
Liverpool 1915

**Insurance was always expensive!**

520173 Benjamin Swinerton of Tetbury in the County of Gloucester Taylor Staymaker.  
On his dwelling house only situated as aforesaid not exceeding £180  
One Hundred & Eighty Pounds.

Mids

1787 Stable and brewhouse adjoining rear not exceeding Twenty Pounds Tenement only adjoining his dwelling house in the tenure of William Sealy, Brazier not exceeding One Hundred pounds.  
All stone & tiled. £300

**Another early Soldier**

We already know of two early soldiers both Captains in the English Civil War – one Royalist and one Parliamentary. Now we have another – Lieutenant Ralph Swinerton recorded as being in Sir Walter Vane's Regiment of Foot on the 13 June 1667. This regiment was disbanded after the Treaty of Breda (1667) which paved the way for Charles II to be restored to his throne. Sir Walter was then given command of the 6<sup>th</sup> Foot (later the Warwickshire Regiment).

**Queen Elizabeth's School, Kingston-on-Thames Register 1895-96**

Included in the list of "old boys" who, it says, "are doing us credit at other Public Schools" are:  
E.G.Swinerton and H.Swinerton at Lancing and C.E.Swinerton at Hailybury (Form Prize).

Now who were they?

**The 1881 Census****Residents of the Blackburn Union Workhouse**

William Swinnerton, widower, 60, Inmate, (Cabt) Maker, Blind, born Stone, Staffs.

**Residents of Drayton Union Workhouse**

John Swinnerton, widower, 69. M. Inmate, No occupation, born Betley, Staffs



### **Durham Mining Museum Disaster Index.**

Gresford, Denbighshire, Colliery 25 September 1934

Among the Deputies listed in the account of the enquiry into the disaster is **Walter Swinnerton** a fireman. One of the most appalling disasters in the history of British mining occurred at the Gresford Colliery, owned by the Westminster and United Collieries Group. The mine operated in two main sections, the Dennis and the Slant. The explosion occurred in the Dennis, one of the deepest pits in the North Wales coalfields. The Dennis Main Deep was ruptured by the explosions, and many miners would have been flung across the pit roads, some of them dying instantly. Others were burnt alive, gassed, asphyxiated or crushed to death. There is no doubt that there were others trapped alive with no means of escape who were the victims of later explosions and the release of more gas, and who were dead before they were entombed forever by the sealing of the mine by their colleagues. Only six men in the Dennis survived.. Sadly, Walter was among the 262 miners and 3 rescuers who died.

### **Nonconformist Birth, Marriage and Death Records.**

The 5000 registers of nonconformist churches and chapels which were surrendered on the commencement of Civil Registration on the 1<sup>st</sup> July 1837 and held at The National Archives have now been put on line. They commence, in some cases, as early as 1567 and include Baptists, Methodists, Presbyterians, Protestant Dissenters, Independents and a few from a small number of Roman Catholic communities.

They can be searched for free at [www.bmdregisters.co.uk](http://www.bmdregisters.co.uk) but there is a fee to download images. They consist, at the moment, of the non-parochial and nonconformist registers originally contained in TNA's classes RG(Registrar General) and RG5 but the project is on-going and will eventually include miscellaneous records of BMD in classes RG6-8: RG32-36 and BT (Board of Trade)158-160. These include Quakers, foreign churches in England, clandestine marriages before 1754 (when they were made illegal) and records of events at sea.

### **Methodist Historic Roll**

Volume 3. 2<sup>nd</sup> London District. Harlesden Church. Kilburn & Hampstead Circuit.

George & Fred Swinnerton. Wesleyan  
25 Connaught Road Harlesden London NW.

### **A soldier of the 64<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot.**

We know that William Swinnerton was recruited near his home because he was attested before Alfred C. Twentyman, a magistrate, at Wolverhampton on the 11th June 1880. On the 16<sup>th</sup> June he arrived in Ireland and was enlisted at Templemore on the 21st June. He said that he had been born in the parish of Dudley Port, near the town of Dudley in the County of Worcester, was a miner and that he was aged 19years 3months. He said he had not previously served in any branch of Her Majesty's Forces, had not been an apprentice or ever lived outside his father's house. He made his mark on his enlistment paper, which was witnessed by Colour Sgt E. Daubney. He was given the number 2351 and was enlisted for the 20<sup>th</sup> Brigade and on the 16<sup>th</sup> June he was assigned to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion 64<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot. Under the re-organisation of the Army in 1881, this became the Prince of Wales's (North Staffordshire Regiment).



He gave his next of kin as his mother, Mary Ann Hale of Great Bridge, West Bromwich, Staffordshire.

At his medical examination, he was stated to be 5ft 5½inches tall with a chest measurement of 35ins – a typical short, stocky Staffordshire man. His physique was described as 'Good' as one would expect for a miner. Although having been vaccinated in infancy, the Army were taking no chances and he was re-vaccinated on the 26<sup>th</sup> June.

His records show that he served in Ireland until 9<sup>th</sup> December 1881 when he moved with his regiment to India where he served for nearly five years returning home on the 17<sup>th</sup> November 1886. He served at home until the 15 June 1892 when he was discharged *on completion of the first period of his limited engagement.*

On the 24 January 1883, he gained the Army's 4<sup>th</sup> Class Certificate of Education, which meant he was taught to read and write and do

simple arithmetic, and his character on discharge was described as 'Very Good'.

During his time in India he served in the Zhob Expeditionary Field Force from 21<sup>st</sup> September to the 2<sup>nd</sup> December 1884. This is a bit of British Imperial History which most people have probably never heard of. The Zhob is a large valley N.E. of Baluchistan running from the hills near Ziarat first eastward and then northward parallel to the Indus frontier, till it meets the Gomal River at Khajuri Kach. It was thus a strategic line of great importance, as being the shortest route between the North-West Frontier Province and Quetta, and dominated all the Pathan tribes of Baluchistan by cutting between them and Afghanistan. Up to the year 1884 it was practically unknown to Europeans, but the Zhob Valley Expedition of that year opened it up, and in 1889 the Zhob Valley and Gomal Pass were taken under the control of the British Government when it was formed into a district or political agency, with its headquarters at Fort Sandeman.

During his service, William was twice admitted to hospital with pneumonia, firstly for 65 days when the cause was given as 'exposure on the march' and the second for 25 days for 'exposure'. In both cases the treatment was given as 'Usual'! He was also admitted to hospital five times suffering from Ague, once for Conjunctivitis and once for Scarlet Fever, all being attributed to 'severe climate'. His last admission was for having been burned by Slaked Lime.



to 5ft 5½ins – unusual, the Army usually pulled a man up.

All these facts were gleaned from his personal papers in WO97/3982 which can be found in The National Archives at Kew.

## The Gathering 2008

"Dear Iain,

I am writing to express my thanks for the wonderful hospitality I received during my visit to the Swinnerton Gathering on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2008. Ray was a welcome sight at Birmingham airport on the Thursday before, after 33 hours of travelling from my home in Bathurst, New South Wales, Australia, as was the comfortable accommodation at the Stone Hotel.

On Friday I walked into the town of Stone, enjoyed a stroll along the canal, a wander along the main street and the use of the library internet facilities. A very pretty town in which, in hindsight, I should have stayed longer in order to take a long boat (if that's what they are called) down the canal system. I thoroughly enjoyed the Friday night committee dinner at the hotel where I met many other Swinnertons I had heard of but not corresponded with.

The trip to Swynnerton on Saturday was a good map reading adventure and it was lovely to see the little village again – you may remember that Mum and I visited in 1986 for the Domesday celebrations and unfortunately had not returned until this year – Mum would have loved to see the Village again. The postcards I bought from the shop (which was just about to close for the day) have been sent far and wide. I do hope that the Society is able to continue in some way. I commend you Iain on your generosity to offer to produce the *Saga* which in itself is quite an amount of work. The Australian members I have spoken to are more than happy to pay whatever subscription is necessary to support the continued production of the *Saga*.

The rest of my overseas travel to France (the French were so pleasant and so were their red wines in the Bordeaux region), Spain (I loved Barcelona, Granada and Toledo) and Morocco with its wonderful colours (I loved Fes and Rabat), went without any problems – great weather. Left Dubai (after a luxurious 24 hours at the Jumeriah Beach Hotel (and Arab al Burg for dinner) in 42 degree heat to arrive back in Bathurst to a minus 5 celcius night!

Thank you to everyone who provided taxi services for me, spent the time to answer all my questions and show so much interest in my travels. It was all a lovely experience. What else would one expect from "Swinnertons"! I look forward to providing the same hospitality to any who may visit Australia."

**Glenda Simpson**



## The Gathering June 2008



The pre-Gathering dinner. L to R. Myrna Jones, Alan Jones, Margaret Swinnerton, Peter Yeandle, Angela Swinnerton, Iain Swinnerton, Liz Yeandle, Roger Swynnerton, Elizabeth Swynnerton, Barrie Swinnerton, Glenda Simpson.



Waiting for lunch. Chairman Barrie Swinnerton is on the left, Roy Swinnerton on the right and in the centre, surrounded by ladies as usual, is Geoffrey Swinnerton.



Alan and Myrna Jones and family at their Golden Wedding celebration. To Myrna's left is our member Audrey Cherry, Alan's sister.



Our other Alan Jones (member R.A.Jones) tells me that he does not have a photograph of his uncle Charles Edwin Swinnerton who did serve in the Great War but he did inherit his travelling chess set which he had with him throughout the war. Charles ended the war as an Acting Corporal in the London Regiment. The mobile phone shows how small the set was.



### World War One Soldiers.

I have still not received any more pictures of men who served in the First World War which I find incredible as 134 Swinnertons did.

However, these six pictures appeared in the *Walsall Pioneer* on 11<sup>th</sup> March 1916 under the heading . "Walsall Men amongst Britain's Brave – six fighting brothers"

They are the six eldest sons of William and Agnes Swinnerton (née Blunt). Charles was 30, Ernest 25, John 34, Harold 18, Bert 23 and Edward 22. Edward was killed in action on 30 Apr 1917 and John died at home in Nov 1917.



LIEUT.-COL. CHARLES SWINNERTON  
1st South Staffs. Regt.  
(Walsall Pioneer, 11th March 1916)



CORP. ERNEST P. SWINNERTON  
D.M.  
1st South Staffs. Regt.  
(Walsall Pioneer, 11th March 1916)



PTY JOHN SAMUEL SWINNERTON  
2nd South Staffs. Regt.  
(Walsall Pioneer, 11th March 1916)



PRIVATE HAROLD SWINNERTON  
2nd South Staffs. Regt.  
(Walsall Pioneer, 11th March 1916)



PRIVATE BERT SWINNERTON  
2nd South Staffs. Regt.  
(Walsall Pioneer, 11th March 1916)



PRIVATE EDWARD SWINNERTON  
2nd South Staffs. Regt.  
(Walsall Pioneer, 11th March 1916)

### Chancery Inquisitions Miscellaneous Richard II The National Archives C145/254/6

23 September 1393 Rokeby (Rugby) Inquisition (indented) taken *virtute officij* before Edward Metteley, escheator in County Warwick, at Rokeby, Tuesday before Michaelmas 17 Richard II.

On 1 October 11 Richard II (1387) when John Salesbury knight forfeited all his lands for divers treasons whereof he was convicted in the parliament held at Westminster on the morrow of the Purification 11 Richard II (3 February 1388), he was seized in his demesne as of fee of two cottages in Bradwell, each worth 2s net yearly, one formerly of Thomas Grobbe and Joan his wife and the other of Joan late the wife of Roger in the Lane, Joan late the wife of the said John and her present husband **Roger Swynarton** have taken the issues ever since the said 1 October. Joan also had £40 of lawful money of the issues of the manors of Bradwell and Grenburgh from the said 1 October to the said morrow of the Purification, of which manors John was seised at the latter date in right of the said Joan. Roger Swinarton and Joan will answer the king for the issues.

#### From Peak District online.

"Bradwell is perhaps one of the more obscure of Derbyshire villages, lying as it does in a narrow valley of its own along a minor road which runs between Tideswell and the Hope Valley deep in the limestone hills to the north of the county. This is rugged countryside at the northern limits of the White Peak and Bradwell seems to blend perfectly into the natural landscape with its narrow ginnels and stone houses either clinging in haphazard clusters to the steep hillsides, or following the course of the road and the Bradwell Brook which meander through the village along the valley floor.

The earliest of Bradwell's substantial dwellings is from the Tudor period; with a date stone of 1549 atop the coat of arms of the Vernon and **Swynnerton** families carved above the five-arched mullioned windows on its west gable, **Hazelbadge Hall** stands at the road side, now part of a large farm complex on the outskirts of the village at the southern end of Bradwell Dale. Interestingly the crest above the coat of arms, though crumbling and almost indiscernible, appears to be a wolf's head; this could signify the home of a high ranking forester".

### Philippa Swinnerton Pearsall.

Antoinette Bowsman, with whom I had some correspondence a few years ago about the Pearsall family (who claim descent from the Swinnertons of Peshale) tells me that she has discovered that a branch of the Pearsall family went to Willsbridge which was then in Gloucestershire. She visited there and found that a John Pearsall went there from Rowley Regis near Hales Owen (*ed: as it was then spelt*) in 1712 and built two mills on the Siston Brook for rolling iron from Russia. The business flourished and eventually his son John took over, followed by his son Thomas.

Thomas had a brother Richard, one of whose sons was Richard Lucas Pearsall who married Marie Henriette Elizabeth Hobday in 1817. Their fourth child was Philippa Swinnerton Pearsall born 6<sup>th</sup> February 1824. She ran away with, and married, John Hughes, a barrister. Apparently, she was *one of the most noted genealogists of the day* and was also an heraldic artist and painter.

Antoinette has a copy of the Pearsall Family History (as do I) but thinks her copy must have been copied from the original and then added to, as she was told that the Americans came over between the wars to bring the family tree up to date. Unfortunately, they left off five of her grandfather's sisters and two children who died young.

It took me 20 years to obtain a copy (which is an original print) – they did not even have one in the British Library. It is a beautifully produced hard-backed book with some wonderful heraldic paintings interleaved with tissue but is marred by the main tree which starts with Rollo the Viking and King Ethelred the Unready!

I think Philippa was given the middle name of Swinnerton to perpetuate the alleged descent of the Pearsalls from our family because I can find no connection in her parentage with us.

### Virginia Land Grants - Cavaliers and Pioneers

Patent Book No.6

Two large grants of 5000 and 11,000 acres are listed to Daniel Jennifer and Anne his wife, lately called Anne Toft. In the latter are 7350 acres due to the said Jenifer for trans. of 145 persons all of whom are listed and amongst them we find **Jno. Swinerton**

### From Cave Painting to Comic Strip – A kaleidoscope of Human Communication

Lancelot Hogben. Max Parrish & Co Ltd. London 1949.

On February 16, 1896, when the readers of the New York Sunday *World* settled back in their crimson plush chairs and slacked (*sic*) their suspenders after dinner, they found..... a three-quarter page in color entitled "The Great Dog Show in M'Googan's Avenue", and signed 'Outcault'. It was a kind of parody of the City's slum backyards, filled with cats and wash and a lot of tough children in high-society costumes.... very busy exhibiting their pets. These kids framed a central figure, a strange creature who, though evidently a boy, appeared to have passed through the major experiences of life in the first six months. Though small, he was important-looking. His head, bald, with flap ears, had a wise faintly Chinese face, and he looked directly into the reader's eyes with a quizzical interrogative smile.... The kid was dressed in a kind of nightgown on which was a smeary handprint, and this nightgown was colored a pure light yellow... "Hey, look at this," laughed the papers of New York, "Look at this, Emma, a yellow kid!" "Oh George, that's so silly, it's only fit for the children". And Emma carried the funny section into the nursery.

.... These early experiments were far from being comics in the modern sense. A much closer ancestor, in the days prior to "The Yellow Kid", was the series "The Little Bears and Tigers", funny animals which romped week after week in the San Francisco *Examiner*, beginning with the year 1892. There is nothing especially remarkable in the appearance of these little beasts to make them stand out from the many other gay and humorous drawings of the time .... The historic point about "The Little Bears and Tigers" is their regular occurrence, the fact that the readers made friends with them and, above all, that they appeared with the advantage of a large newspaper audience. The man who drew them, **James Swinnerton**, will be a mighty name in this history. He may be said to be the first of the three founding fathers, who between them gave the comic strip the form in which we know it today; the others being Richard Felton Outcault of the Yellow Kid and Rudolph Dirks.



## Thomas Swinerton – the Royal Marine

When I am working at The National Archives, Kew I keep a constant lookout for any more details of our mystery man Thomas who went to Australia in 1788 as a guard on a convict ship. Recently I found a reference to him in ADM1/3824 where he is listed as being in Captain-Lieutenant Tench's No.2 Company. He is on the effectives list from 1 July to 30 Sep 1788.

He is also listed in ADM1/2309 (a list of Non-commissioned & Private Marines of the Portsmouth Division discharged in NSW as Settlers in the Colony) as a Private in No.2 Company and haing been **discharged on 10 December 1791.**

There are several references to him in the Mss Catalogue at the Mitchell Library, Sydney which were very kindly extracted for me by Janet Robinson in 1955.

### **SWINERTON Thomas**

1792 Settled at Field of Mars on the North Shore near entrance to creek leading to Paramatta

Feb Feb 3 1792

(Return of land in cultivation Oct 16, 1792) [Bonwick Transcripts Box 88. page 3]

1793 Deed of Swinerton's farm, 80 acres in the Field of Mars, dated Jan 3, 1792 enclosed in Jan 3.letter (T.Hassall to Capt. Clark, July 8, 1822) [Hassall correspondence Vol.4 page 212]

Land Grants 1788-1809. A record of registered grants and leases in NSW. Van Dieman's Land and Norfolk Island ed.R.J.Ryan 1974.

No.53 Thomas Swinerton Jan 3 1792 Granted 80 acres at The Field of Mars on the north shore at the entrance of the creek leading to Paramatta.

Rent: 1 shilling a year commencing after 5 years. "Consolidated in Mr Marsden's grant 1803"

He is also listed on page 417 of *Historical Records of New South Wales 1793-1795* as a Marine in Captain Tench's Company.

I cannot show you an illustration of his cap badge because in his day Marines still wore the Bicorné hat which did not carry a badge. However, he would have worn an anchor on his cross belt plate.

## Family Notes

### Jack Barker Swinnerton



I am very sorry to have to tell you that Jack Swinnerton of Pilling died on the 30<sup>th</sup> June aged 62. Jack had been a member of the society since his father, also Jack, enrolled him in 1977 and had attended many Gatherings. Jack Snr had been an outstanding supporter of our society - he was our official photographer and was responsible for many of the photographs in our albums.

Jack Barker Swinnerton was born on the 4<sup>th</sup> March 1939, the eldest son of Jack and Annie née Clarke. He was educated at Stockport Grammar School, leaving at the age of 16 to start work at the C.I.S.Advertising Agency in Manchester. In 1968 he married Jennifer Brunt and they made their home on the Fylde Coast where they had two sons, John Barker and James Andrew. He retired from advertising in 1993 as the Production Distribution Director. He then started his own agency in Garstang, Lancashire which he ran for the next seven years.

Jack will be best remembered for his lifelong interest in Jazz. He was appointed as Jazz Organiser at Manchester Sports Guild in 1962 when he was only 23. and his obituary is reproduced below. He also edited 'Jazz News' of which we have several copies in our archives.

In 1963, Jack had the idea of bringing over American bands. These included such famous names as Henry 'Red' Allen, George Lewis and Earl Hines as well as many other famous musicians. For the first time, a Northern Club had become the most famous club in Britain and the international jazz press began to refer to it as 'Britain's centre of Jazz'.

Jack died after an illness of several months and we send our sincere sympathy to his wife of 40 years, Jenny, and to their sons John and James and grandchildren Lucy and Joseph.

## Jazz News September 2008

### Obituary - Jack Swinnerton

L. C. Jenkins, General Secretary of The Manchester Sports Guild, appointed Jack Swinnerton as his Jazz Organiser in 1962 soon after opening the new Centre. It was an inspired choice. Jenks had evaluated Jack's promise over drinks at the bar, and saw him as a young man with enormous jazz knowledge, a capacity for hard work, and an all embracing love of the music.

At that time the jazz was running at weekends on a programme of local bands, a formula that was both popular and successful. Jack, however, wanted to extend our appeal. Bands from provincial areas were booked, and soon we were presenting jazz six nights a week. His next step was to book all the top London bands.

All this meant hard work and planning. Jack, who worked locally as a production manager in advertising, was in attendance at the Guild five lunch-times and six evenings a week — and all on a voluntary basis with no financial rewards.

The MSGs tenth anniversary was in 1963, and Jack suggested we should celebrate by bringing over an American legend. He suggested Henry Red Allen. Various obstacles were overcome, and the Allen tour was a huge success, leading to the visit of more Americans. Discussions with Barry Martyn and the Society for the Promotion of New Orleans Music resulted in the visit of leading musicians in that genre; Jack's ambitious vision had indeed created what the international jazz press began to refer to as 'Britain's Centre of Jazz

The Golden Age of MSG jazz came to an end in the late-sixties when the Council announced plans to redevelop the area. Jack married Jenny (a student teacher regular at MSG jazz), and she became his soul-mate for the next 39 years. They had two boys, the younger, James, now a noted bass player in leading bands.

Jack Swinnerton did not play any musical instrument, but he created platforms for those who did. Through total dedication he worked to bring the best of jazz to the widest possible audience. He put his mark on British jazz in the 1960s and, as Alex Welsh said at the time, rescued the music.

**John Pye** ex-Chairman M.S.G.

*Also from the same issue of Jazz News:*

Whilst going through personal belongings after Jack's death, I found a Christmas card from Henry 'Red' Allen. This reminded me that I met Jack at Manchester Sports Guild, and of all the good times and the magic of the place.

Jack and I were constantly touched by the amazing support we had from the jazz community during the difficult period of Jack's illness. I feel much affection for anyone who attended Jack's funeral. Thank you for the many cards and kind messages. I want to especially thank the musicians, who played so superbly, many traveling significant distances to be there. You really did make it a memorable send-off for Jack !

I ask Jack's friends, next time you have a drink, remember what a great person and a real gentleman of jazz he was — and have one for Jack.

**Jenny Swinnerton**

\* \* \* \* \*

### Lady (Grizel) Swynnerton.

I am equally sorry to have to tell you that Grizel, widow of our former President and Patron Sir Roger Swynnerton, died on the 16<sup>th</sup> March 2008 aged 84. She was born Grizel Beryl Miller on the 19<sup>th</sup> September 1923 in Nairobi. She married Roger on the 5<sup>th</sup> August 1943 at Dar-es-Salaam.

She was first and foremost a sportswoman. In Barbados, her



tennis coach would lay out a handkerchief on court and tell her that every return must hit that spot. Obviously it worked, because having followed her two elder sisters to St. Georges School, Edinburgh in 1939, at the age of merely 15, she won the Scottish Singles under-18 Open Championship and reached the Semi-Finals of the Doubles. But for the

Second World War she would have entered Wimbledon the following year.



The outbreak of war saw her on board ship in Liverpool with her mother and elder sister bound for Tanganyika to join her father. They survived the Germans giving them a good send-off by bombing the docks as they left. During the war, she did secretarial work.

Tennis was her life. She was the Tanganyika Lawn Tennis Singles and Doubles champion in 1949 and 1950 and the Mixed Doubles champion also in 1950. In 1951 the family moved to Nairobi, where she continued to play tennis. Her successes went from strength to strength. She twice won the Kenya Lawn Tennis Singles championship and twice the Doubles championship.

She was a devoted wife, being married to Roger for 57 years. In Africa, she supported his work which so often took him away from home and she supported his position in Government service so well. They both survived through the troubled period of Mau Mau, with Grizel working for the Chief of Police. On their return to the UK she supported his globe trotting lifestyle for CDC and the World Bank and was immensely proud when he received his knighthood at the Palace in 1976.

In Africa she was happy for her brother-in-law Gerry, Chief Game Warden for Tanganyika, to take her sons John Ralph and Charles Iain on exciting safaris camping in the bush. She even put up with Gerry asking them to look after two lion cubs, Tate and Lyle, at their house in Nairobi whilst on their way to London Zoo.

Following Independence in 1962, they retired to England, living in Fetcham for 25 years.

By chance, in 1963, Roger returned to Kenya on a CDC project and she took the opportunity to win both the Kenya Singles and Doubles tournament yet again.

In England her tennis continued mainly at Esher Club and in 1984, 1985 and 1986 she was runner up in The Wimbledon National Veterans Doubles Championships of Great Britain.

Due to a deterioration in her health, she gave up playing tennis in her 70s, but right up to her death helped to run LTA tournaments for children and followed tennis around the world with keen interest. She had always played bridge, but now took the game up with a vengeance. She was almost as formidable at this as at tennis. She enjoyed social games and tournaments, playing regularly three times a week. In fact she played on the Friday before she died.

Grizel had many other accomplishments, tapestry (she drew up the pattern and instructions for the kneelers that ladies of the

made for Swynnerton Church), gardening, flower arranging and cookery. Having had a cook for most her life in Africa, on her return to the UK, feeling that she needed to improve her skills, she took a Cordon Blue course – much to the gastronomic benefit of her family and friends.

In 1987 they moved to Stoke D'Abernon and here she became involved with the local Church, the Residents' Association, The Princess Alice Hospice and NADFAS.

A quite remarkable lady. Our sympathy goes to her family – it is very sad that she did not live to see the engagement of her grandson which is announced below.

\* \* \* \* \*

I am also sorry to have to tell you that Robin John, the middle son of Audrey and the late Ernest Swinnerton, died in Kuala Lumpur after a four year fight against cancer on the 5<sup>th</sup> April aged only 28.

This was a great double blow for Audrey who as you know, lost her husband very suddenly as recently as June 2006 and we do send her our very sincere condolences

### Congratulations

To our former Treasurer Alan Jones and his wife Myrna on celebrating their Golden Wedding on 11<sup>th</sup> August. The celebrations, apparently, went on for 4 days with lots of family, caravans on the drive and a marquee on the back lawn.

(Angela and I also celebrated our Golden Wedding on the 1<sup>st</sup> February this year and the celebrations are still ongoing! They have also embraced the christening of our new grandson John William Spencer Spickernell (known as Jack), the son of our younger daughter Jo).

To Walter and Gwendoline Swinnerton who, according to the *Solihull News* celebrated their Diamond Wedding on 24<sup>th</sup> July.

To Matthew Swynnerton son of our member John Swynnerton, on his engagement to Rachel Anne Smith on the 5<sup>th</sup> of September in Venice.

The Cycling Swinnertons are expanding. Peter Swinnerton, the grandson of our member Roy Swinnerton of the cycling Swinnertons, has married Rachel Chetwynd. (The Bridegroom who is a design engineer for J.C.Bamford arrived at the church in a huge JCB tractor!)

Peter's sister Katie had a daughter Molly in February and her brother Jack is getting married shortly.

As cycling has been so much in the news this year on account of the British Team's great triumphs in the Olympic Games at Beijing, we should be proud that members of the family were very prominent in the early days of the sport.



This picture, from an article in the *Sentinel* on July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2007 is headlined "Cycling was a star attraction" and deals with the early sport of racing in the 1950s and 60s.

The caption reads *Roy Swinnerton is held aloft after winning the national half mile grass track title in 1956.*

I hope to reproduce the full article in a future issue.

And finally – a Happy Christmas to you all.



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*The wedding of of Peter Swinnerton and Rachel Chetwynd at Caverswall Catholic Church  
Autumn 2008*



*The wedding of John Swinnerton, son of Ray and Sheila in Comlofgon Caslte, Scotland. (Sarah is Scots)  
21 June 2008*