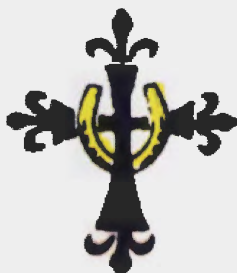


*The
Swinnerton
Saga*



*Colonel J.C.A. Swynnerton OBE
1927-2011*

THE JOURNAL OF SWINNERTON FAMILY HISTORY

VOLUME 14. NO. 12

DECEMBER 2011

Annie Swynnerton's Paintings – No.10

The Convalescent



Oil on canvas
571 x 635 mm
1929

Tate Collections
Accession Number: NO4473

Presented by the Trustees of the Chantry Bequest 1929.

THE SWINNERTON SAGA

VOLUME 14 NUMBER 12
DECEMBER 2011

(No 144)

C O N T E N T S

From the Editor	262
A message from the Chairman	263
From our Chaplain at Christmas	264
New on the Internet	265
Edward Swinnerton of Walsall	267
Gorringe Hospital, Amara	269
Mark Swinnerton's Journal	270
Writing up your history – Malcolm Smith	271
Ron Swinnerton – Carver and Bowler	274
Descendants of William and Hannah	276
Colonel Jeremy Swynnerton	279
Joseph James Clifford Swinnerton	281
Ann Bagot's Diary	282
Benjamin Ross Swenerton	288
Another Swinnerton Gathering	292

Editor –

Col I.S.Swinnerton,



© The Swinnerton Family Society

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

From the Editor

This is the last issue in the present volume so a good suggestion for a small Christmas present would be one of our special, gold lettered binders to start off the next issue. They are available from Mrs Margaret Antill who has willingly volunteered to take over our stock of these and also all our publications and back copies. This will be a great help for me because I am in the throes of moving house and I will be spared of the task of moving the 14 boxes which contain them to our new home.

We have decided, on good advice, that it is time we moved into the town of Sherborne rather than living in the country. This will make life easier for both of us, we will be able to walk to the shops, library, post office etc instead of having to drive in and park or catch a bus. We only get three a buses a day and the timings are no longer as convenient as they used to be.

After living here for nearly 13 years, we cannot believe how much 'stuff' we have accumulated but we are taking the opportunity to downsize and have a good clearout.

Much of my portion consists of Swinnerton family material and I am steadily going through a multitude of files which contain correspondence back to the early 70s when I started the society. Most of them contain family information which has either been printed in this journal or added to our databases and trees so can now be recycled. Any which I feel need checking I am distributing to Roy Talbot for the English families and Brian Swinnerton for the Irish, Canadian and American families.

As a result, this issue will not be as large as I had hoped or quite as varied in content. However, I hope you will still find it informative and entertaining.

I know that the arrangements for next year's Gathering at Swynnerton on the 2nd June are well in hand and I am delighted to say that I understand that, this time, we shall once again be seeing members and their families from America, Canada and Australia.

So – here is a wonderful opportunity to show them our historical records – with my new printer I hope to be able to produce some new trees – and also show them some Swinnerton family craftwork. Angela and I will both be showing some and I hope you will too. Please do let Margaret Antill know if you are so that she can allow sufficient space.

Gain

A message from the Chairman



I hope you all had an enjoyable summer - despite the weather not realising that we'd really like our hot sunshine during the traditional summer months instead of April and October. By the time you read this I expect your Christmas arrangements will be well under way. Hopefully this year the weather won't interfere with plans to celebrate Christmas. Last year many carol concerts and family reunions were badly affected causing much disappointment around the country.

In my previous message I asked if anyone was interested in producing a Swinnerton Calendar. Our webmaster Malcolm Smith responded very promptly with an offer of help and he is currently researching the possibility of producing such a calendar at a reasonable cost. Very many thanks, Malcolm. Your support is much appreciated.

Plans for the Gathering next June are well in hand. I hope many of you will be able to attend. It is always a joy to meet up with members of our extended family, exchanging news with our old friends and learning about our new ones. Please bring along any photographs or memorabilia you would like to share with the rest of the family.

Margaret Antill is waiting to hear from those of you who would like to exhibit your art and craft work (and Swinnerton Pottery, Geoff?). Margaret's contact details are to be found elsewhere in the Saga.

The AGM will be incorporated into the morning's session in St Mary's Church, Swynnerton on 2nd June 2012 so we shan't be arranging a meeting in the Spring.

In the meantime I wish you all a very happy Christmas and a peaceful and healthy New Year.

Elizabeth

A Christmas Message from our Chaplain

Since beginning my ministry, I have been slowly immersing myself in the three year cycle of readings in the Common Worship Lectionary. The juxtaposition of Old Testament readings, psalms, epistle and gospels always helps to bring new insights and remind us of our place, with God, in the whole sweep of history. The three year cycle, for me, comes sharply into view during Advent and Christmas as we focus on different gospels each year. Each has its different take on the Nativity. Our shared, national, view of the birth of Christ - wooden stable complete with three kings,

several shepherds and a little donkey - is drawn from across the gospels and has a healthy dose of tradition thrown in, too. One of the most obvious differences has to be in the accounts of Jesus' genealogy in Luke and Matthew.

Critics will use these as evidence that Jesus isn't God's son at all although, in reality, there are all sorts of reasons - practical, literary and theological - as to their divergence. If only the gospel writers had a subscription to www.ancestry.com!!

If you're reading this it is because you know how important genealogy is - our history, our shared understanding, our rootedness. Our histories are only partly history - they are part myth and part wishful thinking, and they are made more complicated by the occasional genealogical red herring. Despite this, through the generations we see physical characteristics that help us to recognise each other and we acknowledge the strengths and talents - as well as the weaknesses of character - that are passed down and become our heritage. Some will embrace that heritage, others will eschew it, but we will always be part of it and it will always be part of us.

Our heritage as children of God is like that, too. The gift of Christ, given to us at Christmas and brought to fulfilment on the cross at Easter, means that we are inheritors together of God's kingdom. The gift of Christ means that we know how being made in God's image might actually look on earth. The gift of Christ means that we learn how to be members of God's family. We can embrace that or eschew it, but we are always part of it and it will always be part of us.

This Christmas give thanks for the gift of Christ, the gift that opens up to us the whole of our inheritance as God's children. Give thanks for family - close and distant; past, present and future. Embrace it and revel in it. And may God bless you, and all those you love, this Christmas and always.

Rachel

New data on the Internet.

One million 20th century Merchant Navy Seamen's records have gone online for the first time ever, as Britain approached Merchant Navy Day on Saturday 3rd September. But when asked what the Merchant Navy was, 54% of the British population couldn't answer correctly, even though almost 90% have heard of them. This is a sad fact considering the Merchant Navy was integral to putting Britain on the trade and industry world map and were named by Churchill as Britain's 'fourth service'. The revelation comes as findmypast.co.uk, a leading UK family history website, publishes these fascinating records online in partnership with The National Archives.

The National Archives are also to digitise Court, Crime and Convict Records. These records, from 1782, include Home Office, Central Criminal Court and Admiralty records and comprise ~1.84 million pages. The expectation is that they will be available from December next year. These should be interesting! They have also replaced their online catalogue system.

Findmypast have also now made available **UK Railway Employment Records, 1833 – 1963** with some exceptions due to privacy rules and a few pieces to follow. It includes the following former private companies that later came under authority of the British Transport Commission with the 1947 Transport Act:

RAIL226: Great Central Railway Company
RAIL264: Great Western Railway Company
RAIL397: London and North Eastern Railway Company
RAIL410: London and North Western Railway Company
RAIL411: London and South Western Railway Company
RAIL414: London, Brighton and South Coast Railway
RAIL415: London, Chatham and Dover Railway Company (formerly the East Kent Railway)
RAIL426: London, Midland and Scottish Railway Company
RAIL463: Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire Railway Company
RAIL491: Midland Railway Company
RAIL1156: Special Collections: Retired Railway Officers' Society
Records can be searched by name, birth year, event year, station, or company or browsed by volume.

A quick check on the indexes showed that many Swinnertons were employed by the various railways and I hope to be able publish these in future issues.

Apprenticeship records

Over half a million records of apprentices have been added to the Ancestry.co.uk site - they cover the years 1710-1811 and cover Scotland as well as England & Wales. They have been extracted from the National Archives records of Stamp Duty paid on indentures (TNA issue a very useful online Research Guide to Apprenticeship Records) however they don't include the many apprentices whose positions were found by the parish, or by charities, because no Stamp Duty was due on such indentures, nor will you find apprentices of London Companies. Also, many apprenticeships were not governed by formal indentures, for example, where a lad was apprenticed to his father or uncle. The records include the name of the master as well as the apprentice, and until 1752 the name of the apprentice's father is usually listed - although sadly this information hasn't been indexed (nor, more surprisingly, has the trade!).

Burial records online

With over 18 million entries, from over 9000 parishes, the largest collection of UK burial records is the National Burial Index version 3, a DVD ROM compilation of transcriptions carried out by volunteers from local family history societies. It covers most of England & Wales as well as the Isle of Man, although coverage of some areas (notably London) is quite sparse.

About two-thirds of those entries are online at findmypast, where you'll also find [Boyd's London Burials](#), a collection of nearly a quarter of a million records, and the [City of London Burial Index](#), with over half a million entries - records that help fill the gap in the NBI.

Of course, by the mid-19th century onwards most London churchyards were full, so after that date most burials took place in the suburbs, in places like Brookwood Cemetery in Woking, at one time the largest cemetery in the world (with its own train service), and the City of London Cemetery in Manor Park. Tracking down where your ancestors were buried is much more difficult after 1850. The [London Metropolitan Archives burials](#) at Ancestry are five times as numerous for the period 1813-1853 than for the period 1880-1920, despite a massive increase in population.

Manchester records now at findmypast

Findmypast have added nearly one and a half million records from the Manchester area. There's a strong emphasis on [workhouse](#) and [prison](#) records, so you're more likely to find ancestors who were at the lower-end of the social scale, but there are also [school registers](#), [cemetery records](#), and [parish register](#) transcripts (mainly for Oldham St Mary).

(I am indebted to that wonderful site www.lostcousins.com for much of this very useful information).

Swinnerton Soldiers who died in WWI - No.3

Edward Swinnerton of Walsall (ES378)

According to our records, Edward was born in 1894, the fifth son of the 13 children of William Swinnerton and Agnes (sometimes Ann or Annie) née Blunt of Walsall. His birth is shown as being in the Birmingham Registration District which is curious as all his siblings were registered in the Walsall RD.



PRIVATE EDWARD SWINNERTON.
Notts and Derbys.
(Margaret-street.)

His records have survived the bombing of London in 1940 in which some 70% of the WWI soldiers' records were destroyed. They are extensive but in very poor condition, the writing is very faint in many places and the burning at the edges is very prominent. They show that he originally enlisted at Darlaston on the 3rd of August 1915 and said he was aged 19 years and 154 days. He states that his father was William, a colliery worker; that he had no mother and gave the name of his brother Harold but did not mention any of his other

brothers and sisters. He said he had lived with his father at 27 Market Street, Walsall and was working as a tube worker when he enlisted.

He was sent to Derby on the 6th August where he was enrolled in the Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiment (better known as *The Green Howards*) and given the number 28663. He was posted to the 12th (Service) battalion (Pioneers) on the 7th and then to the 3rd Battalion on the 21 March 1916.

On the 29th April he was transferred to the 18th Battalion of the Durham Light Infantry at South Shields and was given a new number 33677.

The 18th (Service) Battalion (1st County) Battalion of the Durham Light Infantry, raised in September 1914, was stationed at various places in England and finally in Fovant in Wiltshire (where the famous badges are carved into the chalk hillside) before embarking at Liverpool for Egypt on the 6th December 1915. They were not there very long but re-embarked for France on the 6th March 1916, arriving at Marseilles on the 11th March 1916.

Edward was sent to join the BEF in France, he landed on the 2 Jan 1917. He was posted to Etaples to join the 18th when they arrived. He died of wounds on the 30 April 1917. His will was very brief and simply said 'I leave all my possessions to my dad, William Swinnerton of 27 Margaret Street, Walsall'. His only possessions are listed as letters and photos.

He was posthumously awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal which were sent to his father as were the scroll commemorating his service and the bronze circular plaque awarded to all personnel from Britain and the Commonwealth who were killed or died of wounds, colloquially known as the 'Dead Man's Penny'.

There is some confusion in the records. His medical report on enlistment describes him as being 5 feet and half an inch tall and having a chest measurement fully expanded of only 33 inches. It also says he had a defective physique, was obviously under age and was *proposed for discharge as he was unfit for the duties of a soldier*. Despite this, he was inoculated and vaccinated but marked for 'Home Service only' but, obviously, after the great losses in 1916, this was ignored and every man possible was sent to the front. Part way through the documents, he starts to be called Pte. E.A. Swinnerton.

Included in his records is a letter from Mrs M. Houlston, 32 Station Street, Walsall dated Feb 12 1917 in which she says:

Sir,
I have received a Field Post Card from my nephew Pte E.A. Swinnerton of the Durham Light Infantry. I cannot tell you his regt. number or company for when he first joined the army he was in the Sherwood Foresters and since he has been transferred I have not heard from him until I had the PC from France. I am sorry to say that he has no mother and his father is no scholar, the boy was only 16 years of age last Dec 16. I have his Birth Certificate if you should require it. I do not mind him being in the army but I am quite sure he is too young to be in France & should be very grateful to you if you do your best to have him brought back again for England.

Hoping you will see into this, Yours sincerely, Mrs M Houlston.

She did produce several copies of the birth certificate from different sources - from the Registrar and on the back of certificates issued under the Factory and Workshops act. These say he was born 1899 at Green Lane, Walsall and give the mother as Annie Swinnerton. Another copy, however, says Edward Algernon born 21 Dec 1901 at Green Lane, Walsall. So - how did he come to be listed in the indexes to births in 1894? A mystery. He certainly looks very young in his photograph even if it is a copy of a copy from a newspaper.



Watercolour of Gorrington Hospital at Amara 1918 by Margery Swynnerton - she was serving there as a VAD at the time - see *Daughter of the Raj*, her autobiography.

Mark Swinnerton's Journal.

This page completes the journal as far as we have got with the transcription. It is a rather uninteresting passage consisting mainly of a series of sailing movements but I am including it in the interests of historical accuracy. We are still in the year 1861.

APRIL 7TH

Sunday. Blowing a gentle breeze with a little rain this morning. Saw a very large waterspout ahead of us this morning. A nice calm sea now. (10 o'clock a.m.) with just sufficient wind to fill the sails. Beginning to get into warm latitudes. We have almost a head wind at present consequently it has been bout ship several times today. Breeze freshened towards night from E. by N. Lat. 28.49 S. Lon. 132.20 W.

APRIL 8TH

Blowing a good steady breeze from the E.NE. Although rather unfavourable. Busy repairing sails on poop at present., bout ship once or twice to-day. Sailing at present N. Lat. 28.22 S. Lon. 132.02 W.

APRIL 9TH

Fine morning breeze still continues, bout ship this morning at 8 o'clock, head wind. Lat. 27.08 Lon. 132.03 W. Made one mile to the westward last 24 hours. Squally light rain toward night.

APRIL 10TH

Rather head wind from E. by N. Heading N. by E. at 8 o'clock P.M. We have been bouting ship several times which has sent us to the Southward a good deal. Breeze very light towards night. Lat. 27.48 S. Lon. 130.12 W.

APRIL 11TH

Pleasant morning with fresh breeze. Heading E.N.E. Wind N.W. Continued fine all day. Moonlight nights. A few porpoises came about the vessel about 8 o'clock P.M. Chief mate went on forecastle with harpoon but did not succeed in getting any. They didn't remain about the vessel long enough! All the butter was eaten up yesterday which is a sad deprivation to us. We have got as a substitute what Ned Moore calls diluted Printer's ink. Composed of molasses, glue and treacle. He says it is in consequence of us getting into a literary latitude. I will leave it to anyone else to find out if such is the case or not. I can't say. Lat. 27.00 S. Lon. 127.16 W.

Don't keep it to yourself !

— Malcolm Smith

I have found the study of my family history to be an engaging subject. I have gathered and gleaned every scrap of information that has come my way and stored it away in an organised filing system. I also accumulated many items of memorabilia.

During my research I have always freely exchanged information with others with whom I have had contact, but it was a long time before I considered publishing anything formally. I was always inhibited by knowing that there was always more information to be found, therefore anything published would quickly outdate.

However, I came to realise that there were a number of reasons why publishing was a good idea :

- If my collection was lost then all my work would have been wasted.
- At least my close family should have the opportunity to share what I had found out.
- Making the fruits of my research available would be likely to uncover information from others who were related.

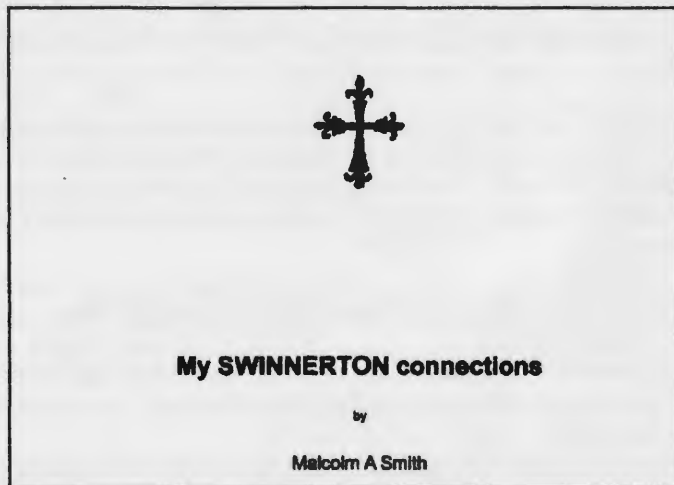
Everyone will approach the study and presentation of their family history in a different way; there is no right or wrong way, and that makes it all the more interesting. In this article I will describe to you the four methods of publication that I have used.

The first was by means of a single page newsletter put out on an irregular basis and distributed to known contacts. Each edition contained a feature on one particular ancestor plus snippets of interesting facts. I have discontinued this method.

The second was a series of biographies of family groups. I took photocopies from the illustrated biographies I had compiled and had written up and had stored in loose-leaf folders. The advantages of this system were that it was relatively inexpensive and updated pages could be issued when substantial new information was found. It was necessary to keep a record of who had received a copy and the date of the edition.

The third is my website which I have created as a comprehensive family record. It is open for anyone to see and I update it as and when new information comes to hand. As with my paper copies of biographies, it is set out in a standardised manner which make it both easier to follow and makes it less likely to overlook the inclusion of information. The Swinnerton section of my website can be seen at:-

<http://www.14november1940.com/names/swinnerton/swinnerton.html>



The cover of one of Malcolm's books

The fourth and current method of my publication is in CEWE photobooks. Please don't ask me the meaning of the acronym CEWE as I have not been able to find out - even the suppliers can't tell me! This is a service available over the internet via photographic suppliers such as Jessops or Snapfish and is intended as a means of creating a photograph album in various formats. Having discovered this service, I created an album for each of our sons with all the photographs I could find from the day they were born to the day they married.

I was quite taken with the impact these books had and started to think about family albums. One principal problem that had always troubled me about publishing family history was the complexity of presenting the information because the family branches out so much with each generation. I have got around this by producing a series of books each featuring different aspects or different lines of my family.

I started with a book covering the close family of my wife and myself including chapters on our children, our parents and grandparents. Each chapter has an outline family tree then is illustrated with photographs of everyone. I followed this with a book of wedding photographs and family groups from our great-grandparents down to our grandchildren. Where such photographs did not exist I used pictures of the house where they were born, a copy of a census or suchlike.

I have since produced further books following both paternal and maternal lines for my wife and myself and have distributed them amongst the family. My more recent books have much more text but can never be expected to include everything known as is the case of my website. I consider my website to be the principal means of sharing my family history, however, the books are far more tangible and probably have a greater impact.

A word of warning - this is an expensive way of publishing material. It works out at about 50p for each side of a page. The advantage is that you only produce the amount of copies required and can order them one at a time if necessary. The system is really designed for reproducing photographs with the ability to add a caption or small amount of text. In writing illustrated biographies as I have done it has been quite challenging but nonetheless, I believe, worth the effort..



Malcolm Smith, our webmaster

Bowls

PORThLEVEN WIN CUP:

The Wincanton Cup was won last Saturday by Ron Swinnerton, Roger Trener and Richard Horwell at Helston's green in the blazing sunshine, writes Alan Kettle.

This was the second year running Porthleven have won the Cup. The game of triples over 18 ends was against Penzance Bowling club's players. The game was low scoring with the Porthleven Men winning 16-8.

Unfortunately, the Cornwall Ladies who went up to Launceston last week did not fare too well in the National Ladies Pours.

Porthleven provided one of the two teams to represent Cornwall, the other being from Wadebridge. Olive Polglase (Skip), Barbara Rowe, Gill Nicholas and Sue Roach (Lead) played against a Team from Surrey in the first round but lost 31-12.

In the early part of the game the Porthleven Ladies held their own but towards the end it quickly went away from them.

The other Cornwall team from

Wadebridge went through a further round before being knocked out.

Last Thursday the men mainly from the 'A' team played the 'local Derby' game against Helston for the Reed Johns Cup which is a Home and an Away competition.

We played the away game on a dry and warm evening on a very fast green. The results turned out to be quite even in one way, that being each side had a winning rink, a losing rink and a drawn rink, but part one of the competition goes to Porthleven as we won the game by 15 shots overall and take that lead through to the next fixture in a couple of weeks.

At the same time as the men were playing the Ladies also had a Cup competition.

The Ladies hold the Michael Gale Cup from last year and they set themselves up well with a win on both rinks of four players and a shots win of 15 as well.



The Porthleven Bowling Club trio of Roger Trener, Ron Swinnerton and Richard Horwell who won the Wincanton Cup. See story above.

June 30, 2010

dependson.co.uk

news

Visitors are bowled over

PORThLEVEN Bowling Club opened its doors on Saturday to host an open day full of art and activities.

As well as bowling activities, there was a wide range of outdoor games, including bowls and woodwork on display, which particularly impressed visitors to the club. Porthleven men's team, who had some success in the past.

They could also hear about the club's plans to open a new hall in order to accommodate visiting clubs after months.

By RUBY MARTIN

photos: dependson.co.uk

It was a busy day with many changes inside the clubhouse. The club members were not going to let the people looking down at them in our yard, and ended up with half a dozen new members who had some success in the past.

Chairman George Brown said that overall the day had been "a great success".



Richard Horwell learns about the rub of the green.



Keep on wood - club member Ron Swinnerton with one of his carvings.



Club regulars passed on their expertise to visitors. See page 20 for more of these pictures of dependson.co.uk, photos: Porthleven.

Our member Ron Swinnerton is very well known for his exquisite wood carvings and turnings – he very kindly turned the hanging poles and stand for our Silver Jubilee Banner as well as the representation of the badge on top.

He now appears to be getting as well known as a bowler of woods!

Come and see Ron's carvings on the family's Silver Jubilee Banner which will be on display at Swynnerton next June.

William Swinnerton

B - Jul 18, 1830



William

Hannah (Rowley)

B -
D -



Hannah

Married - June 22, 1852

Spent their life in Madeley, England, and had 7 children

Stephen	B - 1855	D - 1914
John	B - 1857	D - 1928 (Canada)
Ruth	Died at birth	
William Harding	B - Apr 10, 1863	D - Nov 8, 1949
Ruth	B - 1865	D - 1955
Elizabeth Hannah	B - 1867	D -

Charles James



Ruth



Elizabeth Hannah
(Lizzie)



Eric - Elizabeth Son
(WW1 Picture)



Hannah's
Father

Charles James Swinnerton

B - Feb 1, 1875 (Feb 8)
D - Aug 31, 1951 (May 2)



Charles - 70's

Hannah (Hall) Swinnerton

B - Nov 5, 1872
D - Nov 3, 1957 (Oct 30, 1959)



Hannah - 60's

Married -

Born in Madeley, England
Died in Regina, SK, Canada

Charles immigrated to Canada in 1910, with the family arriving in 1911. With them were 4 sons, Leonard, Frank, Sidney & Donovan and a daughter Muriel. Marion died April 10, 1899, and is buried in the church cemetery in Madeley, England. At the time of their arrival in Regina the population was 30,000. They built their home that same year at 2112 Broder Street and it would seem that the economy was booming. Charles purchased land in the area which is now east of the ring road and had planned to build homes and develop the area, however the expansion of Regina came to a complete stop in the early 20's and that was followed by the great depression. Sometime prior to 1930 Charles lost all his land and was left with only the house on Broder Street. Hanna had been a school teacher in England but never taught in Canada. Since construction work had come to a complete stop in the 30's Charles was unable to find work in Saskatchewan. He was able to get a job however as a finishing carpenter and moved to Los Angeles in 1933. He spent a year and half working on the construction of the Biltmore Hotel. From that time on he worked with Smith Brothers & Wilson as a finish carpenter.

The letters between Aunt Ruth and the Swinnertons in Canada reveal the difficult times in Saskatchewan during the depression and then in England during the Second World War. They were desperate times and many people were out of work and had little or no income.

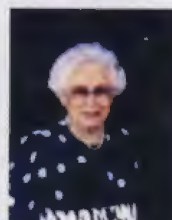
Donovan Swinnerton

B - May 9, 1906 (Madeley, UK)
 D - June 4, 1996 (Regina, SK)



Edith Kathleen (Roantree) Swinnerton

B - Feb 28, 1912 (Calgary, AB)
 D - June 2, 1996 (Regina, SK)



*Married - October 17, 1936
 Regina, SK, Canada*

After they married Donovan (Don) & Kathleen (Kay) moved into Don's parents home at 2112 Broader Street and lived there until Norman was approximately 2 years old and then moved to 2024 Scarth Street just before Karen was born. During their life they moved 6 times (All in Regina) and finally to a condominium on Ray street

Don first worked at the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool in the accounting department and in 1940 at the request of his father in law Norman B. Roantree he went to work in the family plumbing and heating business.

He purchased the business in 1948 following the passing of Norman Roantree. Don continued in the business until his retirement.

Kay attended nursing school at the General hospital & nursed until Norman was born.

Charles James & Hannah Swinnerton Family Photos



Swinnerton Family Home in Madeley, England
 Donovan standing outside (1957)



Charles (Teen)



Hannah & Len at 2112 Broader
 First Home in Canada



Frank



Leonard & Jennie



Sidney & Margaret

In Memoriam

Colonel J.C.A. Swynnerton OBE

I am very sorry to have to tell you that our former Chairman and Vice-President Jeremy Swynnerton died on the 3rd November. Jeremy Charles Angelo Swynnerton was born at Camberley, on the 4 May 1927 where his father, Charles Swynnerton, was then stationed. His father had been born in Simla, India and his mother Clare Ines (née Stevenson) in Argentina. He inherited his unusual name of Angelo from an ancestor, the famous Italian fencing master Dominico Angelo Malevolvoli Tremamondo (1716-1802) who taught all the Royal Dukes fencing at his famous academy in London.



Colonel Swynnerton admires the coat once worn by his father, the late Major General C. R. A. Swynnerton, C.B., D.S.O., who was Colonel of the North Staffordshire Regiment from 1953 until 1958. The coat is kept in the Museum at Regimental Headquarters.

APPOINTMENTS IN THE SERVICES

Recent Service appointments and promotions include:

ARMY
 BRADSHAW: T A Broom, to be D
 Comd/COR Hongkong 18.5.79
 CHURCHILL: Lt Col R M Brown,
 R.A.P.C. to be Chief Paymaster F4(AD)
 18.5.79; M Duff, to be PA
 NIGROSA: Lt Col I Nishitani
 TAVR: to be Controller, HQ Forces
 Courier Services, 21.5.79; Lt Col
 Swynnerton, to be Col GS 1E(A) Mod,
 21.5.79.

Daily Telegraph
 1977



COL. J. C. A. SWYNNERTON O.B.E.

Colonel Swynnerton was born at Camberley and is the elder son of the late Major General C. R. A. Swynnerton, CB, DSO, who was Colonel of The North Staffordshire Regiment from 1953 to 1958.

Educated at Wellington College, Colonel Swynnerton joined the Army in February 1945, and was commissioned the following year into the North Staffords, joining the 1st Battalion then serving in India.

In early 1947 he went to Nigeria as ADC to the GOC in Nigeria and subsequently served in 3rd Battalion The Nigeria Regiment in Nigeria and the Gold Coast.

In October 1949 he rejoined 1st North Staffords in Fayd, and was with them in Trieste, Korea and Hong Kong until, in 1957, he was appointed Brigade Adjutant of the Mercian Brigade at Whittington Barracks.

After attending the Army Staff College in 1958, he spent the next two years at HQ Eastern Command in Colchester, and then commanded 'C' Coy 1st Staffords in Kenya and Colchester prior to going to the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst as Chief Instructor of New College and then to the Joint Services Staff College at Latimer.

He was second-in-command of 1 Staffords from 1964-66 in Kenya and then Dover prior to being posted to Borneo as Brigade Major of HQ 99 Gurkha Infantry Brigade during the confrontation with Indonesia.

In February 1967 he was promoted Lieutenant Colonel and given the exacting but rewarding task of forming, and then commanding, The Junior Infantrymen's Battalion at Shorncliffe for which he was honoured with the award of the OBE. His next appointment was in BAOR as Assistant Military Secretary.

Promoted Colonel in February 1972, he went to Belfast for a year as Deputy Commander, 39 Infantry Brigade before being posted to be the Deputy Director (Military) of the Senior Officers War Course at Greenwich.

Colonel Swynnerton left Greenwich in May 1975 to assume the appointment of Deputy Commander of 28 Infantry Brigade in Singapore. Later that year he became Commander of the remnant of 28 Infantry Brigade, and Senior British Officer, Singapore.

His task was to implement the plan for the withdrawal of all



British Forces in Singapore and the hand over of the military installations to the Singapore Government.

Excepting Embassy Staff and one Barrack Officer, he was the last British Officer to serve in Singapore, finally leaving on 31st March 1976.

Colonel Swynnerton is at present serving in the Ministry of Defence on the staff of the Director of Army Recruiting.

Among other duties, he commands the group of 'Centres' where recruits are tested in order to decide to which Corps or Regiment they are best suited. One of these is the Army Recruit Selection Centre at St Georges Barracks, Sutton Coldfield.

Colonel Swynnerton, who is aged 50, comes from a well known North Staffordshire family which traces its connections with the County through nine centuries.

He is a bachelor and lives in Blackheath, London. His interests include cine photography, entomology, philately, shooting; but particularly he enjoys extensive travelling and has taken leave in such widely differing areas as East and South Africa, Nigeria, Cameroons, most countries of Europe, Turkey, Thailand, North Borneo, Bali, Java, Sumatra and Celebes.

An extract from 'Staffordshire Life' when Jeremy was appointed Colonel of The Staffordshire Regiment formed by a merger of his old regiment, the North Staffords, and the South Staffords in 1959

In Memoriam

Joseph James Clifford Swinnerton (JS211)

I am also very sorry to have to tell you that Joe Swinnerton died on the 3rd of November in Stepping Hill Hospital, Stockport, the hospital that he raised so much money for over the years. His son, our member David, tells me that he had been suffering from cancer for a number of months but it's to the credit of the NHS that he never suffered any pain and enjoyed his life until his final hours.

I do not need to write any more about Joe because he featured in the March 2010 issue of *Saga*. Sufficient to say here that he was a highly respected member of his community and everyone I have spoken or written to amongst my friends in Stockport, and through my Rotary contacts, said that he was a kind and caring man with a strong sense of duty to his community.

Joe came from the Yorkshire Branch of the family and was 10th in descent from John Swinnerton, the founder of this branch. He joined the Society in 1982 but then handed over to his son David to who and his family we send our sincere condolences.



Ann Bagot's Diary - Volume Two

November 1826

A thieving Maid - Birthday gathering at Somerford

1st

Drank tea with the Probyns. Met Sir Roger and Lady Sophia Gresley and the Gardeners.

2nd

Had a party of 23 at home, which went off remarkably well.

7th

The Gardeners took me to dine at Mrs. Petits - in the morning had a most disagreeable business - My cook Bessy Good to whom and to whose I had been so uncommonly kind I sent away on the discovery of some very iniquitous swindling practices by which, however unjustly I shall probably be a very considerable loser. It seems my destiny to be always plagued with menial peculiarities and ingratitude.

12th

The Dean came to give me permission to underbuild my greenhouse though not as far as I had hoped - he had taken pains and been good natured about it - a general feeling alarm seems to have been excited by the wickedness of my maid for if I am to pay the piper, in the costs nobody can feel secure.

13th

Mrs. Thomas Levett came to tell me she heard these wicked people said they could be even with me as they know where my plate is kept - I packed it up and sent it to Miss Bayley's

I set out to Somerford got there after it was dark found Mr. and Mrs. Monckton - Sophy, Louisa, A. Maria and Emma, Ed. George, John and Henry also a daughter of poor Philips. I found also the most cordial and gratifying reception. Lady Corke unluckily arrived just after me.



Somerford Hall originally built in 1754, home of the Moncktons from 1779 to 1858. Now a hotel.

14th

Mr. Monckton's 82nd birthday and many may he see with all his faculties as perfect as they are now. Sir George and Lady Pigot and their two daughters came. Mr. and Mrs. Westenra,

Lord Rossmore's son, just recovered from a wound he had received in a duel.

Anne visits Stretton, Patshull and Chillington

15th

Mrs. Monckton, Mrs. Westenra, Miss Fanny and I went to call upon the old Countess of Ross¹ at Stretton who we found in a desolate and bare looking apartment with only some beautiful chinese fowls she might solace herself by seeing from the windows - quite alone as to any human companions! With her 40,000 a year in her pocket I marvel at her but she never turns an Irish beggar from the door though I hear she never gives more than 3d. She was in great spirit - talk'd abundantly and I suppose is the happiest in the way of life she leads I neither envy her, her wealth or her solitude.

17th

Sir George and Lady Pigot took me back with them to Patshull and very civil and good natured they were, even kind - they have six pleasant manner'd daughters - the house upon the plan of an Italian chateau, the seeing it recalled to my remembrance many particulars of the oddities of Sir John Astley its builder. I had heard him mention in my youthful days.



Patshull Hall was built to designs by architect James Gibbs for Sir John Astley in about 1730.

20th

1 The Countess of Rossmore? (family name Westenra)

Lady Pigot took me back to Somerford. We called at Chillington in our way. We were received very civilly by the 2 Miss G: Hands. I did not say that the gentleman to whom the eldest is going immediately to be married is first cousin to one of my ill-behaved maids! They showed us the house. I wonder Mr. Clifford can find in his heart to make it so modern. He is laid up with the gout so we did not see him. Mrs. Gifford and the youngest daughters at a Shrewsbury Ball. We found the party reduced to a family one at Somerford.

A gay evening at Tixall with the Cliffords

21st

Mrs. Monckton and I again walked to good old Molly Shaw how different the end of her life, how different the respect in which her latter days are held by the few who know her to that of that painted and hackney'd Countess of 80.

23rd

Left my hospitable and kind friends with regret although the quiet and home feel of dear Milford and its inhabitants very acceptable to my nerves which with so many gay strangers and new scenes added to the profligate delinquency of my ungrateful servant she is not yet found - may she not be.



View of Milford Hall, seat of R. B. Levett Esq., 1848

25th

The two Dicks arrived in good time, thank God. Dico much tired with his journey.

December 1826

7th

Louisa and I called on Countess Clifford who we did not find at home then went to Ingestre Parsonage where we found Mrs. Ed. Ed. came to dine and sleep.

12th

Louisa and I went in the evening to Tixall to see 3 weeks of the Mar[]a - perform'd - actors Mrs. Fitzherbert, Heneage Chichester and Clifford, Ladies Countess Clifford Misses Chichester and Constable - it sent me back to my youthful and dancing days to see Tixall again lighted up and an entire new generation in possession of it.



The original gatehouse at Tixall Hall. In August 1586 it was the temporary home of Mary Queen of Scots.

14th

A small riot at Stafford ? of the Election - the Mayor sent for Levett and Ld. Talbot who when they arrived found it over.

17th

The day so bad Levett read prayers at home. Greville and Mary Howard came to our pleasure just landed at Elford to see us for 2 nights.

20th

The Howards went early ditto the two Dicks, go to Elford for the sake of a battue.

A wonderful Christmas and family gathering at Blithfield

23rd

Levett, Louisa, Dico, Frances and I went to Blithfield where we found a very cordial reception all family except Miss Murray and Mr. Carie.

24th

Went to church twice the service of the church beautifully done by Mr. Carie and Dick Bagot with the singing of the school children taught by Agnes and Louisa.

25th

Christmas Day - once again spent at my dear and Natal place where the majority of Christmas Days have been spent - how many recollections were conjured up if recollections could be called what has never been forgotten nor can ever be obliterated as long as memory holds her seat. The Levetts had not knelt at that altar since they did so to be married! Blessed has the union been, now they knelt there with that ? and true boy their son in all his youthful integrity to receive his first communion! To me they have been for many years the chief comfort, pleasure, and support of my life.

In the Hall at dinner where assembled 19 of the family. Altogether, the day has been pleasurable.

26th

Louisa and I walked to Admastone and saw the few of our old friends left - then Miss Murray drove me with Louisa's poneys to Abbots Bromley.

27th



A Droski – a rare Russian carriage

Louisa Bagot, Louisa Levett and I went in the Drowski to the Park Miss Murray Eleanor, and Frances, Dick, Wm. Henry Charles and Lewis Bagot on Horseback - We went to the Beggars Oak and Venison tree over ? the Hurst house it was with feelings of thankfulness that I saw so many and fine a group of boys galloping over ground which they are 25th generation in lineal descent from father to son since the conquest.

Dick², Lady Harriet and two of their boys dined.

2 Dick - Richard Bagot D.D. Bishop of Bath & Wells married Harriet daughter of the 4th Earl and (famous) Countess of Jersey - Dick Bagot was Dean of Canterbury.

Benjamin Ross Swenerton

APPENDIX TO THE SIXTY-FIFTH VOLUME OF THE JOURNALS
OF THE HOUSE COMMONS OF DOMINION OF CANADA SESSION
1928

PRINTED BY ORDER OF PARLIAMENT. OTTAWA

F. A. ACLAND, PRINTER TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT
MAJESTY 1928

PENSIONS AND RETURNED SOLDIERS' PROBLEMS 183

On the other hand, I want to point out the case of B. Ross Swenerton, Regimental No. 231734. I will be all right to mention Mr. Swenerton's name in this connection. I will give you the full particulars of this case, including the autopsy report and post-mortem report. (Reads) :

B. Ross Sweerton, Regimental No. 23173 .

Born 1890, enlisted with 202nd Battalion July 12, 1916, at Edmonton, Alta., later transferred to 31st 13attalion; married approximately 1912, no family; served in France with 31st Battalion, gunshot wounds head, eyes, February 7, 1918, released from Second London General Hospital to attend St. Dunstan's for training, was returned to hospital on at least two occasions during S. Dunstan's training, once for duodenal operation; first wife died latter part of 1918 from influenza; approximately September, 1919, he took his discharge while still at St. Dunstan's following representations by Canadian office in London that this would be necessary if he wished to remain to complete training; remarried approximately the end of 1919, returned to Canada arriving in Montreal March, 1920, took position with the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, Toronto, Commencing duties April 15, 1920, was continuously employed until July 4th, 1924, died July 8th, 1924.

One child, a daughter, was born at Toronto May, 1921.

Mr. Swenerton enlisted as a married man but became a widower in the autumn of 1918, following the appearance of his disability. Subsequently he recovered health to a degree which in his opinion rendered marriage sufficiently free from hazard for both prospective wife and himself. At the time and for long afterwards he was not aware of any damage to his head other than that which represented loss of sight. He therefore married in good faith and in hope of being able to enjoy a reasonable period of life and to provide adequately for his family. Approximately six years after recovery from the wounds which cost his loss of sight he developed a head condition which proved fatal. Pathologist's report on

the autopsy performed subsequently to death is attached hereto. This



man's wife receives no pension subsequent to his death, his daughter, born May, 1921, receives allowance for child of a Class 1 o. 1 pensioner. In this case the widow could not with the slender income which she had in her own right continue to keep up the home in Toronto. Therefore she tried to rent or sell in order that she might return and live with her mother in England and thus be able to manage on a very reduced income. The Toronto home was finally sold at a considerable sacrifice with the result that very little of the cash investment was recovered. Had this widow not possessed some small means which enabled her by careful management, to continue caring for their child she would have been forced to place the child in some foster home and to have worked for their maintenance, as many others coming under this category have been forced to do. Had Mr. Swenerton's first wife outlived him she would have been due for pension following his death. Owing, however, to

her death the wife of the second marriage was precluded.

These cases are entirely illustrative of the conditions that exist. The Swenerton case is well known in this country. He was one of the finest young fellows that ever donned a uniform. (It reads):

Our request is a moderate one; it is designed with the idea of offering all the reasonable safeguards the State could ask. Practice would undoubtedly make it final. It is the logical solution to an aggravating situation, and entirely limited in scope. Providing for the payment of pension only in case of death attributable to service, and the widow's pension being in proportion to the pension class of the deceased, i.e., should he be in receipt of a fifty per cent pension, his widow would receive 50 per cent of the widow's pension.

By Mr. McPherson:

Q. The reason of your various clauses is to protect against fraudulent

marriage?--A. Yes, sir. We have found that to be a very serious objection, so we had to design some means and motives that appeared to be reasonable, that would remove that possibility to a large extent.

Q. There is a strong objection, in practice, to any legal rights being based on a time limit, is there not?--A. Yes, sir.

Q. That is, no matter what time limit you put on there is always the case that comes after that?--A. There is always an objection to an arbitrary date. Q. What would you think of the single restriction of any marriage which had existed for two years prior to death?

--A. Any marriage that existed--

Q. That had existed two years prior to death, instead of the various clauses?

--A. That is a matter that I would have to give a great deal of consideration to.

I do not mind telling you that this was arranged by a consultation of different classes of pensioners in this country.

There were the Sir Arthur Pearson Club

for blinded soldiers, the Pensioners Association of Canada, and the Amputations Association of Canada. After going into this matter very carefully, and examining it from all angles, we thought that the State should be protected.

Q. You would not have any objection if these suggestions are reduced as far as the limit is concerned?--A. We have no objection. Parliament may go as far as it likes. We know this much, that there is a great feeling that injustice is being done, but we want at the same time to see that the State is not penalized in any way by fraud. We take that attitude.

Q. My suggestion is that if the country is going to adopt that principle, your seven year limit is too long.--A. Of course, March 1, 1920, is obvious. 1935, for instance, was mentioned merely as a suggestion.

By Mr. Clark:

Q. Would the Swenerton widow be barred by the seven year period?--

A. :No, they had a child born in wedlock.

Q. If there had been no child?--A. She would be barred. We would naturally say that she had lived with the man for three or four years, and that she was not a great deal impaired, and she would be in condition to get out and earn a livelihood.

The Witness: I will now deal with medical examination and hospitalization. If you will look at page 3, :No. 4.



It is submitted that the right to medical examination and hospitalization should be extended to every man and woman who was a member of the forces as defined by the Pension Act.

(Reads) :

Medical Examination and Hospitalization

In dealing with this part of our request, we believe that it is the duty of the Government to extend to every man who saw service in an actual theatre of war the privilege of reporting to medical centres of the D.S.C.R. or upon the production of his certificate of discharge to a local doctor or hospital where D.S.C.R. facilities are not available for examination and treatment, should this be necessary.

In requesting this, we are merely asking for social legislation which has been enacted in other countries, e.g., U.S.

In asking for examination and any necessary treatment for the man who is discharged as physically fit, we base our argument on the conditions experienced by these men while in training and on service. We repeat that due allowance has not been, but should be, made for war experience. Consideration must be given to the fact that men enlisted leaving lives behind them to which they had become habituated, and were thrust suddenly into a life which demanded the most in health and stamina. Further, in France men lived amid conditions to which no civilized human being had ever before been subjected. In addition to the untold physical hardships, there was the tremendous mental and nerve-racking strain.

The disabled man or pensioner who has undergone the unusual strain of war service has to contend with the difficulties in civilian life imposed upon him by that service and his disability. An illustration of one particular case, i.e., an amputation case, or any seriously disabled man, is, through the fact of his disability, subjected to and exposed to the hazards of ill-health, accident, anxiety and mental strain. Should not the Government help to fit these men for the work in life as far as possible? Can the Government do enough to redeem its war pledges to these men? [Ir. R. Iyers.]



*Sweetheart Badge of the 202nd (Sportsmen's) Battalion,
Canadian Expeditionary Force*

Another Family Gathering

– Colin Swinnerton

The photograph overleaf shows a gathering of most of the family based locally (all members of the Betley Branch of the family) who met in a local hostelry to meet our Australian cousin Bill Hignett. The picture was taken by my brother-in-law Graham Grimshaw.

My aunt, Lily Ann Swinnerton married Frederick Robert Hignett on the 17 November 1913 in Chester.

The guest of honour was Bill Hignett, Lily's son, who none of us had seen since he was last over in the UK in 1972. He has changed a bit, but haven't we all!

My cousin David from Liverpool came with his wife Carole. Also in attendance were David's sister Pat Walters (née Swinnerton); David's brother-in-law John Cunnah, husband of my wife Pat's recently departed sister Sheila, Maureen Gorringer (née Swinnerton) David & Pat's half-sister and, of course, myself and Pat.,

Regrettably, our 95 year-old aunt Violet Grant was not well enough to attend and so, unfortunately, were her daughter June Ellery and her husband Gordon.

The party went very well and Bill told me how thrilled he was to see us all. He recently hosted a gathering of his immediate family in Australia which 36 people attended.

* * * * *



This issue of *Saga* completes Volume 14 and is number 144 in the series of newsletters and magazines that I have produced since 1974

With it comes my very best wishes to you all for a very Happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.



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

(see below for overseas)

Committee Member and Publications
Mrs Margaret Antill

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.



Ron Swinnerton's carved badge and stand for our Silver Jubilee Banner