

The Swinnerton Saga



An unusual plate made by Swinnertons of Hanley

THE JOURNAL OF SWINNERTON FAMILY HISTORY

VOLUME 14. No.3

September 2009



Dame Millicent Fawcett CBE. LLD.
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THE SWINNERTON SAGA

**Volume 14
Number 3**

**September
2009**

C O N T E N T S

From the Editor	50
Douglas Swinnerton's Notes	51
Richard Swinnerton – Sportsman	56
Rachel's Ordination	63
Miscellaneous	67
Passages to Australia	68
A letter from Australia	70
A Betley Inventory	71
The Duke of Shoreditch	72

Editor – I.S.Swinnerton

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From the Editor

The Wrexham branch of the family, of which Richard Swinnerton featured in this issue was a member, has been expanded considerably over the last few months by the energetic efforts of Brian Swinnerton of Liverpool who seems to have a strong network of internet friends in various parts of the world who have been very helpful in supplying him with valuable information for which we are very grateful.

You may have read in the newspapers that The National Archives at Kew, which I visit every two to three weeks for a few days in pursuit of records of military ancestors for my clients, is being subject to a budgetary freeze by the government. I am sorry to say that history does not rank amongst their priorities. Amongst the results of this, apart from the usual job losses, is charging for the car park which users were assured only a comparatively short while ago would never happen. When the barriers were erected 'to ensure that the car park was not used by local shoppers', the cynical amongst us said 'Oh yes'!

Much more serious is the drop in standards of service due to shortage of staff – it takes an average one hour now to produce a document as opposed to the former 22 minutes. Understandable is the decision to close one day a week but the choice of Monday as opposed to Saturday is absolutely inexplicable. The reason given is because that is the day for family historians but regular users know that Saturday is the quietest day of the week – but, of course, most family historians are retired!

By contrast, the British Library, on the top floor of which is the 'India Office' where I go for Indian Army military records, is open seven days a week.

As a result of an enquiry from Caroline Vicary of Australia, who is descended from Edith Swinnerton, a daughter of Charles Swinnerton the Army Scripture Reader, whose story I shall tell in the next issue, I have done a lot of searching in the India Office records and I believe I now have a complete extract of all records relating to Swinnertons who lived in India.

In the last issue I asked you to continue sending me news of your families and newspaper cuttings and I am happy to say that I have had quite a good crop since. I have also received a few responses to my comments about possibly reforming the Society next year, all of which were favourable.

All editors like to have feedback to help them produce a readable and interest magazine so please do let me know what you would like to see more (or less!) or, of course, contribute articles.

Iain Swinnerton

Douglas Swinnerton's Notes

(Continued from The Swinnerton Saga June 2009)

CHARLES MARK SWINNERTON 1875 - 1947

Born Isle of Man, April 10, 1875. Married Theresa Dickinson. They had four children - Dorothy, Charles, Mona, Robert. Plumbing and hardware business, Los Angeles, California.

Charlie was a Master Plumber and for many years served as a member of the Board of Examiners for Journeyman and Master Plumbers. He was very active in the State and National Plumbers Association serving a term as President in each organization.

FLORENCE SWINNERTON 1880 - 1945

Florrie, born at Douglas, Isle of Man April 3, 1880, was about 5'9", light brown hair, blue eyes - the real beauty of the family. She had a beautiful voice and at one time appeared in vaudeville on the Orpheum circuit. First married one of the brothers of Theresa, Harold Dickinson. He died, she was a widow - a number of years and then married Max

She divorced him and later married William Stout. They moved to Parkersburg, West Virginia. She had one son, Harold, by her first husband. She passed away in Parkersburg.

FRANCES AMELIA SWINNERTON 1872 - 1932

Frances was eldest of the Swinnerton Children, born at Douglas, Isle of Man October 18, 1872. She had lovely Titian hair, and to quote Mother, "a peculiar kind of beauty". She also had a very lovely soprano voice and studied at the Royal Conservatory of Music in London both voice and piano.

When the folks came to America Uncle Charles, the Episcopal Minister, begged to let him take her to Cyprus with him as company for his daughter Maudie, his only living child. (I believe his beloved wife was a cholera victim in India and I believe the two sons were too. There was another girl too I believe, anyway, Maudie was all that remained.)

After the folks left the ranch and had returned to Los Angeles, Frances came to America travelling with a family friend who was returning here.

She married Arthur Edmondson, who was also from Douglas, I.O.M., but they had never met until she came here. They had two sons, John Swinnerton Edmondson and Oswald Robert Edmondson.

Frances had bright blue eyes and lovely red hair. She was about 5' 6" tall.

GODFREY JOSEPH SWINNERTON 1885 - 1949

Godfrey was born June 6, 1885 in Douglas, Isle of Man. He was five years younger than Florie the next one to him. He had a secret worry all his life that he was probably an "unwanted baby", at that stage of the game, when his five brothers and sisters were on the way to "growing up". After we were married he told me about it and I asked Mother Swinnerton. She laughed and said he was one that was really wanted for a year or so before he was born, she and Father Swinnerton took a holiday in London and one day there she was waiting for a few minutes for Father Swinnerton in a park and saw an English nursemaid caring for a beautiful baby and suddenly she told me she had that feeling she just "must have a baby in her arms again". So he was very much wanted! Then she laughed and told me that once when the children were coming so close together that Father Swinnerton found her crying and he wanted to know the trouble and she said, "Oh, Robert, we are to have another baby" and she said he was so gentle and put his arms about her and smiled and said, "But Oh, we have such nice babies"! After all the years, somehow, Mother looked so sweet, even when she told me about it! Also she said in those days babies, of course, were born at home, and no father to be or even father was allowed in the room at that time, and she said at one of the births he left his "vigil" in another room for the moment to go and get a glass of wine to "sustain him". So that was a family joke, for the baby appeared at that moment when he was gone.

When Godfrey was about three, he had scarlet fever very seriously and Mother took complete charge of him, never leaving him and the doctors said it was her wonderful nursing that saved his life for no one thought he could be saved. The doctor worked very hard too and I know that in extra appreciation Father Swinnerton gave him a handsome clock. He bore the scar of that illness on his neck all his life. He was six and a half years old when they came to America. All his life he had had his nurse "Suzie". They had wanted to bring her to America with them but friends dissuaded them telling them that wages were so high in America that she would be coaxed away from them so they gave up the idea.

They arrived in New York on Christmas Eve, 1890, and in Los Angeles on New Years Day, 1891. They first stayed at a hotel at First and Spring Streets. Godfrey wore little English sailor suits and on his sailor cap were the letters "HMS" and the name of some ship. He was standing in front of the hotel when some drunk spied him and the "HMS" on his cap and with words about the British, made for him. He was rescued just in time!

When the folks bought the ranch in Burbank he went to school in Burbank walking there unless the weather was bad. At the ranch there was a big drake that took out after Godfrey whenever he had a chance. "HMS" again! I wonder!

Later the folks disposed of the ranch property and moved into Los Angeles where his father had his jewellery store. Godfrey continued to school until his father could no longer "go it alone" because of his bad leg. Godfrey then left school and became his father's helper and started to learn the jeweller's trade. Finally, it was necessary to close the jewellery store because of his father's health. At that time his father looked about for some other trade for Godfrey to learn. They talked to a machinist friend and others to decide what trade would be good for him to enter. They even talked to a dentist who suggested Godfrey not learn dentistry because you had to be on your feet all day. About this time, however, his brothers Charlie and Robert started a plumbing business and it was decided Godfrey should learn the plumbing trade. When Robert died he became associated in the business with his brother Charles so the business was always known as Swinnerton Brothers.

Godfrey loved bicycles and when 14 he went with Bert Beattie and another boy, each 2 years older than he, to San Diego on bicycles! It was pretty rough on him for he not only was worn out, but got sick eating in Tiajuana as well and the other boys chipped in and sent him home by boat, which I think cost \$5.00 at that time.

He later became interested in motorcycles, finally buying himself one and joined the Los Angeles Motorcycle Club which in those days was quite a select club. The Club was run by young businessmen of Los Angeles, druggists, lawyers, etc. They had their own clubhouse and held big races at the Collesium with well-known racing drivers participating. Godfrey was a Club Trustee and with two others directed the financial affairs of the Club.

In 1906 the Club held a big race "run" to San Francisco. This was quite an adventure for Godfrey.

During this race his fellow rider was thrown from his motorcycle and lit on his head. Godfrey stayed behind and nursed him till his folks could come and get him. He had had a rough time of it for the chap was out of his head and Godfrey had to "wrestle" him down. It was only the beginning of his mishaps for going on alone without a partner, he stopped at a farm house for a drink of water and while talking to the farmer, the dog came up from behind him and bit him in the leg. The farmer just laughed and Godfrey had to seek medical attention. Nearing Oakland, the frame of his Indian motorcycle chrystalized and split, throwing him. Fortunately he was not seriously injured. Someway he managed to get it repaired and made it to San Francisco and returned to Los Angeles. After all that hard luck, they deducted points for being late getting there! The boy's parents, the one he nursed, said "Thank you" to him and never even paid his hotel bill!

Later on he purchased a Peugeot motorcycle having it shipped from Paris, France. It cost more than a Ford!

He also belonged to a very nice dancing club that gave their dances at "Kramers" (or was it spelled "Cramers"). Anyway, it was a dancing school on Grand Avenue, where the "elite" gave their parties. I remember Mr. Cramer the "dancing master" - white haired and (I seem to remember he had a white VanDyke beard) and was very very proper indeed! It was one of those places where you casually said, "Oh yes, I was to a dance at 'Cramers' last night!" That also was the place where Godfrey and I were at last introduced. After we were married!

You see, when we came to California we rented a furnished flat that Mother had to rent. So of course I knew her and she asked me if I danced and I said "yes" and she told me about her "son Godfrey". Later, a week or two, I came home to the flat before my folks. I had no key, so I couldn't get in and I went next door to Mrs. Swinnerton's to see if I could get a key - she wasn't home but Godfrey was and he went over with me and let me in. So, I never was introduced.

After we were married we went to a dance at "Cramers" and while he was going about filling my program, I met a girl whom I knew, but whom I had not seen for a long time. She didn't know in the meantime that I had married but her boyfriend knew Godfrey and had introduced her to him. So when Godfrey came back to me she quickly said, "Miss Creeth, I want you to meet Mr. Swinnerton". "Oh yes" I said, "He's my husband"!

We eloped and were married June 22, 1909, though everyone knew we were engaged, I had an engagement ring. We had planned on waiting a year but changed our plans as our folks were both getting a bit worn down by the lateness of the hours all the parties were keeping us. But everyone was nice about it. We went to San Diego for our honeymoon. Our first son, Douglas, was born in 1911 and second son Richard in 1917. We lived most of our first 20 years in Los Angeles - 1548 Lemoyne Street. The second 20 years in Beverly Hills - 449 South Weatherby Drive. Godfrey passed away October 11, 1949.

OLIVIA MARY SWINNERTON 1878 - 1928

Olivia was born at Douglas, Isle of Man April 6, 1878. Married Fred Dickinson. There were five children - Robert, Fred, Olivia, Frances and Harold.

ROBERT SWINNERTON 1876 - 1902

Robert was born at Douglas, Isle of Man September 17, 1876. He was the only one of Father and Mother Swinnerton's children who looked like Mother.

After working the ranch in Burbank with brother Charles, he next learned the plumbing trade when they returned to Los Angeles at the same shop as Charley. Then he and Charley bought the shop, which then became the original "Swinnerton Bros. Plumbing Co."

He took uremic poisoning in 1902 and died of its results.

He, I think, was Godfrey's favourite of all his brothers and sisters and he and Mother took it especially hard when he passed away.

Godfrey always blamed the foul positions one often gets into in the plumbing business for Robert's death, and when he learned the business afterward himself, he always smoked when he had a foul job. Though he never was much of a smoker otherwise.

* * * * *

This conclude Douglas's notes - typed up by our member I hope you will agree that they make fascinating reading - one man's personal view of his family.

Have you thought of compiling notes like this for your family to pass on to your grandchildren? They will be fascinated to learn about their family's life in the 19th and 20th centuries - I am sure their lived will be very different.

* * * * *



Iola and Anna: 1922

June 17, 1922. Iola Swinnerton and Anna Neibel, winners of a beauty contest at Washington's Tidal Bathing Beach. Miss Swinnerton resides at 3125 Mount Pleasant Street NW.

Richard Swinnerton – all round sportsman and coach.

Richard Swinnerton (RS115) was born at 45 Sussex Street, Liverpool on the 22nd April 1894 and baptised at St Patrick's Roman Catholic Church, Park Place Toxteth on the 3rd of May. He was the third and only surviving son of Edward Swinnerton and his wife Margaret (Mary) née Smith and a great-great grandson of Edward Swinnerton and Elizabeth (Jones), the founders of the Wrexham branch of the family. Richard's baptism into the Catholic church was to plague him all his life. His father was not a Catholic but his mother was. This, it is assumed, caused conflict in the family, because when Richard grew up he disowned the faith, in fact when he enlisted for WW1 he said he was Church of England.

He married Florence Elizabeth Kennedy (formerly Heap) in St. Peter's, Church Street, Liverpool on the 10th October 1918. On his army records it shows that Richard had leave for the marriage, but that he had to be back with his regiment next day.



Richard and Florence on their wedding day

After he left the army he embarked on a series of sea voyages. He appears on the crew list of the *Franconia* as a swimming instructor, aged 29, sailing from Liverpool to New York on the 1st August 1923. The entire record, for some reason, has been scored through but there is a corresponding entry in the Ellis Island immigration records. He appears again on the same route, as a gym attendant, arriving in New York on the 23rd August 1923. Life at sea evidently agreed with him – on his first voyage he was recorded as 5ft 5" and weighed 10 stone 6

lbs, on the second he weighed 11 stone and had gained 3"! On another voyage, arriving on the 24th September, he is listed as a swimming bath attendant, had lost a pound in weight and was measured as 5ft 6" which is much more in keeping with his first voyage.

Before this, he crewed on the *Cedric* as a 'physical instructor' sailing on the 14 March 1925 aged 30 and that his final destination was 153, North 3rd Street, Newark, New Jersey. On this manifest, he is accompanied by his wife, Mrs Florence Swinnerton of 188 Upper Warwick Street, Liverpool and says that he has a fair complexion, brown hair and blue eyes.

Richard and Florence had three children – Stanley Hayne (1919), Edward Thomas (1921), Florence Elizabeth (1922) and in 1925, they emigrated to America. Their fourth child, Richard, was born in America in 1932.

He also had a step-daughter Ada B. Heap, born in 1915 from Florence's previous marriage. It is known that Richard had made a vow with his best friend Harry Heap at the onset of WW1 to take care of his friend's family if anything were to happen to him. In fact, he went one better, he married Florence and brought her child Ada up as his own. Harry Heap was a casualty of the sinking of the *Lusitania* in May 1915.

He continued his voyaging after his marriage sailing to New York from Liverpool on the *Franconia* on the 12th June 1936 as 'Physical Director', aged 42 and a resident of Princeton, New Jersey. He is listed again on the voyage leaving on 22nd June 1936 as residing at 59 Harrison Street, Princeton, New Jersey and is now listed as having a tattoo on his right forearm which I suspect has been there since his soldiering days.

A cutting from the *Liverpool Echo* for October 1921 gives us a fine account of his early career:

"The Florence Institute has been the nursery of the finest gymnasts in this district, and one of the most successful is Richard Swinnerton, the subject of this week's sketch.

In 1910 he joined the "Florence" as a boy, and in his first year won the junior championship, novice medal, and was third in the senior championship. He was runner-up for the senior championship in 1912 and won many medals in the Florence Swimming Club, being also the best junior five-miles runner.

He was now improving rapidly and the following year won the senior championship, also the 50 and 100 yards, neat dive, and four lengths handicap in the Swimming gala held at the Steple-Street Baths.

To gain experience Mr Swinnerton joined the Liverpool Gymnasium the same season, and was runner-up for the Championship. Then the war came and he enlisted in the Manchester Regiment, but he continued to gain honours while with the regiment. He was the five-mile cross country champion, was in the mile relay team which won the championship of the Humber Defences, and in 1915 was just beaten by

one yard in the 220 yards' swimming championship of the Humber Defences by D. Grimsby.

Boxing Champion.

Mr Swinnerton was also welter-weight boxing champion of the Regiment, and won the catch-weight title by knocking out Corpl Burke in three rounds at Grimsby in 1915. After serving overseas with his regiment he went to Aldershot for his examination, passing his tests successfully, and was then sent to the 1st Brigade of Guards in France, and remained with the regiment as physical instructor till the termination of the war. He



The Florence Cup – now in a sad

condition.

was awarded the MM (the newspaper erred here – in fact he was awarded the MSM – the Meritorious Service Medal) and also received from the Gymnastic Staff four parchment certificates for good work.

After leaving the Army Mr Swinnerton re-joined the Liverpool Gymnasium, and in 1921 won the Cookson Cup and the following year the Abercromby Cup (Liverpool and District Championship). The same year he captained the Liverpool Gym team which won the N.P.R.S. 200-Guinea Shield, for the last time before that society went into liquidation. He was working so well at the time that had he remained in Liverpool there is little doubt that he would have been included in the Olympic team of last year.

After having taken two cruises of the world as gym instructor, he remained in the United States, where his first appointment was a very prestigious position at an internationally renowned sport venue, that of director of Madison-square Gardens Gymnasium, which he last year resigned to take up a position as physical director in Newark High School, and he turned out a winning team in the annual meet of the high schools of that city. At present Mr Swinnerton is directing a large recreational centre, where he handles 1,500 school pupils, and a few weeks ago he was invited to coach the Y.M.C.A. team of Newark.

Another newspaper cutting from *The Trenton Times*, New Jersey, July 1960 says:

Princeton's Swinnerton Put Kennedy In The Swim

Richard Swinnerton, the man who taught John F. Kennedy how to swim when the Massachusetts Senator was only 10 years old, said today he had expected his former pupil to win the Democratic residential nomination. "I wasn't surprised when Jack was nominated" Swinnerton declared. "He always was an ambitious lad who really went after it when he wanted something".

Swinnerton is the freshman tennis coach at Princeton University. An accomplished swimmer, gymnast and boxer, the 67 year-old English-man taught swimming during the Summer at the once-fashionable Cape Cod resort of Centerville for 15 years.



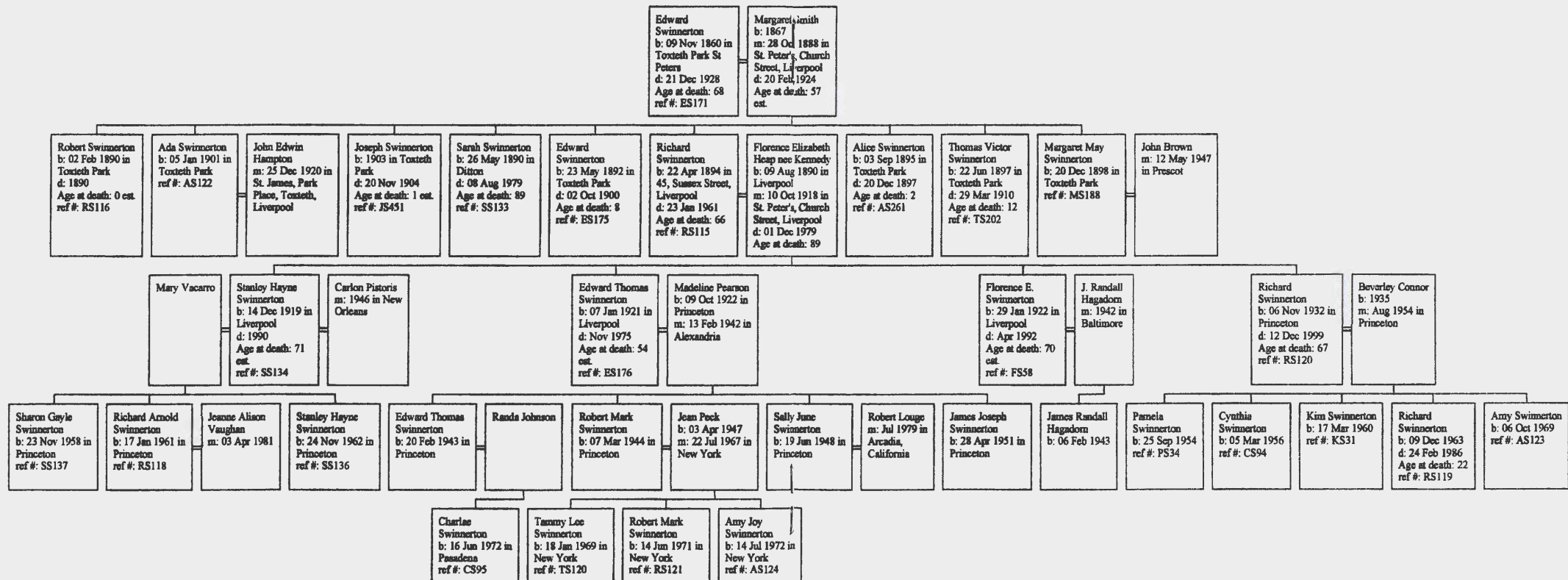
Thirty three years ago in 1927 Jack Kennedy was his star pupil. The swimming instruction was important to Senator Kennedy in later years. In 1943 Lieutenant J.G.Kennedy's PT boat was cut in half by a Japanese destroyer. Holding a wounded shipmate's life-preserver strap between his teeth, Kennedy saved his own life and that of his shipmate by enduring a five hour swim to the

safety of a South pacific Island.

"Jack has a lot of fortitude" Swinnerton said. During those Cape Cod years Swinnerton taught swimming to the entire Kennedy family, including Jack's four sisters, his older brother Joseph Jr., who was killed in World War II, and Robert the Senator's campaign manager today. Ted Kennedy, another brother who played a major role in the Senator's pre-convention campaign was "too young" to be swimming in those days, Swinnerton reported. Swinnerton has fond memories of his association with the Democratic nominee. "Jack never was one of those wise-cracking kids", he said. "He always had a ready smile and he always respected you" Swinnerton remembered.

According to Swinnerton the thick head of hair which has become a Kennedy trademark was prominent during the Senator's childhood. Through the urging of Swinnerton young Jack enrolled as a freshman at Princeton University in 1935, but he was forced to leave school for a year because of illness. In the following year much to Swinnerton's regret, Kennedy enrolled at Harvard. He graduated in the class of 1940 from the Massachusetts University.

Descendants of Edward Swinnerton of Wrexham





He was coach at Princeton University for 36 years, until 1962. This included coaching Gymnastics (3 US National Championships); Rowing Crews (heavy 8's); Boxing; Squash; Cricket; Varsity Tennis and Freshman Tennis (US National Record 115 wins - 7 losses) Each year Princeton University now gives a sterling silver award in his name **The Richard Swinnerton Bowl** to the outstanding Princeton University Freshman.

During the WW2 years he conducted three "physical training sessions" each day where he led large groups on five mile runs with calisthenics, to get them fit in anticipation of their going into action.

Richard Swinnerton died on the 23rd January 1951 aged 66.

* * * * *

I am very grateful to Brian Swinnerton of Liverpool who has given me a great deal of help with this article and also supplied the photographs and the central tree. Also to Richard's grandson, James Randall Hagadorn, who gave us the information on the Richard Swinnerton Bowl award at Princeton University which we had not previously heard of.



This photograph was taken while Richard was still in the army (note the soldiers' boots and puttees) and they appear to have been practicing with Lances.



This photograph was taken in Germany after the war during the occupation (note the Sgt on the left of the civilian is wearing a full set of WW1 service chevrons on his lower sleeve. Richard is wearing the cap badge of the Army Gymnastic Staff).

Rachel's Ordination

28th June 2009 - Lichfield Cathedral

After years of soul-searching, selection panels and intensive study at Ridley Hall, Cambridge, Rachel's big day had at last arrived. As parents of one of the ordinands it was to be an entirely new experience for Keith and me. Rachel had been on retreat with the other ordinands and Keith and I had been anticipating the day ahead. It felt like a combination of Graduation Day and Wedding Day all rolled into one. We had attended ordinations before but never with such a personal interest.

The day promised to be hot and humid. For us 28th June began early with a light breakfast and a slightly nervous but excited Rachel making sure she had all her robes, stole etc ready for the service. We had to be at Lichfield Cathedral by 8.45 am. Rachel was safely deposited with her peers and left to get changed while we met other members of the family who were arriving from various parts of the country. Keith and I along with other close members of the family and godparents did have specially reserved seats but other people who had been important in Rachel's spiritual journey had seats guaranteed though not reserved. Everyone had to be seated by 9.30 in readiness for the start of the service at 10.00 am. It was a very proud and moving moment when "our little girl" processed down the aisle and took her seat beside us until she and the other ordinands were called to take their places at the front ready to be ordained by Bishop Jonathan.

It was a relatively long service lasting almost two hours but it was not hard to concentrate as there was so much happening. Two incidents stand out in my memory. Rachel had had to nominate three people to take communion with her - Keith and I along with our younger daughter, Emma, were privileged to be those three. Later communion was shared with all those in the congregation. Another special moment was when all the newly ordained deacons were invited to bestow a joint blessing on the congregation - the first of their new lives in God's service.

After the service everyone spilled out on to the Cathedral Green where there was time to take photographs and to chat to family and friends. We were very touched by how many people from Rachel's past and present travelled from all over the country to support her on her special day.

Rachel had arranged to have a reception in Erasmus Darwin house just a stone's throw across the Green. By the time we arrived we were all ready to do justice to the delicious buffet prepared and served by catering staff from the Cathedral. It had been a long time since our early 'light breakfast'. It wasn't to be an occasion for speeches but one very proud father did have to say a few words! There was an open invitation for people to join Rachel at her new curate's house in Streetly and we were again touched by how many people took the time to do just that before starting their journeys home.

At Petertide next year Rachel will be priested and that will mainly involve the folk from her new parish although some who were unable to attend the ordination have requested an invitation to the priesting.

The day brought back memories of a childhood holiday when my father drove the family from our Manchester home to the south coast. At a place called Lichfield he stopped the car and we all piled out. Dad pointed out the beautiful cathedral with its three spires and we took photographs. Little did we know how important Lichfield would become to the family and that so many years later we would be attending that same cathedral on such a special occasion.

* * *

Rachel herself says:

In June 2009, five hundred years after Thomas Swynarton was admitted to Holy Orders at Lichfield Cathedral, I excitedly followed in the footsteps of several family members and was ordained deacon. (I wonder how some of my ancestors would have felt about lady vicars!) Very pleased to be coming back to Lichfield Diocese after a couple of glorious years training for ministry at Ridley Hall in Cambridge, I'm serving my title at All Saints in Streetly and will be priested at Petertide next year.

At the moment, each day brings new challenges: baptising my first baby; conducting my first funeral; singing choral evensong; negotiating Archbishop's Office advice on swine flu; and getting used to simply 'being' in Holy Orders. I absolutely love it, although wandering around town in a dog collar has provoked some interesting responses.

My ordination day itself went by in something of a blur. There were twenty-five new deacons ordained in Lichfield this year, twelve on Saturday afternoon and thirteen on Sunday morning. We had rehearsed in the Cathedral on Thursday before heading to Shallowford House near Eccleshall on retreat - a real blessing after Cambridge finals and the move into Streetly curate's house. By Sunday I was excited yet strangely calm. We robed in College Hall and then, slightly self-conscious in our new vestments, swept across the Close and into the packed Cathedral.

Two things stand out for me about the service: Firstly, having confirmed that we were all "*of Godly life and sound learning*," the bishop asked the people in the congregation if they were willing for us to be ordained whether they would pray for us and support and encourage our ministry. I found their resounding "*we will*" really moving. Secondly, I was blessed to be able to receive Communion alongside Mum, Dad and Emma then watch the fifty friends and family who had come to support me coming forward from all corners of the cathedral.

All too soon the service ended and thirteen new Reverends were sent out into the world, pausing briefly for a photo call in the shadow of the three spires. I had a wonderful day, although I have to confess that I didn't really feel different afterwards - that came the following Sunday as

I climbed the pulpit steps for the first time and looked out over my new congregation.

I would like to thank you for your prayers and encouragement on my journey. I am honoured to have the care of the Swynnerton bible and I look forward to being able to serve you in some way in the future.

Rev'd Rachel Livesey,

* * * *

For readers from other denominations who may not be familiar with the Church of England ceremonies, this year sees a further increase in the numbers of new clergy being ordained by the Church of England. Some 396 new deacons will be ordained around the country this summer (Petertide), up from 363 in 1998. The total for the year, including ordinations at Michaelmas and other times, already estimated at 464, looks set to be the highest since the '80s.

The 9% increase in Petertide ordinations contributes to a rise of more than a quarter since 1997. The ordinations will include 255 new male and 141 new female deacons and represent a swing towards stipendiary ministry, which 287 new deacons are expected to enter this year. The average age of new clergy also shows another fall, with the greatest increases in the 20-29 and 30-39 age groups.

Clergy in the Church of England generally serve as deacons for one year before being ordained priest. They can then consecrate the bread and wine at the Holy Communion, pronounce absolution and give a blessing in the name of Christ. Some 362 deacons will be 'priested' this Petertide, an 8% increase on last year's 335.

Petertide comes from St Peter's-tide. St. Peter's true and original name was Simon, sometimes occurring in the form *Symeon*. (Acts 15:14; 2 Peter 1:1). He was the son of Jona (Johannes) and was born in Bethsaida (John 1:42, 44), a town on Lake Genesareth. The Apostle Andrew was his brother, and the Apostle Philip came from the same town. Jesus said 'You are Peter and on this rock will I build'.

(Rachel is the daughter of Keith and Elizabeth Livesey. Elizabeth was secretart of the Swinnerton Society from 1995-98 having previously been a member of the Council since 1992 while Keith was our Honorary Auditor for many years). Rachel belongs to the Adbaston Branch.

Sat 1st May 1897

BULKINGTON V ANSLEY VILLAGE

Bulkington opened their season in a match at home with Ansley Village. The margin separating the teams at the close was but three runs, but it was in Bulkington's favor (*sic*). Most every man on the home side scored, and Walter Swinnerton, the well-known footballer, contributed the highest individual effort, 6 (not out). It goes without saying that the bowling, on both sides, had some sting about it.

Nuneaton Chronicle 7th May 1897

* * * * *

Eddowes Salopian Journal
25 May 1864

Thunderstorms of unusual violence passed over a great part of the country on Thursday and Friday last. We regret to say that its effects on this county have been more fatally disastrous than any we have had to record for many years. Two men named Morris and Fletcher were killed by a lightning stroke at Little Drayton on Thursday. At Cheswardine it struck a tree near the blacksmith's shop, close to the place where a similar thing occurred two years ago. The lightning entered the smithy and Mr Swinnerton had a very narrow escape. It also knocked down a servant girl at Mr Mate's of Hanwood near Cheswardine and a galvanised iron bucket she was carrying was driven some yards across the farmyard, but the girl was not injured. At the village of Cheswardine the storm was fearfully heavy. Large hailstones fell and there was a perfect deluge of rain. At Hodnet, five sheep grazing in a field were killed by the electric fluid, and on the Hawkestone estate a waggoner and two fine horses were deprived of life by this fearful agency. Close on the borders of the county at Buerton near Audlem a home belonging to Mr Vernon was struck by lightning and almost totally destroyed. The electric fluid also struck a tree at Chester Castle and glanced off the bayonet of a sentry without doing any material damage. At Wynnstay, the seat of Sir W W Wynn, the feeder's house was struck and the door was damaged; and a fine oak in the park was split to pieces. At Ludlow, Ironbridge and other districts of this county the storm was severely felt. On Friday, London, Liverpool, York and the whole of the north of England appear to have suffered severely, much damage being done by the sudden rise of rivers and brooks to the tillage in their neighbourhoods.

Index to Unassisted Inward Passenger Lists to Victoria 1852-1923

This is an index to Unassisted Inward Passenger Lists for British, Foreign and New Zealand Ports 1852-1923.

Swinnerton

First Name	Age	Month	Year	Ship	Port
MISS	28	MAR	1889	IBERIA	B
MR	A	NOV	1886	HAUROTO	N
MRS	26	NOV	1890	OROTAVA	B
MRS	20	FEB	1884	DUKE OF SUTHERLAND	B
MRS	40	MAR	1910	RUNIC	B
MRS	52	FEB	1900	WAIKARE	N
BENJ	30	JAN	1864	CHAMPION OF THE SEAS	N
CHAS	31	FEB	1884	DUKE OF SUTHERLAND	B
E A MRS	68	JUN	1923	MOERAKI I	N
E REVD	39	JUL	1886	AUSTRAL	B
FANNY	47	FEB	1863	ROYAL FAMILY	B
J J MR	32	NOV	1890	OROTAVA	B
J S MISS	20	OCT	1885	LIGURIA	B
J W MASTER	4	MAR	1910	RUNIC	B
J W MR	36	JUN	1910	SUEVIC	B
JAMES	21	FEB	1890	ORMUZ	B
JAS	41	MAR	1910	RUNIC	B
JAS	21	FEB	1890	ORMUZ	B
JOHN	27	DEC	1879	ORIENT	B
JOSEPH	23	FEB	1863	ROYAL FAMILY	B
ROBT	37	JAN	1912	THEMISTOCLES	B
S N MISS	18	SEP	1912	PORT LINCOLN	B
THOS	33	JAN	1864	CHAMPION OF THE SEAS	N
WALTER	20	FEB	1884	DUKE OF SUTHERLAND	B

Index to Assisted British Immigration 1839-1871

This is an index to VPRS 14 Register of Assisted British Immigrants 1839-1871

Swinnerton

Family Name	Given Name	Age	Month	Year	Ship
SWINNERTON	BETTY	13	NOV	1841	WALLACE
SWINNERTON	CAROLINE	33	NOV	1841	WALLACE
SWINNERTON	JAMES	17	NOV	1841	WALLACE
SWINNERTON	JOSEPH	38	NOV	1841	WALLACE
SWINNERTON	LOUISA	3	NOV	1841	WALLACE
SWINNERTON	MARGT	8	NOV	1841	WALLACE
SWINNERTON	THOMAS	5	NOV	1841	WALLACE
SWINNERTON	WILLIAM	28	OCT	1848	BERKSHIRE
SWINNERTON	WILLIAM	28	OCT	1848	BERKSHIRE
SWINNERTON	WILLIAM	11	NOV	1841	WALLACE

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Society of Australian Genealogists Indexes

Primary Index (cards)

Swinnerton. Fred Pilkington. – in Papua during WWI
(Account of life of John McDonald born 1894, written by himself in 1984. 21pp. 4/11,365)

General Index (cards)

Swinerton. Thomas of NSW 1792. Newspaper cuttings
Vol.18, 24 Col.A.
Settled 1798 at Field of Mars, by grant from Gov. Phillip
1792
80 ac. At entrance of creek leading to Paramatta.
(see H.R.Aust. series I. Vol.2 pl.45
Also Sydney Gazette Apr.15 1824)

A letter from Australia

Dear Iain,

Have just spent a few days on the beach in Noosa – Queensland and whilst waiting for a delayed departure airline from Sydney to Bathurst, read the latest Saga. The item on page 40 - The Swinnerton Fan Company was the business my grandfather, Alfred John, started in White Bay (Rozelle) Sydney – when my grandfather passed the business on to his eldest son, Mark Alfred, Mark started more factories – one in Gladesville Sydney, one near Windsor and the last one in Gosford. When my grandfather retired, the White Bay factory was closed (those premises were then rented out as shops until Mark sold the land around the mid 1960's I think). The Gladesville factory closed about 1995 or 1996 (not sure when the Windsor factory closed but it was before Gladesville). The Gosford one is still operating having been handed down by Mark to his second eldest son, Gregory. Gregory lives in Saratoga and I would presume that the address in the advertisement is his home – don't know why he would use it as Mark built the factory in West Gosford in order to start another arm of the business many years before.

I will ask Tes if he can remember when his father started the business in Rozelle and I may be able to search that business name at work as part of our department regulates business names – would be interesting to know exactly how long the name has been continuously registered and operating. I do remember that the fans (blowers as we used to know them as) were installed in all sorts of factories, crematoriums – anything which needed extrusion fans or the ilk.

Tes may also remember the Ernest Fleming firm – I will check to see if they are still operating too.

Glenda (Simpson)

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Restored Cars No. 2. Vol. 1 January 1974

Information on the car building exploits of Alfred SWINNERTON of Leichardt, N.S.W. is very limited but it is known that he made his first model in 1908, and another in 1914. This latter, a 2-seater, was something of a contradiction, in that it employed old-fashioned belt drive transmission and also very advanced chassisless construction. The 4cyl. 11hp. engine from this model is in Sydney's Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences.

A Betley Inventory transcribed by Roy Talbot

The elder of the two sons of John Swynnerton (JS61, son of Thomas, progenitor of Betley branch) and Margaret was baptised Edward (ES326) in Whitmore 29th August 1602. He was not in the world long, being buried there 23rd December 1633 having married one Deborah Smith 24th November 1632 in Barthomley. His only child John (JS167) was baptised posthumously 19th January 1634 also in Barthomley. No will has survived but there exists an inventory in which, happily, the sum total corresponds to the sum of its parts.

May the xxijth Ano Domi[ni] 1634

A true inventory of all the goods cattles debts and creditts w[h]ich weare Edward Swin[ner]ton late of Whitmore in the countie of Stafford gentleman deceased taken and indifferently aprayed ye daye and yeare above written by Willm Lownes John Whitlocke James Asbury and Peter Middleton as followeth

Imprimis one blacke cowe price _____	iiij£
Item xvjten sheepe price _____	xxxvj s
iiij d	
Item one bedd w[i]th some clothes belonging to it _____	x s
Item one cubbert and a table leafe _____	ij s iiij
d	
Item one caffer _____	ij s
Item one axe & one spade w[i]th one iron bo[u]nde mall _____	ij s iiij
d	
Item one deare skinne _____	v s
Item one little cottage w[i]th gardine and backside _____	xij s
iiij d	
Item one pastuer of ground determinable upon like for 2 yeuws —	L s
Item one pastuer of tillable ground in like manner _____	xij s
Item bales in the barne _____	xx d
Item hony in the barne _____	x s
Item his apparrell _____	xij s

Sum[m]a totalis is

xi£ xij d

Debts owing by the deceased
to severall persons vi d
Mr Mintridge _____ v s
Randall Westonn _____ xx s
James Asbury _____ xvij s iiij d

The Duke of Shoreditch

Here is another story of general interest.

Did You Know?

that although you won't find him amongst the hereditary peerage, the Duke of Shoreditch was a real person?

In the sixteenth century, Mile End was still a mere waste of fields, dotted with windmills and much frequented by archers, for practising at roving marks. King Henry VIII was a competent and enthusiastic archer who used to go to Mile End to see the London archers at their sports.

In the 29th year of his reign Henry granted London's archers a charter of incorporation, by the name of the Fraternity of St George, this being celebrated with an archery competition at Windsor. He conferred on an archer from Shoreditch named Barlow, who had out-shot all comers at the competition, the jocular title of Duke of Shoreditch. This was retained by the captain of London's archers for a considerable time afterwards.

In 1583, in the reign of Elizabeth, the captain of the archers assumed his title of Duke of Shoreditch and called together his companions who adopted such titles as the Marquises of Hoxton, Clerkenwell and Islington, the Earl of Pancras, and so forth, who all arrived with their own companies of archers. A total of some three thousand archers, sumptuously appareled, every man carrying a long-bow and four arrows, were attended by four thousand billmen as well as pages and footmen; they met at Merchant Taylors' Hall, from whence they marched to Smithfield, to shoot at targets for honour.

Did you also that the origin of the rude two-fingered sign (the opposite way round to Winston Churchill's V for Victory sign) originated with the Welsh archers who were the bulk of our bowmen at Agincourt? If the French captured an archer they used to cut off his first two fingers so that he could not draw his bowstring ever again. The bowmen used to stick two fingers up at the French to show that they still, had them!

* * * * *

Mrs Marjorie Rose Swinnerton

Just as I was going to press I heard the sad news that Marjorie Swinnerton of Great Camborne, Cambridgeshire had died aged 87. She had been a member of the society since 1982 and was the widow of Charles Richard Swinnerton (CS51), the musician in Billy Cotton's Band. Charles was a member of our London2 Branch, descended from William Swinnerton who was born around 1798 and Elizabeth née Sargent. Our sympathy goes to her family.



Rachel with her parents Keith and Elizabeth at her ordination at Lichfield Cathedral



Memorial plaque in Nuneaton



Published by I.S.Swinnerton

ISSN: 0508 6755