

The Swinnerton Saga



The ruined church at Stanway built by Sir John Swinnerton in 1607, Sheriff (see page 77). It stands in the grounds of Colchester Zoo in the grounds of was his home – Stanway Manor but is now fenced off as unsafe

THE JOURNAL OF SWINNERTON FAMILY HISTORY

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Oil on Panel
7.9ins x 10.8ins
1883
Last sold at auction by Phillips
4 March 1999
Present location unknown

THE SWINNERTON SAGA

**Volume 14
Number 4**

**December
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From the Editor

I have received a letter from Nesta Williams, the secretary of St Mary's, Swynnerton PCC in which she asks me to convey their thanks to the Society for its most generous donation to St.Mary's. She says they hope to start work on repairing the arch in the new year and the donation is a tremendous boost to their renovation funds.

More and more information is appearing on the internet, much of it very useful but it needs treating with great care. Even the major websites such as Find my Past and Ancestry rely on non-British transcribers and computer operators and the result can sometimes be very misleading and, occasionally, amusing. Recent transcripts of WWI medal roll cards have resulted in thousands of men having Aldershot listed as the first overseas Theatre of War they entered!

There is also a lot of wishful thinking out there with people making unwarranted suppositions in their contributions to family websites without citing their sources.

There are also many cases where people have misinterpreted old records because they have obviously not understood them. In a recent item our master surfer, Ray Swinnerton, picked up, it said:

Ancestry of Helen Swinnerton. The Swinnertons were originally Peshales and, as we have seen, Adam de Peshale (1) married Alice Swinnerton....

No source is given but it is, of course, arrant nonsense. The first Swinnerton to change his name to de Peshale was Richard, the fifth son of John de Swynnerton and his wife Eleanor de Peshale, who inherited his mother's manor.

I also find that enquirers about descent from a female member of our family, having been supplied with the details of the connection by me, promptly add us to a tree on their website.

So, in the interest of accuracy, we have now started to put our own family trees on our website (www.swinnerton.org) and ours are all fully sourced from our records. In the capable hands of our webmaster, Malcolm Smith, our site is getting better and better all the while – Malcolm has accumulated a great deal of very interesting material on the site and I do recommend that you look at it regularly.

Thank you all for your support over the past year and my very best wishes for a very Happy Christmas to you and your families.

Iain Swinnerton

The Financial Times.

Historians look to the future - Alicia Clegg 10 August 2009.

HSBC appears to think so. A few years ago, the bank, which has a corporate archive in London, gave **Helen Swinnerton** in Hong Kong the job of developing an archive for the Asia-Pacific region. Now the bank plans to appoint other regional archivists, starting in North America. Ms Swinnerton says having an archive has allowed HSBC to emphasise its survival over the years through economic crises and even world war.

Smart and out-going, Ms Swinnerton and Ms Clapp epitomise a younger generation that challenges the stereotype of the bookish archivist in cardigan and spectacles. The new breed came on the scene in the 1990s, armed with IT skills and postgraduate degrees in archive administration and record management. Before that, most archives were run by staff enthusiasts nearing retirement, says Katey Logan, business archives consultant at Logan McCabe, who compiled the best practice website for the National Archives.

(Helen is the daughter of Ray Swinnerton, our subscriptions secretary).

* * * * *

The Potteries Coalfield

The exposed part of the coalfield, centred on the Potteries conurbation, is triangular shaped. The southern base of the triangle is irregular where the Coal Measures dip beneath later Triassic strata and are bound by the **Swynnerton Fault**.

To the West, the coalfield is bound by the Red Rock Fault against the Trias, while the eastern flank is formed by the outcropping of the underlying Namurian strata as the eastern flank of the Werrington antiform (dome) is approached. About forty coal horizons are recorded as having been worked, often from horizons exhibiting a high angle of dip from a Coal Measures sequence which is over 1,100 metres thick.

Herbert Sanders – a Biographical sketch.

Born in England, Herbert Sanders studied organ with **Charles Swinnerton** and Charles W. Perkins and studied theory with Charles H. Kitson. An organist and violinist in England, Sanders emigrated to Canada in 1907 and became organist at Chalmers' Guelph Presbyterian Church and Dominion Methodist Church in Ottawa (1908-29). In 1929, he became Music Director of the Salle Tudor in Montreal, where he also gave numerous organ recitals. He primarily composed organ music, hymns and motets, including *Light's Glittering Morn*.

(I assume this is, in fact, Charles Swinnerton Heap, Elgar's favourite chorus master, and not Charles Swinnerton who played with Billy Cotton's band!)

* * * * *

Some interesting figures.

Surname summary data for Swinnerton

WHAT IS IN THIS DATABASE?* This is an extract of an Office of National Statistics database, and contains a list of surnames in use in England, Wales and the Isle of Man in September 2002. The list contains almost 270,000 surnames, shared by 54.4 million people. The entire database contains over a million surnames, shared by 55.9 million people, but names shared by fewer than five people have been excluded from this list. The database was established in 1998, and births are continually added, but the 1.5 million deaths between 1998 and 2002 have not been weeded from the system. The database is also said to include a level of duplicate entries and misspelt surnames, as well as people currently living abroad and temporary visitors to England and Wales. However, experience suggests that multiplying the result for your surname by 0.93 will give a good idea of the living population for your surname.

There were 845 persons with the name of Swinnerton which ranked 7456th. So - going on their figures, we were 0.0014% of the population!

Camden's Diary for the year 1603 (William Camden (1551-1623) English antiquary and historian).

March 24 Queen Elizabeth died between 2 and 3 am. The Lords Spiritual and Temporal, together with her former Privy Councillors, forming a provisional government, proclaimed James King.

March 25 They sent Charles Percy and Thomas Lord Somerset to the King with letters in which they signified these things and requested him to come into England as quickly as possible.

March 28 George Carew and Thomas Lake were sent to inform the King of the current state of affairs.

April 6 The King entered Berwick.

April 8 Disturbances in the Border country, and at Waterford and elsewhere in Ireland.

April 10 Southampton and other prisoners were freed

April 15 Cecil the Secretary, summoned to York, began his journey thither.

April 28 Elizabeth's funeral service was performed.

May Henry Howard, Thomas Howard and Baron Mountjoy were taken onto the Privy Council at Theobalds.

May 7 Setting forth from Theobalds, the King was first received by **Sheriff Swinnerton**, whose orator rather severely criticized the administration of the realm under Elizabeth for His Majesty's benefit. Afterwards he was received by the Lord Mayor and the citizenry, and led off to the Carthusian Hall where he created eighty knights in a bunch.

* * * * *

Errata:

Richard Swinnerton died in January 1961 not 1951 as given in the September Saga (page 62). The date on the tree on the centre page is correct.

Douglas Swinnerton.

Roy Swinnerton has written to tell me that his brother Douglas (a member of the society from 1978 to 2007) died on the 19th August, two months short of his 92nd birthday. Roy says Douglas passed away peacefully in his sleep at the nursing home in Whitehaven, where he had been for two years. David, his son, who works at Sellafield, had him moved there from the hospital in Stoke in 1997 so as to be near him.

Douglas was almost deaf and could see very little, in fact he was registered blind, but David, on one of his last visits, had managed to read to his father most of the notes on the Blackpool Swinnertons from the March and June Sagas and his dad had shown great interest – apparently he had visited them once or twice before the War. Roy says Doug used to like visiting his relatives on his bike (he was a notable cyclist like all the rest of the Stoke family) and he covered many miles in the 30s in this way.

Roy went on to say that he was pleased to read the article himself as he had often wondered what had happened to his uncle's family. He knew that his elder brothers and sisters had kept in touch before and just after the War but all he saw were the "Swinnertons' chicken snacks" in their greaseproof wrappers – he thinks they must have been one of the early takeaways.



Douglas Swinnerton 1917-2009

Roy says that he and Doris are both jogging along (at 84!); they are not doing as much as cycling as they would like but they have not given up trying! They now have five great-grand-childrenand counting!

Doug hits 50-mark

DOUG SWINNERTON, most unsung member of the redoubtable local cycling family, has his own claim to fame. He has just completed 50 years on the table tennis scene.

Mr. Swinnerton, of Higherland, Newcastle, will be 70 by the time the next Potteries and District League season is in full

By Sportsman

swing and he has every intention of re-registering.

"It all began in the messroom at Whieldon Sanitary Pottery at lunchtimes, he says. We used the old benches for a table and I took along a net and some bats.

"I started the family in cycle racing, but my brother, Roy, was better than me so, at the age of 18, I was playing table tennis with Mount Pleasant St. Paul's in what was the Stoke-on-Trent League at the time."

Mr. Swinnerton also played for the Mount Tabor Church club, who overlooked the fact that he is a Roman Catholic, and

in 1948 he began his long association with M.E.S.C., after joining the company as an electrical fitter.

The M.E.B. Sports Club presented Mr. Swinnerton with an inscribed tankard to mark his half century in table tennis, a feat he chiefly attributes to his fitness.

He is a non-smoking former Royal Marine Commando, who prefers to walk or take a bus rather than drive.

"It is not that I cannot afford a car," he says. "I simply don't want one."

Mr. Swinnerton has had more enjoyment than reward out of the game. He says: "I have represented the Potteries and District secon team and the over-40s veterans team, but there are few trophies at home.

"I play in the lowest of the M.E.S.C. teams and turn out once a week during the winter season. As I tend to perspire a lot, I only play in summer when they need me."

Mr. Swinnerton has seen the tempo of the game change alarmingly, along with the equipment.

"It is much faster now and a bat that would cost me 2s. 6d. can be as much as £50 today to achieve all the spin," he says.

Searching for Swinnerton Soldiers

I think I am approaching the end of my task of identifying all members of the family who have served in the British or Indian Armies up to 1914. I have already listed all those who served from 1914-20 but after that date, records are still confidential, remain with the Ministry of Defence and are only available to the serviceman himself or his next of kin. The exception to this is the Army List of officers, published since 1754 up to the present day, which is available on open access

I spend a lot of time tracing pre-1913 servicemen in all three services in my professional capacity (and, of course, I always keep an open for any Swinnertons as I go along), mostly for people living in the former colonies such as Australia, New Zealand, Canada, India and the United States whose ancestor served in one of those countries, liked the place and decided to stay there when his time was up.

The enlistment may have been any time from King George III to King George V and his records could take in one of the many campaigns which established the British Empire.

However, we now have at least three generations of whom the great majority has never done any form of military service or had any contact with anyone who has. World War II ended in 1945 and the last National Serviceman left the army in 1961. Thus the only people left with any contact with the military today are the friends and relatives of the members of our small modern army. As a result, the general public is not familiar with military matters except for what they see on television. Army nomenclature, the meaning of the initials used for units and personnel (my wife would tell you, after many years of listening to conversations, that the army usually spoke in initials!), and the general organisation and jargon are a closed book to them.

Consequently, when they attempt to use military records to help them in their search for their ancestor, they are confronted with a host of unfamiliar names and terms. The present day textbooks on tracing army ancestry all assume the reader has knowledge of these but, as a well-known author of books on World War I records found when he attempted his first book, lack of understanding of the basic organisation, history and traditions of the army can be a

author of books on World War I records found when he attempted his first book, lack of understanding of the basic organisation, history and traditions of the army can be a severe handicap.

There is a myth prevalent in some quarters that you can only trace a military ancestor if he was an officer. That is not so: it is sometimes slightly easier to trace an officer but, providing you know which regiment he was in, or can find out, it is perfectly possible to trace an ordinary soldier back to the middle 1700s.

The documents giving details of regular soldier's careers during the 19th and early 20th centuries until the end of the First World War are held at The National Archives, Kew (TNA).

The principal records are the soldier's **Discharge Papers** for those men discharged with a pension before 1883 (after this date all soldiers' records are included whether they were pensioned or not). Most of the papers for those discharged without a pension before 1883 were destroyed by fire many years ago. So - to find the records of a soldier who left the army before this date, I have to search for his discharge.

The records are grouped by date - those for 1760 -1854 are now on the TNA's website as are the two supplementary series consisting of miss-sorts or for the surprising number of men who joined the army under a false name and whose true identity was either declared by the soldier at a later date or was later discovered. Despite this, you will still find many records in the ordinary series which include an affidavit made by the soldier giving his proper name. These supplementary series cover 1843 -1913. Happily for us these are all indexed alphabetically for the whole of the army so it is easy to pick up the Swinnertons very quickly.

Other periods are not so easy - from 1855 -1872 they are arranged alphabetically by regiment and from 1873 - 1882 alphabetically within the arm of service, i.e. cavalry, infantry, artillery and corps.

For the period 1855 -1882, therefore, I need to know whether he served in the Cavalry, Infantry, Artillery,

Engineers etc. and, from 1855 -1872 his regiment because, as well as the Guards and Household Cavalry, there were in that period 28 Cavalry Regiments and over 100 Infantry Regiments. It would be a mammoth task to search them all! From 1883 -1913 they are again listed alphabetically for the whole of the army.

Digitisation is proceeding apace and TNA hope to have them all on their website by the end of 2010. The documents should include his attestation papers - the forms he completed when he joined the army. These give his place of birth, age on joining, trade or occupation before joining, and a physical description. One always has to remember though that these personal details are only what he told the recruiting officer.

It does worry me that family historians are inclined to accept any so-called official document such as birth, marriage and death certificates, entries in parish registers et al, as gospel whereas, in fact, they are only what one person told another.

The documents will also give details of his promotions or demotions, conduct, medals awarded, illnesses, and places where he served. Finally, they tell you the place and date of his discharge and usually an address where he intended to live so that he could be paid his pension. In later documents, you will often find details of next of kin and brothers and sisters and a medical history. You will certainly find his signature, if he was literate, often several times. However, many soldiers weren't and this was still true with some men called up in the 50s and 60s for National Service.

Not all the records are complete by any means and the **Medal Rolls** for various campaigns starting with Waterloo and including campaigns in India, Africa, New Zealand and China can be useful in filling in gaps.

Another very useful set of records are the **Regimental and Depot Description Books**. These were compiled on enlistment and commence in about 1825 following a number of scandals about fraudulent enlistment - men joining and then quickly deserting and joining another regiment to get another bounty. They give personal details and were extremely useful for providing information to the

police if a man deserted. It was from this date that soldiers were first given personal numbers but these were regimental numbers and if a man transferred to another regiment, a not-infrequent occurrence, he would be given a new number.

The other main records are the **Pay Lists and Muster Rolls** which sometimes, particularly for those soldiers who were not

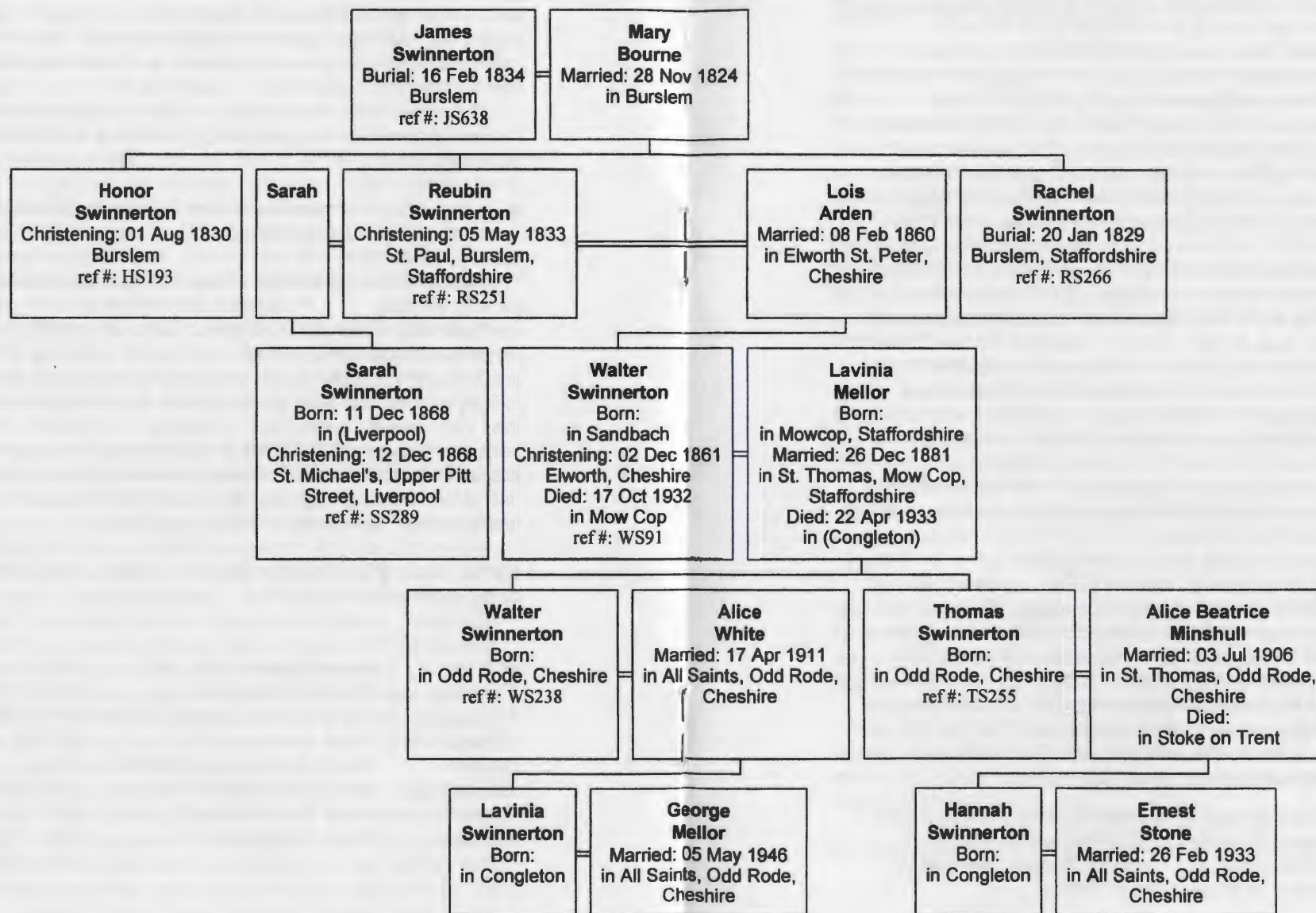
discharged to pension because they took an early discharge or died in service, are the only source of information about a soldier before 1883.

Pensions were awarded either on medical grounds or for long service. All soldiers admitted to pension were, and still are, Chelsea Pensioners but only a very small minority actually lived, or live, in Chelsea Hospital. These are the splendid old men in their scarlet coats you see at military ceremonies. The great majority lived, and still do, in their own homes, in the UK or overseas. Before 1883, their pensions were paid by District Staff Officers. The payments are all listed in the staff officers returns and can be very useful in following the moves of pensioners to different areas and the date of death if this is not known.

So far, I have found the following Swinnertons in the British Army between 1760 and 1913:

William	Royal Sussex Regiment	1803
Thomas	Cheshire Regiment	1815-1826
Alfred	Royal Artillery killed in Afghanistan in 1880	
William Henry	Royal Artillery	1882-88
William	King's Shropshire Lt Infantry	1899
Samuel	North Staffordshire Regiment	1898-1910
William	North Staffordshire Regiment	1880-1911
Stephen	Royal Engineers	1901-1902}
		1904-1910}

Descendants of James Swinnerton of Burslem



Swinnerton Soldiers in the Indian Army.

We also have had several Swinnertons in the Indian Army. I think that I now have a complete record of their services.

You may remember that I included in the April 2007 *Saga* a reference to the marriage in Madras in 1862, of Charles Swinnerton, an Army Scripture Reader, and in the last issue, I told you that I had received a letter from Caroline Vicary of Lawson NSW who sent me her table of descent from Edith Julia Swinnerton, her grandmother, who was the daughter of Charles Swinnerton who married Maud Massey in 1874 in India.

Well, unfortunately, she had picked up the wrong Charles whose descendants we know all about. So I did some research at the India Office and found that her great-grand father Charles was, in fact, the Army Scripture Reader. When I told her this, she obtained some copies of certificates copied out by hand by her Uncle which showed that Charles was born in Birmingham on the 17 October 1856 and I was then immediately able to pinpoint him as CS205, the son of William Swinnerton and Mary Emma née Clewley.

He had married Evaline Sarah Sarah Haslewood in Madras and, according to Caroline, family knowledge said they had had daughters:

1. Milicent Florence born in India 1888
2. Edith Julia born in India in 1895

Extensive further research found the baptism of Milicent at Cawnpore on the 21st March 1889 but I could find no trace of the other birth or baptism. So – more research needs to be done and particularly on Charles's career.

In the 1871 Census he was listed as a Gold Cutter (there is a large jewellery quarter in Birmingham), by 1882 he is an Army Scripture Reader in India and when he died in 1927 he was described as a retired Station Master!

Edith, Caroline's grandmother, married twice, firstly to Albert Edward Stroud at Dinapore in 1913 but, sadly, he died in 1935, and secondly to Carol Frederick Bevis at Benares in 1936. Edith died in Moghal Sari in 1941.

Another family history story.

His name was Fleming, and he was a poor Scottish farmer. One day, while trying to make a living for his family, he heard a cry for help coming from a nearby bog. He dropped his tools and ran to the bog. There, mired to his waist in black muck, was a terrified boy, screaming and struggling to free himself. Farmer Fleming saved the lad from what could have been a slow and terrifying death.

The next day, a fancy carriage pulled up to the Scotsman's sparse surroundings. An elegantly dressed nobleman stepped out and introduced himself as the father of the boy Farmer Fleming had saved.

'I want to repay you,' said the nobleman. 'You saved my son's life.'

'No, I can't accept payment for what I did,' the Scottish farmer replied waving off the offer. At that moment, the farmer's own son came to the door of the family hovel.

'Is that your son?' the nobleman asked. 'Yes,' the farmer replied proudly.

'I'll make you a deal. Let me provide him with the level of education my own son will enjoy. If the lad is anything like his father, he'll no doubt grow to be a man we both will be proud of.' And that he did.

Farmer Fleming's son attended the very best schools and in time, graduated from St. Mary's Hospital Medical School in London, and went on to become known throughout the world as the noted Sir Alexander Fleming, the discoverer of Penicillin.

Years afterward, the same nobleman's son who was saved from the bog was stricken with pneumonia. What saved his life this time? Penicillin. The name of the nobleman? Lord Randolph Churchill. His son's name? Sir Winston Churchill.

Someone once said: 'What goes around comes around'.

More about lola



"Lansburgh bathing girls" in 1922 near Washington, D.C. Girl on the right: Lola Swinnerton.

This photograph appeared on the internet and drew the following responses:

lola is such a mystery, she seems to have taken Washington by storm in 1920 when she was named the most beautiful girl in the District. For those who have access to historic newspapers, see the front page of the Mansfield (Ohio) News of Nov 21, 1920, for a write-up and photo:

Winner of Beauty Contest is Athlete

Miss lola Swinnerton of Washington has won an opportunity for fame and fortune in having been selected as the most beautiful of hundreds of capital girls in a recent beauty contest. Miss Swinnerton, who is a cashier in a Washington restaurant, attributes her beauty to her love of athletics and outdoor exercise. Thought we found her in Dec 1942. lola Taylor Swinnerton, described as the "Stone Woman" because of a rare disease that was hardening her legs, was getting married in Chicago to one Theron Warren. Her first husband, Gerald Swinnerton, deserted her in 1941.

(Submitted by Anonymous Tipster on Thu, 11/13/2008 - 1:27am)

Elusive lola

I haven't found a great deal more, but I did discover some newspaper clippings about her beauty contest winnings via Ancestry.com, and if it helps to narrow your search any, in 1920 she was described as an 18-year-old restaurant cashier from (and working in) Washington, D.C.
(Submitted by H.M.E. on Fri, 11/02/2007 - 6:52pm.)

lola's friend

...the girl second from the right... She is in a number of these 'bathing beauty' pics, too, and always right next to lola. They must have been best friends, or maybe even sisters!)

(Submitted by Merry on Wed, 10/24/2007 - 8:55pm.)

Ed.:In fact, the first photograph published in our September Saga names her as Anna Neibel.

* * * * *

Birch, Layer Breton & Layer Marney (Essex) Centenary Chronicles No.6 February 1997

Three hundred and eighty years ago, at the Brentwood Assizes of 10 March 1617, it was found that *a bridge on the highway to Laver de la Haye from Birch had fallen down. It ought to be rebuilt by the heirs of Sir John Swinnerton.* Just a few months later, the ruling had been made more specific and Lady Thomasine Swinnerton was named as the person responsible. Quite what happened we do not know but the matter was still outstanding 4 years later! What went on in the meantime? Was it that important? What steps was her ladyship taking to avoid her responsibilities? These are things the records cannot tell us.

* * * * *

As I thought he would, Geoffrey Swinnerton of Liverpool, our expert on Swinnerton China, quickly identified the plate on the cover of our last issue as being from the 'Ferry' series. There are illustrations of others in the series on our website.

Ann Bagot's Diary

Another excerpt from this fascinating journal of a country gentlewoman.

(Continued from the Swinnerton Saga June 2009)

January 1826

1st

We all went to church in the morning. John Sneyd (came) last night but too great an invalid from his recent fit of gout to stir - When I look round this hospitable table surrounded by both my brothers, all the Levetts, and Heneage as part of his mother all but dear Elizabeth with friendly faces of Greville and Mary how can I be thankful enough, humbly trusting that my old age will not be solitary, and if it is that such a trial to me will have been ordered by my merciful God for wise and good purposes.

3rd

The Levetts, Wm. Heneage and Egerton all went.

5th

Greville went to Blithfield tête-à-tête with dear Mary.

6th

Mary took me home.

8th

Leveson Lane and Arthur Talbot came from King's Bromley I returned with them. Newton very poorly. The day too bad to go to church.

9th

The Sneyds of Byrkley Lodge called.

Anne walks from Wolseley to Milford in deep snow

12th

I was to have gone to Milford but Newton's continued indisposition made them (Levetts) be put off as I was a comfort to Newton who was confined to his mother's room.

14th

Newton better and in the Library - the Lanes sent me to Wolseley where I could find no conveyance so e'en took to my feet and walked with great success through the beaten snow to Milford over the green path - the Levetts sent their carriage for my maid and luggage which met her coming by the carrier - found the four Levetts all well. Bertram Wm. and Heneage Legge.

16th

William and Heneage Legge went to Lord Talbot's and Dick to Westminster.

23rd

The Levetts went to Ingestre. I went to Bishton.

26th

Return'd to Milford - Miss Chetwynd arriving from Grendon unexpectedly. The Levetts return'd from Ingestre.

29th

Went to church at Stafford. Heard of the Dean of Winchester having cut down those magnificent elms in the close of that place which were planted by Charles 2nd's own hand, the greatest beauty into the bargain that the close could boast of.

30th

Newton Lane called, how differently do I spend this day¹ now to what I did in my youth my father took us twice a day to church!

31st

Levett, Lou and I dined at Bishton met Col. and Mrs. Masters who are leaving Great Heywood and going to Geneva with their six boys and Mr. Blackburn the member for Lancashire.

February 1826

4th

Went to Seabridge. Aunt Betty sending for me to Stafford. I found her in bed - thank God she does not suffer and all that ever was kindly in her nature comes out - her memory only partially failing but all her prejudices entire. Mr. Swinnerton at Butterton when he heard of my coming he desir'd Sally would send for anything I wanted and actually gave up half a days work of Aunt Betty's horses that they might be the better enabled to fetch me

3rd

Did not go to Church - Indeed could not - It is piteous to think what a state of domestick dependance one may be brought - had a good natur'd note from Mrs. Sneyd - I regret I cannot go to Keel particularly as its owner has been ill and is only now partially recovered.

6th

Return'd to Milford and desired to go the Butterton Road just to look at the old place where in my grandfather's days I was so welcome and petted a guest - How indelible are the feelings and recollections of first youth - Aunt Betty may live for years in her present state though another attack wd. probably be fatal.

¹ Does Anne refer to the anniversary of Charles 1st's beheading? The 29th appears to have been a Sunday.

Found dear Milford well and happy as I had left it - stop'd at Boultons in my road.

7th

Levett went to Lord Talbots.

8th

Louisa, Frances and I met Levett at Ingestre Rectory.

9th

Edward drove me in his little carriage to Stafford.

11th

Return'd to Milford having spent a very friendly sociable visit with Ed² and his wife.

17th

John Talbot and Col. Monckton came. George Legge brought his nice wife Augusta here from Keel - she seems a very pleasant as well as pretty personage and will I trust be an acquisition to all of us.

18th

John Talbot so very poorly he was obliged to go.

21st

The George Legges went to Sandwell instead of to Pipe in consequence of Augustus being laid up with the gout.

25th

Left kind and Friendly Milford to return home. worked in my new garden as long as I could see.

March 1826

1st

Left Lichfield at 6 o'clock and after 11 hours prosperous travelling arrived at Dr. Hay's friendly mansion at Christ Church I found my old friends Dr. and Mrs. Hay kind as usual

Christ church quite in grief from the sudden and unexpected death of the Dean's amiable wife Mrs. Smith. Mrs. Oglander alone came to dine. She is friendly to me for the Bishop's sake. I can almost fancy his picture look'd with pleasure on the group below it who all so dearly loved him

Oxford - Rickmansworth and London

3rd

The Bishop and Mrs. Oglander dined.

2 Edward Levett, rector of Ingestre, was Levett's brother.

3rd

The Bishop and Mrs. Oglander dined.

4th

Called on John George in his rooms walk'd with him and Wm. Gresley round Christ church meadow.

5th

Went with Mrs. Hay to hear the first Bampton lecture and afterwards staged the prayers. Mr. Vaux was the preacher.

6th

Left Oxford at ½ past ten - after a 6 hours journey arrived at Moneyhill where I found Wm. and his wife the latter upon her couch and suffering as when I left.

22nd

Wm. went to London.

23rd

He return'd with Dico and Walter Sneyd - intensely cold. Levett came in the evening from Milford.

April 1826

1st

Martha very unwell - Went to church at Rickmansworth on my return home found Martha had determined to go immediately to London which she did.

3rd

Wm. drove me to Berness St. in the Buggy. Elizabeth Phillimore had sent her carriage for me before my arrival - I was going to take a Hackney coach and went to Whitehall - found Elizabeth and Pe, and their 2 girls and 4 youngest boys.

4th

Phillimore came for me and took me to Walthamstow where I found Mrs. Bagot and her 5 girls well and glad to see me. We spent a couple of hours together when we return'd throughout the city. I dined and spent the rest of the day with Elizabeth and her husband.

6th

Went early shopping and then to the Neaves - I saw Digby for a minute and both her daughters - when she brought me home I found a note to say I must go to Mrs. Hallams Miles (?) Ball that evening and accordingly met the Phillimores and felt very happy not to say proud of my 5 nephews and nieces than I was sure none nicer and few so nice.

Distinguished relations in London

8th

Walked with Dico to Charing Cross by appointment Bab and I went to Lady Liverpool's³ where we staid two hours. She took me to the door of Ld. Liverpool's room meaning to take me in but hearing Mr. Pool's voice with another of the ministers we turn'd back, walked on the terrace in the garden where Mr. Legge joined us and he return'd with us to Charing Cross. I had shaken hands with Lord L. and been introduced to him - the last great work of Canove - the dying Magdalen in their drawing room. Bab and I made many calls when she set me down at Whitehall where I dress'd and went with the Phillimores to dine in Grosvenor Square - a collection of cousins - 4 Westminster boys - Dico staying there for his Sat: and Sunday - Lord Bagot and his two girls came in the evening they sail for Holland on Tuesday

14th

Left Whitehall, walked to Berners Street and went with Wm. per buggy to Moneyhill where we found Martha and Elizabeth Tynte. I am glad to be return'd though I had extremely enjoyed the days I had spent in London how I should hate to live there!

17th

Charlotte and Mr. Perceval came. Mr. Tynte also came. Wm. and Heneage Legge and a very snug party we were.

18th

Rowed by my nephews on the water.

22nd

Dico came from Westminster

23rd

Alas! a very bad account of dear George what will become of his poor Mother! God support her. Busy helping Dico with his task in geography.

.....

(I do so wish I had kept a diary like this - it would have been so interesting to my descendants to come, showing a life in a completely different age. I do have my diaries from 1960 to date but they only show my appointments and where I went!)

3 Lady Liverpool was Mary Chester Bagot, Anne's cousin. Lord Liverpool K.G. (2nd Baron Hawkesbury) was at this time Prime Minister.

The Princeton Herald. Monday November 5th 1945

Whispering By G. M. Kinnell ' 48

*" You can climb tall masts in the icy blasts and grow all lean and grim,
But I'll leave my fats in the soft, soft mats of Swinnerton's outdoor gym "*

Said a student once who was not much of a gymnast and rather less of a poet. But the poem at least reconized the fact that there exists a Princeton - Swinnerton tradition. It began in 1926. Out of a storied past, Dick Swinnerton cartwheeled into Old Nassau to teach the Tiger the world's eldest sport, gymnastics. Since the Dick has guided three Princeton teams to intercollegiate championships and his pictures fill the pages of the National Intercollegiate Athletic Association's Safety Handbook, until the name of Swinnerton has become almost synonomous with gymnastic headlines.

Generally, physical educators must not work their students strenuously to be popularly liked. Dick is an exception. Many a smile has been seen from some breathless body which is groaning in a pool of perspiration on the floor of Baker Rink. Maybe it is because Dick loves his work and earnestly desires to give all the knowledge he has to strengthening the bodies of others. But perhaps it is because Dick is Dick, whose greatest reward is a friendly, " Hello Dick, " on the campus.

While serving with the British army Dick developed his tremendous voice. Its booming thunder has quivered the sturdiest eardrum. To some expended, semi-conscious creature, whose last push-up was the final extreme of agony, Dick will often roar, " Just once more now - whilst you're fresh."

Many are the tales recounted about Dick. One of the most famous tells of the time he executed a handstand on the roof of his car to demonstrate his sobriety to a policeman.

" Whispering Dick " came to Princeton bearing many laurels. A native of Liverpool, Dick captained the British gymnastic team, which in 1920 won the international championship. During the first world war he was running, swimming, and welterweight boxing champion of the Manchester regiment. This was the regiment with which he served in France when he was wounded and awarded the Meritorious Service Medal.

Dick has over 60 medals for his gymnastic feats and his home is overflowing with trophies and souvenirs. There is a silver bowl in his living room which is dearest to his heart, and which perhaps is the epitome of Dicks 20 years with Princeton undergraduates. It was given to him by his 1937 championship team. On the bowl are inscribed the words, " To Dick, with the greatest affection and esteem from those to whom he has been a deep and lasting inspiration."

Family Notes

I am sorry to have to report the death on 26 May 2009 of Detective Sgt Michael Paul Swinnerton aged 61, a former member of the society. He was a member of the Walsall Branch and had taken early retirement in 1998.

I am also sorry to have to report the sudden death of Caroline Swinnerton, another former member of the society, a member of the Blackpool Swinnertons, who died on 24 May aged 45.

Sport in a difficult situation - Roy Swinnerton

The picture opposite was taken in 1969, ten days after our eldest daughter, Bernadette's 18th birthday. Doris and I, with three of our children, drove out to Brno, in Czechoslovakia – quite an adventure at that time.

The Championships were held at around the anniversary of date of the Soviet invasion the previous year and, as trouble was brewing, they cancelled the events for that particular day and the tanks were sent into the city to quell the riots. The smell of tear gas was heavy in the air the following day but the track was fortunately outside the city.

The local people were very loud in their resentment, which they showed in no uncertain manner every time a rider from the USSR competed and there was an incident which lives for ever in our minds. Two Soviet girls were riding the final of the World Championship Track Pursuit – on on each side of the glass-like smooth track and the packed stadium rang out with the boos and insults as the girls were held up to start.

Police and military were immediately sent in and an announcement was made on the PA that if the noise persisted, the stadium would be cleared. There was then an unbelievable silence and the final of the World Championship was completed without a cheer or clap or anything – you could have heard the proverbial pin drop!

Bernadette's beating of the Soviet girl for the Silver in the bunched sprint was popular of course and the pictures in the Czech newspapers cut off the third placed rider and just showed the American winner and Bernadette.



● Still pouring with rain at Brno, Czechoslovakia, in August, 1969, but it's all sunshine for AUDREY McELMURY (centre) of USA, winner of the women's road championship. On her right is BERNADETTE SWINNERTON (GB), runner-up. NINA TROFIMOVA (USSR) was third.



Geoffrey Swinnerton with his wife Carol at a Buckingham Palace garden party on 21st August 2009. Geoffrey was representing his late father's old comrades association 'The Brotherhood of Greek Veterans' as the surviving members are now getting on in years.

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