

*The
Swinnerton
Saga*



*The arms of John Swynnerton of Hilton and Welton
Knight of the Shire (MP) for Staffordshire
1402
(see page 264)*

THE JOURNAL OF SWINNERTON FAMILY HISTORY

VOLUME 15. NO 11

APRIL 2015

Annie Swynnerton's Paintings – No 21

Mrs Florence H. Musgrave



Nottingham City Museums & Galleries

Oil on canvas 49.5 x 40.6 cms
Accession No 1934-131

Bequeathed by Mrs Musgrave

THE SWINNERTON SAGA

VOLUME 15 NUMBER 11
APRIL 2015

(No.155)

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Editor: Col I.S.Swynnerton,

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Red binders with gold-blocked badge and title for the *Swynnerton Saga* and
back copies may be obtained from Mrs Margaret Antill
(see back cover)

From the Editor

We exchange magazines with several other One- Name Societies and in most of them I frequently see contributions from members telling the story of their own family. Sadly, this is very rare in this society and so I was delighted to receive an article from our former treasurer, Alan Jones, about his family which you will find on page 254.

The excuse most people give for not contributing is that their family is very ordinary and did not do anything or go anywhere. It is a popular myth that most of our ancestors were agricultural labourers and only left their village once or twice a year to go to the nearest town for the market or fair. This myth is perpetuated in such books and TV programmes as *Lark Rise to Candleford* and *The Mayor of Casterbridge*.

Alan has proved this wrong, his ancestors moved from Shropshire to Scotland and then to Wales in search of employment and this was far more common than is thought. As a soldier, he got to Malaya – as you know we have had many soldiers and sailors in our family and accounts of their travels by a descendant would be very interesting. It will also be very interesting for our grandchildren and their children, who, I am sure, will live very different lives to ours.

Many years ago, I was tutoring a WEA course on genealogy (as it was then called – we now call it Family History) and a young newly-married couple joined the course. When writing up their own personal histories, he said he had been to university, obtained a degree in Geography and then took a job as a forklift driver. When I asked him why, he said because there were no jobs available in his subject and he needed to earn a living. He had not put that in his history so, as I pointed out, his descendants would wonder why. It was, of course, during the great recession in the late 70s. It is important we always put our ancestors into the context of the times.

I was talking to a neighbor the other day and in the course of conversation she revealed that her one grandmother had been Russian, her father had served in my regiment in WWI and she, herself, had lived in France and Portugal for many years.

So 'ordinary' people's lives and careers can be very interesting – do please think about contributing an account of you family or just a particularly interesting ancestor to the *Saga*.

* * *

More and more information is being released about the First World War, among the latest are the Casualty Returns which reveal that of the nearly 100 Swinnertons who served, 18 were wounded in addition to the 13 who were killed in action or died from wounds see page 257.

THE CHAIRMAN'S PAGE



Welcome to the April edition of the *Saga*, I am sure you will find it interesting. I hope that everyone had a good Christmas, although it seems a long time ago now that 2015 is well underway!

This is a very important year for our society as it is our fortieth anniversary which also coincides with the triennial gathering on 6th June. Because of the recent anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War in which many members of the family were involved, we have decided to make the theme of this year's gathering "Swinnertons at War". This promises to be an interesting and excellent day's event in Swynnerton village with exhibitions and a speaker who will take a slightly different approach to the story of the village. There will also be time to catch up with old friends and hopefully meet some new ones.

On this special anniversary it would be great if as many of you as possible can join us and I would also encourage you to bring along other members of your family, particularly those in a younger age bracket to encourage interest from the younger generation for the future.

I look forward to meeting you again on 6th June!

Best wishes,

Julian

* * * * *

I found that they knew but little of the history of their race, and could be entertained by stories about their ancestors as readily as any way.

Henry D. Thoreau

Henry David Thoreau (1817 -62) was a famous American thinker and author who wrote about natural history, philosophy, ecology and environmental history - two sources of modern-day environmentalism. He was a lifelong abolitionist against the slave trade

2015 – A YEAR OF COMMEMORATIONS

1215 The sealing of Magna Carta

1315 The Scottish Army under Edward Bruce invade Ireland

1415 The Battle of Agincourt

1515 The first free Grammar School founded in Manchester

1615 Inigo Jones brought the *Renaissance* to England.

1715 The first Jacobite Rebellion in Scotland

1815 The Battle of Waterloo

1915 The foundation of the WI.

* * *

In 'A Collection for the History of Staffordshire Volume 7' the Reverend Charles Swynnerton said that we had two Swinnertons, James and Benjamin of the Shut Lane Branch (an offshoot of the Butterson line) who '*were in the cavalry charge at Waterloo*'. I don't know where he got that information from but it was wrong!

The only Swinnerton to serve at Waterloo according to David Milner, a Waterloo expert who compiled an index to every man who fought in the battle, was William Swinnerton, a Private in the 11th Regiment of Light Dragoons who was in Captain A J Schreiber's Troop.

Waterloo men were special and were highly regarded by other soldiers. A large 'W' appears thereafter against their name in the Muster and Pay Rolls and they were granted an additional 2 year's service and pay for their pension as a reward.

The medal is made of silver and bears the effigy of the Prince Regent with the inscription 'GEORGE P. REGENT', while the reverse depicts the seated figure of Victory with the words 'WELLINGTON' and 'WATERLOO' below and the date 'JUNE 18 1815'. The ribbon passes through a large iron ring on top of the medal. A total of 39,000 were awarded. This was the first medal issued by the British Government to all soldiers present at an action, the Military General Service Medal commemorates earlier battles, but was not issued until 1848. The Waterloo Medal was also the first campaign medal

awarded to the next-of-kin of men killed in action.

However, many soldiers who had served in the arduous Peninsular War which preceded Waterloo disapproved of the award of the medal. The veterans of that war were upset that those who were present at Waterloo (many of them raw recruits, who had never seen a shot fired before) should receive a public medal, while they, who had



undergone the hardship and privations of the Peninsular War from 1808 to 1814, had had no recognition of their services beyond the thirteen votes of thanks awarded to them in Parliament. As was usual with the British Government, as soon as a war was over they either disbanded many regiments or sent them overseas to police the Empire - it was cheaper! Consequently Wellington's experienced veterans from the Peninsular War mostly were not available to him and he fought Waterloo with a polygot of British, German, Hanoverian, Brunswick, Nassau and Dutch-Belgian troops. The British regiments had many raw recruits - and the King's German Legion were by far the best of the allied soldiers.

The Waterloo medal was also the first medal on which the recipient's name was impressed around the edge.

Sadly, no records appear to have survived for William so I have no idea of which of our Willams he was.

* * *

Not all our soldiers were heroes!

Private Thomas Swinnerton, formerly a labourer from Warrington, deserted from the 94th Regiment of Foot on the 8th of May 1840 aged 18. At present I cannot identify him either but there are lists of deserters in WO 25 at The National Archives in Kew which I may get the opportunity to visit at some time this year. The 94th Regiment, although a Scottish regiment, on the reorganization of the army in 1881 became the 2nd Battalion of the Connaught Rangers.

* * * * *

Did you know?

The General Armistice of 11 November 1918 began the peace, and the Great War officially ended on 2 July 1921 with the peace conference at Versailles. That was it – Peace at last.

But not for the citizens of the tiny Pyrenean republic of Andorra, which declared war on Germany on 4 August 1914 but was not invited to sign the Treaty of Versailles.

Eventually they got fed up with waiting so the Andorrans eventually enacted a decree on **18 September 1958** officially declaring that war had ended. This means Andorra was officially at war for forty-four years, one month and fourteen days!

MOVING AROUND – THE STORY OF MY FAMILY.

Written by J. Alan Jones in December 2014, son of Elsie Swinnerton and researched by my wife Myrna Ann Jones.

Sometime after I joined the Swinnerton Society, Col. Iain Swinnerton informed me that he had traced my family tree back to William Swinnerton born circa 1836. This William Swinnerton (1836) was a grandson of John Swinnerton who was the third son of William of Adbaston and Mary Crump and as a result my ancestors were members of the Adbaston Branch of the family.

Subsequent research shows that our William Swinnerton (b 1836) was 15 years old in the Census of 1851 and his father (also William) was 37 and a blacksmith born in Wellington. His wife was Ann aged 4, born in Knighton, Radnorshire. At the time of the 1851 census they lived in Great Dawley, Shropshire with their children – William (1836), Ephraim and daughter Sarah Ann. William (1836) had started working as a “forge boy”.

William (1836) married Mary Ann Guest in 1859 in the Parish Church in Shifnal, Salop and was classified as an “iron puddler”. He signed his name but Mary Ann made her mark. Iron puddling was a process to convert pig iron into wrought iron without the use of charcoal. Invented in 1784 it consisted of heating pig iron to some 1500 degrees centigrade and adding ingredients to make it more malleable- the puddler’s job was to stir the molten mix with long ash poles and remove any detritus that came to the surface - strenuous labour in heat & fumes resulting in a short life expectancy.

However, William (1836), did well for his time and did not die until the 2nd. April 1898. His death certificate shows that he died at Wrexham aged 63 and is described as being a “Collier of Gwersyllt”. The cause of death is given as “injuries received by being accidentally crushed between a tub and the roof at the Wrexham and Acton Colliery” as certified by W Wynn Evans, Coroner for East Denbighshire at an inquest held on the 6th. April 1898.

William (1836) had three children William, Henry (Harry), Albert and Walter Swinnerton. Albert Swinnerton, my grandfather, was born in the district of Park in the County of Lanark, Scotland on the 26th. February 1870 at 3 hours 30 minutes in the morning. Oh such precision in those days! It is



Alan in the 1950s

presumed that William (1836) had moved to Glasgow for work (as he would later go to Wrexham) as both these places were iron making areas. Albert married Mary Ann Evans on the 10th. October 1899 at the Registry Office, Chester and at that time lived in Hope near Wrexham. I was brought up with the joke of ‘live in Hope and die in Caergwrle’ (the adjoining village). Albert was stated to be a Collier and Mary Ann’s father as a Lawyer. We later discovered that he was, in fact, a Sawyer!

I was always led to believe that Albert was a Chaltermaster which was a mutation of ‘Charter Master’ the term used in the Shropshire and Denbighshire coalfields. In fact there are still pubs in Shropshire which have a Chaltermaster’s room where the miners’ wages were paid by the Charter Master.

So what was a Charter Master? He was a contractor for the coal mine owner who undertook to raise coal from the mine at a stated price. His duties included timbering, repairs and safety and employed his own workers to complete the tasks. Unfortunately, census and other records show Albert as a coal miner or as a ‘hewer of coal’.

Albert and Mary Ann (my grandparents) had nine children - Walter (1900), Gladys (1901), Evelyn (1902), John known as Jack (1904), Elsie, my mother (1905), Eric (1906) and Thomas (1910)). Additionally, there was Lily who died aged 6 and William (1903) who died the same year.



At 5.30pm on Saturday the 5th November 1927, Mary Ann Swinnerton (my Grandmother- pictured), quoting the report, “left the house at Brighton Place, Mold Road, Gwersyllt, near Wrexham owing to a slight family problem. She did not return and was not seen alive afterwards. The family failed to trace her and reported the matter at 9.00pm on the following day to the police. Every possible search had been made by the police and other search parties without avail. At 10.30am on Sunday 11th. December 1927, William Jones of 7 Sunny Side, Rhosrobin was walking the river bank near Ponycapel Bridge, Gresford and saw a body in the river Alyn. PC 28 Williams, Gresford, was sent for and he removed the body to the mortuary at Wrexham’.

An open verdict was declared on Mary Ann as she was suffering heart trouble and a bad leg according to her doctor. She was buried in the cemetery at Gwersyllt supported by the family, friends and the Mother’s Union.

Albert Swinnerton died, aged 67, on the 22nd. January 1938 at his home 1, Brighton Place, Mold Road, Gwersyllt Nr. Wrexham from cardiac failure and bronchitis.

All the children of Albert and Mary Ann Swinnerton have since passed away but Franklin James and Brinley Swinnerton of the next generation have carried the name forward. Franklin lives in Wrexham and Brinley in Connahs Quay. Brinley served with me in the Royal Welch Fusiliers in the Malayan campaign in the nineteen fifties.

* * *

Myrna and I have been supporters of The Swinnerton Society since 2001 even though our name is Jones and I served on the Committee as Treasurer for some 6 years. My sister Audrey Cherry is also a member of the Society as is my cousin, Peter Roberts, son of Evelyn Swinnerton.

The name continues through the offspring of Franklin Swinnerton being Timothy John (born 1967) and Gareth James (born 1987)



The photograph of Alan and Myrna's Golden wedding party includes the following of Swinnerton descent: My brother Rupert Jones front row left, my sister Audrey Cherry front row right, Joy Davies daughter of Jack Swinnerton, Andrew Cherry son of Audrey, Isaac Cherry grandson of Audrey, Daniel Jones son of Rupert and Hannah Jones, Rupert's daughter.

Alan & Myrna on a river cruise in France in front of the famous Pont de Avignon, subject of the well-known song *Sur le pont d'Avignon*...



The Royal Welch Fusiliers

CASUALTY LIST FOR THE Great War 1914-18

E Swinnerton

No. 8327 South Staffs. Regt. 3rd Bn. att'd. 1st Bn. Private 27th Sept 1915 Wounded

J Swinnerton

No. 919 King's Royal Rifle Corps 2nd Bn. Private 14th June 1915 Wounded

H Swinnerton

No. 2810 Lancashire Fusiliers, 9th Bn. Private 11th October 1915 Wounded

A Swinnerton

No. 2669 London Regt. (T.F.) 1/20th Bn. (Blackheath and Woolwich) Private 13th October 1915 Suffering From Gas Poisoning

J Swinnerton

No. 3/9930 S. Stafford Regt., 2nd Bn. Private 25th October 1915 Wounded

A Swinnerton

No. 2669 London Regt. att'd. Machine Gun Corps. Private 27th November 1916 Wounded

C W Swinnerton

No. 18284 Essex Regt., 13th Bn. Lance-Corporal 1st January 1916 Wounded

J Swinnerton

No. 8776 N. Staffs. Regt. Lance Sergeant 16th May 1916 Wounded

C H Swinnerton

No. 4736 REGT.. Warwick Regt.. Private 6th September 1916 Wounded

S S Swinnerton

No. 2480 Australian Infantry 8th September 1916 Wounded

P W Swinnerton

No. 1750 Rifle Brig. Private 26th June 1916 Wounded

R Swinnerton

No. 215753 Royal Engineers Sapper 5th November 1917 Wounded

H J Swinnerton

No. 200591 Shropshire Light Infantry 4th December 1917 Wounded

W H Swinnerton

No. 48292 Royal Field Artillery Bombardier 24th November 1917 Wounded

M Swinnerton

No. 9103 Worcestershire Regt.. Sergeant 17th January 1917 Wounded

D Swinnerton

No. 19347 N. Staffs. REGT.. Lance-Corporal 22nd January 1917 Wounded

B R Swinnerton

No. 22485 REGT.. Warwick REGT.. Lance-Corporal 14th March 1917 Wounded

W Swinnerton

No. 23994 Shropshire Light Infantry. Private 26th April 1917 Wounded

J Swinnerton

No. 9550 S. Staffs REGT.. Lance-Corporal 27th April 1917 Wounded

I believe that the last name is a second casualty for Pte J(oseph) Swinnerton who is listed also at No 5: he was discharged in 1917. The numbers are slightly different but this may well be a mis-transcription.)

NEW ON THE INTERNET

The pace of digitization is quite incredible – every week new information of sources of use to family historians appear. Here are a few examples of some that could be useful to us.

Ireland

The Registry of Deeds Index Project has received its first update of 2015 and now holds 167,089 entries from 19,722 memorials of deeds. The new address is <http://irishdeedsindex.net/index.html>.

The National Library of Ireland has unveiled details of its most ambitious digitisation project to date. The project will see the Library's entire collection of Catholic parish register microfilms available online – for free – by summer 2015.

Find my Past

Warwickshire Parish Registers
Tasmania births, marriages and deaths
Ireland Marriages 1619-1898
Ireland 1911 Census Search

Ancestry

Death Indexes 1989-2013 for Scotland and Northern Ireland, and 2007-2013 for England and Wales, from funeral directors' records and obituary notices.
British Army Register of Soldier's Effects 1901-1929
South Africa, Birth and Baptism Records, 1700s-1900s
South Africa, Voter Indexes, 1719-1996
South Africa, City and Area Directories, 1813-1962
South Africa, Methodist Parish Registers, 1822-1996
New South Wales, Australia, Land Records, 1856-1859
New Zealand, Bankruptcy Notices, 1893-1904

(However, whenever using these you should always check back to the original documents if possible – I am not the only one who makes mistakes!)

Newspapers

The Birmingham Post
The Coventry Telegraph
The Liverpool Daily Post
The Express and Star (covers the West Midlands)
The Belfast Telegraph
The Glasgow Herald
The Scotsman
The Australian
The New Zealand Herald

Any or all of these could give useful family information.

Here are three examples of the wide variety of sources now available online.

NEWSPAPERS

St Petersburg (USA) Times Oct 9, 1956

In the South Dartmouth Congregational Church, South Dartmouth, Massachusetts, Miss Ruth Nancy Manchester and George Alden Swinnerton were united in marriage at 4 o'clock on Saturday afternoon.

COAL MINING ACCIDENTS

SWINNERTON J.

Born 28/01/1816

Year: 1861 Age: 48

Occupation: Sinker

Colliery: James Bridge (ironstone)

Owner: Williams and Hartland

Town: Walsall

County: Stafford

Notes: Fell down pit shaft. He signalled to the banksman to go on but had neglected to disengage himself from the side of the shaft.

WILIAM SWINNERTON

BIRTH YEAR: abt 1838

EVENT TYPE: Death

EVENT YEAR: 1898

DEATH AGE: 60

DEATH DATE: 2 Apr 1898

DEATH PLACE: Denbigh, Wales

OCCUPATION: Byeman

COLLIERY: Wrexham & Acton

OWNER: Wrexham & Acton Collieries Co Ltd

NOTES: Inspection made and inquest attended. The deceased was pulling in front of a tub of dirt instead of keeping behind with his partner at the far end of an old level which they were stowing with dirt when he got crushed by the tub against a low bar fracturing his spine. He died at the Infirmary on the 4th instant.

* * * * *

ERRATA

In the last issue of *Saga*, I wrongly identified the signalman on the inside back cover, Michael (Mike) Swinnerton), as the son of the Revd Edward Swinnerton but it was in fact the other Mike Swinnerton, son of our founder member and first chairman John Swinnerton. My apologies.

WWI Embarkation Rolls – Australian Army.

Swinnerton, Arthur Leslie No 220 Private
Railway Unit, and Reinforcements and Special Draft
Ship HMAT Wiltshire A18, 7 Feb 1917

Swinnerton, Ernest Mainwaring No 5026
Hospital Transport Corps (May 1915 - September 1918) (He appears again
under Army Medical Corps - Hospital Transports
(No 1 Hospital Ship A63, KERoola), (no date.)

Swinnerton, Fred Pilkington No 5 S/Sgt
Australian Army Pay Corps (October 1914)
Ship HMAT Orvieto A3 (This is Ray's grandfather who had previously served
in the British Army).

Swinnerton, Samuel Sydney No 2480 Private
19 Infantry Battalion Reinforcements 5 Oct 1915

Swinerton Townson, Joseph No 3927
25 Infantry Battalion Reinforcements 31 Jan 1916

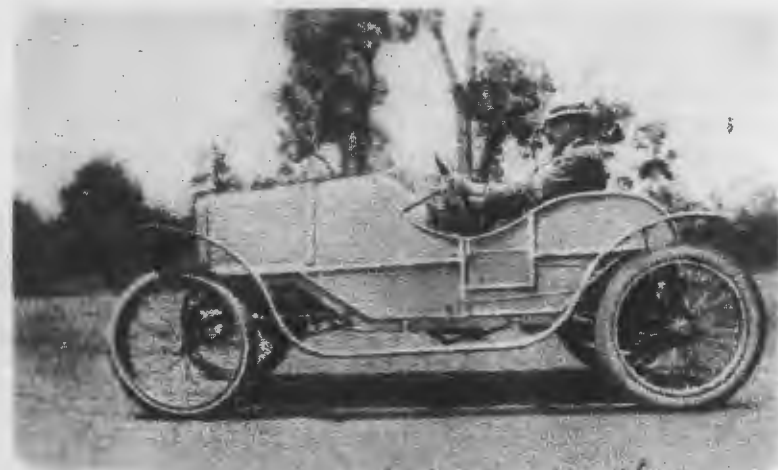


Officers and NCOs of the 9th Australian Field Ambulance at Bailleul in France. Ernest Mainwaring Swinnerton, now a Sgt, is second from right in the third row.

EARLY CARS IN AUSTRALIA

Here are the latest definitive photographs of the three cars built by Alfred Swinnerton in Sydney in the early 20th century. Every component, including the engine, was built by hand demonstrating the great skills of Alfred John Swinnerton (2) who had been born in Australia after his father, Alfred John Swinnerton (1) had emigrated there sometime in the 1870s but I have been unable to find out exactly when or on which ship.

The pictures are from our Australian Co-coordinator Glenda Simpson, Alfred's great-granddaughter.



1907 car built at No. 9
Weston R. Ronelle



The car compared favourably with the British De Dion-Bouton of the same period.



Alfred's 2nd car



Alfred's third and last car

There is a full account of Alfred John's family and their origins in Shropshire, England in Swinnerton Family History Vol.12 No.3

HS2

High Speed Two (HS2) is the planned new high speed rail network connecting London with the West Midlands and running lines on to Manchester and Leeds.

This is an extract from the factsheet, produced to accompany the consultation on the route from the West Midlands to Manchester, Leeds and beyond, and explains how the proposed route will affect your area, including:

- the proposed HS2 route between Rugeley and Swynnerton;
- the implications for people living between Rugeley and Swynnerton; and how construction would be managed.

The proposed route in this section would be a mixture of cutting, embankment and surface level track heading to the north of Stafford. It would cross over the A51 at Great Haywood and the railway line to Stoke-on-Trent.

It would then cross the Trent and Mersey Canal and the River Trent, running to the south of the Pasturefields Salt Marsh Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and then to the south of the village of Hopton in cutting and green tunnel so as to minimise the visual and noise impacts.

The route would next head west towards the West Coast Main Line before converging with the M6 corridor west of Stone and running parallel with the motorway for a short distance. It would then cross over the M6, passing Swynnerton to the east.

Implications for people living between Rugeley and Swynnerton

Landscape and townscape.

North of Rugeley, substantial amounts of cutting would help to screen the landscape; however, occasional elevated sections would be more prominent, resulting in visual impacts – for example, at Stockwell Heath, Great Haywood, Marston, where there is a bridge over the M6 and Swynnerton. Later designs would seek to reduce potential impacts by introducing landscaping, including earthworks and planting of trees, hedgerows and shrubs.



Rugeley in the days of steam

OUR FIRST MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT.

John Swynnerton of Hilton, Staffordshire and Welton, Northants
MP for STAFFORDSHIRE 1402

John was born about 1349, the son and heir of Sir John Swynnerton (d.1379), of Hilton by his wife Christine. He married sometime before 1399, Clemency (d. Oct. 1430) and had 5 sons one of whom pre-deceased him.

At various times he held the offices of :

Hereditary Steward of the forest of Cannock, Staffordshire. 25 Jan. 1380

Commissioner of Oyer and Terminer for Staffordshire Feb.1381 & July 1401;

Served on inquiries in Nov. 1390 and July 1406; to take sureties in Staffordshire and in Warwickshire in March 1392.

Sheriff of Staffordshire. 21 Oct. 1391-18 Oct. 1392.

Escheator for Staffordshire. 8 Nov. 1401-29 Nov. 1402.

According to The History of Parliament, John Swynnerton "belonged to the cadet branch of a distinguished Staffordshire family, being the grandson of Sir John Swynnerton of Hilton, who was himself the younger brother of Roger, first Lord Swynnerton of Swynnerton (d.1338). Sir John had built up a substantial estate, which included the manors of Hilton and Welton, as well as land and rents in the Staffordshire villages of Essington, Wyrley, Pillaton and Penkridge, and the area around Ticknall in Derbyshire. The seneschalsy of Cannock forest came to him through marriage, and passed, together with the rest of his property, to his son, Sir John.

"The latter made further additions to his inheritance, most notably the purchase of the manor of Essington, and like his father before him earned a considerable reputation as a soldier, sheriff and local commissioner.. His own son, the subject of this biography, was therefore following an established family tradition in his performance of public office, and it was no doubt generally assumed that he would at some point represent Staffordshire in Parliament.

"John Swynnerton the younger first appears during the Easter term of 1372, when he and another man were being sued for an act of assault, allegedly committed at Lichfield in the previous year.. It was almost certainly he, rather than his father, who joined John of Gaunt's ill-fated expedition for the reconquest of Aquitaine in 1373 as a retainer of Thomas Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick. On his father's death in December 1379, Swynnerton came into his inheritance, which, over the years, was the subject of various *enfeoffments-to-uses*, some of which involved his friend, the lawyer, John Lane. The size of his landed income cannot now be determined, although we know that the manor of Welton, which he leased out for

life to Sir John Holt, was alone worth over £18 a year in May 1388, and contained stock and produce valued at a further £44.5

"Swynnerton had, meanwhile, begun to serve occasionally on royal commissions, although, unlike his father and grandfather before him, he never sat on the local bench. In November 1389, however, he was able to use his influence to obtain a writ of *supersedeas*, and thus avoid proceedings for arrears of rent in Cannock forest being heard against him at the *Exchequer Regt.*. Two years later he began a term as sheriff of Staffordshire, during which he seized the opportunity to sue two local men for trespass on his estates at Handsacre.

"Swynnerton's appointment as escheator of Staffordshire in November 1401, his return to Parliament while still in office and the award of an annuity of five marks made to him for life from the Derbyshire estates of the duchy of Lancaster at some point before 1412 suggest that he was known and recognized for his loyalty to the house of Lancaster.. Yet this did not prevent the temporary confiscation of his land in Cannock forest, for in 1403 the Crown finally took steps to recover the rents which it had been claiming from the reign of Edward III. Swynnerton must have been over 53 when he entered the House of Commons, and he evidently retired from public life not long afterwards. Although he did not die until about 1427, his remaining years appear to have passed uneventfully. The lawsuits brought against him in 1402 for the illegal detention of muniments and in 1405 for assault and theft were dropped almost as soon as they were begun.

Indeed, his main preoccupation during this period was the consolidation of his holdings in Great and Little Sardon, Staffordshire, and the settlement of dower properties there and in Northamptonshire upon his daughter-in-law, Ellen Mallory, who married his eldest son in, or before, April 1406, and was widowed within the next two years. No more is heard of Swynnerton until November 1425, when he became farmer of pannage on the King's chases at Alrewas and elsewhere in Staffordshire. He died shortly afterwards, leaving the bulk of his estates to his grandson and heir, John, a minor in royal custody, whose marriage was sold for 80 marks to Humphrey, earl of Stafford, in July 1429. The young man died at the same time as his widowed grandmother in October of the following year, and his estates reverted to his uncle, Thomas Swynnerton, the shire knight's second son"

Our second and last Member of Parliament

was Humphrey Swynnerton of Swynnerton and Hilton whose career I described in the last (December 2014) issue of Saga. He was the 5 x great- grandson of John, the first MP, above and sat for the Borough of Stafford in 1554.

LIVES REMEMBERED

The Reverend Ernest Swinnerton

I am very sorry to have to tell you that the Revd Ernest George Swinnerton died on the 18th September 2014. Ernest was born on the 22nd January 1933 at Woodford, Essex, the son of George Ernest Swinnerton and Florence Louisa (Coates) of the Warwickshire Branch. His grandfather, cousin and his cousin's son had all been clergymen but his father had not followed the family tradition and was a chartered accountant.

Ernest stood in for a time as our Chaplain after the death of the Revd. Edward Swinnerton.



After leaving school, he took a place at Clare College, Cambridge and obtained his BA in 1954 and MA in 1959. He then went to Lincoln Theological College in 1956. He was inducted as a Deacon in 1958 and priested the following year.

He was, firstly, curate at Kirkholt and Swindon, then at Walcot St Andrew 1967-75 and then priest-in-charge at Chilton in 1976.

On a board in Froxfield Church, Wiltshire there is the following inscription: 'On the resignation of Henry Eric Bird, Froxfield Parish

Church became part of the Whilton Benefice'.

The first name on the list of Team Vicars is Ernest George Francis Swinnerton 1976-1980. He was latterly Vicar of St Matthew with St Barthomley in Little Bolton (Manchester).

The Parish of St Matthew united with the Parish of St Barnabas by Order in Council 27 October 1971 to become the Parish of St Matthew with St Barnabas. The church of St Barnabas was declared redundant in 1974. Following the closure of St Barnabas in 1973, St Matthew was the only Church of England in the newly created Parish of St Matthew with St Barnabas.

The Church of St Matthew closed in 1982 and was subsequently demolished due to dry rot.

The funeral took place at Moulsham St. Luke, Chelmsford on the 9th October 2014.

BETTY PEARSALL



Elizabeth Joan Swinnerton was born on the 1st December 1928 in Sydney, the youngest daughter of Stanley Leichardt Swinnerton and Ellen Lilian (nee Caldwell) and gt-gt-gt granddaughter of John and Elizabeth Swinnerton who emigrated from Shropshire to Australia in about 1870. Betty, as she was always known, married John Patrick Pearsall on the 5th March 1955 in Sydney.

Her son Adam says that she was quiet but (almost) always got her own way. She planned everything, and always planned for the unexpected. She had a place for everything and needed everything to be in its place. Her early life taught her to be frugal - watch the pennies and the pounds would look after themselves.

You may think from this that she had a very quiet and confined life, especially given her early experiences with illness. No so, she was always up for some adventure. Not only did she enjoy travel, but she was willing to deal with the hardships and inconvenience. A story she told of a 1949 trip to New Zealand for six weeks. In very rough seas there were few showing up for meal, even half the crew were sea-sick, but there was Betty, the Captain and a few others for every meal. As well as all her time at the Northern Beaches, she also went skiing first in 1950, and several times afterwards. They camped at Whale Beach at the weekends in the snow - there were no ski lifts back then. When Adam and Mark came along the opportunity for travel was more limited, but they still did a trip to the snow, and she saved up for the big trips around the Pacific and to Europe while the boys were still at school.

Betty also travelled without the family a few times. In 1975 she went to Singapore with their flat tenant Lynn. Having got to Singapore they booked a tour through Malaysia, including the Cameron Highlands, which was not a normal tourist route (they only learned after travelling through these areas that it was a stronghold of insurgents) during which they preferred not knowing what it was they were eating!

After John's retirement they made a number of overseas trips, including to wildlife parks in Zambia and Zimbabwe, which involved camping in the middle of the parks, with armed guards just in case the animals got too curious. Their retirement travel also included trips to Scandinavia and Canada, and visits to England and Scotland, including the ancestral family villages of Swynnerton for her family and Pershall for John's which they discovered were only a few miles apart.

In retirement they built a bungalow at Bundanoon, where they kept themselves busy day-to-day planning and tending their garden, which Betty was very proud of, opening the home up to a few Garden Rambles.

She was quite a remarkable lady and will be sadly missed.

BILL SWINNERTON

William James Swinnerton was born on the 20 May 1917 in Melbourne, Australia. His great, great grandfather Joseph Swinnerton had emigrated from Manchester to Australia in



1841. He married Grace Dowling Woods in Melbourne on the 5th Sep 1942 and died at Melbourne on the 6 July 2102. Bill and Grace had two sons, Gerald James and John William - the latter attended our AGM last year.

My first introduction to Bill was when my secretary came into my office way back in 1984 and said that there was a Bill Swinnerton from Australia on the telephone wanting to speak to me. A brief conversation ensued and having established he was not far away, I invited him to come and see me and have some coffee. Having told me his story, he was amazed when I went to my filing cabinet and pulled out his family tree (I could remember all the trees in those days!). Having produced various family publications, he bought the lot and joined the society

on the spot. For many years he was our senior Vice-President and was, in fact, the head of the family being the last descendant of the main branch of the original family. That position now falls to his eldest son Gerald who now takes up the story.

Whilst my Father's formal training was in Optometry, he had a natural flair for all things practical. He was skilled in carpentry, plumbing, brick laying, tiling, building and automotive engineering. My father served with distinction in the RAAF as a navigator/bomb aimer in Beaufort Bombers in the Pacific during WW2. He seldom told us of his exploits but we managed to learn that on one occasion they were lost over the sea. The old man bounced Morse code signals off known radio beacons to establish their position by triangulation. He then set a course for home and they landed safely with a "cup" of fuel left in the tank. It was only recently that he confided in Grace of the horror he felt when releasing bombs over the enemy, resulting in the death of fellow human beings below.

After the war, Mother and Father were in the fortunate position to be able to buy 46 Rowland street, Kew (Melbourne) since Grace's sisters, except Pat, had married and moved elsewhere. After the war, Dad returned to his studies and in 1947, he graduated as an Optometrist. He soon set up his own practice and became a pioneer in prescribing and fitting contact lenses, and later corneal lenses. He established rooms at 167 Collins Street where he remained in practice for many years. In 1949 Pat took a trip to England where she stayed, unexpectedly, for over 50 years.

My father started work at every opportunity to modernise and improve Rowland St to become our family home. One of the early projects was to remodel the kitchen which meant there was a circular saw in the middle of the room to enable him to construct the kitchen cabinets which are still in operation today. Traces of sawdust were often found in the morning porridge! Next came the new garage/workshop which was constructed around the outside toilet. Father had the impression that footings needed to engage with orange

clay. After excavating part of a trench down for 7 feet, he found orange clay, only to be told that 2 feet would be sufficient. Rather than back fill the unnecessary 5 feet, he proceeded to fill this void with concrete he mixed himself with a simple hand mixer. Next came the back yard which sloped down to the back lane. A low concrete perimeter wall was constructed to create a large level area suitable for a lawn. Drainage was installed and so was an in ground sprinkler system with the latest and best brass pop up sprinklers. Outside the perimeter wall, small batches of red concrete paving were laid over many weekends using the ubiquitous concrete mixer, ably assisted by Grace. This verdant lawn became the home of back yard cricket. The bowlers run up started in the lane followed by a sharp right turn, then up a step before hurling the ball at a set of turned oak cricket stumps complete with brass ferrules Dad had used as a boy. We still have them!

By now work had started on the interior. It was decided to remove the original stained glass casement windows in the lounge and replace them with a bay window. A one piece bay window was made to his dimensions and templates. The window was duly delivered fully glazed. This added considerable weight to the unit which made installation a problem. During afternoon tea one Saturday, some lusty members of the St Hillary's tennis club were asked to lend a hand and pretty soon the window was sitting on the curved brick wall he had constructed. In addition, the front verandah was converted into a dressing room and the side verandah was removed to accommodate a re-orientated front door bringing much needed light into the front hall.

The interior of the house by now was looking pretty shabby and soon large books of wall paper samples appeared. The dining room received a paper with a strong green ivy pattern on a white background and the lounge had fine gold stars on a white background. A blue pattern went into one of the bedrooms making it the "blue room" and gold and cream stripes adorn the master bedroom to this day.

My father was one of the first to order a new 48 series Holden car commonly known as the FX. So popular was this car that it took many months to be delivered. I can remember the look of pride on my father's face when he drove PM 723 down the drive for the first time. He loved tinkering with this car and changed the oil and greased the suspension regularly. Years later he removed the cylinder head and ground the valves. He had an eclectic array of cars over the years including Clement Bayard, Daimler, Chrysler Valiant, Triumph and Toyota. He always took great pride in the appearance of his cars.

In 1956, Dad took me to the Grand Prix at Albert Park. This was an exciting race dominated by 6 250F Maseratis, who came home in positions 1,2,4 and 5. The winner was Stirling Moss with Reg Hunt and Stan Jones 4th and 5th. Other makes included Talbot-Lago, Ferrari, Cooper and Alta. This day whetted my appetite for motor sport which I have enjoyed ever since.

Dad's father died when he was 11. This placed a strain on his mother but fortunately his uncles and aunts came to their aid. He won a choir scholarship to Melbourne Grammar School which was the making of him. But during these straightened times, he learnt the need to save, not only money but resources as well. There are still scraps of timber in the garage left over from projects he started over 60 years ago.

My father had no enemies, rather he had friends in abundance. They all loved him as did his family. But there was no love greater than the love he had for his cherished wife of 70 years, dear Grace.

GRACE SWINNERTON



Grace with your editor in front of the famous window. Molly and Big John Beddgood of Balwyn, Mabs and Geoff Taylor of Ballarat, and Grace's twin sister Pat, and a one and only Col Vincent Roy-Applin of Chilham, Kent, England.

Grace was born on 19 Nov 1914 in the house that she and Bill eventually spent their life in. She died on 30th July 2013 aged 98. If I was the author of a book depicting her life it would consist of three chapters. The first would tell of the loving and durable marriage she had of 70 years, with Bill (6 July 1942 to 6 July 2012), how it started, and how at the end she has requested in her Will that her ashes be placed together with those of her husband. The second would chronicle her early life with her five sisters whom she loved, of life at 46 Rowland Street, Kew, and of the wonderful men her sisters married all to become our aunties and uncles - Jean & Robin Parsons of Sydney,

Her interests were so wide, that the third and final chapter might well extend. She had wonderment for and of everything. Her gaiety and spontaneous laughter was infectious to everyone. To fuel her knowledge she devoured books, magazines, newspapers. She read Australian History, Fiction and non-fiction, Colonial, Early agriculture. In the late fifties she and her four sisters inherited a wonderful sheep property at Maroona, outside Ararat. Gracie was secretary for all the summit conferences held between her five sisters and their wise husband/advocates. Some conferences were at the farm, others at Top of the Town restaurants, in Melbourne. To help stimulate her love of colour and design, she and Bill learned to paint. She was outgoing and painted abstract. He was a realist and so painted with precision. Fashion magazines were her byway to the clothes only she would choose to wear. Bright in colour, often flowing, always with style.

The garden she loved was divergent of roses, hydrangea, japonica, lavender, primula, white annuals and much greenery. Each to their own, she would say. With goodness and charity in her soul she was a generous giver to all sorts of charities, most notably the Royal Flying Doctor Service, and Missions to Seamen (now known as Missions to Seafarers). Though a great fan of Robert Menzies, and the Queen of England, she was always small "L" Liberal, but with a great sense of pride for her country.

She wanted her two sons to fare well in life, so adjacent to the best education our parents could find she exposed them to a world of culture, art and entertainment. The first cultural outing I can recall was to "The Pantomime", the telling of a story without words by means of bodily movements, gestures and facial expressions, all accompanied by music and

chorus. Perhaps cartoons and comics overtook this somewhat dated form of childhood entertainment, or dare I say more recently, the iPad!

After two world wars had come and gone, her own parents Samuel and Lucie Woods, and her uncles Reg, Garnet, Percy, Arthur and Hector somehow instilled in her that sense of country we all share, of those who served, some returning, some not. In moments of rare sadness I well recall Gracie reading to us the poems of Rupert Brooke. His works were then, and still are, famous, albeit he himself was to die in 1915 on his way to the landing at Gallipoli. "If I should die, think only this of me"..... he wrote.

Later, she wanted Gerald and I to understudy the most famous Russian ballet dancer Rudolf Nureyev, but settled for just taking us to the Australian Ballet to see he and Dame Margot Fonteyn perform Swan Lake. She would often go together with Jen and Grace-friends to Tchaikovsky ballets "The Nutcracker", "Sleeping Beauty", and Chopin's "Les Sylphides". Some of the Australian Ballets were too modern though! We went to Red Series concerts with our parents at Melbourne Town Hall. Not often, but enough to bring classical music into our lives forever.. We always got Ernest Hillier chocolates over the road at interval.

We went to the first movies of Charles Chaplin and saw 'The Student Prince' movie with the famous tenor Mario Lanza. We took in 'My Fair Lady'. How could we forget the Lerner & Loewe songs "All I want is a Room Somewhere", "Why can't the English teach their children how to Speak?", and "Just you Wait Henry Higgins, Just you Wait"! Lerner & Loewe's 'Camelot' was another, and by some other composer "Salad Days"!

A special word for Jen, and her love for Grace. In a nice sense almost as mother and daughter, both shared many common interests and talents over time. They always admired one another, Grace of Jen's golfing prowess and gardening and landscaping skills, and Jen of Gracie's warmth and flair.. I can say Jen is going to miss her immensely.

Grace's words of special pride go also to Ben & Petina, Jamie and Deb, and to their four beautiful Great Grandchildren who are all here for her today.

A day or two before she died, she managed to pen a note, literally on a scrap of paper at The Mews. With a relatively steady hand, she wrote "In my last moments before I have departed this world I am thinking of all my wonderful Family, every one of you. I have very happy memories of you all and send lots of love to you all. From Grace". Simple as that! Sadly she was in pain as she wrote it, or she may well have said more.

* * * * *

Gerald has since to correct a statement made in the December 2013 issue of *Saga* that Swinnerton House was converted from the former works of Swinnerton Bros, the fan makers. Gerald says:

I was interested to read about "Swinnerton House" in the December Journal. There are however some anomalies which I would like to put right. Swinnerton Brothers was a printing enterprise. It was originally started in Manchester by my great grandfather. He and his family moved to Sydney in the late 1800s and established their first business in 1901 (as noted on the front of the building). Unfortunately this first enterprise failed when the premises were burnt down. Rather than start again in Sydney, the family moved to

Melbourne and the factory shown in the picture was purpose built in 1924. By now my grandfather and his brother and two sisters were running the business. They specialized in high quality book binding and general printing. At one stage they had the contract to print Melbourne's tram tickets. Regrettably, my grandfather died when dad was only eleven which would have been about 1930. The remaining family continued to run the business through the years of the depression. Despite these straightened times, my great uncle and his sisters were able to support my grandmother, and with the help of a choir scholarship, were able to send young "Willie", as my father was known, to grammar school. The enterprise continued until the late 1950s when it was handed over to my father. He had no interest in the business and so the building was let to another printer who continued to use the premises for about the next decade at which time my father sold the building. I hope this will be of interest.

* * * * *

Editor's note:

This seems to have developed into mostly an Australian version of *Saga* – it was not intentional but just how the information became available since the last issue.

The next issue in April will be my last as editor and very different. I shall endeavour to summarise the position we have reached in research into the family and look at each of the trees and where we need to go next. If there is room, I might just tell my own story as a finale which has never been published in *Saga* or its predecessors!

Sadly, no-one so far has volunteered to take over from me. I cannot think why because all it needs is a reasonably competent typist (which I am not, I can only type with two fingers) who can assemble material into order to make up a little booklet. The pages on single sheets go direct to the printers who print them out in the right order.

There is a mass of material, both here and in our archives, which has never been published and the internet is constantly being searched by such as Brian and Ray and provides more material.

With modern technology and communications, it can be done from anywhere in the world – the editor does not have to live in the UK. Please think about it.

Seymour Charter 1306 - 2006

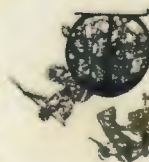
Translation of a Charter of Edward I Granting Sir Roger De Segrave's a Merchant John Red Lion Whom In His Office Of Sergeant'. In 1306 King Edward I When On His Way North To Subdue The Scots. At Which He Arrived in Cardale on 19 October When He Granted this Charter to Sir Roger De Segrave With Whom Accompanying Him on His Campaign

The King To The Archbishops:

*Now That We Have Quoted And By This Our Pleasant Chorus Confined To Paper Do Suppose That So And So Sings Myself
Ever Give One Minute Every Week On Wednesday At Their Offices Of Singers In The County Of Suffolk And One Solo Then
Again That On The Day Of The Assumption Of St. Mary (19th August) For The Devotion.
Where That Minute And That Solo Should Be To The Airs Of The Neighbouring Offices And Solo And That They Give
One Wherein In All Their Devotion Leads At Singers. Et.*

7000 2nd Avenue
St. Petersburg, Fla.

These Your Wives.
 The Venerable Father John Bishop Of Carlisle
 Henry De Linc, Earl Of Lincoln
 Humphrey De Bohun Earl Of Hereford And Essex
 Roger De Mortimer
 Henry De North
 Robert Le Waleys Second Of Our Household
 John De Hastings
 John De Sully



When We Our Good At Searched On The 14th Day Of October By A Little Zander The Whiny Sam
 John De Jandels

Copy of the Charter provided by The Public Records Office in Kent and transferred to the Public Records Office, London.

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

Patron - The Rt. Hon. The Lord Thomas of Swynnerton

President - Colonel Iain Swinnerton

Vice Presidents - Mrs Diana Cunningham (USA): Mr Roger Swynnerton

Chairman - Julian Swinnerton Hawley

Vice Chairman and PR

Brian Swinnerton.

Secretary - vacant

Treasurer - Mrs Margaret Antill,

Database - Roy Talbot

Website - www.swinnerton.org

Webmaster - John Swinnerton:

Subscriptions - Ray Swinnerton,

Subscription £12 per annum (or local currency equivalent) to:

USA: Mrs Ellen Lum Morris,

Canada: Kevin Bowers,

Australia: Mrs Glenda Simpson,

Rest of the world and UK - see Ray Swinnerton above.