

The Swinerton Saga



An unusual present for our subscriptions secretary!

THE JOURNAL OF SWINNERTON FAMILY HISTORY

VOLUME 14. NO.11

SEPTEMBER 2011

Annie Swynnerton's Paintings – No.9

Head of a Bacchante



Oil on canvas
46 x 41 cms

Signed and dated *Annie Louisa Swynnerton 1903*
Accession Number: 1937WA1937.118
In the Ashmolean useum

Presented by Mrs. Richard Shute.

This painting was probably made from a local model, the garland added to
raise the subject from a simple portrait.

THE SWINNERTON SAGA

VOLUME 14 NUMBER 11
SEPTEMBER 2011

(No 143)

C O N T E N T S

From the Editor	238
A Message from the Chairman	239
A new connection	240
Mark's Journal	241
Two Gatherings	246
Miscellaneous extracts	247
Fred by Fred	248
Timothy Swynnerton	251
Ann Bagot's Diary	252
Benjamin Swinnerton	255
Sister Kate Swinnerton	256
Swinnertons in the Militia	257
Family Notes	260

Editor –
Col I.S.Swynnerton,

© The Swinnerton Family Society

Red binders with gold-blocked badge and title for the *Swinnerton Saga*
and back copies may be obtained from the editor

From the Editor

Angela and I recently visited Elizabeth and Keith in their lovely house in Llandudno and I handed over various society properties such as the Flag, steward's sashes (which we use at Gatherings) and, of course, the Banner. I also handed over the first four volumes of archives (250 items so far) and the outsize documents and books. I still have one full boxfile to catalogue but time is my one big problem!

When I retrieved the archives from Swynnerton Church Hall in 2009, I found that over the years they had got in a bit of a mess. I have, therefore, reclassified and renumbered them all (I have extracted the printed books out into a separate listing) and am preparing a new catalogue which I will print in sections in future Sagas so that you will know what we have.

Over the years I have passed various items to other members for safe keeping and it is right that you should know where various items are so here is a list.

1. A framed photograph of a portrait of Thomas Swinnerton of Butterton, her ancestor, given to me by Mrs Dyonese Haszard of Milford Hall – in the care of the Revd Brian Swynnerton.
2. A framed print of the Market Square at Hanley showing Swinnerton's Cafe given to me by John Swinnerton, the last owner of the eponymous catering firm – in the care of Ron Swinnerton.
3. Six wooden painted shields of arms of the branches of the Swinnerton family – in the care of Mrs Ann Hooley.
4. A complete set of our journals in binders from No.1 September 1974 to date – in the care of Brian Swinnerton of Liverpool who updates it with every issue.
5. A part set of the newspaper collection – in the care of Roy Talbot.

The photograph collection, which I use for Saga, and original newspaper collection which has a lot of loose cuttings which need pasting in (time again!) remain with me for the time being.

Apropos of my article in the last *Saga* I cannot believe that my father was the only man in the Swinnerton family to serve in the Home Guard in WWII – I am disappointed not to have received any names from you. I am also disappointed, naturally, not to have received any offers of help but I must pay tribute to Brian Swinnerton of Liverpool who has taken over responsibility for research on the Irish Trees and the emigrants to America and Canada. He is working very hard at it, has made some good contacts over there, and the trees are progressing very well.

Gain Swinnerton

A message from the Chairman

I am writing this message on a beautiful July day. It is hot and sunny and I am sitting on the balcony at home. My concentration is constantly interrupted as I gaze out over Llandudno Bay and beyond the Great Orme to Puffin Island and the Isle of Anglesey. There are the white sails of yachts dotted across the water and I can faintly hear the squeals of excited children in the paddling pool on the promenade. Keith and I have decided not to have a 'big' holiday this year - we live in such a beautiful place and on days like this we count ourselves especially lucky. Mind you, last week was like winter and rain is forecast for tomorrow so it is important to make the most of days like today.

Just as the previous Saga was about to be distributed the programme details were published for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations - starting on the day of our Gathering, 2nd June 2012. Members of the Committee wondered whether that would affect attendance at the Gathering but we have decided to go ahead as planned. St Mary's Church and Church Hall, the Village Hall and the caterers had all been booked and deposits paid where required so we felt we shouldn't alter our plans.

You may remember that I invited you to bring along samples of your creative work and we are in the process of planning the layout of tables in the Village Hall for your displays. I envisage that there will be time for you to set out your displays after the Service and AGM - whilst we are waiting for lunch to be served. Margaret Antill will be co-ordinating this aspect of the Gathering so will you let Margaret have details of what you plan to bring and the approximate amount of space you will require - eg large table, small table etc. I'm really looking forward to seeing all your art and craft works as I'm not in the least bit talented in that direction.

I have been wondering about producing a 'Swinnerton Calendar' as the Revd Brian Swynnerton suggested some time ago.. This could contain pictures from the Archives, previous Gatherings and other aspects relevant to the Swinnerton Family. Is anybody out there interested in following up this idea? We could prepare one for 2013 and have it on sale at the Gathering next June.

I always welcome suggestions and ideas for promoting the Swinnerton Family Society and for maintaining contact between family members as this will enable the Society to continue to flourish.

Elizabeth

A new connection

Brenda Grifferty wrote to our webmaster, Malcolm, from Australia to tell me that Edward Thatcher and his wife Margaret had three children – Edward born in March 1695 in Bishopstrow, Wiltshire: John born 1697 in Shrivenham, Wiltshire and Elizabeth born Oct 1699 also in Bishopstrow.

John Thatcher married **Margaret Swinerton** on 12 April 1737 in Bishopstrow, Wiltshire and they gave her surname as a Christian name to their son, Swinnerton Thatcher who was born on Christmas Day 1741 in Bishopstrow, and christened on 27 December.

Swinnerton Thatcher married Ann Elson (born 1742) on 30 May 1768 at St Mary's Thorpe Surrey. Their first child was a son named Antipas born 1768 in Thorpe, Surrey. Their third son was John Thatcher who married Margaret Crockford at Chertsey, Surrey on the 29 August 1791. Of their six children, Richard Thatcher was Brenda's great-great-grandfather.



Bishopstone Church

my search of the Harleian Society's printed Wiltshire parish register transcripts many years ago had proved negative.

I called on the expert help of an old friend, Richard Moore FSG, who is an authority on Wiltshire. He said that there were a number of Thatcher families in the registers but no Swinnerton as such but there is a baptism registered for Swinerton Thatcher in 1741. He also said that it would be Bishopstone, a village he knew well, and not Bishopstrow which is right in the south. A check on Family Search confirmed it as Bishopstone but also, surprisingly, revealed a second instance in the baptism, on the 7 Feb 1821, at St Mary, Marylebone of a SWINNERTHON Thatcher but this could well be a wrong transcription of Swinnerton.

Investigations are continuing.

MARK SWINNERTON'S JOURNAL 1860 - 1868

((continued from Vol, 14 No 10)).

1861 MARCH 13TH

But still blowing very hard with heavy sea. I think the old craft is determined to do nothing but wet every person on board. We were all taking an airing on the Poop this morning when she shipped some seas that very nearly drowned us all. The second mate's crew is tightening up the rigging. Got stretched by her continual rolling. A passenger of the name of Moore has just entered our cabin with a panikin of Sergoo (commonly called gruel) In his hand looking the picture of Gaunt Hunger, which he is pitching into with an infinite relish, swearing it is the best meal he has had on board. At the same time regretting that it was not boiled more and had more molasses in it. The Capt. was endeavouring to take the sun this morning. The old vessel seems determined not to even let him do that. It was laughable to see the old man trying to keep his perpendicular and the vessel sticking him at an angle of 45 degrees or somewhere there about. At last she did become quiet for an instant and he became all intent on taking advantage of the auspicious moment. When a squall came and carried his hat to sea, down came the Quadrant from his eye striking his thigh with his hand he then shook his fist at the wind in sheer desperation. Lat. 32.36 S. Lon. 171.45 E four knots. Sailing E½S Wind S.

Saw two very large albatross this afternoon and a great many other birds such as New Zealand hawks etc. Wind fell off towards evening almost to a calm.

MARCH 14TH

Breeze sprung up again this morning. Going about 5 knots at present. 9 o'clock a.m. Wind SW Sailing E Lat. 32.308 Lon. 174.04 E. This has been worked by dead reckoning in consequence of it being a very cloudy day. No sun out. We have made six miles north although steering East course.



Sydney Harbour North Head which Mark described in the extract in the last Saga

Caused by the variation of the compass. The cause of the variation I have not been able to find out whether it is the effect of Electric currents, I don't know. Came on squally towards evening.

MARCH 15th

Very calm this morning scarcely moving. Many birds about. Breeze freshened towards mid day fell off again towards night. Going 6 knots when log was heaved. Lat. 33.43 S. Lon. 177.06 E. Sailing E by N Wind SSW. The reason we are running so far East is, we are running down our Longitude so as to catch the trade winds and also miss the South Sea Islands before going North.

MARCH 16th

Almost a dead calm this morning. Vessel lying sluggishly on the water. Breeze freshened towards noon. Lat. 33.21 S. Lon. 179.16 East Course E by N. Wind West 5 knots moonlight.

MARCH 17th



Sydney Harbour South Head

Sunday. Fine morning, blowing a nice fresh breeze. Log taken this morning going 8 knots. A slight squall this morning with a little rain. Wind fell off towards night. Sailing E Wind W. Lat. 33.18 S. Lon. 175.40 W. 49 miles to a degree of longitude. Lon. by observation.

MARCH 18th

Light winds. Fine weather all well on board Lat. 33.20 S. Lon. 1722.38 W. Dead reckoning wind W. by S. Course E. 4 knots. Moonlight.

MARCH 19TH

Calm pleasant morning. Scarcely any wind Lat. 33.11 S. Lon. 170.17 W. Sailing ENE Thunder in the distance with a little rain in the evening. Fishing for albatross but got none.

MARCH 20TH

Smart breeze this morning. Squall struck us about 8 o'clock with plenty of rain Lat. 33.06 S. Lon. 168.09 W. about 4 knots Wind W by S. Course E. a partial eclipse of the moon about ½ past 9 P.M.

MARCH 21ST

Fine morning, good fresh breeze turned squally in the afternoon. Rain. Wind W by S Lat. 33.06 S. Lon. 165.21 W. Course E. 5 knots.

MARCH 22ND

Nice morning with steady wind from the West Lat. 33.46 S. Lon. 162.11 W.

MARCH 23RD

Slight breeze fell off to a calm towards mid day. Last one of our pigeons overboard. Sighted a vessel bearing ESE distant about 18 miles. This is the first vessel we have seen since the day we left Sydney. The vessel we have sighted is supposed to be the barque Austerland bound from Sydney to San Francisco. Left Sydney 26 hours before us. Wind fell off towards night. Course NNE Wind NNW Lat. 32.22 S. Lon. 159.41 W.

MARCH 24TH

Sunday. A complete calm overtook the vessel we sighted yesterday...hoisted our English Ensign. She showed French Colors to it. Can't be the Austerland as was supposed. Toward evening sprung up a head wind from the NE. Sailing SE by S. Lat. 32.36 S. Lon. 158.22 W.

MARCH 25TH

Strong head wind this morning for about 3 hours. Moderated to a good breeze. Vessel still in sight slightly ahead of us bearing South. Raining. Catching fresh water for washing. At 2 o'clock P.M. French Barque dipped her flag three times which our mate responded to by dipping the Ensign three times, a seaman's farewell. Sailing SE by S. at 4 o'clock P.M. Bout ship sailing N by W Wind NE. Wind increased towards night. Vessel rolling heavily. Lat. 33.28 S. Lon. 157.12 W.

MARCH 26TH

Vessel rolled heavily all night. It is almost a calm this morning. Clear sky. Sun warm. Bout ship about 8 o'clock sailing E by N½N. Carpenter repairing spanker boom. Lost another pigeon overboard this morning. Repairing

studding sails, getting ready for another good breeze. Fair wind towards night from NNW. Blew pretty hard with heavy sea. Lat. 33.19 S. Lon. 156.35 W.

MARCH 27TH

Strong wind from WNW this morning with heavy sea. A heavy squall caught us about 7 o'clock A.M. carrying away our fore and foretopmast studding sails and breaking our stern sail boom, luckily we did not lose them. Rolling her bulwarks clear under water all day. Course ENE Lat. 32.46S. Lon. 153.28W.

MARCH 28TH

Blowing very hard, vessel rolling her bulwarks under water. Nowhere dry poop not excepted. There were two passengers standing on the main hatch this morning when she shipped a fearful sea washing them into the lee scuppers and then back again to the other side. In fact very nearly drowning them. Set stern sails again today. Going along gaily. Made about 200 miles this last 24 hours. Course ENE Wind W. Lat. 32.20S Lon. 149.28 W.

MARCH 29TH

Almost a complete calm this morning. A flock of Mother Carey's Chickens about 30 in number passed us this morning. They are about the size of a pigeon. It has only one long feather in its tail. The bird was of light colour. Lat. 31-45 S. Lon. 147.13 W. Course E by S.

MARCH 30TH

Still very calm. Scarcely moving. Saw a large shoal of porpoises away to the South. I should think there were about a hundred in number. Didn't come near the vessel. Sailors tightening up the rigging. Lat. 31-36 Lon. 146.00 W. Course E. by S. Wind NW.



Mother Carey's Pigeons

MARCH 31ST

Sunday. Rather a head wind. Lost another pigeon. Overboard this morning. We could see it fluttering in the water for a long time. Course S.E. by E ½ E. Wind NE by E. Lat. 33-10 S. Lon. 144.00 W.

APRIL 1ST

All Fools Day. Had a laugh on one or two this morning. Light breezes in the morning. Grew stronger towards night. This is a very monotonous life. The same rigmarole every day. No birds or anything else to be seen. Something passed the ship this morning. A dead pig or it might have been a man



The Great Albatross

couldn't distinguish. Lat. 34-10 S. Lon. 141 36 W.

Sailing E by N. Wind N. By E. Six knots.

APRIL 2ND

A fine morning with a fresh breeze from the NNW. Sailing NE by E Lat. 33-25 S. Lon. 139.09W Weather very nice. Not hot or cold.

APRIL 3RD

Pleasant going pretty well with fine wind. Blew strong towards with a little rain.

Nothing of any consequence going on.

There not being many passengers everything

is very dull. Wind NW Sailing ENE Lat. 33.00 S. Lon. 136.42 W.

APRIL 5TH

A fine morning with steady breeze going very nicely. Very black and stormy towards night. Blew almost a gale from E by N. A good deal of lightning away North. Passed an island during the night. The name of which I don't know it is uninhabited. Distant about 45 miles about time of passing Lat. 30.43 S. Lon. 133-28 W. Heading N by E.

APRIL 6TH

Very uncomfortable blowing strong with drizzling rain. There are many groups of islands around here. The Names of which are not given on the atlas. Sailing N by E. Wind E by N. Lat. 28.56 S. Lon. 133.04 W.



The Sgts Mess of the Cheshire Regiment just before the first World War. Sgt Major William Henry Swinnerton is seated 2nd from left in the middle row.



A different sort of get-together – the Dreadnought Troupe of entertainers consisting of members of the Swinnerton family of Stoke on Trent (sadly, the original was badly cracked as you can see)

From the ‘Chairman’s Jottings’ of the Cheshire Ancestor.

“We have quite a few one-name publications in the FHS society library. We receive Anne Cole’s excellent ‘DUNCALF’ newsletter and others such as the ‘PLANT’, ‘SWINNERTON’ and ‘WAGSTAFF’ publications. It is always interesting to see what other one-namers do with their material.

Some have family gatherings and invite folk from all over the world. There is much more interest these days and it is a good way to share your research with people. If you can arrange to meet where the family originated and visit the church where they all married, so much the better”.

Piecing together the past.

From the BBC news.

Detective work by a British historian has unearthed information that could enable thousands to piece together their family histories.

Peter Barton was commissioned to carry out research into the identities of World War I casualties discovered in a mass grave at Fromelles in France.

He was given access to the basement of the British Red Cross headquarters in Geneva and was allowed to examine records there that have lain, virtually untouched, since 1918. He estimates that there could be 20 million sets of details, carefully entered on card indexes, or written into ledgers.

Dead Roses

All gone, those roses , once so fair
Which late her fostering hand did cherish,
Gone all, as all things sweet and rare
Must die and perish!!

But, as in roses, spite of death,
A lingering odour’s still remaining,
So love, though past, exhales a breath.
The heart sustaining.

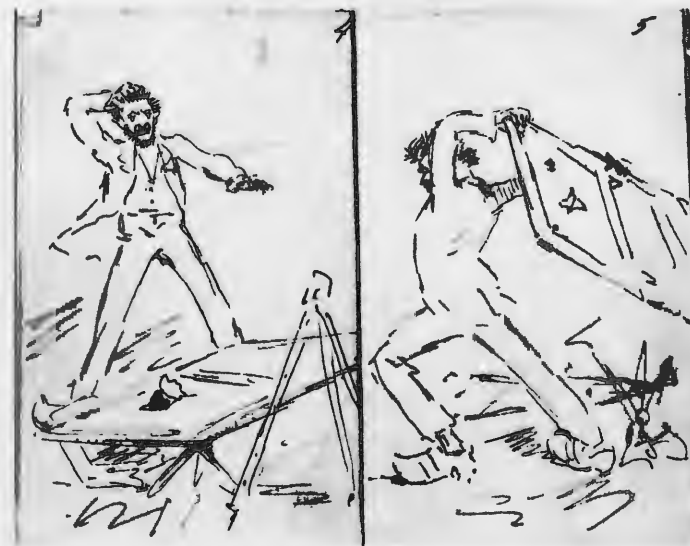
From *A Medley of Verse, Grave and Gay* by the Revd. Charles Swynnerton

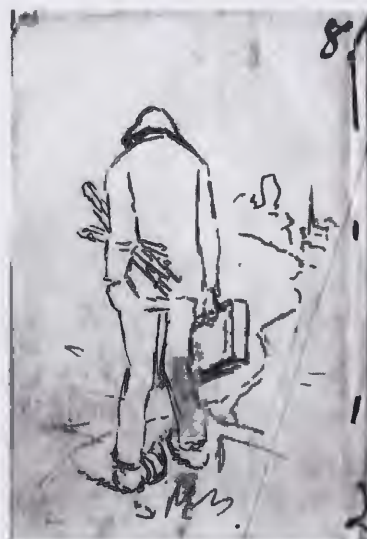
FRED by FRED



A series of small cartoons by Fred Swynnerton at Bruges, probably in the late 1800s, sewn together into a small booklet. Frederick Swinnerton (later Swynnerton) was born in June 1858 in Douglas, Isle of Man but spent much of his life in India. He was a prolific artist and painted many portraits. He was the father of our late President Margery Thomas who inherited his talent and painted beautiful miniatures.

The little booklet was kindly donated to our archives by Tim Swynnerton, Frederick's grandson, together with some of the Revd Charles Swynnerton's books.





A very young 2/Lt Timothy Swynnerton of the Durham Light Infantry attached to the 5th Battalion, The Nigeria Regiment on only his second day has to entertain Field Marshall Lord Harding at Bush Camp near Kaduna, Northern Nigeria in 1952.



Tim in more relaxed mood today

The Diary of Ann Bagot.

Another look at the journeys and activities of this intrepid early Victorian country lady (*continued from Vol 14 No.6 June 2010*).

August 1826

21st

Went with Honora to Winchester when she had the first sitting for her picture - would there was one of her that could do anything like justice to her singularly great, unassuming and unaffected beauty.

23rd

Left Worston, my poor Nora as well as could be expected. Augustus sent me to Whitchurch. I posted from there through Wantage and Farringdon to Burford where I met Lord Sherborne's carriage which took me to Sherborne where I met with a most friendly reception.

September 1826

1st

Left Sherborne - Lord Sherborne sent me to Stowe in the Wold. I got home about 8 o'clock an hour shopping in Birmingham without any other accident than a Lynch pin missing which did not overturn us.

2nd

Busy inspecting and planting all the day. found my house clean and comfortable and hope my maid has not injured either me or herself by ill conduct during the half year of my absence - hitherto I have been very unlucky in my servants but hope not to continue so. I was glad to get home though it is solitary

Some very fine Archery prizes at Blithfield and Shugborough

6th

Went to Milford - called at Brereton in the way. found Bess and Harriet Sneyd.

7th

We all went to the archery at Blithfield where above 200 people were assembled a most princely well conducted fête - we had the weather not very favourable which made me keep chiefly to the house. Louisa Levett won the best prize, earrings cross and brooch of pink Topazees set in ornamental gold. Dick dancing Sir Roger de Coverley made Lou, he and myself get home about 3 o'clock in the morning after a pleasant day of 14 hours - heard of Jane's marriage with Mr. Williams having taken place and that Agnes had accepted. Fraser - may they all be happy. Mr. Fraser has been attach'd to Agnes ever since her childhood.

8th

Lou and I went to Shugborough nobody else was asked but their own part of above 30. Ld and Lady Anson each gave a prize to be shot for. Ellen Anson won the first - Topaz aquamarine cross and earrings and Louisa Levett won the 2nd a beautiful pair of long gold earrings which she gave immediately to Mary Anson. We came home to dinner.



Shugborough Hall in the 1820s

11th

Came home

12th

Frederick and Anne Anson and Mary came for the races - Ellen came to dress she went to the Ball with Lady Anson - Anne thinking it better Mary should not go the first night.

13th

Louisa Levett came and a pleasant dinner we had we all went to the Ball which was the selectest race ball I ever saw and was quite well dressed assembly of nearly 300 people - the Stewards Newton Lane and Lord Chesterfield the (?) for poor Lord Ingestre.

The last great Archery meeting of the year

15th

Miss Greaves and I went together to the last great Archery meeting of the year to Holly Bush this day quite beautiful and above 250 people apparently in good humour and pleased - 3 of the prizes won by the 3 Keel Sneyds - we did not return until nearly 3 in the morning - I was waken'd by the tolling of the minute bell for poor Sir Charles Oakeley's funeral! what a contrast.

17th

Went twice to the Cathedral.



20th

Went to Shugborough when I found Ld. Anson's 6 Uncles, E. Anson, Ellen and Mary, Mrs. Philips, the Dowager Lady Anson - in all 17.

21st

We were very sociable and pleasant.

22nd

I went to Milford with Louisa who came for me found Levett and Frances dear Dico just return'd to Westminster

24th

Went to church at Baswich.

25th

Return'd home where Levett and Lou soon followed me and took me on to

Pype where we found Egerton alone. Egerton just made the purchase of all the land he wished for at the back of his house, which makes his domain very compleat. (the Pipe Hayes Estate was a very considerable one – there is a map at Milford). 28th The Levetts brought me home.



The Arms of Bagot of Blithfield

End of Volume One

Swinnerton Soldiers who died in WWI – No.2

Benjamin Swinnerton of Walsall (BS115)

Ben was the son of Benjamin and Mary Ann (née Roach) Swinnerton and was born in Walsall in 1897. He enlisted at Walsall being given the number 90733 and served with the Royal Horse Artillery and Royal Field Artillery as a Driver. Whether this was of a horse or a vehicle I do not know. When he was killed in action he was serving with the Headquarters of 17th Brigade RFA (13, 26 and 92 Batteries) - one of the brigades in the divisional artillery of 29th Infantry Division.

On the 16/17 March 1915, the Division set sail from Avonmouth for Egypt.



15 Brigade were on board the *Kingstonian*. From they went first to Malta and then landed in Alexandria on the 30th March. On the 8th April they re-embarked on the Troop Ship *Haverford* sailing to Mudros, a small port on the island of Lemnos, some 30 miles from the Dardanelles. On the 25th April, they set sail for Gallipoli where they landed on W beach of Cape Helles where the Lancashire Regiment lost over 500 men

during the landing. They were just in time to take part in the action against the great Turkish counter-attack on the 1st/2nd May.

Ben was killed in action on the 13th May and is commemorated on the Helles Memorial panel 21/22.

Sadly, we do not have a photograph of Benjamin in our collection.



Helles Memorial

Sister Kate Swinnerton

In Vol 14, No 9 of the Saga I printed the War service record of Nurse Margery Swynnerton – our President. 1994-2000. I have now discovered that there was another - no service record seems to have survived but I found her Territorial Force Nursing Service annual confidential report for 1918 which said:

Rank and Surname: **Sister Swinnerton.** Christian Name **Kate.**

General Hospital: *Milton Section, 5th Southern.* Date of Report: *Dec 31st 1918.*
Sister Swinnerton has served under me since August 1917, for several months she acted as Night Superintendent proving a capable administrator and maintaining discipline among the staff. She takes a keen interest welfare in the welfare of her patients, keeps her wards in good order, is energetic and self-reliant, and a good manager, tactful and zealous and her general influence is good.

Matron: *W.H.Allibone*

Signature of Principal Matron: *C.Alcock IYNS.*

Her personal file in WO339 reveals that she was a Staff Nurse /Sister from The Old School House, Wyle Cop, Shrewsbury. She was ordered to report for duty to 5th Southern General Hospital on the 10 Nov 1916 by the Matron-in-Chief (Miss Sidney Brown). In a letter dated 22 October 1916, she said that this was the first leave she had had since being mobilized in August 1914. She had returned from serving with the Middle East Forces on 16 Oct 1916. A report said that her general professional ability was very good, she had acted as Home Sister in the Sister's quarters for 3 months and showed good organizing ability. Her normal qualifications were all very good. She was given three months sick leave on the 1st April 1918 and reported permanently unfit for further service on the 7th Nov 1919 – she was obviously worn out having served from 13 Aug 1914 to the 7th Oct 1919 when her age was given as 38.

Before the war she had been nursing privately in Portugal. She was awarded the Royal Red Cross 2nd Class (*London Gazette 31 July 1919*) but was too unwell to attend the investiture. She gave her next of kin as her Aunt Mary Swinnerton of Wyle Cop.



More Swinnerton Soldiers

The records of more than 90,000 Militiamen have recently been digitized and placed on www.findmypast.com in conjunction with The National Archives. They are the original attestation papers, are indexed alphabetically by surname and can be downloaded and printed off.

The Militia is the oldest military force in the country and as such was often referred to as the **Constitutional Force**. Its roots are in the Anglo Saxon **Fyrd**, a military body in which all able-bodied men were required to serve to preserve internal order or defend their area against an invader. It was based on the shire county, and was commanded by the Lord Lieutenant. Each of the county hundreds was the responsibility of a Deputy Lieutenant, who relayed orders to the justices of the peace or magistrates. Every parish had to furnish a quota of eligible men, whose names were recorded on muster rolls. Each household was assessed for their ability to provide weapons, armour, horses, or their financial equivalent, The Militia was supposed to be regularly mustered for training but this became very intermittent. As a result, the militia regiments were ill-prepared for an emergency and could not be relied upon to serve outside their own counties.

A new force was therefore created, composed of members of the militia who agreed to meet regularly and undergo military training. These were formed into **Trained Bands**, (see *Saga Vol.13. No.2 John Swynerton*) particularly in the City of London, where the Artillery Garden was used as a training ground. The trained bands played an important role in the English Civil War on the side of Parliament but proved useless when first confronting the rebellion of the Fifth Monarchy men on the restoration of Charles II.

The Militia Act of 1757 created a more professional force, proper records were kept, and the men were selected by ballot to serve for longer periods.

Uniforms were the same as for the regular army and the force was 'embodied' (mobilised) from time to time for training sessions. Here we found David Swinnerton in the Montgomeryshire Militia and Thomas Swinnerton in the Staffordshire Militia (see *SFH Vol.11. No.8 Dec 2000*.)

The militia could not be compelled to serve overseas but nevertheless were sent to man the garrisons at Malta, Gibraltar and elsewhere during the Boer War and some even went to South Africa. It proved to be a very useful source of trained soldiers for the regular army and bounties were offered to men who opted to 'exchange' from the militia into the regular army. Despite its ups and downs it lasted until 1907 when it became the **Special Reserve** on the

formation of the **Territorial Force** (TA after 1920) by merging the Yeomanry and the Volunteers.

Amongst the surviving documents are those for:

Thomas Swinnerton

b.1874 London enlisted 1893

5th Battalion, The Rifle Brigade

Charles Swinnerton

b.1881 Stoke on Trent enlisted 1898

3rd Battalion, North Staffordshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's)

Ernest Swinnerton

b.1890 Walsall enlisted 1907

Royal Army Medical Corps Militia

Fred Swinnerton

b.1883 Birmingham enlisted 1901

6th Battalion, Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Harry Swinnerton

b.1880 N-u-L enlisted 1899

4th Battalion, North Staffordshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's)

John Swinnerton

b.1883 Walsall enlisted 1900

3rd Battalion, South Staffordshire Regiment

Samuel Swinnerton

b.1880 Stoke on Trent enlisted 1897

4th Battalion, North Staffordshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's)

William Swinnerton

b.1861 Dudley. Enlisted 1892

4th Battalion, North Staffordshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's)

Several joined the regular army: Charles transferred to the North Staffordshire Regiment on 10 Jul 1899, Ernest to the South Staffs on 1 Apr 1908, Fred (having previously been a member of the 1st Volunteer battalion of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment) transferred to the Manchester Regiment on the 27 Jul 1903 and John, who had been discharged time expired 3 May 1906, joined the Special Reserve on 14 Jun 1908.

He had been embodied for the Boer War 25 Jun 1900 to 4 Dec 1900 and again on 6 May 1901. He was sent to South Africa where he served until 19 Jul 1902 and was awarded the King's South Africa Medal 1901-02.

William reversed the process and, having served 12 years in the 64th Foot, then joined the Militia (*see Saga Vol.13 No.6*)

Express & Star, Thursday, June 12, 2008

Catching up on history of family name

By Chris Gorman

A genealogy society which has grown from one man's hobby into a worldwide phenomena held its triennial meeting in Staffordshire.

The Swynnerton Society put on the three-yearly event at Swynnerton Parish Church, giving those interested in their ancestors a chance to chat with members, find out more about their genealogy and join the group.

The society dates back to Victorian times, when its founder the Rev Charles Swynnerton, a British officer in the Indian Army, was spending his leave in England.

He spent his time exploring the villages and places which his grandparents had told him were associated with his family, and later went on to found the group. Swynnertons from all over the country gathered in the village near Stone with which they share a name on Saturday and Sunday.

Those who spell the name in different ways, such as Swinnerton or Swynarton, were also present at the event.

The weekend included displays of heraldry and other family memorabilia and talks on local history and family topics.

There was also a service in, and guided tour of, St Mary's Church on Saturday and a tour of the parish on Sunday, allowing visitors to see a number of places with family associations.



Glenda Simpson, Ronald Swynnerton, Margaret Swynnerton, Barrie Swynnerton and Angela Swynnerton, the Swynnerton Society banner

Come and see the family Silver Jubilee Banner at Swynnerton next year.

Family Notes

I am very sorry to have to tell you of the death of David Swinnerton of the Stoke 2 Branch. David Raymond Swinnerton was born on the 13 February 1937 and was the eldest child of David Raymond Swinnerton and Emily (née Vyse). He was born in Shelton, Stoke on Trent and was the brother of our member Ron Swinnerton. He had been participating for a long time in the search for their elusive ancestor William Swinnerton who married Mary Blood at Trentham on the 1st Jan 1820. More than that we do not know – there were a number of Williams around at that time and we have been unable, so far, to pin down the right one. We do know that Mary was born at Prestwood which is next door to Stourton in the parish of Kinver (the southernmost parish in Staffordshire) where I lived for many years. Our sympathy goes to his wife Kathleen and her family.

* * * * *

On another sad note, we have to say 'Goodbye' to Edythe Seeley as our Canadian representative. Edythe has held the fort for us in Canada for many years, collecting the subscriptions from Canadian members and distributing their magazines. Sadly, she lost her husband earlier this year and now feels, as she is well into her 80s, that it is time to take things more easily. I absolutely agree and, on behalf of all of us, I would like to say thank you to her for her many years of splendid service and loyalty to the society.

I am happy to say that our member Kevin Bowers in Hamilton has willingly agreed to take over from her. (see SFH Vol 10. No.5 for Kevin's descent)

* * * * *

I am sorry to have to tell you that the Revd. Brian Swynnerton, one of our founder members, is very poorly and I am sure you would all wish to send him our best wishes for a good recovery.

* * * * *

Please do remember to keep your eyes open in your local newspapers or broadsheets for any news of Swinnertons and send them to me.

* * * * *

Finally, do make sure that the date of our Gathering next year (Saturday the 2nd June 2012) is firmly in your diary and on your calendar.,

The Swinnerton Family Society

The objects of the society are:

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.

Chairman – Mrs Elizabeth Livesey

Secretary – Miss Iris Crouch

Treasurer – Keith Livesey

Subscriptions – Ray Swinnerton

Database – Roy Talbot

Website – www.swinnerton.org

Malcolm Smith Email:

Subscriptions £12 per annum (or local currency equivalent)

USA: Mrs Diana Cunningham,

Canada: Kevin Bowers,

Australia: Mrs Glenda Simpson,

UK and the rest of the world – see Ray Swinnerton above.



Frederick Swynnerton – a self portrait

Published by the Swinnerton Family Society,

ISSN: 0508 6755