

*The
Swinnerton
Saga*



*The ruins of the Church which Sir John Swinerton, Lord Mayor of London, built
on his estate at StanwayHall (now Colchester Zoo)*

THE JOURNAL OF SWINNERTON FAMILY HISTORY

VOLUME15. NO.3

SEPTEMBER 2012

Annie Swynnerton's Paintings – No.13



Oil on canvas
1887
Manchester Art Gallery

Accession Number: 1936.267

Description: Head and chest frontal portrait of a young peasant woman with a scarf over her head and a patterned shawl pulled about her shoulders.

She holds a ball of wool in her right hand, a piece of knitting on three needles in her left hand, her head tilted slightly to the left, looking toward the viewer. Landscape background of white cottages amongst bare woodland trees.

THE SWINNERTON SAGA

VOLUME 15 NUMBER 3
SEPTEMBER 2012

(No 147)

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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

The present dreadful global economy is now affecting everyone as I am sure you know. Sadly, it is now affecting the production of our *Saga*. Readers in this country will know that we have recently had a very heavy increase in our postal charges and it now costs 50p (for those of you who can remember, that is 10/-!) to post a perfectly ordinary letter - an increase of 39%. Of course, this will also affect our bulk postings to Australia, Canada and the United States but thanks to the generosity of our overseas contacts, who post them on to members at their own expense, we do not have any further costs overseas.

As a matter of interest, at the outbreak of WW2 it cost 2½d to post a letter: this was still the case when I was a regular postman for 3 months in 1950 while waiting to join the army (we did two deliveries a day before noon and a delivery on Christmas Day!) and this remained unchanged until 1965 when it was increased to 4d.

The increases on other postal charges is roughly the same and Ray estimates that our postal bill is going to come to nearly £500. This was discussed at the AGM and various options were explored but no specific course was adopted. There were 49 people present (including children) but only 23 of those were actual members, the rest were relatives or friends. This was only 23% of our total membership (which is now at an all-time low) and I feel everybody should have a say in what is such an important matter. We must always remember that *Saga* is, for a large part of the society members, their only contact with the society.

Now the time has come when we must make a decision.

The options are:

1. To continue to produce four copies a year of 24 pages each including colour pages as at present but this would mean an increase in the subscription to £15 per year (or its equivalent in overseas currency).
2. To reduce the frequency to three per year (November, March and July) of 28 pages each including colour pages which would not require any increase in the subscription at present.

It was also suggested that we might consider producing it online or on our website with access to members only but we are not sure whether we have the equipment or staff able to do that.

So that is it in a nutshell. There is a slip enclosed which will enable you to cast your vote – please do it by email if you can to cut down on the paper work and any comments or suggestions would be most welcome.

You will notice that this is an 'economy' edition of 20 pages only and no colour pages because we are already heading for another deficit this year.

Gain

From the Chairman

I was delighted to see so many of you at the Gathering in June. It was especially good to meet old friends and make new ones at the Holiday Inn on the eve of the event. There were seventeen of us staying overnight and the hotel managed to arrange one big table to accommodate us all for dinner on the Friday evening. (It was a novel way for Keith and me to celebrate our 49th wedding anniversary but it was good to share it with our extended family.)

Julian Hawley has written a splendid account of The Day - many thanks, Julian.

You will find a copy of the Minutes and the Accounts elsewhere in *Saga*. I urge you to give special attention to the Minutes. You will note that there was some discussion about the future of *Saga* - the number of issues to be produced each year and the format i.e. hard copy, for individual download from the internet or via e-mail. Increased postage costs in the UK are having a great impact on our finances. The committee will be meeting in the autumn to discuss the way forward but it would be most helpful if you could make your views known before a decision is taken. Would you make contact with any of the committee members by e-mail, telephone or snail-mail. Your input will be much appreciated.

Elizabeth

* * * * *

Editor's Note

In the last issue of *Saga*, I printed a copy of an early passport which was given to me at a Gathering but I could not remember by whom. Mrs Brenda Morgan (née Swinnerton) has written to me to say she was the donor and it was the passport of her grandfather George John Swinnerton but she did not know his profession or why he would have been travelling on the continent in 1871.

He was then aged 23, the eldest son of George Samuel Swinnerton, the Cut Glass Manufacturer who employed 10 men and a boy and I assume he was either visiting a customer or having a holiday! No profession is given for him and, curiously he is not to be found in the 1881 census but in the 1891 census he is shown as a Metal Spinner. However, perhaps he had just had a temporarily falling out with his father because in the 1891 and 1901 census he is described as a glass cutter.

They lived in Ellan Vannin

a book of reprints from the *Isle of Man Times* compiled by Mona Douglas.

JOSEPH SWINNERTON, SCULPTOR

WHEN King William's College was a-building an expert stone-cutter from Liverpool was commissioned to take charge of an important branch of the work. He set forth in a small sailing-packet for this unknown Island in much the same frame of mind as if he had been sailing for America, and the voyage took two weeks, owing to severe head winds.

When he finally landed at Douglas he felt that he was really in a foreign country; the crew of the packet called out and conversed with people on the quayside in a strange language, and to crown all, when he began to pay for goods in the town, although his English speech was understood and his English money accepted — for each of his English shillings he received in change fourteen pence !

His name was Charles Swinnerton and he was destined to fall in love with this foreign island (and later, with one of its daughters, Mary Collister), to settle here, and to found one of the most distinguished families of the last century.

He lived to be 94, and died only three years earlier than his most famous son, Joseph Swinnerton, the Manx sculptor. Other sons were Mark, who became an expert stone-cutter, like his father and emigrated to Maryland, U.S.A., where he was widely known as a fine craftsman and established a large business; Godfrey, who became a master mariner, Charles, a chaplain in the Indian Army, Frederick, who achieved a considerable reputation as an artist, also in India, and Robert an art jeweller, clock-maker and designer of distinction.

As our foremost Manx sculptor it seems rather a pity that Joseph Swinnerton just missed being born on Tynwald Day; he first saw the light in Douglas on July 6th, 1848, and like so many



Bust of Samuel Pope QC, Recorder of Bolton for 40 years by Joseph William Swinnerton 1937 in Bolton Town Hall

distinguished Manxmen of his generation he was a pupil of the old Douglas Grammar School.

Charles Swinnerton himself was something of a sculptor, and soon became popular in the Island for his artistic monumental work. The boy Joseph showed an early aptitude for this type of work, and even in his schooldays used to help his father in yard and workshop, so receiving some elementary training of eye and hand. When he was fourteen years old he left school to devote all his time to stonework, as his contemporary and friend, John Nicholson, was to make house-painting his daily work. Young Manxmen with artistic aspirations at that period had to learn and practice their craft the hard way, as an adjunct to the business by which they earned their living, and these two youths were fortunate in that their work itself had an artistic aspect which served as a species of training, for there was no school of art in Douglas then.

The two struck up a close friendship which was to continue for the rest of their lives; they met frequently for discussions on art, religion, music, drama and the intellectual movements of the day — "tired the sun with talking and sent him down the sky" in fact, lent each other books and the much-prized Art Journal, and gathered round them the nucleus of a young Manx intelligensia.

Charles Swinnerton, we can be sure, was well aware of all this enthusiasm, and approved of it; perhaps he even took part in the discussions, for he also had artistic aspirations which he hoped his talented son might carry further than he had himself; and when Joseph was 20 his father released him from the business and entered him as an art student at Edinburgh University.

There, after only a few months' study, he won a prize for modelling in clay, and when he came back to the Island on vacation he executed busts of his father and his brother Robert, which were later described as "highly promising works showing a fine sense of form and proportion, curious in one who had hardly, if at all, drawn from the human figure." He had studied anatomy, however, both at home and at the University, besides continuing with practical stone-cutting in his father's workshop. The following winter, in early 1869, instead of returning to Edinburgh, he went to Rome to pursue his studies in art at the

famous Academy of St. Luke, which was founded in the sixteenth century under the direction of Frederigo Zucarro.

Many famous painters and sculptors, engravers and architects have been students of this Academy, and Joseph spent two hard-working but very happy years there among a cosmopolitan crowd of students from every nation in Europe. In his first year he won Pope Pius IX's second (silver) medal, and in his second year the first (gold) medal for sculpture — an astonishing success for the "raw Manx boy," as he used to call himself, and a wonderful testimony to his natural genius, in view of the short student period he allowed himself.

Student life in Rome at that time was joyous and picturesque, and Joseph lived it to the full, acquiring many friends, both Italian and of other nationalities, and a love for the Eternal City which afterwards never left him. He identified himself with his adopted country, even so far as to bear arms with his Italian friends during the breaching of the ancient Wall of Aurelian by the troops of King Victor Emmanuel, narrowly escaping death on one occasion when a shell exploded very near to him. This service led, later on, to his introduction to the great Italian hero, Garibaldi.

After two years at St. Luke's, he set up his own studio in the city, and was elected a member of the British Academy in Rome. His first important work was a statue entitled "Cain," which was well placed in the Royal Academy and received favourable notices from the art critics of the London press. It was afterwards exhibited in Manchester and Douglas. The following year he again secured great praise from the critics for his group "Cupid and Psyche," exhibited at the Royal Academy, and from then onward his reputation grew steadily.

He spent part of every year in the Island, and executed some exquisite small busts of his own family and of some prominent Manx people, and it was about this period that his father, who had himself continued to practise sculpture as a hobby, built for his own retirement and for the use of his artist sons the house on Gansey Point, near the Smelt, still known as The Studio.

Most of Joseph's work, however, was done in Rome, where he had a studio, first in the Piazza Trinita de Monti, and later on the ground floor of a house that he had built for him on the V Montebello. When he was about thirty, he married a yo-

Scottish fellow-artist who was also working in Rome, Annie L. Robinson. She used to visit the Island with him and did a number of paintings of Manx scenery, and in her later years she was created Dame Annie Swinnerton.

Joseph Swinnerton was a great walker and something of a mountaineer. He climbed the highest peaks of the Sabine Hills, was nearly drowned when crossing Lake Bracciano in a ramshackle canoe, and tramped among the Volscian mountains buying old coins or majolica pottery, staying at country inns, eating country fare and drinking the local wines, which were very good. He was a member of the Roman Section of the Italian Alpine Club, and with its members climbed the highest peaks of the Appenines.

But he was also a good Roman townsman, never happier than when working or entertaining his friends in his own studio, and always glad to extend the most generous hospitality to visitors from the Island, whether relatives or friends. John Nicholson stayed with him on several visits, as did his father and other members of the family, and among his many Manx callers were Deemster Sherwood and Speaker A. W. Moore.

He loved Rome and delighted to show it to his visitors, who found him a fascinating guide, for he had made himself familiar with the history and lore of the city and its many historic buildings. He had identified himself so closely with Italian life that he was at one time invited, and consented, to lecture to Italian troops, and this resulted in his being presented to Queen Margarita, who was patroness of the educational movement under which he lectured.

But Rome, much as he loved it, was only his second home; the Island always came first in his affections, and to it he continued to return each year.

He collected any Manx books he could lay hands on and read all the new ones as they were published, and he was a great admirer of both T. E. Brown and Hall Caine, executing characteristic busts of both.

Some his main works in the classical tradition are "Immortal Youth," "Hiawatha and Minnehaha," "The Victor," "Love's Chalice," "Ganymede," "Virginia" and "Mona" — which last he regarded as an expression of his abiding love for his native land. As an expression of his second country, Italy, he executed

a colossal bust of Garibaldi, to model which he visited the great leader in his home on the Island of Caprera.

He was also a deeply religious man, and some of his finest work was in the field of religious sculpture. His "Santa Francesca Romana," in coloured marbles, and "Christ at the Pillar" are both in the well-known Jesuit church in Farm Street, London, the former showing a return to medieval usage. His "St. Winifred," executed for Hollywell, in Wales, of which place she is the patron saint, was greatly admired by Pope Leo XIII when it was taken for his inspection into the Vatican. His works show both poetic imagination and originality, with a strong tendency towards naturalism unusual in his day. His technique was excellent, revealing a thorough knowledge of anatomy and perfect drawing, while as a bust modeller he had few superiors.

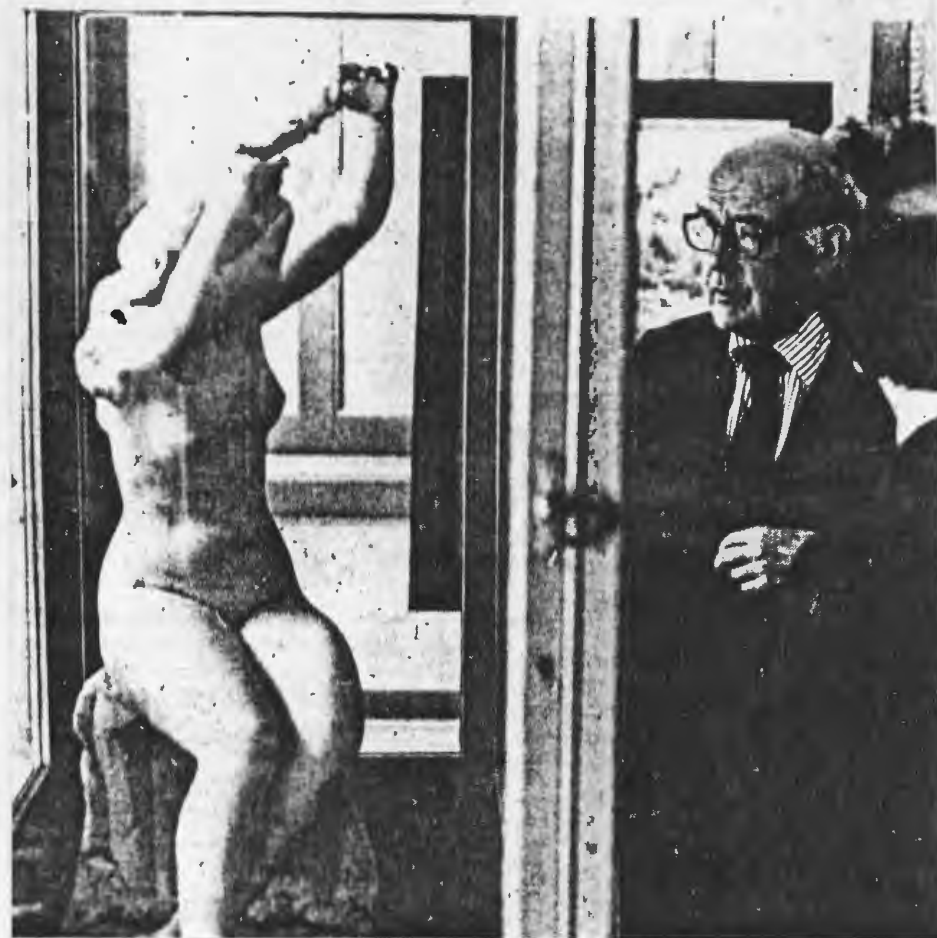
Of his fountain, "Immortal Youth," which was exhibited in the National Exhibition at Rome and awarded the medal for the best work in the exhibition, a critic wrote that it might be "regarded as his masterpiece . . . one of the greatest efforts of art that any Manxman has produced, for in it he coped successfully with that most difficult of all branches of art, the representation of ideal human beauty adapted to utilitarian purposes."

At the end, he returned to the Island to die. Taken ill in Rome, the urge came to see once again the Manx hills and the sunsets over Bradda, and the little houses of the Port, as he always called Port St. Mary. He did see them again, but not for long: he died on the 10th of August, 1910, and was buried, by his own wish, at Kirk Maughold.

His most patriotic work, "Mona," is in the Manx Museum. It would be a graceful tribute to a most distinguished Manxman if one of his religious works could be secured for the Cathedral of Sodor and Man when it is restored.

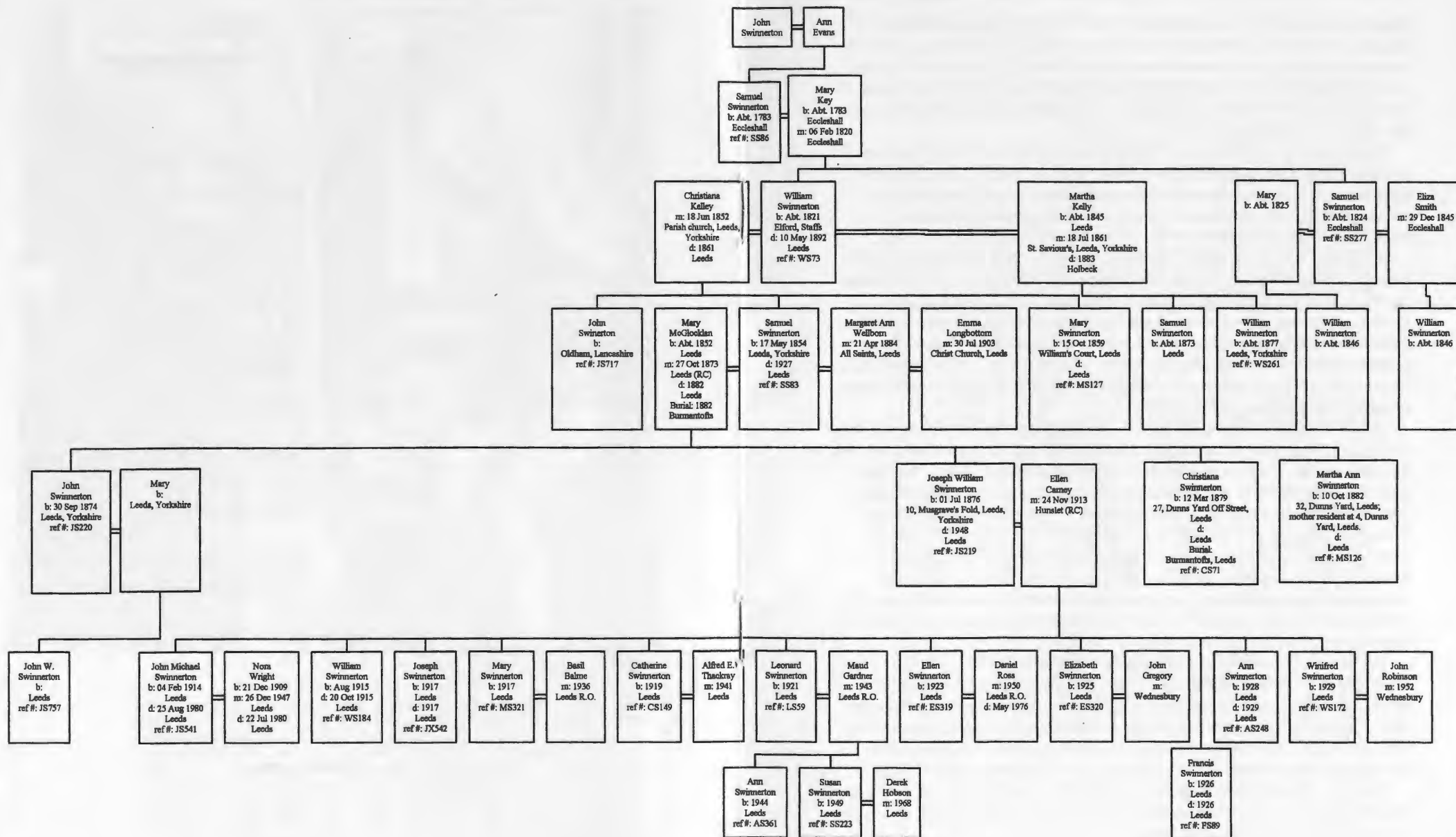


Joseph William Swynnerton
1848-1910



Poet Laureate Sir John Betjeman confronted by Joseph Swynnerton's marble "Mona" at the Mananan Festival's Victorian exhibition which he opened at Balcony House, Castletown, on Wednesday. The exhibition is open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. every day except Sunday during the coming week. Sir John read one of his own poems at the "Music by Candlelight" concert at St. Mark's on Thursday night. (See this page).

Descendants of John and Mary Swinnerton who emigrated from Staffordshire to Leeds



Progress report on our research.

Brian Swinnerton of Liverpool has been very active in recent months in helping me with my research and we have made some good progress. We have been concentrating on two small branches to try and find out more about the head of each (known by our archivist, who is well known for his wry sense of humour, as UFOs or Unidentified Family Originators), and try and link them into one of the larger branches.

We now have a vast amount of online data to draw on. I have been able to abandon some of my past prejudice against such sources because they have been notoriously inaccurate and have incorporated a great deal of wishful thinking but now the major sites offer actual photographs of original documents so we no longer have to rely on other people's transcriptions.

We looked first at the branch we call London 3 whose main occupation for several generations was artificial flower makers. Up till now, our knowledge started at John and Elizabeth Swinerton who were both born about 1780 in London. However, from baptismal and marriage certificates in the special collection of baptisms, marriages and burial records formerly held in the London Metropolitan Archives and census returns, we have now been able to take it back another generation and tie in several other families who we knew about but had not been able to connect.

The UFO is now Richard Swinerton or Swinarton who married Jane Owen at Holborn Street Sepulchre on the 12 August 1771. It is interesting to see that they named two of their sons David (the first one died in infancy), the first time this name had ever occurred anywhere except in the Oswestry branch where there were several. David is, of course, a Welsh name (Daffyd) and Oswestry, although in Shropshire, is right on the Welsh border. There is already a strong connection with Oswestry in Sir John Swinnerton who became Lord Mayor of London (see the June issue of *Saga*). It may be coincidence but we shall see. Unfortunately, the tree has now grown too big to include on the centre page but it is available as a Gedcom file if you have a genealogical computer program or as a .pdf file.

The second one we have been taking a close look at is Bridgnorth 1. The UFO here is a Thomas Swinnerton. Nothing is known at present about him other than he had a son James who married and produced another son James who became the Revd James Swinnerton, the blind priest who I wrote about some time ago. However we have now discovered other members of the family who emigrated to America and Australia who are being investigated.

Thomas must have had more than one child, it would have been a very rare occurrence in those days unless, of course, his son was born on the wrong side of the blanket as the old saying went. We shall see.

The Linnean Society of London Proceedings 24 May 1939

CHARLES FRANCIS MASSY SWYNNERTON was born 3 December 1877 in Lowestoft, his father, a Senior Chaplain to the Indian Army, his mother a daughter of Major W. H. Massy of Grantstown Hall, Tipperary. He was educated at Lancing College, and at the age of 19 went to the Melssetter District (Gazaland) of Southern Rhodesia to farm. He was already a naturalist, and in his leisure turned his attention to the Birds of his new neighbourhood. After a time he began to publish his observations on them and contributed papers to the 'Ibis' (1907 and 1908). There was some virgin forest on his farm and its composition interested him: he collected from it, and then from the country within his reach, and sent a large collection of herbarium specimens to the British Museum (Natural History), which various authorities worked up into 'A contribution to our knowledge of the Flora of Gazaland' (Journ. Linn. Soc., Bot. XL, pp. 1-245; 1911). Precision in localization and notes on economic uses, etc. made this collection a model one.

Swynnerton joined the Linnean Society during a visit to England in 1907. On a subsequent visit (1911) he read to the Society papers entitled 'Short cuts by Birds to Nectaries' and 'Short cuts to Nectaries by Blue Tits' (Journ. Bot. XLIII, pp. 381-416, and 417-422), and on a third visit (1915) he read a very considerable paper entitled 'Experiments and Observations on the Interpretation of Form and Coloration in Plants and Animals' (Journ. Zool. XXXIII, pp. 203-385; 1919). Yet again in 1923 he exhibited at a meeting of the Society lantern-slides illustrating African Rain-forest, coppice, thickets due to grass-fires, and the means of protecting forest against their injury. With his paper of 1915 he had passed from the study of the distribution of the birds to the study of the shape and colour of their insect-food. The suggestion had come from Sir Guy Marshall, who recommended it to him on account of its bearing on the interpretations and theories of mimicry. The programme he set himself is given on p. 203 of the Journal, and the details in the 180 pages which follow it report, it has been stated, but one-half of the patient experiments he had carried out in the five years before he wrote the paper. Its publication was delayed by the Great War until 1919. In 1915 he published an account of the habits of the Driver Ant, *Dorylus* (Trans. Entom. Soc. Lond. 1915, pp. 317-50).

In 1918 a breakdown in health drove Swynnerton from farming. But his energy would not permit of rest and he turned for occupation to a study of the Tsetse fly in Portuguese

East Africa. In a report (Bull. Entom. Research, xi, pp. 315–385; 1921) he wrote, 'I wish to make it the one outstanding recommendation of this report that late burning, with very frequently indeed a year of no burning, should be given a trial over a considerable number of years', because partial burning merely increases the places suitable for breeding and provides directly or indirectly a juxtaposition, excellent for the insect, of feeding grounds, resting grounds, mating grounds, and breeding grounds.

In 1919 he was made the first Game Warden of Tanganyika and began eleven years' study of large game. In 1922 he was officially asked to investigate the relationships between the Game and the Tsetse fly. His work showed that two-fifths of the Territory of Tanganyika was infested, and that the pest was spreading in certain directions. He then laid bare the problem in so promising a manner that in 1929 he was made Director of a new Department of Tsetse Research which he built up, with head-quarters at Shinyanga, a village about 200 miles to the south of the Victoria Nyanza, and with a small but enthusiastic staff. He was now in a position, so far as funds permitted, to put the advice he gave in 1921 to a considerable test and to try other means. He succeeded in barring the advance of one of the Tsetse flies on Shinyanga, getting the Negro to help him and re-settling the deserted country, with a barrier between the fly and the cultivation.

In 1936 his report on 'The Tsetse Flies of East Africa' (Trans. Roy. Entom. Soc. LXXXIV, pp. 1–579; 1936) detailed the work of the Department to that date. The report is valuable to the Botanist for the ecological observations on vegetation and immensely valuable to the Administration of any area in Tropical Africa. Swynnerton had proved to himself the indispensability of an aeroplane for observational work, and he was in the habit of travelling by air. He was using one and returning from an expedition when, on or about 15 June 1938, he met his death by an accident near Singida, not far from Sinyanga: and with him died also the Botanist of his Department, B. D. Burtt (see p. 236 above).

The preoccupations of Tsetse control had not meant to Swynnerton an abandonment of his earlier interest in mimicry, and in 1935 he had published 'An investigation into the defences of the genus *Charaxes*' (3te Internat. Entom. Kongress, ii, pp. 480–516), full of valuable data.

He was made a C.M.G. in the honours list of 12 May 1937,
I. H. BURKILL.

Very sadly, Massey Swynnerton was killed in a plane crash on the 8th June 1938 on his way to Dar-es-Salaam to receive this award, which had been made in the Coronation Honours of King George VI in 1937, from the Governor.

He was buried on Shinyanga Kopje, in the former Tanganyika where he had worked for nearly 20 years. In 1940, a memorial was erected to his memory by the Rhodesian Scientific Association and still exists today in the heart of the magnificent forest where he spent most of his time between 1900 and 1919.

Charles Francis Massy Swinnerton was the father of our former president Sir Roger Swynnerton, grandfather of our former treasurer John Swynnerton and great-great grandfather of our latest arrival Louis Robert John Swynnerton who was born on Jubilee day and who is pictured with his parents Matthew and Rachel on the back cover.

* * * * *

The Linnean Society of London is among the oldest of London's Learned Societies and is the world's oldest active organisation devoted exclusively to natural history in the broadest sense. Fellowship is open to all interested in the science of natural history.

Founded in 1788, the Society is named after the great Swedish scientist Carl Linnaeus (1707–1778), the father of modern plant and animal classification, whose botanical, zoological and library collections have been in its keeping since 1829.

Carl Linnaeus was born in 1707, the son of a Lutheran clergyman, at Rashult in Sweden. He began to study medicine at the University of Lund in 1727, transferring to the University of Uppsala the following year. Linnaeus headed an expedition to Lapland in 1732 when he was just 25, travelling 4,600 miles and crossing the Scandinavian Peninsula by foot to the Arctic Ocean. On the journey he discovered a hundred botanical species. In 1734, he mounted another expedition to central Sweden.

He gained his medical degree in 1735 at the University of Harderwijk in Gelre, the Netherlands (which no longer exists), thence going to the University of Leiden for further studies.

The Society's founder and first president was Sir James Edward Smith (1759–1828). He was amongst those instrumental in its practical establishment as a meeting place for the cultivation of the science of natural history. A scientist and collector, Smith acquired the plant and animal specimens originally collected by Linnaeus and augmented them with many specimens of his own.

A remarkable character!

John Swinnerton (JS199), always known as Jack, was born in 1903 in the Stone registration district of Staffordshire, the son of Tom Williams Swinnerton of the Yew Tree Branch. His mother was Jessie Ann Crawford, who, it is said, was Scots and had a connection with the famous Scots family of Crawford Biscuits but this may be just family legend. All we know is that she married Tom in Stoke on Trent in 1891 and died in Canada about 1965. Tom was the elder brother of Bertram Swinnerton, the founder of the Swinnerton pottery firm.

Jack lead a very adventurous life being a great sportsman and man about town. He joined the Navy in the early 1920s and his family thought he did his training on HMS *Conway* - a naval training school or "school ship", founded in 1859 and housed for most of its life aboard a 19th-century wooden battleship. The ship was originally stationed on the Mersey near Liverpool but moved to the Menai Strait during World War II. Sadly, while being towed back to Birkenhead for a refit in 1953, she ran aground and was wrecked, and later burned..

After he left the Navy, he emigrated to Canada and joined the Royal



Canadian Mounted Police, the famous 'Mounties'. There he met and married his wife Margaret but, having had a very severe leg injury, he and his wife returned to England where he became a cinema projectionist in the Middlesborough area. HMS Conway

was originally the two-decker HMS *Nile*, a 92-gun second-rate line-of-battle ship. She was 205 ft long on the gundeck, had a 54 ft beam, and displaced 4,375 long tons. During her operational life she was equipped with ten 8-inch guns and eighty-two 30-pounders. Launched in June 1839, She had survived the Baltic Blockade during the Crimean War, later protecting British possessions in the Caribbean and 'showing the flag' along the eastern seaboard of North America 50 years after the British surrender at Yorktown. In 1876 she was renamed *Conway* and moored on the Mersey. Jack returned to Canada after he retired and died in Leduc on the 3rd May 1983. *(To be continued).*

Remembering!

As I am now in my 9th decade (yes, 0 to 1 is your first) and having been involved in family history for 60 years, I find myself looking back more and more and remembering things about my childhood that I should tell my grandchildren. To my generation, 'before the war' and 'after the war' are common phrases because WW2 had such a total effect on our lives and life was never the same again afterwards. This little article was sent to me by our one-time chairman, Joe Swinnerton, many years ago. I found it when trying to sort myself out in my new study and, for a little light relief, I thought I would share it with you.

If you were born before 1939 – you are a survivor!

We were before television, personal computers, mobile phones, penicillin, polio shots, flu jabs, frozen foods, contact lenses and the Pill!

We were before radar, credit cards, split atoms, lasers and ballpoint pens and also before pantyhose, dishwashers, tumble driers, electric blankets, air conditioners, drip-dry clothes and before men walked on the moon.

We got married first and then lived together (how quaint?). In our time, closets were for clothes not for coming out of and designer jeans were scheming girls named Jean.

We thought fast food was what we ate during Lent and Outer space was the back row of the cinema.

We thought being gay was being happy and lively and we danced to the Gay Gordons. We were before house-husbands, computer dating, dual careers and commuter marriages. We had never heard of FM, tape decks, videos, electric typewriters, artificial hearts, word processors, yoghurt and guys wearing earrings.

A chip was a piece of wood or of a fried potato, hardware meant what it said and we had never heard of software.

Time-sharing meant togetherness and pizzas, McDonalds and instant coffee were unheard of.

In our day cigarette smoking was fashionable and nearly everybody did; Grass was mowed, Coke was a cold drink and Pot was something you cooked in. Rock music was a grandmother's lullaby and Aids were something to help the elderly get about.

We were certainly not before the difference between the sexes was discovered but we were surely before the sex-change: we made do with what we had and were probably the last generation to believe that you needed a husband to have a baby.

No wonder we are all so confused and that there is such a generation gap.

BUT we survived and that is something to celebrate.

THE SWINNERTON FAMILY SOCIETY

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 2nd June 2012 at Swynnerton

PRESENT: Elizabeth & Keith Livesey (Llandudno), Rachel Livesey (Streetly), Emma, Alan, Jonty & Bailey Greelees (Altrincham), Ian & Margaret Antill (Atherstone), Julian Hawley (Persore), Mary & John Antill (Bristol), Iain Swinnerton (Sherborne), Joan Jones, Rosalie Price (Market Drayton), Earl & Mayleen Swenerton (USA), Alan & Myrna Jones (Prestatyn), Helen Shaw, Steve Cooke, Geoff and Carole Swinnerton (Liverpool), Ron & Maggie Swinnerton (Helston), Glenda Simpson (Bathurst, NSW), Anthony Donovan (Australia), Roger & Elizabeth Swynnerton (London), Iris & Brenda Crouch (Romford), Ross & Janet Swenerton (California), Jack Deuli, Audrey Cherry, Grant Belfrage, Julie Brauer-Belfrage (Victoria, Australia), Denise Bullock (Wetley Rocks), Valerie & Hans Dall (Denmark), Anne Hooley (Birmingham), Jacqui Simkins, Ray & Shelagh Swinnerton (Sandbach), Keith, Rose & Olivia Williams, Brian Swinnerton (Liverpool) and Mandy Smith.

1. WELCOME

The meeting commenced at 10.30am by the Chairman, Elizabeth Livesey, welcoming those present..

2. MINUTES of the meeting held on 26th March 2011 at Streetly. These were read: agreement was proposed by Rachel Livesey, seconded by Anne Hooley and passed.

3. MATTERS ARISING

There were none.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

These were distributed to the meeting by Keith Livesey and were as follows:

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2011

Subscriptions received	1104.00	"Saga" Printing	1010.42
Accumulated Subs Canada	255.00	"Saga" Postage	318.76
Attendance at AGM	122.00	AGM Lunches	100.00
AGM Hire of Hall	50.00	Stationary	67.70
2012 Gathering Deposits	75.00	Purchase of large printer	169.99
Deficit in year	<u>427.42</u>	Sub to Ancestry Worldwide	<u>116.55</u>
	1908.42		1908.42

Bank balance at 4.1.2011- £625.60 Bank balance at 31.12.2011 - £198.18
Keith commented that in the year ending 31/12/2011, we spent £427 more than we received. This is a result which ought not to be repeated as it reduced our funds as you can see and that is despite the receipt of £255 of accumulated subs from our members in Canada. If this imbalance of expenditure and income were to recur we would be insolvent by the end of 2012.

How then do we avoid such a disaster? In short, we have to either increase Subscriptions or reduce the cost of Saga by reducing the number of issues or both. However, things in fact are not as urgently in need of such a solution as they seemed to be when I first completed the accounts to 31/12/2011. There are two reasons for this:-

1) In February we received accumulated funds from our Australian Members totalling £664

2) We still have some funds in the USA which could be transferred here. So, effectively, we could just about get by for a short time as we are, though as your treasurer, I would be failing in my duty if I did not automatically advise against merely "getting by". We ought to consider the alternatives I set out earlier.

I am thrilled to be able to give you some good news. In May the Society received a share in the Residue of the Estate of the late Col Jeremy Swinnerton who died in March. This amounted to £3,482. I have written, as treasurer, to the solicitors for the executors of the will expressing our appreciation of this bequest and would suggest that the society formally expresses our gratitude to Jeremy's next of kin - Timothy.

In view of this, our state is not as precarious as it seemed a few weeks ago, even so we ought not to consider "living off" Jeremy's munificence. His generosity ought to be regarded as of a long lasting help to the Swinnerton Family Society. It could fund the digitization of the Society's collection of archives, thus ensuring their availability for future reference and research.

Meanwhile, I ask the meeting to formally accept the accounts presented.

There were no questions regarding these accounts and their acceptance was proposed by Geoff Swinnerton, seconded by Valerie Dall and agreed.

5. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

Ray Swinnerton reported that UK membership in 2011 was 69; in 2012, 64 so far. There are 11 in USA and 7 in Australia. Ray commented that postage of the "Saga" had virtually doubled since 2010. This lead on to discussion regarding ways of managing the budget as next point.

6. MEMBERSHIP FEES

The treasurer, Keith Livesey, commented that postage of "Saga" for 2012 would be nearly £500 and in view of this year's deficit some steps would need to be taken. There followed a general discussion on the subject and several useful suggestions were made including:

- Reducing the number of issues of "Saga" from 4 to 3 a year (April, August and November) or reduce the quality and/or size.
 - Two Sagas supplemented by a news letter sent as an attachment to an email.
 - Rather than publishing the Saga; putting it on the Swinnerton Web Site and giving members a password to download it. It was suggested this might attract younger members.
 - There could be paper or web members.
 - Give people 3 options i.e. Paper, email or web; the password would change each year with members being given the new one when they renew their membership.
 - To have 4 hard copies but increase the subscription.
- Elizabeth Livesey, the Chairman, suggested that all the ideas be discussed by the committee; the outcome to be published in the Autumn issue of Saga. Proposed Valerie Dall; seconded Earl Swenerton and agreed. Iain Swinnerton pointed out that for many members of the society, Saga was their only contact with the society and that he thought it was very important that we should keep publishing it in the best quality we could afford.

7. FEDERATION OF FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETIES

Elizabeth said she had been in contact with the Federation. The annual fee is £40. Ray asked what the benefits of joining were. Iain said it was formed in 1974 and provides

Advice to member societies, acts as spokesman for family history matters, records etc with the Government and provides insurance for its membership when engaged on Society activities.

That the Swinnerton Family Society should become a member was proposed by Iain Swinnerton, seconded by Glenda Simpson and agreed. Elizabeth advised that the constitution will need to be amended to add: "The Society agrees to seek affiliation or membership of appropriate bodies with similar objectives and in particular to become a member of The Federation of Family History Societies (FFHS) and to pay the subscription applicable to their category of membership when it falls due. It also agrees to guarantee to pay to the FFHS an amount of up to ONE POUND (£1) if the FFHS is wound up or goes into insolvent liquidation whilst the Society is a member or for up to 12 months after it has resigned or ceased to be a current member of the FFHS."

8.FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S CHURCH

Elizabeth had been approached by Jackie Stokes about the formation of A Friends of St Mary's, Swynnerton group. Elizabeth suggested we make a donation of £25 as a thank you for providing refreshments. This was proposed by Margaret Antill, seconded by Shelagh Swinnerton and agreed.

9.ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Lord Thomas of Swynnerton had been invited to become Patron of the Society and had accepted. No vote was necessary on this point

The current Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary were all willing to stand again, but Ray Swinnerton would have been happy to be replaced. However no-one was willing to take on this responsibility so he agreed to stand for re-election.

The following were elected:

Chairman - Elizabeth Livesey Swinnerton	Proposed Brenda Crouch Seconded Geoff Swinnerton
Secretary - Iris Crouch Brauer-Belfrage	Proposed Elizabeth Swinnerton Seconded Julie
Treasurer - Keith Livesey	Proposed Ronald Swinnerton
Seconded Roger Swinnerton	Proposed Glenda Simpson Seconded Ross
Membership Ray Swinnerton Swenerton	
Vice Chairman - Margaret Antill Swinnerton	Proposed Geoff Swinnerton Seconded Shelagh
President - Iain Swinnerton Swinnerton	Proposed Peter Swinnerton Seconded by Ray

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Geoff Swinnerton complimented the stewards on their excellent service and their choice of colours which were also those of Manchester City FC.

11. 2013 AGM will be held on 8TH JUNE in St Mary's Church Hall Swynnerton 10.30 for 11.00



The latest arrival – Louis Robert John Swynnerton with bunting round his bed to commemorate the fact that he was born on Jubilee Day with his parents Matthew and Rachel born on Jubilee Day – the 5th June 2012.



The Dannebrog – the national flag of Denmark

June 5th has another royal connection – the Grundlovsgag, the day in 1849 when the country became a constitutional Monarchy, known as Constitution Day or, sometimes, Independence Day.

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

Vice-Chairman and Publications

Mrs Margaret Antill

Database – Roy Talbot

Website – www.swinnerton.org

Malcolm Smith

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

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