

*The
Swinerton
Saga*



Suffer the little children to come unto me

THE JOURNAL OF SWINNERTON FAMILY HISTORY

VOLUME15. NO.2

JUNE 2012

Annie Swynnerton's Paintings – No.12

Mater Triumphalis



Oil on Canvas
1.67m x 0.68m
Musée d.Orsay, Paris.

(In the last **Saga**, I omitted the name of the painting which is *The Letter*)

THE SWINNERTON SAGA

VOLUME 15 NUMBER 2
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(No 146)

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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 Keyboard.

I apologise for the lateness of this issue which should have come out on the 1st June. Two momentous events delayed its production - my 80th Birthday Celebrations in late April followed by a move to a new house during which, of course, all my books and papers were packed away (we are still unpacking). To add to the confusion, we were without a telephone (and thus the internet) for 10 days. Peaceful it may have been but it was very inconvenient. A cardio-rehab course two days a week did not help.

Next came the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations and, of course, I simply had to see the River Pageant after all my years cruising on the Thames and other waterways. It was very cold and we got very, very wet but it was worth it.

I did manage to get to Gathering at Swynnerton and I was very impressed with the organisation and everything went very smoothly due to the hard work of our committee and the members who brought examples of their craft work for us to see.

It was the first one that I had had absolutely nothing to do with except attend. You will find an account of it later in this Saga, we were fewer than usual (although we had more visitors from overseas than for many years) but that was good for me as I was able to talk to many more people than I usually do. So far I have not received any photographs but I hope I shall before too long so that I can put some in the next *Saga*.

I am told that in the UK there are 262 phone book entries with the surname **Swinnerton** and approximately 1,140 persons with this name. Of course, if the numbers have just been computed from the number of telephones, it will not be an accurate number because a great many people these days are ex-directory so I suspect it may be from the 2011 census. This makes ours the 6,499th most frequent surname in the UK! They live in 40 counties and the most occurrences are in the county of West Midlands (which is not surprising as it was formed in 1974 as a Metropolitan County from parts of Staffordshire, Warwickshire and Worcester-shire) where there are 52.

Other counties with lots of occurrences are Clwyd (43), Staffordshire (31), Shropshire (15), Lancashire (12), Greater London (10), Hereford and Worcester (9), Cheshire (8), Greater Manchester (8) and Merseyside (8). In Dorset there is still just one but please note my new address.

I have also been told that amongst the credits for a Harry Potter film was 'Greenery' – Richard Swinnerton. Does anyone know what this means and who is Richard?

Iain

From the Chairman



2012 is certainly a year of celebrations and commemorations.

Of course we are celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and London is hosting the Olympic Games. Then there are the centenary commemorations of the Titanic and Scott's expedition to the Antarctic. At primary school I was proud to be in Scott House. The explorer had already taken his place in history alongside Nelson, Clive and Drake after whom the other Houses were named. It is also the centenary of the births of such diverse personalities as Alan Turing, Jackson Pollock and James Callaghan - and my Mum.

Fifty years ago we celebrated the consecration of the new Coventry Cathedral. I remember enjoying a coach trip from our Parish Church in Manchester to see the new Cathedral. We joined long queues of expectant visitors waiting to go in and being completely entranced by the magnificent Baptistry window.

Avery different commemoration is the Falklands War which took place thirty years ago.

Nearer to home we have our own celebrations in 2012 - the Triennial Gathering in June and Iain's 80th birthday in April. Our Chaplain Rachel, having successfully completed her curacy has just been appointed to her first incumbency. She is to become Rector of the Watershed Benefice in Staffordshire which comprises Wheaton Aston, Lapley, Blymhill and Weston-under-Lizard. Congratulations to Iain and Rachel.

I am delighted to tell you that we have been able to extend our day at Swynnerton until 5.00 pm and not finish at 4.00 pm as initially arranged.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the Gathering in Swynnerton - I hope it will be another memorable occasion to add to the celebrations of 2012.

Elizabeth

Swinnerton Family Gathering 2012

Julian Hawley

The Gathering took place in Swynnerton, the village of our ancestors, on 2nd June. It was well attended by members of the family from England, Wales, Denmark, Australia and the United States. We congregated from around 10.00am in the church hall for tea and coffee prior to the AGM. This was a great opportunity to meet family we already knew from previous gatherings and also to welcome those attending for the first time.

We then moved to the church of St Mary's for our Annual General Meeting. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved, officers were re-elected where appropriate and volunteers to take up a member's vacancy on the committee were requested. The financial position of the society was discussed, various proposals to support this were to be considered and a recent bequest from Colonel Jeremy Swynnerton was acknowledged with thanks.

Following the AGM a short service was held, led by our chaplain, the Revd. Rachel Livesey. She took as her text Ephesians chapter 3, very appropriate for a family gathering, and considered how God's love is rooted in all families throughout all generations and we should try to grasp how powerful this is.

After the service we walked across the village to the village hall where some of the family archives and family trees were available. In addition family members had brought items of interest which were available for viewing or for sale on stalls around the room. Ronald Swinnerton had brought some amazing examples of his wood turning and carving hobby while Ray and Shelagh Swinnerton brought their own crafted jewellery and Iris and Brenda Crouch, their felt-work. In addition Geoffrey Swinnerton came with a good supply of Swinnerton pottery which he was selling for charity. As usual this proved very popular, particularly with overseas members. John Antill demonstrated his Swinnerton family tree database which incorporated a lot of information provided to him by Iain.

Everyone then sat down together to enjoy a delightful waitress-served lunch which again gave the opportunity to share stories about the family and updates on research people had been doing.

After luncheon, our talk was a most informative "double act" given by Meryl Catty and Audrey Gillett. Their subject covered the meaning, derivation and history behind our surnames and Christian names. As well as providing a lot of interesting detail, they were also most entertaining, for example, giving us the opportunity to test out the principle of "Chinese whispers". This demonstrated how names could change down the generations through the unreliability of verbal communication.

The day passed very quickly, with the usual friendly atmosphere of Swinnerton gatherings once again giving rise to another happy and enjoyable occasion. We all said our goodbyes and looked forward to meeting up again next year.

Another Swinnerton Artist

Every year staff at Brighton Museum kindly redirect potential depositors to us (*Ed. I do not know who the 'us' was but I think it was probably a Theatre Museum*) and in September we received nine autograph books kept between 1898 and 1953 by Miss Maud Stagg, a theatrical boarding house owner who lived at 4 St James's Place, Brighton (AMS 6928). Miss Stagg put up a number of well known actors of the day and was described in a local press article as the 'unofficial landlady to Brighton's Theatre Royal'. Amongst the signatures are those of Michael Redgrave, Michael Holden and Sybil Thorndike, who appears to have been a regular visitor. One guest, Philippe Swinnerton, was so impressed he produced a comic sketch showing the dishevelled then rejuvenated appearance of himself and his wife before and after their stay at the guesthouse (below).



Phillipe was a well-known artist and cartoonist but he never quite achieved the fame of his elder brother, the author Frank Swinnerton. He was born on the 10 August 1879 at Holloway, London, the eldest son of Charles Swinnerton and Rose Cottam. He married Louisa Carty in 1916 and had two daughters Marjorie and Helen Rose who (as Mrs Ray Willans) was a member of the society in the early days.

Here are a few examples of his work.



Legislative Assembly of Alberta (Canada)

Thursday, February 22, 1996 1:30 p.m. [The Speaker in the Chair]
THE SPEAKER: The hon. Member for Pincher Creek-Macleod.

Alberta Tourism Partnership

MR. COUTTS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Tomorrow a three-year contract between the Alberta Tourism Partnership and the government of Alberta will be formally signed in historic Fort Macleod by the ATP president – [some applause] Thank you – and CEO, Tom McCabe, and our Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. This signing is a result of the evolution over decades of an idea, the idea of a region selling itself as a tourism destination point, which began back in the 1940s and early '50s.

It all started in Fort Macleod with prominent, progressive southern Albertans like Hugh Craig, Sven Erickson, Ted Kreitzer, and **Albert Swinerton**. They promoted to the United States the whole of southern Alberta as a tourism destination point. Tourism operators in the area formed a partnership and shared information and marketed southern Alberta locations and vistas. This ultimately led to the formation of TIAALTA, the Tourism Industry Association of Alberta, with its 14 different tourist zones.

These zones have now evolved to ATP and the tourism destination regions. ATP will deliver its services through six tourism destination regions. They will be the focal points for distributing quality services tailored to the needs of the industry. ATP expects to increase tourism revenues to more than \$4 billion by the end of 1998.

* * * * *

Antipas Swinerton

A note in the Essex (Massachusetts) Institute says that the will of **Antipas Swinerton** of Taunton, St Mary Magdalene, gentleman, dated May 4 1685 mentions his mother Mary Swinerton, brothers John and Jaspar Swinerton, sisters Martha Corrock and Mary Swinerton and daughter Katherine. It also refers to his wife who had probably died before him.

There is no doubt in my mind that this family, based in Gloucestershire, is connected with the early emigrant Job Swinerton. It is the only branch of the family to have these puritan names of Antipas and Jasper. However, after many years of trying, I have found no documentary evidence that this is so.

The origin of our name

This subject has cropped up once again. New studies and techniques are changing many previous conceptions and theories about the origins of English surnames and works that were previously taken to be authoritative (such as P.H.Reaney's *The Origin of Surnames*) are now being challenged. In fact Reaney did not mention our name as he did not include names derived from places. Neither does Kenneth Cameron in his *English Place Names* (1996)!

This recent find is obviously of American origin and says that our name is English and goes on to say:

Spelling variations of this family name include: Swinnerton, Swinerton, Swinnertone, Swinertone and others. First found in Staffordshire where they were anciently seated as Lords of Swinnerton, and were at a very early period, after the Norman Conquest in 1066, of knightly and baronial degree. Some of the first settlers of this family name or some of its variants were: Job Swinnerton who settled in Salem, Mass. in 1640.

I could give the writer at least another 20 variations of the spelling and would question his or her history. The first to be of 'knightly degree' was Sir Roger de Swynnerton who was knighted in 1290, which is hardly 'at a very early period after 1066' and only one, his son, also Sir Roger de Swynnerton, was summoned as a Baron of Parliament in 1337. None of his descendants inherited this title of Baron and, although his son (yet another Roger) and Thomas, one of his other sons, and Thomas's son Robert, were knighted it was not hereditary. No other Swynnerton was ever knighted until our late President, Roger John Massy Swynnerton, received the accolade in 1976. The writer is more accurate when he or she names the crest as 'a black boar on a green mound' and the coat of arms as 'silver with a black cross'.

Another definition, this time from a purveyor of certificates of the origin of surnames which it tries to sell you for £12 (not including the frame!) says: *This name is of English locational origin from a place in Staffordshire called Swynnerton situated three miles from Stone. Recorded as Sulvertone in the Domesday Book of 1086 and as Swynforton in the 1272 Assize Court Rolls of that county, the name derives from the Olde English pre 7th Century 'Swinford-Tun' meaning 'settlement ('tun') by the pig ford'. The surname from this source is first recorded in the latter half of the 13th Century, (see below).*

One John de Swynnerton appears in the Derbyshire County Rolls in 1292. In 1534 Thomas Swinnerton, under the assumed name, John Roberts, published 'A mustre of scismatyke Bysshappes of Rome'. On August 5th 1567 Rogerus Swynnerton, an infant, was christened in Newcastle upon Tyme, and

on September 2nd 1583 Jocasta Swinnerton and Thomas Burslem were married in Burslem, Staffordshire.

The first recorded spelling of the family name is shown to be that of Robert de Swinnerton, which was dated 1272, 'The Hundred Rolls of Staffordshire', during the reign of King Edward I, The Hammer of the Scots, 1272 - 1307. Surnames became necessary when governments introduced personal taxation. In England this was known as Poll Tax. Throughout the centuries, surnames in every country have continued to "develop" often leading to astonishing variants of the original spelling.

Again, the history is wrong – the first recorded name is that of John de Swynnerton who occurs in various rolls between 1190 and 1213 and how they manage to derive Swineforton from Sulvertone I do not know..

* * * * *

The ancestors of Sir John Swinnerton, Lord Mayor of London.

My attention has been drawn to a website giving the ancestry of one David Robarts. Amongst these is the above John about whom he says:-

William (Meggs, draper of Whitechapel) his son and successor, in 1601, sold the manors of Stanway and Belhouse to John Swinnerton, Esq., afterwards knighted. Thomas, his father was citizen of London, and son of Richard Swinnerton, of Oswestry, in Shropshire, of the ancient Swinnerton and noble family of the Swinnerton's, (sic) of Swinnerton, in Staffordshire, formerly peers of the realm, and summoned to parliament in 1337. Sir John, as his father had been, was a merchant-tailor in London: he was also sheriff in 1602, and lord mayor of London in 1612. In his youth he travelled into Spain, and acquired the character of an accomplished gentleman; becoming an eminent wine merchant, he served Queen Elizabeth with all her wines, and getting the sole management of the wine-license office into his power, accumulated a great estate. Sir John had four sons and three daughters, and died in 1616. Henry, his eldest son, was seated at Stanway Hall, and dying without children, as well as his two next succeeding brothers, Richard and Robert, the estate descended to Thomas Swinnerton, Esq., the fourth son, who sold the manor of Stanway to John Littlebury, and in 1635, it had become the property of Sir Henry Calthorpe, attorney of the court of wards, who gave it to his daughter in marriage.

Arms of Swinnerton. Argent, a cross fortnee, fleurie, sable, within a bordure engrailed, gules

He gives as his source *John Burke* by which I assume he means the founder of *Burke's Peerage* which is notoriously inaccurate. Lord Mayor John's father was, in fact, also named John Swynnerton as shown by his will where he refers to his son Sir John as Alderman of London and to the *towne of Oswestry where I was borne*. In the descent attached to the article, the author says that Thomas was the son of Ralph Swinnerton who is then given as son of Robert and Johanna, and that Robert's parents were Humphrey de Swynnerton and Matilda Appleby and so on. He appears to have strayed into a totally different branch of the family. The arms given should be a cross formée fleurie (or flory) and the 'within a border engrailed gules' are the arms of Swynnerton of Hilton. I only wish we did know who the Lord Mayor's grandfather was but many years researching have failed to find his identity. Again, we get the nonsense of 'formerly peers of the realm'.

In another reference - John Stow's survey of the cities of London and Westminster – Chapter 6 (*The Temporal Governors Mayors and Sheriffs*) published in MDXC/VIII (1598), amended and corrected by John Strype MA, Published in MDCXX (1720) we get:

AD 1612. 10 Jac I. Mayor Sir John Swinnerton, Merchant-Taylor, son to Thomas Swinnerton, Citizen and Merchant Taylor of London, who was Son to Richard Swinnerton of Oswestry (sic) in Shropshire.

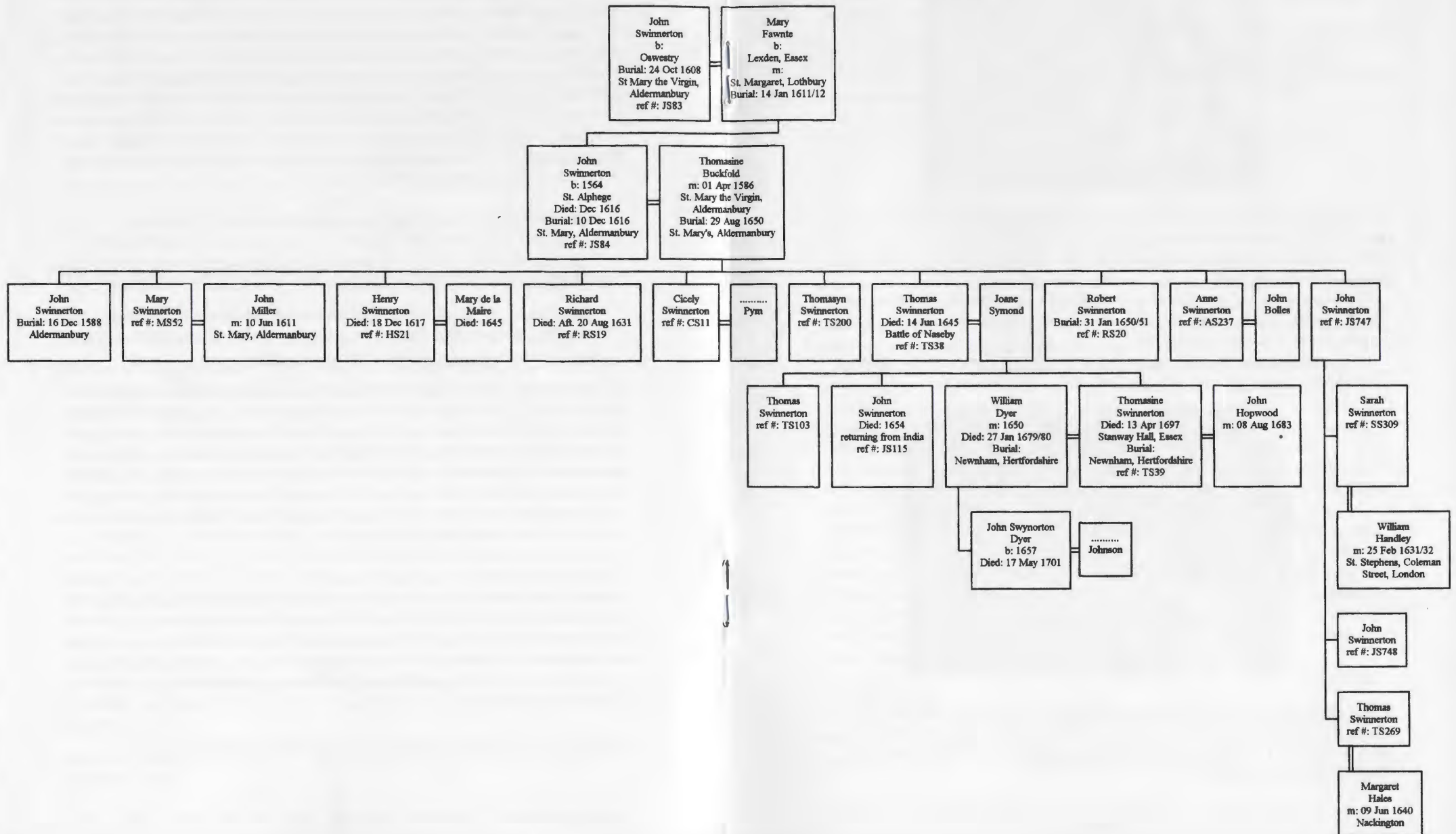
So that was obviously where the original myth originated. Robert Swinnerton, the fourth son of Sir John, told the Heralds in the 1633 Visitation of London that his arms were Swynnerton of Swynnerton quartered with Swynnerton of Hilton. If these were correct (the Heralds in those days were often not too particular!) it could only mean that he was descended from Roger Swynnerton, third son of Humphrey Swynnerton of Swynnerton and Anna Swynnerton, eldest daughter and co-heir of Thomas Swynnerton of Hilton, of whom history only tells us that they had 24 children!

The pedigree entered by the heralds says:

John Swynnerton of Oswestry Esq., which John Swynnerton may very likely have been the son of a Richard Swynnerton, of Oswestry, who may have been a son or grandson of Roger, son of Humphrey (I) of Swynnerton in 1453, and his wife Anna, the heiress of Hilton. The said John Swynnerton certainly came from Shropshire to London, where he became a member of the Merchant Tailors' Company.

Sadly, there is no documentary proof of Sir John's alleged descent.

The Family of Sir John Swinnerton, Lord Mayor of London in 1612



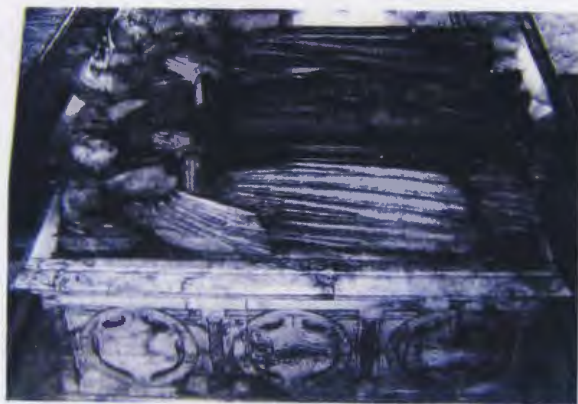
A family feud ?



A memorial in Chesterfield Church dated 1600 to Constance daughter of Sir Edward Littleton 1558 and **Helen Swinnerton** of Pillaton Hall, Penkridge, Staffordshire. Constance was the second wife of Sir James Foljambe and is shown with her children

She lived to a great age, dying in 1600 having survived, in 1587, two years imprisonment as a recusant of which she was accused by Sir Godfrey Foljambe her husband's grandson!

Helen, her mother, was one of the eight children of Humphrey Swinnerton and his wife Joan Harcourt. She was buried on the 10 Oct 1528.



This wonderful tomb is in Penkridge Church, Staffordshire, and shows Sir Edward Littleton with both of his wives – Helen Swinnerton and Isabel Wood. Sir Edward was Constable of Stafford Castle, Sheriff of Staffordshire and Keeper of the Royal Parks

MY SWINNERTON CONNECTION – Kevin Bowers

I am one of those fortunate people whose interest in family history began at a relatively young age, so I had the benefit of being surrounded by many older relations – relations who I thought might guide me in the right direction when it came to researching my BOWERS roots.

How wrong I was! It turns out that my paternal grandfather rarely spoke of his family back in England; in fact, it came as a surprise to us all when I applied for his birth certificate and learned that he was not born in Leicester as we had been led to believe, but in Stafford!

A whole new county I had never paid much attention to! No one in our family had ever spoken of 'Staffordshire' except when discussing pieces of Wedgewood. Now, thirty-five years on, it seems impossible there was ever a time I didn't know Staffordshire like the back of my hand (at least from a researcher's point of view!). One civil registration certificate led to another and once the ball was set in motion I was armed with a plethora of new names, towns and villages to explore. Many will remember the seemingly endless process of wading through census returns, ploughing through the civil registration indices at St. Catharine's House, and waiting patiently for the morning post hoping it might contain a reply from a long-lost relation. A long but rewarding procedure involving many memorable visits to England, each visit adding several new generations to my tree.

Fifteen years into my research found me once again on holiday in England in the spring of 1990 – this time sitting in the Lichfield Joint Record Office doing one of my favourite things: looking through 17thC wills. I had decided to devote some good quality time to chasing down one of the many maternal lines on the BOWERS side of the family: the ELDERSHAW family of Ranton and Seighford. Mary ELDERSHAW had married Ralph MILLS of Hilderstone in 1682, and through a series of marriages down the maternal line the MILLS connected to the MYOTTS, GAUNTS and eventually to my BOWERS line. I was having a read of the 1633 will of John ELDERSHAW of Ranton in the hopes that he might be 'mine'. All was going quite well – he named several of his children, revealing that John was his eldest son, and George (my ancestor – Mary's father) his second son. And he also named his wife – Katherine – another point! Success – another generation back! But it was toward the bottom of the will that I read the words that would launch a true adventure:

'... and of this my last will I do make my executor my Brother-in-Law Roger SWINNERTON'

Swinnerton. I'd seen that surname before. Frequently. I hadn't paid much attention to it thinking there was no connection. Suddenly that had all changed – I had found a connection with the Swinnertons!

When examining an ancestor's will its always nice when a brother-in-law is named, especially when you don't know the surname of the spouse, but before I got too excited a little further research was required. After all, 'brother-in-law' doesn't automatically mean one's wife's brother - it could just as easily be a sister's husband.

I looked at the clock. The record office would close in twelve minutes. I don't know *why* I knew that Vol VII of the Staffordshire Historical Collections had a section devoted to the Swinnerton family, but I did, and I leapt across the room as inconspicuously as possible to find the volume. A quick calculation would put siblings Katherine and Roger Swinnerton born sometimes in the 1580s in order that she be old enough to marry John Eldershaw around 1620. I tore through the volume as carefully as possible under the circumstances.

On page 167 (and with four minutes to go) I found exactly what I was looking for. Under the section named SWYNNERTON OF YEW TREE (WHITMORE), Rev Charles Swynnerton had written the following:

Edward SWYNNERTON of Whitmore, in the year 1575. His will I have not found, but according to the parish registers, which are unusually full and explicit, his wife's name was Margaret, by whom he had two sons namely, (1) Edward Swynnerton, baptized 12th June 1583, and buried on the 30th August 1600 without issue; and (2) Roger Swynnerton. He left also two daughters, namely (1) Margaret Swynnerton, who is subsequently mentioned in her brother Roger's will and who died "annosa virgo" in May 1675; and (2) Katherine, who was baptized on the 3rd of August 1587 and who was married on the 22nd of October 1619 to John Oldershaw.

What more could anyone ask for? Every now and then there is a huge payoff to one's painstaking research, and for me this was it. Charles Swynnerton's contribution to *An Account of the Family of Swynnerton* (the major part of the book was written by the Hon and Revd Canon Bridgman) was a turning point in my research, and I cannot begin to imagine the number of times I have referred to it over the years.

I have encountered so many researchers who have shown no interest in uncovering any of their maternal lines. They simply want to research their own surname, and leave it at that. To me, this is like eating only half the pie. We triumph at the discovery of a new ancestor to add to our tree, and it is important to remember that each of our ancestors had both a father AND a mother, and both parties really do warrant researching. Had I not delved into my maternal lines, I would never have discovered my connection with the Swinnerton family.

Kevin lives in Hamilton, Ontario and is our Canadian representative.

More about the Swinnerton Cyclists

I know that I have written several times about this remarkable family before but their achievements are quite outstanding and I think all the family should know about their many successes in view of the forthcoming Olympic Games.



Swinnerton's Cycles was started by Roy Swinnerton's mother and father in 1915, and they lived above the shop at number 69, Victoria Road. Remarkably it remains at the same address today, more than 95 years on. Roy's mother and father retired in 1954 and Roy and Doris decided to take the shop on, knowing as they did that the motor car was likely to grow in popularity.

Buying the stock for £100 they moved in above the shop in 1958 which became the family home as well as their place of work. Roy only worked part time at the shop in those days. Doris, however, worked full-time until Roy gave up his full-time job as general manager for a local engineering company in 1970. They acquired No's 71, 67 and, finally, number 73 Victoria Road which is what we all know as Swinnerton Cycles, where after 36 years working together, and having had seven children, 22 grand children and seven great-grand children they retired, passing the baton on to the next generation.

Roy started his club cycling career with the St Christopher's back in 1939, Doris shortly afterwards in 1944. They married in 1950, the same year Doris was elected club president. Doris also participated in the formation of the Lyme and was elected president in 1956.

In the 1960s both Roy and Doris helped with the formation of the Newcastle Track Association. They helped Nolen Burgess in forming the North Staffordshire Cycling Association which brought all the clubs together under one umbrella. Sadly the NSCA does not exist today, although many are thinking it should be resurrected.

In 1970 Roy and Doris were asked if they would be prepared to run a cycling section for the City of Stoke Athletic Club. Stoke ACCS was duly formed and went on to become one of the most successful clubs in the country and back then there was a least 15. Stoke AC can boast members competing in the Tour De France, the Ladies Tour De France, World Championships, National Championships, both Road and Track, and many Divisional Championships. Members competed in many countries of the world including Germany, both East and West, Holland, France, Czechoslovakia Canada, Belgium, Italy, Denmark, Norway and even Palestine, to name but a few.

Roy himself was certainly no slouch when it came to cycling, being prolific and almost unbeatable on the track as anyone who's seen the beautiful trophies won by him on display in the shop. Among them are the Michelin Perpetual Trophy, the

Brooks Bowl, the BSA Trophy, and the Granta Trophy. He also led the way in the long tally of national championship gold medals being the first to collect the National half-mile grass champion ship at the Michelin sports in the 1950's.

Bernadette Swinnerton won silver in the 1969 World Championship Road Race in Brno Czechoslovakia and a selection of Golds in the British National Championships both on the road and track.

Margaret Swinnerton won many track and road events, including the Ladies Star Trophy series twice and qualified for the 1984 Olympics but sadly, for some unknown reason, was never selected. She represented GB in three world road race championships between 1979 and 1983.

Catherine Swinnerton (now Catherine Earley) rode in seven British National road race championships, winning in 1977 and 1984 and was never below 3rd. Her total of national championship medals, both on the road and track, must be a record. She rode the first Ladies Tour De France almost winning the final stage in Paris being pipped into 2nd place on the line. She competed in many world championships on both the road and track. She rode the 1989 Olympic Road Race in America where she met Martin Earley.

Martin Earley turned professional in 1985 joining the Fagor Team with whom he stayed until 1987. In 1986 he won the 14th stage of the Giro d'Italia. In 1987 he was part of the Irish team at the world Road Race Championship that ended in a win for Stephen Roche. He then rode for Kas and the Dutch PDM team of Sean Kelly. The highlight of his career was a stage win in the 1989 Tour De France when he broke clear of three riders 750m from the end of the 157 km stage from Labastide-d Armagnac to Pau. Martin competed in eight Tours. He now practices as a physio in Hilderstone.

Mark Swinnerton was the highest place British rider in the 1980 Milk Race. He won the 1980 Pernod Star Trophy and the Essex Grand Prix. He represented Britain on many occasions around the world - Germany, Holland, France and Palestine. He was pipped out of third place in the national cycle cross championship. Many here tonight will, however, remember him best when he and Brother Paul dominated at the Newcastle Track League

Bernard Swinnerton raced from 1975-88. During this time Bernard was the divisional Schoolboy Sprint and Pursuit Champion, Junior Sprint Champion, a member of the winning Senior Pursuit Team and 12th in the National Junior Points Race. On the road he was 14th in the National Road Race Championship and competed in star trophy events also representing GB in Germany.

Frances Swinnerton (now Frances Mayer) competed on the track, road and time trial. She decided to pursue a career in catering and successfully runs her own business "The Secret Kitchen".

Tony Mayer was the Junior National Pursuit Champion in 1978-79. He was selected for the 1980 Olympics alongside Paul Swinnerton, unfortunately both succumbed to glandular fever so were unable to compete. However, he did recover in time to attend the Junior Worlds taking bronze in the team pursuit. He qualified 8th in Mexico with a time of 3mins 30secs - a good time even by today's standards. In 1982 he was second to Dave Lloyd in the National 25, so no slouch

then. He won Silver in the team pursuit at the Commonwealth Games in Brisbane and Gold in the team pursuit at the Oceanic games. In all, he won no less than 15 National Championship medals.

Sean Mayer – finished 8th in the National Track Sprint Championships in his first year of racing.

Paul Swinnerton – Most of us will remember Paul's dominance of the Newcastle track league, many said he was unbeatable on our track and for the most part they were right! One of Paul's biggest disappointments, as with Tony Mayer, was contracting glandular fever just prior to the 1980 Olympic Games having qualified for The Sprint, Kilo and Team Pursuit. That said, his list of successes is impressive:

1978 Won over 300 track and road events in one year.

1978 British Best all-rounder on the track

1979 National Kilo Champion

1980 Entered the Guinness Book of Records having gained the World Speed

Record, riding at 109 mph unassisted on Rollers

1981 National Sprint Champion

1983 National Tandem Sprint Champion partnered by Nigel Bolton.

He competed in the world championships on many occasions.

From 1977 to 1983, he was the National ½ mile and National 5 mile Grass Track Champion. This in itself being a record - winning the National Championship four times has never been surpassed, only Dean Downing getting close winning on three occasions. Unsurprisingly Paul was now following in the footsteps of his father 40 years earlier.

1984 saw Paul retire from competitive cycling and deciding to take up martial arts and in particular Ju-Jitsu. This saw him competing in the super heavy weight European Championship age 40 and he became a black belt 1st Dan.

Barney Swinnerton – Paul and Rozy's son was a black belt in the Martial Arts aged 12. He started cycling in May 2009, his first season on the track was in 2010 and he is now riding with the Science in Sport Olympic Sprint Team with whom he won the gold medal in the 2010 Welsh Open Championship.

(This report, obviously of a speech at a meeting or dinner, was found by our Silver Surfer, Ray Swinnerton but the newspaper style has been quite heavily edited by your editor)

What a record – I doubt there is another family that has ever achieved such distinction in their chosen sport. The Edrich cricketing family of Norfolk (Bill Edrich scored 2,440 runs for England in his 39 Test matches, with 219 not out at Durban as his best innings) could field a full cricket team from their family but that was not in an individual sport.

Guardsman, Schoolmaster, Territorial and POW.

John Swinnerton (JS303) was born on the 13 November 1911 in Liverpool, the seventh of the ten children of John Swinnerton and Rose Helen Hexton from Westmoreland (now part of Cumbria). After a short service term in the Grenadier Guards, he trained as a schoolteacher at Didsbury College, Manchester. At the same time, he enlisted into the Territorial Army on the 1st Nov 1933 joining the 106 Regiment of Royal Horse Artillery (The Lancashire Hussars). By the time his regiment was embodied on the 2nd Sept 1939 he had been promoted to Bombardier.

After serving in Palestine, Egypt and Libya from the 8th Feb 1940 until the 6th March 1941, the regiment was sent to Athens, the capital of Greece on the 7th of March where a base had been established at Piraeus, the port of Athens. By early 1941, the base and supply organization was in operation and HQ 2nd HAA (Heavy Anti Aircraft Artillery) arrived in February to take command of all AA units. To the original three batteries were now added two more and his regiment, the 106th LAA (Light Ack Ack), who had been hastily converted from another role, was now added having been equipped with 36 – 20mm Breda guns. In his own words, they were 'chased across the Corinth Canal to Kalamata where he was captured by the Germans. The AA detachments were armed only with a few rifles and a machine-gun each and, in the unequal struggle, their resistance was quickly overcome. Although many were taken prisoner, others escaped in the confusion and a party of about 130 reached the shore where it was rescued by HMS *Orion*.

Sadly, John did not manage to escape and, after being force-marched across Greece and then carried in cattle trucks to Austria, he arrived at the POW camp at Wolfsberg in Austria. He spent the rest of the war in prison camps, after Wolfsberg moving to Lava Münd and Spittaz, both also in Austria, and finally to Stalag 383 in Bavaria from which he was released by the American 3rd Army on the 29 April 1945 exactly four years after his capture.

He returned home sometime between 4th and 11th of May and was demobilized on the 3rd November 1945 being medically unfit for further service.

John specialised in remedial education and eventually became Headmaster of a Special School. However, his living conditions during his time as a POW badly affected his health, particularly his lungs, and he had to retire at 60. Sadly, they shortened his life and he died in 1973 aged only 62.

I corresponded with him before I started the society but never had the pleasure of meeting him. When the 'Liverpool contingent' led by his younger brother, our American Vice-President Norman, arrived at our Domesday Gathering in a coach they were all astounded at my apparent close likeness to him.

The Lancashire Hussars

The earliest troop (the Bolton Troop) was accepted for service in 1798 but, after renewing service in 1802, it was disbanded in 1814. The Furness troop was formed in 1819, it was regimented with the Bolton and Wigan troops in 1828 to form the Lancashire Regiment of Yeomanry Cavalry. In 1900 with the Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry, it formed the 32nd Company of the 2nd Battalion, and afterwards the 23rd and 77th Companies of the 8th battalion Imperial Yeomanry. The regiment saw service in France and Flanders during the first World War and was converted to a Regiment of Royal Horse Artillery on the reorganisation of the Territorial Army in 1920.



News from St Mary's Church, Swynnerton

Jackie Stokes has written to tell us that the PCC is thinking of forming a "Friends of St Mary's" group. It is still in the early stages but they envisage that it would be made up of people who have an interest in the history and fabric of the church buildings. The provisional aims are:

- To encourage and involve all those interested in caring for and enjoying the benefits of the church building and its surroundings whether or not they worship at St Mary's.
- To work with and assist the Parish of St Mary's Swynnerton and its Rector and PCC to preserve, maintain and repair the fabric of St Mary's Church and maintain associated land.
- To raise money for this in ways approved by the Rector and church council.

As we, the descendants of the man who built the church, obviously have a strong connection with the church and, in the past, have donated quite considerable sums for these purposes, it was thought that some of you might like to join such a group as individuals. We shall, of course, continue to help out where we can but with a much smaller society these days, our finances are limited as you will see from the accounts.

If you would like to know more, please contact Jackie at chrisandjackie77@btopenworld.com or write to the Rector, the Revd Stephen McKenzie at
Do also have a look at St Mary's website at <http://cosst.org.uk>

New on the internet

Leading UK family history website findmypast.co.uk has published online transcripts of 574,800 English parish records, and at the same time made it easier to research parish records by adding a browse facility.

Users of the website will now notice the addition of a previous and a next button on their screens when viewing a parish record image, enabling them to browse through the registers page by page. 86,806 Yorkshire baptism records from Oughtibridge, Norton Lees, Ecclesfield, Ecclesal, Netherthorpe, Attercliffe, Sheffield and St Pauls spanning 1599 to 1996 have now been added.

These records are published in association with Sheffield & District Family History Society.

In addition findmypast.co.uk has added more baptisms to its Docklands record collection as follows:

- St Dunstan Stepney 1680-1689 10,027 entries
- St Matthew's 1790-1799 4,159 entries

Our Cover Picture

It's amazing what you find when moving house! This lovely painting was given to me by the artist, herself a Swinnerton, after she exhibited it and some of her other work at one of our early Gatherings. To my shame, I cannot now remember who it was and there is no note on the back. It has been in three lofts since we left Owls Barn in 1989. There, it hung in my study but since then I have not had the wall space to hang all my pictures.

I think it must be based on the famous hymn by William Hutchings, written in 1850 for the anniversary of St Paul's Chapel Sunday School, Wigan.

When mothers of Salem their children brought to Jesus,

The stern disciples drove them back and bade them to depart:

But Jesus saw them ere they fled and sweetly smiled and kindly said,

Suffer little children to come unto Me.

This, in turn, must have been based on the story in Matthew 19.14 and Luke 18.16.

I think it is appropriate that this should be in the care of our Chaplain and I shall pass it on to her as soon as I can – sadly, I did not discover it until after I returned from the Gathering at Swynnerton.

An early passport.

On the opposite page is a copy of the passport issued to George Swinnerton described as a *British subject traveling on the Continent*. Again, this was given to me by a lady at one of our gatherings many years ago but I cannot now remember who. It is dated 12th day of June 1871. It is a single page of paper measuring 11 inches wide by 14 inches long – a far cry from the passport of today, a paltry little book which is headed 'European Community.'! George was heading for France but he didn't stay long because it is stamped on the back by the French authorities saying he was departing for London on the 17th June.

According to *The Family Historian's Enquire Within* by Pauline Saul (5th Edition 1995) published by The Federation of Family History Societies – a book every family historian should have but, sadly, now out of print – it is not known exactly when passports were first issued but 'Safe Conduct' certificates were mentioned in an act of 1414 in the reign of Henry V. The Privy Council is known to have issued passports in the 16th and 17th centuries. The original passports were signed by the King himself and countersigned by the Secretary of State but, in 1794, passports signed by the Secretary of State alone (as this one is) were also granted. There are registers of all passports issued between 1794 and 1898 at The National Archives at Kew.

If anyone can identify either of the donors I would be very grateful if they would let me know.



Goodbye and rest in peace to:

Tesla John Swinnerton (TS179) of Lane Cove, NSW, Australia. Tes was a descendant of John Swinnerton of Shropshire who emigrated to Australia in 1878. His niece, Glenda Simpson wrote: Tes died on Saturday early morning, 4 February 2012. He was peaceful for the last few hours having had a couple of weeks being quite agitated. He had multiple myeloma and had been in one hospital or another since last July. He did have a couple of weeks with me in Bathurst. His funeral is this Friday and he requested to be buried in the same plot as his mother, Sybil. Tes had been a member of our society since 1980.

And also to Catherine Mary Swinnerton (née Auld) who died peacefully in her sleep aged 81 on the 7th April. Cathy, as she was always known, was the widow of our long-standing committee member Leslie Wakefield Swinnerton and was a great supporter of the society, I well remember she, Pat (who, sadly, is also now no longer with us) and Angela trying to cope with the 200 plus members from all over the world who turned up for our Domesday Gathering in 1986 to celebrate the 900 years since our name first appeared. Leslie and Cathy were great friends of ours and we shall miss her as will her children Susan, Leslie, Jeremy and Katherine to whom we send our very sincere sympathy.

Welcome to two new arrivals in the family



Ray and Shelagh Swinnerton have a new grandchild born to their son John and his wife Sarah. Isabella Helen Swinnerton, a sister to Scarlett and James, was born on the 1st of May 2012 at 05.45 am weighing in at 8 lbs 5oz. John had to deliver her himself the ambulance did not arrive in time. Ray says he supposes it is good practice for a policeman.

And, just in time to catch this issue, John Swynnerton of Sheffield, our former long-time Treasurer, and Elizabeth have been presented with their first grandchild – Louis, a son to Matthew and Rachael born on the 3rd June.

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 Gair Swinnerton

Chairman – Mrs Elizabeth Livesey

Secretary – Miss Iris Crouch

Treasurer – Keith Livesey

Subscriptions – Ray Swinnerton

Committee Member and Publications
Mrs Margaret Antill

Database – Roy Talbot

Website – www.swinnerton.org

Malcolm Smith Email:

Subscriptions £12 per annum (or local currency equivalent)

USA: Mrs Diana Cunningham,

Canada: Kevin Bowers,

Australia: Mrs Glenda Simpson,

UK and the rest of the world – see Ray Swinnerton above.



Bdr John Swinnerton with his wife Edna, mother Rose and daughters Frances and Valerie just after his return home in April 1945 from his POW camp.



Cathy, Angela and Pat Swinnerton welcoming everybody to the Domesday Gathering in 1986.