

The Swinnerton Saga



The family of our Canadian member Norman Swinnerton
Back row Graeme, Colleen, Norman, Donovan Middle row: Taryn, Josh, Larree, Jackie,
Gordon Front Row Julia & Alex

THE JOURNAL OF SWINNERTON FAMILY HISTORY

VOLUME 14. NO.10

JUNE 2011

Annie Swynnerton's paintings - No.8

Oreads



Oil on canvas

1788mm x 1788mm
Presently in the Tate Collections
Presented by John Singer Sargent 1922

Exhibited 1907

THE SWINNERTON SAGA

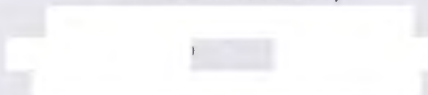
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Editor -
Col I.S.Swinnerton,



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From the Editor

'The best laid schemes of mice and men gang aft a-gley' – so said the great poet Rabbie Burns in his poem *To a Mouse* in 1786. Three years ago, I bought a top security, Maxtor external hard drive for my computer thinking it would be ideal for backing up my data and storing material which I did not want cluttering up my working hard disk – the more you have on it, the longer it takes for the computer to find files. The new drive was password-protected so nobody could alter the data without my acquiescence.

All went well until three weeks ago when it suddenly refused to open to my password which it said was wrong although I have never used any other. Of course, all our Swinnerton data was stored on it but fortunately we do have other backups. Roy Talbot was able to supply me with replacement databases which he keeps meticulously up-to-date; John Swynnerton sent me the original spreadsheet of Annie Swynnerton's paintings and is re-formatting the original of Anne Bagot's Diary; Kevin Bowers in Canada sent me the material he and I had taken off Bill Swinarton's computer after he died in 2002 (which we had copied onto 3½in discs which shows how technology has improved since then) and Ron Swinnerton sent me the catalogue of the Swinnerton Archives and other material from a disc which I has sent to him (and others) called 'Records for Distribution'. My grateful thanks to them all.

So – it is not too bad but, sadly, other material is not duplicated elsewhere such as computer files of the back copies of our journal, material I had collected for inclusion in future issues and, of my own personal data, copies of every article I have written for various family history magazines over the last 20 years or so (although I do have the original prints) and our Christmas card list and much else!

So – however careful you are, it can still all go pear-shaped. You will see in the chairman's message that I asked for some help with typing etc at the AGM – I need it even more now please!

You will notice on the contents page that I have included the number of this issue – an idea I picked up from the Beresford Family journal. The number amazes me – it represents several thousand pages of typing and goodness knows how many words. Sadly, the volumes have not been indexed since number 8 when our chairman, the late Joe Swinnerton, died. We have a very simple indexing program which, having typed in the names and page number, automatically does it for you. Any volunteers?

Iain Swinnerton

A message from the Chairman

As I have just chaired my first AGM of the Swinnerton Family Society I feel I am now qualified to write to you as Chairman.

I joined the old Swinnerton Society in 1991 and was soon elected on to Council. Although it was rather daunting initially it was certainly the best way to learn about the Society. I recommend reluctant members to become involved in our Family Society. I spent many years on Council and also served a term as Secretary. If it is true that you get more out of something the more you put in then I have certainly gained a great deal from my membership of the Swinnerton Society.

Details of the AGM will be appearing elsewhere in the Journal but I should like to welcome Keith Livesey as Treasurer and Margaret Antill as a committee member as they join Iris, Ray and myself as your officers for the coming year. Iain proposed that Rev Rachel Livesey should become our Society Chaplain and she was happy to accept. (I promise that this IS the Swinnerton Family Society and not the Livesey takeover branch.)

The Editor made a heartfelt plea for someone to help him with *Saga*. He has now been producing a magazine for the Swinnerton family for 36 years and, though he has masses of material awaiting publication, the time it takes to produce a copy is increasing all the while because he is a very slow two-finger typist and, as he gets older he cannot sit for so long at a time at his computer. Most of the material has to be re-typed (some is still hand-written) so if any of our members has the expertise, he will be very, very glad of some help.

At the AGM we had preliminary discussions regarding next year's Gathering at Swynnerton (2nd June 2012). There seem to be many talented members of our Society and I should like to invite you to exhibit the results of your endeavours at the Gathering. I know we have jewelry makers, felt workers, artists, needlewomen, photographers, knitters, wood carvers and crafts people. If you have a talent and would like the rest of the family to enjoy your work please consider bringing it along. I also hope Geoffrey Swinnerton will bring some of his collection of Swinnerton pottery for us all to admire - and you could possibly take some home in return for a donation to UNICEF which is very dear to the hearts of Geoffrey and his wife Carole.

The new Society is in its infancy and its success will depend on you the members. The editor always welcomes articles and photographs for inclusion in the *Saga*. It is your society - be an active part of it and it will grow and flourish. Be passive and it will decline. I don't want to be Chairman of a declining society; I want us to thrive.

Elizabeth

Sir Roger de Swynnerton

Following the extract from *Horrible Histories* in the March *Saga* Roy Talbot has sent me the following written, as usual, in his inimitable style.

The answer to the problem of Sir Roger the thug, p.194, is that it is not the Ipstones fellow but the baron who appears on the preceding page. There is a calendar of the Coram Rege rolls 17E2 (1324) wherein:-

"The juries of the Hundred of Offeleye, Pirhull, Cotheleston, Seisdon and Tatmonsloze presented that **Roger de Swynnerton Kt., John de Swynnerton Kt., Richard de Swynnerton, Stephen de Swynnerton**, John de Uselwall, **Nicholas de Swynnerton**, parson of the church of Moccleston, Richard de Whethales, John de Whethales, Richard de Chelle, Hugh de Chelle, Henry de Chelle, Robert de Aston near Stone, Thomas de Aston of the same, Andrew le Chamberleyn, John de Charnes, Ithel le Poker, Jukin le Walshe, Adam le Spenser, Adam le But of Swynnerton, William le Wodeward of Beche and eight others named, were common malefactors and disturbers of the peace, riding about armed through the country to the terror of the people and that they had come with others who were unknown armed, to the county court held at Stafford on a certain Thursday in the summer of 6E2 to the great terror of the people and had forcibly closed the doors of the hall of the court and placed guards that none could depart, and they had threatened to kill Hugh le Croft, the sheriff, and William de Stafford, Knight, in full county court, unless the court was stopped, and the said **Richard de Swynnerton, Nicholas de Swynnerton**, with others unknown had beaten and wounded James de Stafford at Lychefeld in the same year and the said Richard de Swynnerton in the summer of the same year had beaten William Spark and many others at Wolgarston, and that the same Richard took a ransom from several men for not beating them to the value of 100s yearly. And the same Richard with other malefactors, at Pencrich in 8E2 had prevented Henry de Cresswell the Coroner of the county from performing his office on the body of Henry atte Persouns, who had been killed by the said Richard, and that when the said **Roger de Swynnerton, Kt.**, had been indicted before the Sheriff and coroners of the county for the death of Henry de Salt, killed at Stafford in 1E2 the said Roger came to Swynnerton and convoked by force before him all the witnesses and made them singly pay fines to him because they had indicted him of the said death as they truly understand '*vere prout intellexerunt*' viz.: Robert Bythewater one of the witnesses paid fifty marks, and Roger de Walton, another witness fifty marks and so from all the other witnesses he took at least from each fifty marks, and Roger de Aston, then coroner, because he took the said indictment made fine with him at one hundred pounds and he made them all swear that they would take no further proceedings against him. And they

say that the said **John de Swynnerton** when he was Sheriff in 15E2 took by force Nicholas de Pycheford at Wollerhampton and imprisoned him at Stafford, and kept him there until he paid him twenty pounds. And the same **John de Swynnerton**, John de Charnes, Richard de Chelle and John de Wetale with others unknown came to Clifton Caunville in December 9E2 on a day when John Chaynel and John Cave the Justices assigned to take the assizes in the county were sitting and disturbed them so that they could not take the assizes. And the said **Roger de Swynnerton, John de Swynnerton, Richard de Swynnerton** and John de Wethales, on the Thursday before the Feast of St. Peter and Vincula, 7E2 came to Stafford to the great terror of the people and forcibly disturbed the Sheriff sitting in full County so that the pleas of the court could not be taken. And that the said **Stephen de Swynnerton, Richard de Swynnerton**, John de Whetale and other unknown at Gauley in September 13E2 took the goods and chattels of Reginald Perle of Shropshire to the value of one hundred pounds. The Sheriff was therefore ordered to attach them."

These are part of the magnificent seven brothers of whom we have made mention before and from whom we are all descended and from whom that amiable nature for which we are so justly renowned may readily be traduced.

The AV question

We have all recently been asked on whether we should change to the Alternative Vote system. This is what happened in Ballarat, Australia in 1969.

G.C.Bond (Ind)	1173 (2.5%)
G.D.Erwin (Lib)	20881 (44.0%)
R.Joshua (DLP)	6444 (13.6%)
D.J.Pollock (ALP)	18634 (39.3%)
H.J.Prins (Ind)	92 (0.2%)
D.L.Swinnerton (Ind)	215 (0.4%)
Informal	1752

After preferences:

G.D.Erwin (Lib)	27999 (59.0%)
D.J.Pollock (ALP)	19440 (41.0%)

Our first-past-the-post system would have produced exactly the same result.

World War One Memorial Scroll



HE whom this scroll commemorates was numbered among those who, at the call of King and Country, left all that was dear to them, endured hardness, faced danger, and finally passed out of the sight of men by the path of duty and self-sacrifice, giving up their own lives that others might live in freedom.

Let those who come after see to it that his name be not forgotten.

Roll of Honour of Swinnertons who died in WWI

	<u>Born</u>	<u>Resided</u>
SWINNERTON, Arthur Watts,	Liverpool,	Liverpool,
SWINNERTON, Benjamin,	Walsall,	
SWINNERTON, Edward,	Walsall,	Walsall,
SWINNERTON, Frederick William,	Dewsbury, Yks, ,	
SWINNERTON, Harry,	Newcastle, ,	Burslem,
SWINNERTON, Henry,	Walsall, ,	
SWINNERTON, Herbert,	West Derby, Lancs,	Liverpool
SWINNERTON, John Samuel,	Walsall, ,	
SWINNERTON, Norman,	Connahs Quay	
SWINNERTON, Percy William,	Clerkenwell,	Holborn.,
SWINNERTON, Samuel John,	Stoke-On-Trent,	Stoke-On-Trent,
SWINNERTON, Thomas,	Bradley, Staffs,	Bilston,
SWINNERTON, William,	Bradley, Staffs,	West Bromwich,



The three WWI medals, the 1914 or 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal known affectionately to the troops as Pip, Squeak and Wilfred.

Arthur Watts Swinnerton

was born in West Derby, Liverpool in 1894, the son of Francis Swinnerton, a ship's steward, and Mary. He enlisted in the 6th Battalion, The King's (Liverpool) Regiment and was given the number 3578.

The 6th Battalion (Rifles) was a Territorial Force Battalion (the predecessor of the Territorial Army). The TF was formed in 1907 by the merger of the Rifle Volunteers and the Yeomanry.

The battalion was mobilized on the 4 August 1914 in Princes Park Barracks, Liverpool as part of the Liverpool Brigade, West Lancashire Division. In Autumn 1914, it moved to Canterbury and on the 25 February 1915 landed at Le Havre where it was transferred to the 15th Brigade, 55th Division at Bailleul. On the 18 November 1915, the battalion left the Brigade and was attached as Army Troops to Third Army until the 28th January 1916 when it was transferred to 165th Brigade, also part of 55th Division, and ended the war at Ligne in Belgium.

Arthur was killed in action on the 25 September 1916 aged just 22. He has no known grave but is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial.

His medal index card shows that he was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal but, surprisingly, not the 1914-15 Star which means he did not go overseas until after the 31st December 1915.



The Thiepval Memorial to the nearly 73,000 soldiers who died in the Battle of the Somme between July 1915 and March 1918. The majority died on the first day of the battle 1st July 1915.
(to be continued)

Mark's Journal (continued)

Mark Swinnerton was born on the 27 July 1848 in Douglas, Isle of Man, the eldest son of Charles Swinnerton, a stone mason of Liverpool who had gone to the Island to work on the stonework of King William's College – the island's public school founded in 1833, and settled there. Mark, having finished his apprenticeship, set out to see the world on the 18th of June 1860 on board the sailing ship 'Montmorency'.



I don't think I would have driven those cattle 600 miles in that way for the price of them. He wanted to engage Tom but as he would not hire his chum (me of blessed horse memory) he wouldn't engage so we took it on foot. We tried to buy two horses here but we could get nothing but unbroken colts and I didn't think that would quite suit me. Eventually we arrived at Warwick, 80 miles from Tenterfield. Warwick is quite a place and I have no doubt in process of time it will be quite a large place. Whilst here we heard of some mining being done at Canal Creek 40 miles away so we took a walk that far but there was nothing of importance.

On leaving Warwick we made necessary inquiries as to accommodation on the road and were told we would meet an accommodation house on the road about noon, when noon came we had found the eating hours, but we came to a very nice looking residence....in front of which stood a horse saddled and a man on the porch. The house stood in from the road quite a distance.

I went up to the man, told him we were told we would meet an accommodation house but had failed to find it yet and I wanted to know if we could buy our dinner.

He said, "I dinna ken mon."

Well I must "ken" I said and with that sallied up to the door where the Gude wife made her appearance. Asking her she said, "I dinna keep an accommodation hoose for travelers mon." And with that slammed the door. I came back and reported. When Tom and I went down to the Gate Posts,

tormented the mean cuss by crying out Gade bless the Duke of Argyle at the same time rubbing our backs against the posts vigorously. This so maddened him that he jumped on his horse and waving his stock whip over his head made for us but a good pelting of stones made him glad to make an inglorious retreat. No dinner that day.

We went along the plain a little farther and met a shepherd bringing his flock home. We found out from him that we would not be able to make any houses when we would want them. They were too far off but he told us that there was another sheepstation we could make that night. We also learned that the Scotchman was the overseer of a station. He told us to travel on as we were going until we came to some old deserted sheeppyards. We then turned into the bush and soon struck a trail which we continued to follow. It was by this time getting dark and we were anxious to find the hut soon because in Australia there is no twilight. We travelled for about two hours more and heard the barking of dogs in the distance and soon after made the hut. Here we found an old German who had been in the country a long time and his son who had just come out. They were mighty glad to see us. The old man killed a sheep, pulled a pumpkin, got some sweet potatoes out of a corner and we soon had a good meal. We stayed up nearly all night talking to them and their greatest trouble was that they were not near the main road so that they could see all the travellers. They wanted us to stay the next day but we toddled along and at noon we halted at another sheep station. The shepherd here is what is called out there "an old lag", had been transported from England at one time for England's good, I suppose. We stayed there, ate dinner. He also had some splendid watermelons of which we partook freely.

The same evening we arrived at Canal Creek. From there we went to Drayton, 33 miles. On our way we stopped at Glengarry Station and there was the roughest crowd I had ever met. Every man in the employ had been an old lag. We lay in bed and listened to more descriptions of robberies and jails in the old country than I ever read in the Newgate Calendar. Next day we arrived at Drayton.

It had been raining that night before and when we got there it was a complete mudhole. We didn't stop there long but went on to Loowoomba, 4 miles distant. This place is sometimes called the swamp because it is in a swamp and in wet weather you have to be well shod. Here we remained some few days. We took the job to build four chimneys for £23-10. Tom packed stone and mortar to me whilst I put in the foundations and I carried the hod for him while he built the chimneys, he being a bricklayer. At last we finished them and drew the cash. We went out and divided it and then proposed a glass

of beer. We had one then we went elsewhere and had one more and that was all either of us had that I remember.

Next morning I awoke in bed but on examining my pockets I found no money, how I got home I never knew nor ever will. I looked for Tom but not Tom. I went out on the front of the house where I could see clear from one end of the town to the other, there being but one main street. I had not stood long before I saw some person running up the middle of the street and when he got nearer I discovered it was Tom.

The first salute I got. "You're a fine mate to go away and leave me." I replied that I was just going to say the same to him. There he stood a pretty looking object without coat, vest or hat or boots. He said he found himself about three miles out in the wood lying under a gum tree minus money, clothes etc. Evidently we had been drugged. However we had some money elsewhere so after Tom rigged himself up again. I persuaded him to remain as I thought there was a good chance for a bricklayer.

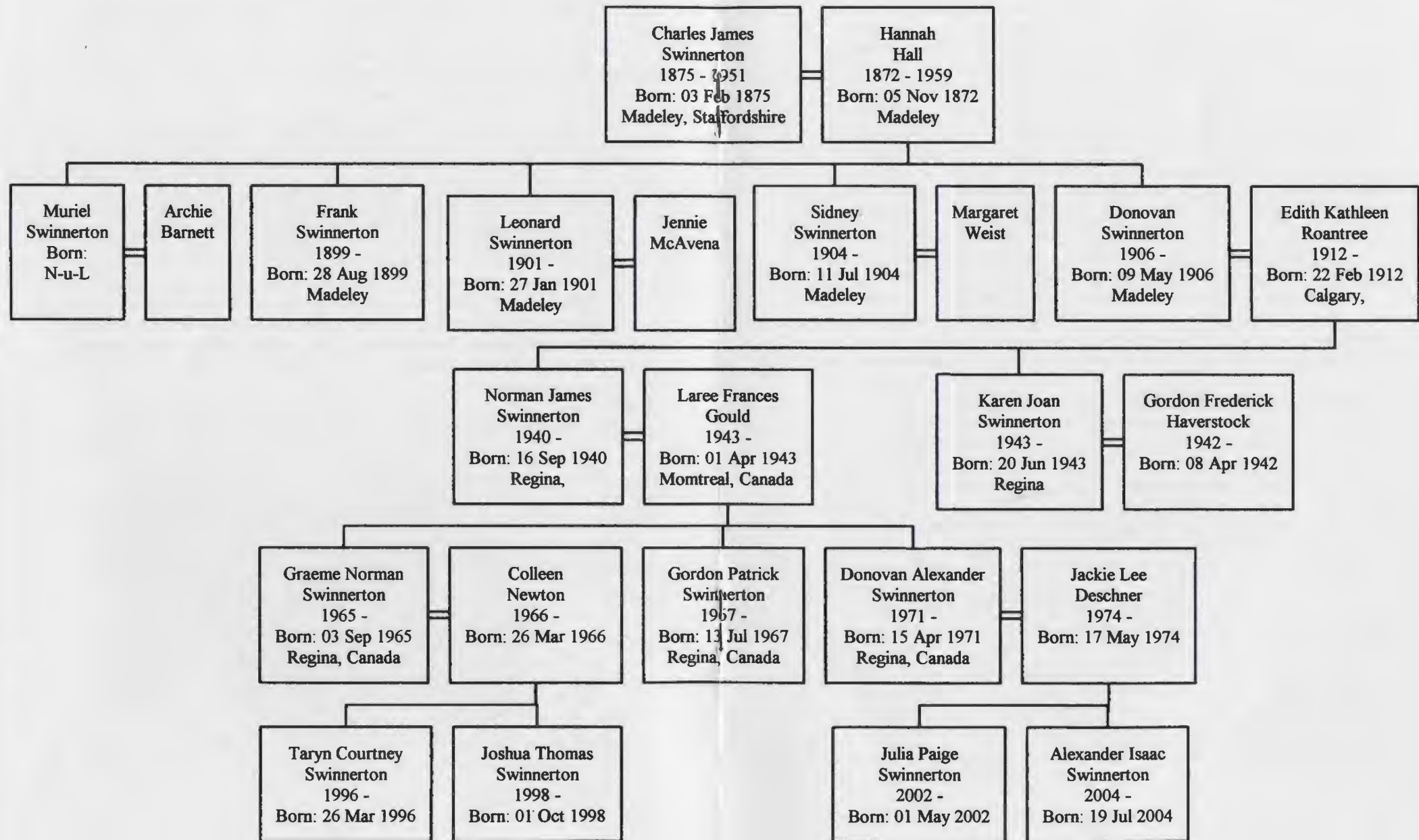
I took the road next morning for Ipswich, 65 miles. I got there at last but it seemed a long distance having no one to talk to or keep company with. From there I went to Brisbane, 25 miles. I was determined to walk every foot of it now. I got there at last and was very soon at home in Wm. Buryon's family. I remained there some weeks.

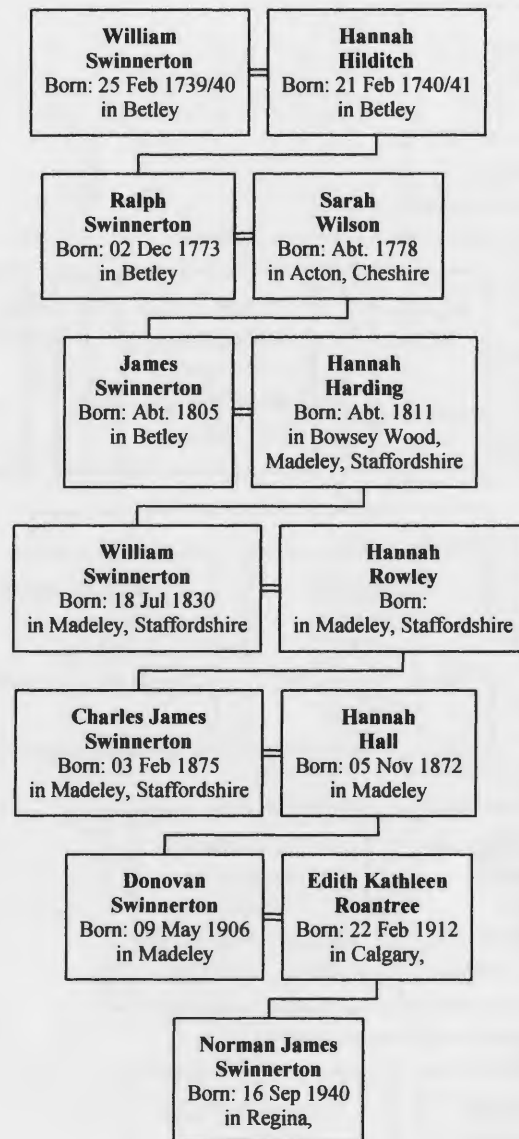


Queen Street, Brisbane about the time Mark went there.

(continued on page 226)

The family tree of Norman Swinnerton pictured on our front cover



The descent of Norman from William Swinnerton of Betley

Finally going back again to Ipswich where I worked one year and nine months. On my return to Ipswich in passing a Billiard saloon I heard a great uproar and went in to ascertain the cause. When I saw a man lying flat on his belly on a table, his two hands in two corner pockets of the table and his two toes in the others. The landlady was standing over him brandishing a broomstick. The landlord cursing and the players laughing with their cues in their hands. Curious to see if I knew him I walked around the table. The man raised his head and recognized me. My Bold Tom. "Hurrah is that you, Mark, we'll soon skin them." With that he jumped up and the first thing I knew we were both landed in the middle of the street. I got him to go home and promised to call down to his boarding house next night to have a talk over old times. I went down but was informed that Tom had packed up his swag and started back again so that was the last I ever saw or heard of Tom Campbell. He may be travelling yet for all I know.

Whilst in Ipswich one night I attended a political meeting when some person from behind touched me. Turning round I was asked if I was not Mark Swinnerton. I said I was. My interrogators face seemed familiar but I could not place him, however I soon found out it was my old schoolmate and companion William Taggart. I made many good friends and was loth to leave them when I went to Brisbane. There I fell into a foremanship and altogether did very well.

There came a time in 1867 when the colony of Queensland negotiated for a loan of a sum of money to carry on internal improvement. The time was set for the colony to receive it. Public works were going on, railways were being pushed ahead and the whole colony was in a prosperous condition but just before the time set the Bank suspended payment. Quick as the news arrived Public Work's stopt. Railways were suspended and a Panic ensued. Men were running round trying to sell what bit of property they had. Building society shares were at a discount. In fact business of all kinds was prostrated. Every person lost faith in the Colony and were leaving it in hundreds. Steamers crowded every day seeking employment.

The people wanted the Parliament to issue Treasury notes and I think the parliament did pass a law to that effect but the Governor, Sir George Ferguson Bowen vetoed it. Then there was riot. All business men and Government employees were sworn in special policeman. The Riot Act was read and the devil was to pay all round. Processions of hundreds of men walked carrying a loaf of bread on top of a pole in front of the Governor's house. The Governor got scared, had Government House surrounded by the regulars and volunteers. In fact it is said that he got into a boat and went some miles down the river. I was thrown out of employment.

My friend Bill Taggart signified his intention of moving and I proposed to go also. I tried to sell a piece of ground I had. I was offered so little I came away bringing two deeds with me. We left Brisbane on the 23rd of February, 1867 and sorry I was to leave the pleasant place and sorry I am now that I ever did leave it. We were detained in Moreton Bay until the morning of the 24th owing to stormy weather and arrived in Sydney on the 26th inst. We ran round Sydney considerable and on March 1st took our passages on board a Barque "Celestia". An American built vessel bound for San Francisco. The crew consisted of Captain and two mates, six seamen and a kind of steward and cook. Passengers-2 cabin and 7 intermediate, a cat, 2 pigs and 5 pigeons.

MARCH 6, 1867

Went on board the night previous at about 9 o'clock with pilot on board. Passed Sydney Heads at 10 o'clock (the most picturesque place I have ever seen). When the pilot left us and we stood to sea with a good breeze from the NNE after giving stern chase to a barque bound for Hongkong that left about three hours before us...we overhauled her about 12 o'clock noon and by night had left her a long way astern. Three stowaways made their appearance this afternoon. When asked by the Captain where they came from they said out of the Coal Hold which their appearance fully testified. Two of them were sailors and the other a coal trimmer. All the passengers sick with the exception of Bill and me. We were amusing ourselves at night whistling. The Lady of My Love or some such thing, when we were very seriously informed by the Captain that it was blowing quite hard enough without whistling for more wind so for fear of provoking the old God Neptune and causing our Captain a great deal of uneasiness we desisted. We began singing "Goodbye Sweetheart Goodbye" against which no further objection. Sailing E by N½N, 6 knots.

MARCH 7TH

Fine morning. Wind died away a good deal. Sprung up again towards evening. The bark we overtook yesterday was out of sight astern this morning. Sea Sickness still prevails. Sailing ENE Wind N by N. Blowing pretty hard towards night going 8 knots an hour Lat. 34.43 S. Longitude 154.33E. The Celestia is a bark 315 tons Register. A strong vessel to appearances but clumsily built. Round bows just like one of the Whitehaven Coal Brigs. Shipped a good of water. The Captain and Chief Mate are Yankees. Second mate a Swede and a mixed crew of Americans and Dutch men.

MARCH 8TH Splendid morning. Fresh breeze, stowed the anchors and cables away this morning. Lat. 34-43 S. Lon. 157.35E 6 knots. Made 10 miles leeway owing to current.

MARCH 9TH

Blowing a strong breeze from NNW. A squall caught us about 8 o'clock with heavy rain and a pretty heavy sea rolling. Second mate brought the Harpoon on deck to be in readiness to victimize the first monster of the deep that dared to cross our track. Wind getting more favourable squaring the yards more. The wind about noon chopped round to the S.N.E. and blew hard with heavy sea rolling. Shipped a good deal of water. Lat. 34.12S Lon. 160.09 E. Steering ENE, 8 knots.

MARCH 10TH SUNDAY

Still blowing very hard and heavy sea. Blowing a gale last night going 10 knots during the night. Wind South. Sailing NE by E lat 33.04 S. Lon. 164.17 E. Run the risk of cutting my cheek off shaving owing to heavy rolling. Saw two more of our live stock today in the shape of two underground pigs They live in the hold among the coals, no doubt they will thrive well. Saw an albatross for the first time this voyage. Passengers recovering from sea sickness slowly. Bill and I in first rate health. Going 8 knots moonlight nights.

MARCH 11TH

Heavy sea, ship rolling greatly. Blew very hard last night with rain. Getting tired of cabin. We persuaded the Capt. to give us a little house on deck which he did. Cleaned it out this morning. I will describe it. It is a little house standing midships that was occupied by the second mate on the passage out. Contains 2 berths and a little table so that we are by ourselves with nothing to annoy us. Altogether we are very snug. The ship is rolling so very heavily I can scarcely keep pen on paper. A flying fish flew aboard this morning. It is about the size of a small herring only it has wings. The wings are about 7" by 4" and two fins about 3" by 8". I got the two wings Bill the two fins. Began to blow a perfect gale about 7 o'clock p.m. Vessel rolling her bulwarks completely under first one side then the other. Water knee deep on deck running very near under bare poles. Lat. 32.25S. Lon. 167.45 E. 8 knots. Sailing E by N. Wind SSE.

MARCH 12TH

Gale still continues. Ship rolling fearfully with heavy sea I expect to see her roll her masts out yet. Saw another albatross this morning. A star was pointed out to me last night by the man on the lookout as a sailor's sure indication of the continuance of the gale. Been shipping seas all day. The deck is like a miniature sea. Wind from the South. Sailing E by S; Lat. 32.26 S. Lon. 170.00 E 50 mile to a degree of Longitude here. The gale continued all night moderated toward morning.

The Home Guard

On 14th May, 1940, the Secretary of State for War, Anthony Eden, broadcast a message asking for volunteers for the LDV (Local Defence Volunteers). On 22nd July Winston Churchill, who had become Prime Minister, despite opposition because a million LDV armbands had already been manufactured, changed the name of the LDV to the Home Guard partly because LDV was irreverently being said to be *Look, Duck and Vanish*.

The Home Guard was formed when there was a real risk of invasion. Most men who could fight were already in the forces, those that were left were either too young or too old or in reserved occupations which were vital to the war effort. The men who volunteered to join the Home Guard at this time were expected to fight an invasion of crack German troops with nothing more than a collection of old shotguns and pieces of gas pipe with bayonets welded on the end just like the legendary television comedy 'Dad's Army' but it wasn't like that at all. I recommend you read *Britain's Home Guard* by John Brophy published in 1945 which has some wonderful coloured portraits and also the hair-raising *The Real Dad's Army* by Norman Longmate.

The government was expecting 150,000 men to volunteer for the Home Guard but, in fact, 250,000 volunteers attempted to sign up in the first seven days and by July this number had increased to 1½ million. The number of men did not fall below one million until they were stood down in December 1944. The Home Guard was officially disbanded on 31st December, 1945.

At first, the Home Guard did not admit women so some formed their own groups like the Amazon Defence Corps. Later a more organized, but still unofficial, Women's Home Defence (WHD) was formed with many groups across the country. Limited female involvement in the Home Guard was permitted later on the understanding that these would be in traditional female support roles and not in any way seen as combatants.

The purpose of this article is to find out how many Swinnertons served in the Home Guard – my father joined the LDV on the day it was formed and served in D Company of the 10th Battalion, the Worcestershire Regiment until 1942 when he left to join the Royal Air Force. He then served with the Desert Air Force in Egypt and Italy until 1946.

How many of your family served with the Home Guard – please tell me. There are surviving records of officers of the Home Guard at The National Archives at Kew but none of ordinary Home Guardsmen and I would like to compile a roll of Swinnerton Home Guardsmen just as we have for the regular servicemen.



This is the buttonhole badge that my father wore when in civilian clothes, his first armband (brassard) and his shoulder flash when in uniform.



His certificate of service has not survived, probably because he went on to the RAF, but an old friend has sent me a copy of her father's certificate to show you what they looked like.



All members of the Home Guard received the Defence Medal if they applied for it – no WW2 medals were issued automatically as they were in WWI.

THE SWINNERTON FAMILY SOCIETY

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
held on 26th March at Streetly

PRESENT:

Margaret and Ian Anthill (Atherstone), Brenda and Iris Crouch (Romford), Anne Hooley (Streetly), Alan and Brenda Jones (Westcot, Surrey), Elizabeth and Keith Livesey (Llandudno), Jacqui Simkins (Sutton Coldfield), Brian Swinnerton (Liverpool), Franklin Swinnerton (Streetly), Iain Swinnerton (Sherborne), Ray and Shelagh Swinnerton (Brereton Green) and our host the Revd. Rachel Livesey.

1. WELCOME

The meeting commenced at 11.30 am by the Chairman, Elizabeth Livesey, welcoming those present to the first AGM and Gathering of the reformed Swinnerton Society.

2. APOLOGIES were received from Malcolm Smith, John Swynnerton, Alan and Myrna Jones, Audrey Cherry, Veronica Swinnerton and Geoffrey and Carole Swinnerton

3. CURRENT OFFICERS

The current officers were introduced, these were:

Elizabeth Livesey - Chairman

Iris Crouch - Secretary

Iain Swinnerton - Treasurer

Ray Swinnerton - Membership Secretary

4. DRAFT SWINNERTON FAMILY SOCIETY CONSTITUTION

The committee had drawn up a draft constitution based on the original one used by the society before it had become a charity and was therefore much simpler than the most recent one. This was distributed to those present who were given time to read it through. It was then approved with three amendments and is attached at the end of these minutes.

5. OFFICERS' REPORTS

Treasurer for Swinnerton SAGA funds:

Iain presented the SAGA accounts for 2009 and 2010.

It had proved possible to continue to fund 4 editions a year.

The balance in hand on 31st December 2010 was £444.58 which was transferred to the new Swinnerton Family Society account.

Treasurer for Swinnerton Family Society funds.

Balance on hand on 26 March 2011 was £1641.00 which includes subscriptions held in Australia, Canada and USA.

Membership Secretary:

Ray reported that membership was down on 2009 numbers and subscriptions for 2011 were slow in coming in. Total UK membership stood at 80 with 17 of these being unpaid at present.

Overseas membership is 38 with 13 of these being unpaid. Evidently it is not unusual for some people to be late renewing their membership. All members have been sent the spring issue of SAGA and will receive the Summer edition with a note to say it will be the last if membership is not renewed.

6. TRIENNIAL Gathering 2nd June 2012 at Swynnerton

The programme at present is:

10.30 Coffee - St Mary's Church hall

11.00 AGM followed by our usual inter-denominational Service

12.30 Lunch - Village hall

2.00 A talk entitled *The Name Game* - speakers Meryl Catty and Audrey Gillett

7. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The current Chairman, Secretary, and Membership Secretary were willing to stand again, but Iain wished to relinquish the Treasurers' role; also we needed an additional member.

The following were elected:

Chairman - Elizabeth Livesey

Proposed by Iain Swinnerton

Seconded by Rachel Swinnerton

Secretary - Iris Crouch

Proposed by Iain Swinnerton

Seconded by Rachel Swinnerton

Treasurer - Keith Livesey

Proposed by Iain Swinnerton

Seconded by Iris Crouch

Membership Secretary - Ray Swinnerton

Proposed by Brenda Crouch

Seconded by Anne Hooley

Committee Member - Margaret Anthill

Proposed by Elizabeth Livesey

Seconded by Shelagh Swinnerton

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a. Iain asked Rachel if she was prepared to accept the role of chaplain to the society and on her agreement Iain proposed, Shelagh seconded and all present agreed to the appointment.

b. Keith as Treasurer suggested a donation be made to All Saints Church, Streetly for the use of their premises for today's meeting. This was agreed.

c. Iain had been working hard on branches of the family tree and had brought the relevant copies along for those present. He has been using an old Epson printer to produce the long charts, but unfortunately this was no longer workable. A suitable new Epson printer with ink cartridges and a year's guarantee was available for £199. Frank Swinnerton proposed and Elizabeth Livesey seconded the purchase of this printer, all present agreed.

d. The bank mandate and signatories for the Society had been changed.

e. Iris asked if there could be a line on the membership renewal form for e-mail addresses in order to save postage. There was some discussion on this point and it was agreed to defer the matter until Malcolm Smith, the Web Master could join us.

f. Iain had distributed various properties of the Society among the members for safe keeping. The archives will be kept with Elizabeth and Keith Livesey.

9. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

2nd June 2012 At St. Mary's Parish Church, Swynnerton

The meeting closed at 12.15 pm.

SWINNERTON FAMILY SOCIETY CONSTITUTION

1. NAME

The Name of the Society shall be THE SWINNERTON FAMILY SOCIETY

2. AIMS AND OBJECTS.

The objects of the society shall be:

1. To research and record the history of the Swinnerton Family.
2. To establish links with members of the world-wide Swinnerton Family to promote a sense of kinship and to encourage them to study their own family history and contribute it to the history of the whole family.
3. To publish a magazine – *The Swinnerton Saga* – to record that history.
4. To preserve those records together with associated objects and ephemera.
5. To assist, where possible, in the welfare of St Mary's Church, Swynnerton.

3. MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the society shall be open to all persons interested in the history of the Swinnerton Family.

4. ADMINISTRATION

The society shall be administered by a committee consisting of a chairman, secretary, treasurer, membership secretary and one two member. Other members may be co-opted if necessary. The committee shall be elected annually by a majority of members present at the Annual General Meeting.

5. MEETINGS

- An Annual General meeting of the members of the society shall be held within six months of the end of the financial year.
- Notice of 21 days must be given for the Annual General meeting.
- The Honorary Treasurer shall present to the Annual General Meeting an audited statement of the Society's accounts for the year ending the previous 31st December.
- An Extraordinary or Special General Meeting of the society may be called by the secretary at the request of the committee or two thirds of the membership of the society for which meeting, 28 days notice must be given to the entire membership.

6. SUBSCRIPTIONS

The annual subscription shall be determined by the committee on the advice of the treasurer and the approval of the members present at the Annual General meeting.

26th March 2011.

The Dance, The Drill in education by Thomas Kavanagh

I lived for 18 months at Hopi; specifically at Kykotsmovi (New Oraibi). One kiva was up the hill, another was down the hill. Throughout the winter there were katsina rehearsals in the kivas. People would cluster around the doors to hear them practice (the little uninitiated kids were in bed). These line dances are not spontaneous, but the choreography (such as it is: 1-2 beat, stamping with the right foot, shaking a rattle, in the middle of the song repetition, turning around to face the other way) is based on the song. The "leader" the most experienced dancer, is in the middle of the line, while the most inexperienced, the recently initiated kids, are on the ends. When it is time to turn, the leader signals with an extra-tempo shake of his rattle. No spontaneity here.

Second dance: the modern Gourd Dance part of the southern Plains pow-wow, such as that used by the Comanche Little Ponies, of which I have been an associate member since 1972. The Gourd Dance is a modern version of the old time society dances. It has been called "rhythmically bobbing in place" (I don't know by who). The song has two rhythmically different parts (hard to describe) but on the first, a 1-2, the dancers "advance" using the basic pow-wow toe heel step. At defined parts of the song, it changes to a straight 1 beat. At this point the dancers stop advancing and "bob" in place, bobbing off the balls of the feet. It is notably unspectacular, but when the song is right, there is a definite feeling of communitas with the surroundings.

On the other hand, we have the drill. Remember, military drill was *NOT* developed to instill a lack of fear, etc., although that may have been a side light to it, but was developed to get people to the right place on the field of battle at the right time. Greeks and Romans used it, but at times in European military history drill faded from importance: during the middle ages, knights trained as individuals [during the late 18th and 19th century, Plains warriors were individuals, Crazy Horse reintroduced the disciplined "trap" at the Fetterman fight]. It was not until the rout of the knights by the massed English bowmen at Crecy and Agincourt and by the massed Swiss pikemen that drill again became important. Its heyday was in the American Revolution and the Napoleonic wars, when whole army columns could be wheeled from column to line front in a matter of minutes (we tried that once, coming back from the re-enactment of the Battle of Monmouth). The point is, constant drill allows the quick deployment of troops into position as was necessary given the limitations of the armaments. Unfortunately, by the 1860s, and then 1914, the armament technology advanced far beyond the social organization. At that point, military drill lost its practical application. As **Brig. Jeremy Swinnerton**, Colonel of the modern British Staffordshire regiment said to us after watching our 18th century manoeuvres, "Now I know why we teach it."

(Editor: everyone makes this mistake – a large proportion of the archers at Agincourt and Crecy were Welsh!)

Family Notes

Our sincere congratulations go to our member Nora Mary Scott (née Swinnerton) who celebrated her 100th Birthday on the 20 December last year. She was a member of the Adbaston Branch and was born in Eccleshall, the daughter of John Swinnerton and Emma (née Matthews) on the 20 December 1910.

I knew Nora very well, she joined the society in 1974, the year it was founded, and with her husband John, was a regular attender at our Gatherings. Norah was a very sweet person and I was very fond of her. She and her sister Lucy, who has appeared in this journal several times, were my third cousins. Unfortunately, just after her birthday she had a fall but is doing well and is bright and cheerful.

Our best wishes also go to our member Margaret Taylor. She has just had heart bypass surgery at the age of 95. Sadly, when she got home after that, she fell so she now also has six stitches in her head. Her daughter tells us that she is looking forward to driving her car again. She is also a member of the Adbaston branch, the daughter of Professor Henry Swinnerton and Florence (née Bennett). We wish her a speedy recovery.

Sadly, we have to report the death on December 31st last year, aged 85, of Harriet Mary Caroline Swinnerton (née Simkins), the mother of our member Anne Hooley. Harriett married Bertram Swinnerton of the Betley branch in 1946 in Sutton Coldfield. Bertram was the 4th of the 12 children of William Harding Swinnerton and Eliza Ann (née Blears). Her funeral was held in All Saints Church Streetly, where we held our AGM and was taken by our chaplain, the Revd Rachel Livesey. Our sympathies go to Anne and her family and my apologies to her for omitting her from the list of members in the last issue of Saga. Her address is 19 Egerton Road, Streetly, B74 3PQ.

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Advance notice:

The triennial Family Gathering will be held at Swynnerton on Saturday 2nd June 2012. Please put the date in your diary now!

* * * * *

A branch of one of your antediluvian families,
fellows that the flood could not wash away.

William Congreve 1670-1729- Love for Love act5, scene 2 1695

The Annual General Meeting



Some of the members examining the trees and pictures on display



Membership Secretary Ray Swinnerton and Brian Swinnerton from Liverpool



Norah Mary Swinnerton
Centenarian 20 December 2010

Published by the Swinnerton Family Society, [redacted]
[redacted]

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