

*The  
Swinnerton  
Saga*



*Lantern Clock by Thomas Swinnerton 1680*

**THE JOURNAL OF SWINNERTON FAMILY  
HISTORY**

**VOLUME 15. NO.1**

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Annie Swynnerton's Paintings – No 11.



Oil on canvas  
1016 x 42 mm  
Royal Academy of Arts Collection  
Purchased 1934.

# THE SWINNERTON SAGA

VOLUME 15 NUMBER 1  
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(No 145)

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Editor –

Col I.S. Swinnerton,

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

## From the Editor's Desk

I came late to technology and still think many aspects of modern life are amazing. To me it is still quite remarkable that I can speak to my daughter in Puerto Rico, my cousins in Australia and friends in New Zealand and America on the telephone. Such things are taken for granted by modern generations. I vividly remember making my first ever overseas call – it was to Singapore and it cost £1 per minute.

My introduction to communications came with the 19 set, a large and very heavy box full of valves. This was followed by the 62 set which was slightly smaller and supposed to be portable but was a very heavy back pack with limited range (probably only men born before 1940 will know what I am talking about – these were army radios).

For those of us who remember battery driven, home wireless sets, Box Brownie cameras and when a postcard could be sent for one penny, who would ever have thought that one day it would be possible to send letters and pictures from the roof of the world by mobile phone to a small village in Cheshire – see page 6.

Technology has played a great part in our society too. It has enabled us to computerise many of our records and from them compile family trees which I used to have to laboriously draw by hand or type up manually and paste pages together.

At the Family Gathering at Swynnerton in June you will be able to see some of these but there will also be a new departure in that John Antill (Margaret's brother-in-law) is going to bring along his laptop computer, projector and screen and, on request, you will be able to see your name and tree 'Up in Lights'. That is something that I have wanted to do for many years but have not had the equipment. We are very grateful to him for volunteering to do this.

Technology has also enabled Roy Talbot to create many and varied easily-searchable databases both from the details I collected over many years and other records – an enormous help when I get an enquiry from someone, as I did recently, who said she was descended from a John Swinnerton about whom she knew virtually nothing! It has also enabled Malcolm Smith to create our wonderful website which I hope you will look at regularly because it is constantly being updated.

Having time on my hands after my op just before Christmas, and having been told I had to rest, I became a 'silver surfer' and found it quite fascinating. I typed 'Swinnerton' into Google one day and found 26 pages relating to our name. Many were repeats but I found some quite unusual items and have included a couple in this *Saga*. There are still many more to look at. I was surprised how many other family trees were shown by people who had descended from a Swinnerton. I hope they are proud of their descent.

I look forward to seeing many of you at Swynnerton in June.

Gain



## From the Chairman

Much of Europe is enveloped in bitterly cold conditions as I write so this is the ideal time to envisage warm summer days and think about our Triennial Gathering on 2nd June. The programme for the day will be as follows:

10.00 Meet for coffee in Swynnerton **CHURCH** Hall.

(This is to be kindly provided by the ladies of Swynnerton.)

11.00 AGM followed by a short inter-denominational service in St Mary's Church

12.30 Lunch in Swynnerton **VILLAGE** Hall

2.00 Speaker

2.45 Free time to enjoy renewed friendships, to explore family trees and to browse - and **PURCHASE** - crafts and Swinnerton pottery.

4.00 We **MUST** be out of the Village Hall by 4.00 pm

Don't forget our exhibition and **SALE** of talents. Please let Margaret Antill know what you intend to bring along. (see back cover for address)

Several of us are planning to stay locally on Friday 1st June which should get the week-end off to a good start. Having enjoyed our Swinnerton Family time together on Saturday we shall then be free to enjoy the Royal Family's celebrations over the next few days.

Details regarding proposed accommodation can be found in the enclosed form..

I am looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible in June.

Elizabeth



## ANOTHER SWINNERTON CLOCK

The following story I found on the internet. It provoked quite a lot of correspondence including a couple of comments from our former member Nigel Watts. (The writer is F.J.Menez).

*"In 1967 I was shopping for horological items in Portobello Road antiques market London, and came across on one of the side streets a small antique shop that had a large selection of antique clocks. On the floor in a corner of the shop was a lantern clock in a very dirty condition. I purchased the lantern clock for a very modest price.*

*"When I got home I discovered that the Lantern clock dial was signed Thomas Swinnerton Fecit. North Country Clockmakers by G. L. Reid had a 1680 date for this clock. I sent in a picture of the clock to the British Antiquarian Society and it was published in their journal with a description. Shortly after that a member of the board informed me that Thomas Swinnerton was the earliest known clockmaker from the town of Newcastle.*



*"When this lantern was made it had a balance wheel escapement, however it was converted to anchor escapement with long pendulum. The top plate shows where the banking pins*

*were, when it was a balance wheel escapement. In the beginning it had one hour hand, but a minute work was added later.*

*"Received a letter from Newcastle that the local museum would like to have first refusal if I decided to sell the clock".*

There were, of course, three Swinnerton clockmakers, Thomas as above, John and Joseph - all brothers. John was the eldest. He was baptized at Whitmore on the 6 Jan 1663 and was buried on the 15 April 1717. Thomas was next and he was buried at Newcastle-under-Lyme on the 14<sup>th</sup> July 1708. Joseph was the youngest and was baptized at Whitmore on the 31<sup>st</sup> January 1666. They were sons of Edward and Sarah Swynnerton of the Yew Tree. There was also an older brother Edward who succeeded to the estate and so did not have to earn a living outside the farm. John was the ancestor of the Warwickshire Branch through his second wife Elizabeth. His first wife was also named Elizabeth but we know she was Elizabeth Teale. Confusingly, she also had a son Thomas but he died in infancy.

## From the National Union Catalogue pre-1956 Imprints (Library of Congress)

Rare Books PR 4684 f.S9

Swinnerton Emily.

George Eliot. Her early home.

Arranged by Emily Swinnerton

Illustrated by Patty Townsend, Lilian Russell and G.G.Kilburn

London (etc) Raphael Tuck & Sons [189-?]

48pp. illus. (part col.) 31 cm.

"We have, as far as possible, appended to each description of the place depicted, or some passage from her works, depicted by it".

1. Eliot, George, pseudonym of Marian Evans, afterwards Cross, 1819-1880

Despite being classified there as a rare book, there is a hard back copy available from Amazon at £40.66. However, there appears to have been a facsimile reprint in paperback by Kessinger Publishing in 1977 and there are several copies for sale at about £8. Even if those sell out, you can take advantage of the modern 'Print on Demand' system and get a brand new copy or, if you don't want to buy one, you can actually read it on Google!



It is a delightful book: I don't know who Emily is but she has done a wonderful job.

*Chitvers Coton Church, an illustration from the book*

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## Notes from the Manchester Gallery at Manchester Art Gallery

Portrait of William Gaskell Esq 1879 by Annie Louisa Swinnerton (1844-1933) showing Gaskell as Chairman of the Portico Library which he supported for over 40 years.

\*\*\*\*\*

## London Gazette 31 December 1937. Supplementary Reserve of Officers

To be 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant 1st Jan 1938

Scots Guards – Michael Swinnerton Cameron Gull (late Cadet Corporal Eton College Contingent OTC).

Now there's a mystery – who was he?



## HELEN VISITS TIBET AND NEPAL

These letters and picture were sent by Helen Swinnerton to her parents Ray and Sheila using her Blackberry (for anyone who does not know, a Blackberry is a rather superior mobile phone). Helen has asked her parents to share these letters with us *if they are not too boring*, she says! Personally, I find them fascinating and marvel at the technology that enabled her to give us her first-hand experiences on the spot - how much easier than writing it all down some time later and forgetting some of it.

\* \* \* \* \*

### On the border and the longest letter I've ever written Mon 5<sup>th</sup> Sept 2011

We are spending the day in a peculiar town on the Tibet / Nepal border. Tomorrow we cross over and the Nepal part of the adventure begins. Tibet has been surprising. I did not have a strong impression of what it would be like before I came and I have learnt a lot. The way people live their lives is very closely linked to Buddhism. Monasteries are central features of towns, stupas of villages and prayer flags and piles of rocks to deities are scattered across the landscape, often in the windiest, highest spots people could reach to capture the wind and take their prayers. I am told that prayers of Buddhists should not be personal requests but should be for the wider world, humanity and living things.

We arrived in Lhasa at a time when pilgrims from across Tibet travel there to pray - during the Yoghurt festival, so named as traditionally the first yoghurt of the year was gifted to the Lamas out of respect. Some pilgrims walk the entire journey from their home, where ever in Tibet that may be, doing salutations with every single step - so falling to their knees and then stretching their whole body across the floor. We passed a family travelling this way on our journey out of Lhasa. Quite incredible.

On arriving in Lhasa, the pilgrims all gather at Drepung Monastery on the 29 August. We also went there together with what felt like most of Tibet. The entrance was crowded and we literally had to run past the security in riot gear blocking the street to make sure we all got in together. That was the easy bit. We then had to run past the ticket collectors, much more forceful than the security, as they tried to close the gates on us!

We all made it through, a little surprised by the chaos and each with stories of how we had gotten through the wall of guards. And then we began the slow walk up the hillside leading to the monastery. Gradually as the path thins we come literally shoulder to shoulder with excited Tibetans all moving on mass and my little group still has no idea what's going on. We eventually detach from the crowd to get a good spot to watch and start to understand. From our look out, we can see the crowd streaming on towards a holy mandala (image of a heaven) on a huge piece of cloth slung across the hillside, must have been about 50 metres wide and high. When they reach the mandala, they

throw white scarves and other symbolic items for blessing onto the mandala as they all individually pray but all are praying for the greater good. It was such a strong atmosphere of excitement and compassion. Smiles were everywhere, people offered to share their food with me, one old, beautiful lady with wrinkles etched all over her face gave me some spiced potatoes and another gave me a not so toothy grin and shook my hand. Lots of people gesture their hand up and down to me which means 'go well'.

I think the local people have found me with my blonde curls and blue eyes interesting to see and I have found them interesting too. The people visiting Lhasa that day had come from many different regions, each with their own traditional dress. They have strong jaws and cheek bones and their faces are handsome but suggest having lived in harsh, windy climes. The older women wear two plaits with a colour (I think of yak hair) plaited through. The men wear a single plait looped around their head and threaded through a bone ring with red yak hair entwined. It's really striking (you should try it Dad) and has an American Indian feel.



After Lhasa, we began a four day long road journey along the Friendship Highway and along stone paths towards Everest and from 3600 metres to 5100 metres above sea level. The journey was not boring in the slightest though. Partly due to the landscape and partly due to the couple, guide and driver, that shared our four wheel drive.

You would not believe the epic climb the road took into the mountains. The Snakes Pass is tame, tame, tame in comparison to this. I was pretty terrified at first as we



wound our way up the mountain with a sheer drop on my side of the car. I had to make myself stop watching the driver and the road ahead and instead to look out at the landscape before I could enjoy the views. When we eventually arrived at the top and stepped out of the car, we were on top of the world, as high as the surrounding mountains and clouds, stunning and literally breathtaking.

I loved that along the road, you never knew what delights might be lying around the next turn in the road or after the next mountain. As we turned the corner from the on top of the world view, we encountered the most stunning sight I have ever seen - a turquoise lake amongst the mountains. I almost cried with delight but yelped instead, much to the amusement of our guide and driver. I have pictures to show you but can't imagine they capture the beauty.

The mountains in general are barren, it's desert, almost how you would imagine the moon to be. Lots of slates, some clay, boulders. Very little vegetation. The fluffy clouds in the sky are reflected as shadows with precise outlines on the mountains.

There are stone buildings and tents for the nomads who herd yaks, goats and sheep on the mountains and in the wide valleys, it's so windy that you lose your breath after only a short while outside of the car.

I kept thinking how harsh the life of a nomad must be and then I got to experience a night in their conditions. We arrived at the camp for visitors to Everest (still about 80km away from Everest) and were led inside a cosy looking tent with wooden benches all around the edge and a stove in the middle for the fire. It was blinking freezing, thank goodness I had taken thermals and a sleeping bag. Toilets, best to be avoided so I weed by the river, which always left me with a cold bum, out of breathe and with tingling cheeks (the only other exposed area.)

But the views, Dad. Everest is magnificent, so much so that she brought tears to the eyes. When we arrived she was covered in cloud but at sun set and sun rise, we had clear views of her Peak with the sun reflecting off her icy steps. She is totally covered in ice. I thought about you dad and the intrepid explorers you respect for climbing her just because she is there.

Everest was yesterday and tomorrow is Nepal. Thanks for bringing me up to have these great experiences Mum and Dad. I can't believe I am here and keep thanking my lucky stars.

### Long letter 2: the Himalayas Tue 13<sup>th</sup> Sept 2011 12.25

The trip is almost over, I am now on a pitted road on route to the airport, arriving back in HK tomorrow morning. We have seen our last day off in style with some morning paragliding close to the Himalayas. I felt strangely secure attached to a big kite over 1500 metres above the ground - don't worry, I wasn't piloting.

The day after my last note, we crossed over the border from China into Nepal. The contrast between the two borders could not have been more stark. The crossing is on a

bridge and first you pass the Chinese soldiers stood stern and straight on guard and next step you are in Nepal and pass the Nepalese soldiers, leaning against the railings of the bridge having a chat.

The landscape is also dramatically different between Tibet and Nepal. From vast barren spaces with few faces, down thousand metres to incredible greenery and water falling off the mountains. And there are plenty of people, sat by the open front shops lining the roads. There are, however, definite hints of Chinese features in some of the faces. Perhaps due to the proximity to China or because many Tibetans left Tibet during the cultural revolution, some settling in Nepal.

Nepal is certainly beautiful and I have enjoyed it but the trip here has not been as eye opening nor as special for me as the journey through Tibet. Kathmandu surprised me by not being just a crowded, dirty city but also full of heritage. Fun areas crowded with remnants of old palaces and temples and alive with people sat on the monuments watching the world go by, having romantic moments or selling their wares. Hindu is the main religion here and oddly we went to see a 6 year old living goddess who they keep locked away in one of the temples until she reaches menstruation and so loses her goddess status. Our tour guide was also very serious about "us enjoying together the erotic karma sutra visuals carved into the walls of the temples" which included some unexpected and frightening donkey and elephant threesomes that had me fighting my giggles.

We did not get closer to Everest but did spend the main part of our Nepal trip trekking through the Annapurna mountain range, close to it's enormous peaks occasionally revealing themselves from behind the clouds. 4 days of beautiful scenery where Mum would find fairies and we found monkeys, oh and also leeches! The leeches caused quite a lot of hysteria amongst the group but I managed to confidently avoid any bites thanks to the protection of my knee length, thick hockey socks (which initially were mocked :)

The mountains are full of little villages nestled into the hillside and often two days away from the nearest road. This measure of two days is at our walking pace but the locals trot up and down the mountains like Billy goats. At one point a bell rang out and lots of children came sprinting past us down the steep, slippery steps in their neat school uniforms to the school house shed. Incredibly goods are carried to and from the high up villages on the backs of the locals and attached to a huge strap that goes around the head to take the weight. We had porters carrying our stuff in this fashion and every night they easily beat us to the teahouses where we slept.

The teahouses appeared to be mostly made from tin or plywood and were surprisingly comfortable and cosy after long days of trekking. Especially after a Jacob's Ladder like day when I arrived at the teahouse dripping wet and cold and was placed in front of the stone stove to dry with a glass of hot chocolate (whilst the others hunted for leeches on their legs.)

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## DICTIONARY OF NATIONAL BIOGRAPHY 18885 – 1900

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**SWINNERTON, THOMAS** (d. 1554), protestant divine, son of Robert Swinnerton, came of a Staffordshire family, and was born probably at Swinnerton in that county. He is said to have been educated at Oxford and Cambridge, and perhaps graduated at the latter university, B.A. in 1515 and M.A. in 1519, under the name John Roberts, which he adopted to screen himself from persecution on account of his heretical opinions. Under that name he published in 1534 a rare work, *'A mustre of scismatyke Bysshoppes of Rome | otherwyse naming themselues popes | moche necessarye to be redde of al the Kynges true Subiectes,* 'printed by Wynkyn de Worde for John Byddell, 21 March 1534 (Brit. Museum). The first part, consisting of a prologue, 'describeth and setteth forth the maners, fassions, and usages of popes ... where in also the popes power is brevely declared, and whether the Worde of God be suffycient to our Saluation or not.' The second part contains a life of Gregory VII, translated from the Latin of Cardinal Beno; and the third a life of the Emperor Henry IV, who 'was cruelly imprisoned and deposed by the means of the sayde Gregory.' These parts seem to have previously been issued separately, and Wood mentions an edition of the *'Life of Gregory'* published in 1533, 4to. But these editions do not now seem to be extant. Bale also attributes to Swinnerton two other works, *'De Papicolarum Susurris'* and *'De Tropis Scripturarum.'*

Subsequently Swinnerton preached at Ipswich and Sandwich, and on Mary's accession in 1553 fled to Emden, probably with John Laski or à Lasco [q. v.], who became pastor there. Swinnerton died and was buried at Emden in 1554. [Bale's Script. Ill. 1557, ii. 76; Tanner's Bibliotheca, p. 701; Ames's Antiq. ed. Herbert, pp. 483, 489; Wood's Athenæ, ed. Bliss, i. 221; Cooper's Athenæ Cantabr. i. 124; Foster's Alumni Oxon. 1500–1714; Simms's Bibliotheca Staffordiensis; Stafford Hist. Collections, vii. 667; Wright's Letters relating to Suppression of the Monasteries (Camden Soc.), p. 269.]

\* \* \* \* \*

The above entry was written by Albert Frederick Pollard, assistant editor of the DNB and Professor of Constitutional History at University College, London from 1903 – 1931. He specialised in the Tudor period.

Thomas Swinnerton did indeed come 'of a Staffordshire family' – he was the eldest child of Robert Swynnerton and Mary Robinson. Thomas's grandfather Roger married Joanne daughter of Sir Francis Neville of York, by whom he had Thomas, Elizabeth, Joanne, Mary and **20 other children!** (according to *Collections for a History of Staffordshire. Volume VII Part II.* The heraldic arms which Sir John Swinnerton, Lord Mayor of London, presented to the Heralds in their Visitation suggests that his ancestor was one of the other 20. .

# **Dr. Charles Swinnerton Heap**

## **Composer, Organist, Pianist and Conductor.**

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of June, 1895, Charles Swinnerton Heap sent a letter to John S Lowe, the Hon. Secretary of Birmingham Festival Choral Society, accepting the position of Conductor. At a Special Meeting of Members a few nights previously there had been an almost unanimous vote to invite him to succeed William C Stockley as Conductor of the Society.

### **Why Swinnerton Heap?**

He was born in Birmingham on 10th April 1847 and showed early signs of his musical ability. He sang as a soprano in the first Birmingham Musical Festival that Stockley conducted in 1858 (he was then 11), and while he was still at King Edward's Grammar School he acted as organist at Queen's College, Birmingham. In 1860 when he was 13 he became the Rehearsal Accompanist for BFCS, a post he held until he left at the age of 15, with the Society's best wishes, to study under Dr Monk, the famous Organist at York Minster.

In January 1865 while he was still only 17 he became the second person to win the Mendelssohn Scholarship (the first winner being the young Arthur Seymour Sullivan of the famous partnership of Gilbert & Sullivan). The Scholarship was open to young composers who had to submit three of their compositions for consideration. Winning the Scholarship meant that he studied at the Leipzig Conservatorium under Moscheles, Hauptmann, E. F. Richter and Reinecke, sometimes deputising as accompanist for the latter at Gewandhaus concerts.

In 1870, when he was 23, he took the degree of B. Mus. at Cambridge and the following year, by special permission, he took his D. Mus. During the period from 1869 to 1878 he also held various organ appointments in Birmingham and Wolverhampton, his reputation as an organist being well known. He was also known in Birmingham for the notable series of chamber concerts he held in the City from 1871 to 1873 and from 1884 to 1886. His experience as a choral conductor was growing for in 1870 he was appointed conductor to the Birmingham Philharmonic Union and held the position until the chorus was dissolved in 1886. In 1881 he succeeded William C Stockley as conductor of the Wolverhampton Festival Choral Society (anticipating BFCS?). He was conductor of the Wolverhampton Festivals in 1883 & 1886 and the North Staffordshire Festivals in 1888 & 1889. In 1884 at the age of 37 he was appointed as Examiner for Music Degrees at Cambridge University.





Memorial Plaque to Charles Swinnerton Heap in Walsall Town Hall.

The local Birmingham boy, who had made his name in the musical world, already had connections from his youth with BFCS and was now invited to follow William C Stockley as Conductor of Birmingham Festival Choral Society. Whereas Stockley had been a traditionalist, Swinnerton Heap brought a more modern approach to music and breathed new life into the Society. J Sutcliffe Smith in his book 'The story of Music in Birmingham' states "I have been told by a member of the chorus who sang under his direction, how Swinnerton Heap was heart and soul in the preparation of the music." According to *Music in the Five Towns* by Roger Nettell, Sir Edward Elgar described him as his favourite chorus master and dedicated several of his works to him. His death on 11th June 1900 at the age of 53 was a great loss to the members of BFCS. It was decided that his all too brief time with the Society should be commemorated and to this end the Swinnerton Heap Memorial Trust Fund was established in 1903 to award a scholarship to a member or members of BFCS for at least one years tuition in music, with the first Scholarship being awarded to Eunice Fowles in 1904. That Scholarship in his memory is still being awarded.

(I am indebted to Gordon C Allen BFCS Archivist and Historian for the musical content of this biography).

## ANNIE SWYNNERTON

The obituary of Annie Swynnerton said that 'vitality' was the word which best summed up her work. In her depictions of children, especially those painted in the open air, she could most easily express her *youthfulness of heart, joy in life, and reckless abandonment to the appeal of light and colour.*

Annie was born in Kersal, near Manchester, one of seven daughters of Francis Robinson, a solicitor. From an early age she painted watercolours to supplement the family's reduced income, but began her serious training as an artist at Manchester School of Art, before leaving to enrol at the Académie Julian in Paris. Her work was first exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1879, and the following year she exhibited a portrait of her friend Isabel Dacre (now in the Manchester City Art Gallery), who described Annie as her 'soul mate', and with whom she later formed the Manchester Society of Women Painters. Isabel Dacre was a very active suffragette and I suspect that Annie was too.

Annie completed her studies by travelling for two years in Italy with Isabel Dacre. During a stay in Rome she met the Manx sculptor Joseph Swynnerton, whom she married in 1883; until his death in 1910, they lived mainly in Rome. Whilst in Italy, Annie painted works such as *An Italian Mother and Child* in a style clearly reminiscent of Renaissance painting, and panoramic landscapes such as *The Olive Gatherers* (both also in the Manchester City Art Gallery).

In 1902, after a gap of sixteen years, Annie exhibited again at the Royal Academy. Always greatly admired by other painters, her work was bought by prominent figures in the art world. In 1906 Sir George Clausen purchased *New-Risen Hope*, depicting the figure of a naked child, and later presented it to the National Gallery of Victoria in Melbourne. John Singer Sargent bought *The Oreads* in 1907, a sculpturesque group of sea-nymphs, giving the painting to the Tate Gallery, London, in 1922.

In addition to her allegorical paintings, Annie exhibited many portraits at the Academy in the 1910s. In 1922, backed by Clausen and Sargent, she was the first woman to be elected an Associate of the Royal Academy. The only previous women to rank as Academicians were Angelica Kauffman and Mary Moser, who were signatories to the Instrument of Foundation in 1768 and thus were made members without being elected. The year after her election there was an exhibition of her work at Manchester City Art Gallery and another version of *New-Risen Hope* was purchased for the Chantrey Bequest in 1924. In 1929 and 1930 two more works were purchased for the nation this way.

Annie's sight began to deteriorate towards the end of her life, but she continued to exhibit pictures at the Academy, although they were often works she had painted years earlier. She died at the age of eighty-eight at her home on Hayling Island, near Portsmouth.

## **Jo-ann's page** (on the Internet)

### **Daisy Chain Project Teesside - Kilimanjaro Trek**

Thanks for taking the time to visit my JustGiving page. Donating through JustGiving is simple, fast and totally secure. Your details are safe with JustGiving – they'll never sell them on or send unwanted emails. Once you donate, they'll send your money directly to the charity and make sure Gift Aid is reclaimed on every eligible donation by a UK taxpayer. So it's the most efficient way to donate - I raise more, whilst saving time and cutting costs for the charity. So please dig deep and donate now.

.kiliminjaro or KILIMINJAR-JO as it is now known in my circles has to be the biggest challenge I will ever face!



People are saying how brave I am!! Not nearly as brave as the families facing huge challenges every day. Daisy Chain provides care and support not only to children affected by autism, but also families and carers alike.

I recently visited the farm and was blown away by

the passion and dedication of all involved. Please help me to help them and have a good laugh at me next year when I can't walk for six weeks and yes I will still be wearing my six inch heels as soon as I hit the ground!!!

Thanks for all your support. - remember you can donate on line in person at either of the MFC stores, or send to Jo-ann Swinnerton c/o MFC retail, The Riverside Stadium, Middlesbrough TS3 6RS.

Look out for new photos of me slogging my guts out...cant wait!

Jo-Ann obviously belongs to our Middlesborough family but she is not on that tree. I greatly admire her pluck and would love to know how she got on. Who can tell me?

## **Swinnerton Soldiers who died in WW1 – No.4**

### **Frederick William Swinnerton**

Frederick enlisted at Douglas, Isle of Man, on the 26 November 1915 saying he had been born at Dewsbury in Yorkshire and was aged 18 years and 11 days. He was finally attested on the 30 December. He said he had previously been engaged in farming and was a member of the **Isle of Man Volunteers**. He was 5ft 6ins tall and had a chest measurement of 33ins when fully expanded so, like most men of that vintage, he was comparatively small by today's standards. Nevertheless, his physical condition was described as 'Very good'.

We are lucky that his full service record is one of only 20% that survived the German bombing of London in 1940. It shows that he was the son of Joseph and Mary H Swinnerton of Half Way House, Crosby, IOM and that he had two sisters – Mrs M Thompson of (sic) Scunthorpe, Notts and F.M. Swinnerton of Crosby. From our records, we know that these were Victoria Mary and Frances Mary

He was given the number 229 in the Isle of Man Volunteers but this was subsequently changed to No 33766 when he joined the 3<sup>rd</sup> (Reserve) Battalion of the Cheshire Regiment at Birkenhead. He was sent to a depot in France on 23 March 1916, transferred to the 13<sup>th</sup> (Service) battalion on the 16 May 1916 and was, sadly, killed in action on the 7<sup>th</sup> June 1917. 1260 men from this battalion were killed in WW1.

He certainly lied about his age. The 1901 census of the Isle of Man shows that he was 3 years old and the General Register of Births confirms that he was born in the March Quarter of 1898 in the Tadcaster Registration District. He was, therefore, only 14 when he joined. This was not uncommon, if he had been an agricultural labourer, no doubt he was a big strong lad and, by 1916, after the dreadful losses on the Somme, the authorities did not look too closely at the ages the recruits gave.

The **Isle of Man Volunteers** was a very unusual regiment. It was formed on the 5<sup>th</sup> July 1861 as the **2nd (Douglas) Isle of Man Rifle Volunteer Corps** during yet another threat of invasion by France. This threat gave rise to the birth of the whole volunteer movement. One of four such corps formed in the Isle of Man, the unit was attached to the 15th and 64th Lancashire Rifle Volunteer Corps in the 1870s, later renumbered the 1st IOM VRC in 1880. In 1881, the unit was incorporated into the King's (Liverpool Regiment) as the **7th (Isle of Man) Volunteer Battalion**. A detachment of nine men accompanied the 6th Battalion of the King's to South Africa during the Second Boer War of 1899-1902.



I have been unable to find any record of the cap badge that they wore though I am sure they must have had one, possibly showing the famous three legged symbol of the Island as the WW2 IOM Home Guard wore. (*see below*) or even the Manx tailless cat. However, when they became the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the King's Liverpool Regiment, they would have worn that regiment's badge.



The Isle of Man Volunteers was disbanded in 1920 but during its existence, it had the distinction of being the only unit from the Isle of Man in the British Army. It also had the distinction of being the last volunteer battalion in the British Army because the Territorial and Reserve Forces Act which established the Territorial Force in 1907 (renamed the Territorial Army in 1920) did not apply to the Isle of Man.

Frederick's parentage was clearly defined in the record and the signature and address of his father Joseph appears several times, notably for the receipt of Frederick's War and Victory Medals in 1920. Joseph had been born in 1855 in Stoke on Trent but had moved to the Isle of Man where he met and married Mary Hannah Bowling in 1885 at Douglas. She had been born at Dewsbury in Yorkshire. The story of this branch is told in *Swinnerton Family History* Volume Nine Number Nine.

### The Battle of Messines 1917

Fredk was killed in the Battle of Messines. Planning for the battle had been underway for over twelve months. It was intended as a preliminary move to occupy high ground held by the Germans which runs from Armentieres to Dixmude and which overlooked the Allied positions in the Ypres Salient. 25<sup>th</sup> Division, which included three Cheshire Battalions, was only responsible for 1260 yards of the assault. At 3.10am, the mines were detonated and the leading wave of British troops, including No. 3 and 4 companies of the 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion, went over the top. Moving across the 150 yards of No Man's Land, they kept just behind the British artillery's creeping barrage. As they moved forward, they lost some direction due to the increasing cloud of dust and smoke that hung over the battlefield. The leading companies swept over the German front line and pressed on to their objective - the second line of trenches, reaching it by 3.17am. No.1 and 2 Companies had followed close behind and now leap-frogged the leading troops to press on to the German support line where some prisoners were captured. The Cheshires had captured two machine guns during the assault. They quickly dug-in and consolidated their position in what was now the new British front line. Fred has no known grave but is commemorated on panel 19 of the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial in Belgium.



In 1928, a year after the inauguration of the Menin Gate Memorial, a number of prominent citizens in Ypres decided that some way should be found to express the gratitude of the Belgian nation towards those who had died for its freedom and independence. The

idea of the daily sounding of the Last Post - the traditional salute to the fallen warrior - was that of the Superintendent of the Ypres Police. The Menin Gate Memorial on the east side of Ypres was thought to be the most appropriate location for the ceremony. Originally this was the location of the old city gate leading to the Ypres Salient battlefields and The Menin Road, through which so many British and Commonwealth troops had passed on their way to the Allied front line.

The privilege of playing Last Post was given to buglers of the local volunteer Fire Brigade. The first sounding of Last Post took place on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1928 and a daily ceremony was carried on for about four months. The ceremony was reinstated in the spring of 1929 and the Last Post Committee was established. Four silver bugles were donated by the Brussels and Antwerp Branches of the Royal British Legion.

From 11<sup>th</sup> November, 1929 the Last Post has been sounded at the Menin Gate Memorial every night and in all weathers. The only exception to this was during the four years of the German occupation of Ypres from 20<sup>th</sup> May 1940 to 6<sup>th</sup> September 1944. The daily ceremony was instead continued in England at Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey. On the very evening that Polish forces liberated Ypres the ceremony was resumed at the Menin Gate, in spite of the heavy fighting still going on in other parts of the town. Bullet marks can still be seen on the memorial from that time.

When the Last Post returned to Ieper (Ypres) after the Second World War the Brookwood Last Post Association (under Colonel McKay) continued and still continues to sound the Last Post at Brookwood Military Cemetery on the first Sunday of the month at 16.00 hours GMT.



## Swinnerton

Bantham - Self catering holiday cottage  
South Devon

Swinnerton is an end of terrace Regency middle of this charming, unspoilt hamlet that is within walking distance of the huge sandy stretches of Bantham and the beautiful Avon estuary. The cottage is perched above a peaceful wooded valley in two thirds of an acre of lovely gardens. Recently refurbished, the cottage is spacious, very comfortable and ideally situated, close to the coastal path, the beaches and the villages of Bantham and Thurlestone.



Now who named that cottage after us – perhaps a former owner or an expat from the village?

I also found that there was a ground floor leasehold flat for sale - No 27 **Swinnerton House, Henley on Thames**. I have no knowledge of any connection with that lovely riverside town, home to the world-famous annual Henley Regatta.

Also a house in **Swinnerton Street, London** - see below (this street was named after Sir John Swinnerton, Lord Mayor of London 1612)



There was also a house in **Swinnerton Street, Crewe, Cheshire** but I do not know who that was named for. Can anyone tell me?

## News from the Internet

### **National Records of Scotland**

On the 1 April 2011, the General Register Office for Scotland merged with the National Archives of Scotland to form the National Records of Scotland. Work on a new website is still ongoing but their portal webpage can be viewed at <http://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/>  
<http://www.timeanddate.com/calendar/>

**The Genealogist** has now added access to the following on their Diamond subscription.

### **Parish Registers**

- Staffordshire, Pipe Ridware 1571-1812
- Staffordshire, Blymhill 1561-1812

### **Directories**

- Staffordshire Kelly's Directory 1888
- Worcestershire, Kidderminster Guide and Directory 1889

### **Visitations**

- The Visitation of Shropshire Part I 1623
- The Visitation of Shropshire Part II 1623

### **FindMyPast Update**

[Findmypast.co.uk](http://findmypast.co.uk) has released over 290,000 new parish records going back the sixteenth century covering Warwickshire, Sheffield, Suffolk and Rugby. They have added Surrey WWI Recruitment Registers (1908-1933), campaign medal rolls for the Royal Fusiliers, detailed records for the Paddington Rifles from muster rolls and the 1861 Worldwide Army Index

Findmypast.ie now provides access to: Farrer's Index to Irish Marriages 1771-1812 (from announcements in Walker's Hibernian Magazine); the Register of Derry Cathedral 1642-1703; and *Burke's Landed Gentry of Ireland* 1899.

### **Ancestry.co.uk Update**

Post Office workers are now online 1737-1969 in partnership with the British Postal Museum and Archive. The appointment books also include transfers, resignations and deaths of staff: it is interesting to note that the Post Office was the largest employer in the world by WWI. It is also a valuable resource for ordinary female workers, who were well represented in the ranks. I had a quick look for Swinnertons – the first entry is for a Mr John Swinnerton in Southall in 1737! The last one is for A.J. Swinnerton in Birmingham in 1953 but the list does not include my service as a temporary postman for three months in 1950 while I was waiting to join the army!



**Ancestry.com.au Update** (for our Australian members)

Additionally, a new Immigration Collection has been released covering:

- Australian Convict Transportation Registers – First Fleet, 1787-1788
- Australian Convict Transportation Registers – Second Fleet, 1789-1790
- Australian Convict Transportation Registers – Third Fleet, 1791
- Australian Convict Transportation Registers – Other Fleets & Ships, 1791-1868
- New South Wales, Australia, Registers of Land Grants and Leases, 1792-1867
- New South Wales, Australia, Departing Crew and Passenger Lists, 1816-1825, 1898-1911
- New South Wales, Australia, Assisted Immigrant Passenger Lists, 1828-1896
- New South Wales, Australia, Wives & Children of Irish Convicts, 1825-1840
- New South Wales, Australia, Unassisted Immigrant Passenger Lists, 1826-1922
- Queensland, Australia, Passenger Lists, 1848-1912
- Maryborough, Queensland Australia Immigrants from the British Isles & Germany 1861-91
- Tasmania, Australia, Passenger Arrivals, 1829-1957
- Victoria, Australia, Assisted and Unassisted Passenger Lists, 1839-1923
- Western Australia, Australia, Crew and Passenger Lists, 1852-1930

\* \* \* \* \*

**Crew Lists 1861 – 1913**

John Swinnerton, 3<sup>rd</sup> Engineer, Born 1868 Liverpool, Ticket No 20711, Previous ship The RAMSEY.

The RAMSEY, No 104240 of 1621 tons gross (513 tons net) was powered by engines of 328 Horse Power. She was registered in 1912 and carried a crew of 42. The ship was owned by Cain of Imperial Buildings, Douglas, IOM. The Master was William Cain of 13 Thorny Road, Douglas, IOM.

(Acknowledgement to Peter Owens and the Crew Lists Projects).

**Errata**

My apologies to Colin and his family for errors in the caption of the photograph in the last issue. Lily should be LILIAN and her date of birth was 17/11/1913. John Cunnah was the husband of Colin's cousin Sheila, not cousin to Colin's wife Pat.

*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 Swinnerton Family.
3. To publish a journal – *The Swinnerton Saga* – to record that history.
4. To preserve those records together with associated objects and ephemera.
5. To assist, where possible, in the welfare of St. Mary's Church, Swynnerton.

*Chairman* -- Mrs Elizabeth Livesey

*Secretary* -- Miss Iris Crouch

*Treasurer* -- Keith Livesey

*Subscriptions* -- Ray Swinnerton

*Committee Member and Publications Sales*

Mrs Margaret Anttila,

*Database* -- Roy Talbot

*Website* – [www.swinnerton.org](http://www.swinnerton.org)  
*Webmaster* – Malcolm Smith.

Subscription £12 per year (or local currency equivalent)

USA: Mrs Diana Cunningham,

Canada: Kevin Bowers,

Australia: Glenda Simpson,

UK and the rest of the world: Ray Swinnerton (see above)

**TRANSLATION OF A CHARTER OF EDWARD I  
GRANTING SIR ROGER DE SWYNNERTON A  
MARKET, FAIR AND FREE WARREN IN HIS  
MANOR OF SWYNNERTON, 1306**

**THE KING TO THE ARCHBISHOPS:**

**KNOW THAT WE HAVE GRANTED AND BY THIS  
(OUR PRESENT CHARTER CONFIRMED TO ROGER  
DE SWYNNERTON THAT HE AND HIS HEIRS MAY  
FOR EVER HAVE ONE MARKET EVERY WEEK ON  
WEDNESDAY AT THEIR MANOR OF SWYNNER-  
TON IN THE COUNTY OF STAFFORD, AND ONE  
FAIR THERE EVERY YEAR ON THE DAY OF THE  
ASSUMPTION OF ST. MARY (15th AUGUST) FOR THE  
DURATION.**

**UNLESS THAT MARKET AND THAT FAIR SHOULD  
BE TO THE NUISANCE OF THE NEIGHBOURING  
MARKETS AND FAIRS, AND THAT THEY MAY  
HAVE FREE WARREN IN ALL THEIR DEMESNE  
LANDS AT SWYNNERTON.**

**ETC.**

**THESE BEAR WITNESS.**

**THE VENERABLE FATHER JOHN, BISHOP OF CARLISLE  
HENRY DE LACY, EARL OF LINCOLN  
HUMPHREY DE BOHUN, EARL OF HEREFORD AND ESSEX**

**AYMER DE VALENCE**

**HENRY DE PERCH**

**ROBERT la WARDE, STEWARD OF OUR HOUSEHOLD**

**JOHN DE HASTANG**

**JOHN DE SUDE**

**GIVEN BY OUR HAND AT LANERCOST ON THE 19th DAY OF  
OCTOBER BY A WRIT UNDER THE PRIVY SEAL**