

*The
Swinnerton
Saga*



*'Agatha's Needle' by James (Jimmy) Swinnerton 1939
Oil on Canvas*

THE JOURNAL OF SWINNERTON FAMILY HISTORY

VOLUME 15. NO. 4

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Annie Swynnerton's Paintings – No.14

The Dreamer



I made an error in the last Saga – this is the picture that should have gone in . The descriptions I printed ,were for this picture.

THE SWINNERTON SAGA

VOLUME 15 NUMBER 4
DECEMBER 2012

(No 148)

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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 Chairman

Well 2012 has certainly been a year to remember - internationally, nationally, as a society and on a personal level. There was the huge



success of the Olympics and Paralympics and the patriotism generated by the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. I hadn't taken much interest in the build-up to the Olympics - that is until The Torch came to Llandudno. On a beautiful May morning Keith, Rachel and I stood on the balcony at our local theatre enjoying champagne and canapes

and absorbing the excitement of the crowds on the Prom as we all awaited the arrival of The Torch. A few evenings later we were at the summit of the Great Orme for the lighting of the Jubilee Beacon. Nature was at her best - on one side of the Orme we watched the setting sun whilst the moon was rising on the other side - a truly spectacular experience. In between these two events we enjoyed our own celebration - our Gathering at Swynnerton.

In August we attended Rachel's Induction and Installation as Rector of the Watershed Benefice. It was a typical British summer's day - ie cold and wet and I was beginning to think I would look very silly in my new floaty pink outfit but the weather forecast said the sun would shine by 6 o'clock - and it did! The service was very moving and very happy - someone likened it to a wedding and indeed it was.

We don't know what the coming year will hold for us but I wish you all a very happy Christmas and a peaceful and healthy New Year.

Elizabeth

* * * * *

The future of Saga

Sadly only 48% of the members voted in the poll to determine the future of our journal. However, from those who did vote, there was a clear majority (34) for the reduction in the number of issues per year to three and maintaining the present subscription as against 14 who wanted to keep the four issues per year and slightly increase the subscription.

So, although this issue is dated December, it does contain the extra pages and the next issue will be issued in April 2013.

A Christmas message from our Chaplain

I am very much looking forward to my first Christmas in my new post. There is plenty to keep me occupied in the parishes and, by the time you read this, I will already have switched on the Christmas lights in Wheaton Aston. There are special services and events across the four villages throughout December and I will be celebrating Midnight Mass at the oldest of our churches, All Saints in Lapley.

The welcome I have had here has been incredibly warm and I already feel very much at home. As I began to explore my new churches, that feeling of being at home started to take on a new dimension: There are 15th Century Swinnertons buried in Weston-Under-Lizard, and the list of past rectors of Blymhill reveals two Swynnertons. I wonder if we are, unconsciously, drawn back to ancient roots? As I get used to ministering in rural communities, I am only just beginning to understand the incredible importance of people's ancestral connection with the land.

As we journey through Advent towards Christmas, those questions of ancestry and rootedness are writ large, aren't they? Our King was born, not in a palace - not even in his parents' home - but in a stable in his ancestral homeland. The Census probably wasn't the best news for heavily-pregnant Mary, was it, a ten day journey into the unknown? Yet the demands of the Emperor, however inconvenient, helped fulfil the prophecy that the Messiah would come out of Bethlehem.

Mary and Joseph probably travelled from Nazareth to Bethlehem along a route known as "*The Way of the Patriarchs*". I wonder if, whilst Mary faced the unknown, Joseph felt the draw of home? That small town in the shadow of Jerusalem yet so important in the genealogy of Christ: The place where Rachel died; where Ruth gleaned in the fields of Boaz; where David was born and, later, anointed King. Drawn back by circumstance, this is where the Holy Family was on that first Christmas night.

This Christmas, celebrate the bonds of family, old and new. Celebrate with old traditions, and create some new ones. And amidst it all remember that Christ's coming lifts us into something far greater than our individual family ancestry. It brings us firmly into God's family, a family as old as time. Christ's coming brings us into God's kingdom, our home! May God bless you, and all those you love, this Christmas and always.

Rachel x

Progress in research

We have searched in vain for the mythical Thomas Swinnerton, father of James the gardener of Colton in Staffordshire and grandfather of The Revd James Swinnerton, schoolmaster and priest.

It was the last named who started the family bible and wrote in the dates of birth of his father and mother but not the dates of baptism. He had obviously been told his grandfather's name by his father James who, we assume, in sympathy with his son's calling, would have been unwilling to have revealed that he was himself illegitimate.

We have, therefore, come to the conclusion that James senior, the gardener, was indeed the illegitimate son of Sarah Swinnerton, baptised at Quatford on the 8th of September 1811 and grandson of William and Mellone Swinnerton of the Oswestry family.

* * *

We have now definitely established that Richard Swinnerton (variously spelt in diferent records as Swinerton/Swinarton and even Sinnerton) who stood as the UFO of the London 3 Branch is, indeed, the Richard Swinnerton (RS208) of the Oswestry family and we have now amalgamated those two trees. Another link with Oswestry emerged with the discovery of the marriage of Philip Swinerton (PS2), Richard's uncle, to Sarah Edwards at St Andrew's Church in Holborn on the 2nd November 1761. This unfortunate couple lost at least four, and probably more, of their nine children very young. Both Philip and Sarah returned to live in Oswestry and were eventually buried there.

Richard had a son, George, who was baptised as *Sinnerton*. Brian has recently uncovered a whole family in Ireland who were all baptised as Sin(n)erton or Sunnerton.

We had an example of this in Uffington in Shropshire where the marriage of Edward Swinnerton of the extra parochial of Hamond (*sic – it should be Haughmond*) and Elizabeth Marston of *Wrockwardine* took place on the 11th of May 1778. However, their children William, baptised in 1783, and John, baptised in 1785, were both registered as Sunnerton. Their sons Edward, baptised in 1787, George, baptised in 1792 and Richard, baptised in 1817, were all registered as Swinnerton. There was also a Hannah Sunnerton who had a daughter Elizabeth Sunnerton in 1784. Was this a case of a local pronunciation or errors in transcription? They all fit into the main family at Astley.

This is what the Reverend Charles Swynnerton (himself baptised as Swinnerton) had to say about it writing in *Collections for a History of Staffordshire, 1912. Series Three. Part Three*

ON THE PRONUNCIATION OF THE NAME.

The Domesday spelling "SULVERTON" (perhaps meant for Sulnerton), (so spelt by the Norman scribe and equivalent to "Suverton" or "Sunerton"), is evidence that the name was not always pronounced "Swynnerton."

A similar form of the name appears in 7 John, 1206, where "Robert de Swinnerton" in his suit *versus* Stephen de Hulton is, in one return, described as "Robert de SOULVERTON" (? Soulerton).

In a plea of Hen. III. (1264) before the King, John, lord of Swynnerton, is described as "John, Lord of SONNERTON."

In a deed which I possess in original, *temp.* Edw. II., Roger de Swynnerton of Swynnerton calls himself "Roger de SWONNERTON," and the same spelling appears in certain pleas of 14 Edw. II., 1320, where one of the defendants is "John, son of John de SWONNERTON."

At Hilton, co. Stafford, for centuries in the possession of the Swynnertons, there is a deed of 46 Edw. III., 1372, with a seal on which the inscription is "S. Margarete de SONNERTONE."

The local pronunciation of the name was, and still is (unless the schoolmaster has altered it) SONNERTON, or SINNERTON.

An excellent example of this redundant consonant is seen in a deed of the Trentham Cartulary, in the name *Saville*, where one of the witnesses is William, son of Thomas SWAVILE, Mayor of Newcastle. Dated 1318. The forms SINVERTON and SWINFERTON are further examples of the taste of the day for superfluous consonants.

It would appear then that in "Swynnerton" the "w" was not always pronounced, but that it was mute, as in "answer," "morwening," "sword," "medwo," etc. and if so, as I believe, then the true pronunciation of the name must be "Sonnerton" or "Sinnerton."

'Go and do thou likewise'



The text of a single-light stained glass window in the north wall of the nave of the Church of St Peter, Llandeudov, Newport, Monmouthshire.

Made by |John Hall and Sons about 1928

In memory of James Swinnerton Vicar of this parish 1897-1924.

A rich landscape, and skilful composition to fit within a small compass.

THE MASSEY FAMILY by Alan Treherne

Perhaps the development of Newcastle-under-Lyme into an important centre for clockmaking in the late 18th and 19th centuries was due to its situation, as an important market town in North Staffordshire and on the main road from London to the north west, and to the availability locally of iron, coal and (from the Cheadle area of Staffordshire) brass. The town apparently achieved borough status in 1173, under a charter of Henry II, and many of the records of the Borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme survive.

The first clear reference to a clockmaker in the Borough is to *Thomas Swinnerton*, who was made a freeman in 1675 and died in 1708. He made lantern clocks and turret clocks, replacing some of the old clocks in local churches by new ones fitted with the more accurate anchor escapement. His apprentice John Redshaw was made a freeman in 1712, and the Redshaw and Beech families (the first John Beech serving his apprenticeship with Redshaw) made many brass dial long case ('grandfather') clocks, in typical provincial style, throughout most of the 18th century.

There was nothing remarkable in this, as practically all English market towns had one or two such clockmakers working at any given time in the 18th century. With the growth of Newcastle in the second half of the century, however, a number of clockmakers from outside the borough settled here and began to employ journeyman clock-makers and to take a steady stream of apprentices, so starting a new industry which was thriving by the beginning of the 19th century. For much of the 19th century there were 40 to 50 working clockmakers in the borough, producing each week about 60 long case clock movements or fusee movements for the well known English dial clocks. Most of these movements were sold, without dials, to Wholesalers or retailers outside the borough, to be fitted with the white (or 'painted') dials made almost exclusively by the Birmingham dial makers.

* * * * *

The Australian Swinnertons from Shropshire.

In *Swinnerton Family History* Volume 12 No 3, I published Gladys Hutchinson's notes on her father Alfred John Swinnerton's progress in Australia.

Alfred's grand-daughter, Glenda Simpson, our Australian representative with the help of her cousin Stephen Pain, a member of the society, and others of Alfred Swinnerton's descendants has now provided me with these splendid historic photographs.

Motorlife News



THE SWINNERTON CAR

It's hardly a name on everyone's lips, but the Swinnerton car when it first appeared in 1907 or 1908 was a revolutionary design, being a form of monocoque construction.

Unlike many cars built in Australia, and indeed anywhere, at this time the engine was not a proprietary unit, but was a four cylinder of 11 hp built in the factory by Alfred Swinnerton.

The car had belt drive to the rear wheels. The body was of wood, not uncommon at this time.



1907 SWINNERTON

The 1907 Swinnerton was possibly the world's first car without a separate chassis. This small vehicle was designed and built at Rozelle (Sydney) by Alfred Swinnerton, who personally made every component, including the castings for the four-cylinder 11 HP engine. Drive was provided to the rear wheels by belts and the body was made from American hickory wood.



Alfred Swinnerton also single-handedly built this bigger car in 1915



This is the engine which is in the Power House museum and is out of the last car – 1914-1925 mode which was again hand built by Alfred.



A rear view of the foundry at Rozelle



Employees at Rozelle



A family picture taken about 1954 – Alfred on the left (aged about 73), Stephen Pain, Stephen's grandmother Linda Swinnerton (wife of Albert, Alfred's brother) and Glenda's grandmother Sybil Swinnerton (aged about 58).



Swinnerton automobile engine, 1914,

On the Move: a history of transport in Australia, Margaret Simpson,, Powerhouse Publishing, Sydney, 2004

Swinnerton automobile engine, 1914, Automobile engine, full size, "The Weston", from Swinnerton motor car, 11 hp, 4-cylinder, Type Y, No. 1, designed and made by Alfred John Swinnerton, at A.J. Swinnerton foundry, 9 Weston Road, Rozelle, New South Wales, Australia, 1914

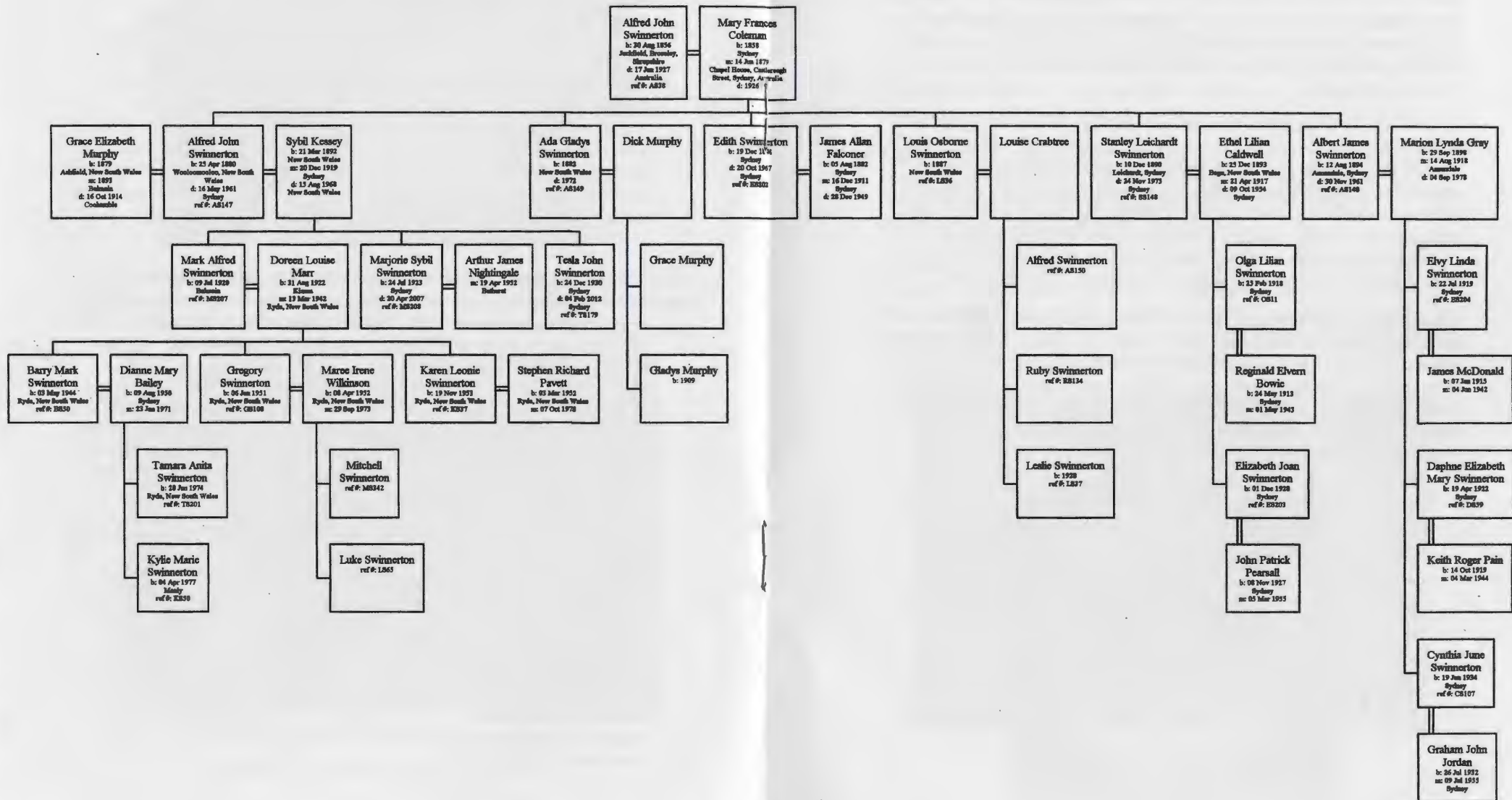
Many people falsely believe that the first Australian-made car was the Holden in 1948 or even the Australian Six in 1919 but there were numerous early attempts to start an Australian automotive industry, some with innovative ideas. A rare surviving example of an early Australian-made car engine is this one designed and made by Alfred John Swinnerton in 1914. Swinnerton was an engineer and at his Rozelle foundry in Sydney made this 11 hp, four-cylinder engine he called "The Weston" to go in his own car, the Swinnerton.

Alfred Swinnerton was ahead of his time, as although the Italian motoring firm Lancia is generally credited with devising the first production car with an integrated chassis and body structure, Swinnerton was working on this idea with his cycle car of 1904 and a roadster, from which this engine survives which he built in 1914.

Swinnerton's idea was further developed by another Australian, Dr A.R. Marks of Sydney. He built the Marks with the usual steel-rail chassis, and a body of stressed plywood. Alfred Swinnerton was a clever and gifted engineer and inventor who was one of pioneers of early automobile and engine construction in Australia.

Alfred John Swinnerton was an engineer born in Sydney on 25 April 1880, the son of Alfred John Swinnerton, an ironmaster in the firm Swinnerton & Frew of Parramatta Road, Annandale, and Mary Frances. Unfortunately, Alfred Swinnerton snr's business closed down in 1893 due to the maritime strikes of the 1890s. At this time Alfred jnr, then 13, was working as a fireman in the boiler room of Beales' piano factory. By 17 he was at Hodgekinson Engineers and rose to be foreman there at the age of 19. He then went into business repairing roller skates at Syd Fowler's Exhibition Building skating rink in 1903. By 1906 he was building small marine engines for motorboats used by oyster growers and fishermen on the Hawkesbury River.

Descendants of Alfred John Swinnerton and Mary Francis nee Coleman of Sydney



In the meantime, Alfred continued to experiment with various aspects of mechanical engineering and in about 1907 built his first car, a single-cylinder runabout at Marion Street, Leichhardt. At this time there were very few cars on the road in Australia, most of them French and British models. Alfred's design was innovative for the time as it had no chassis frame. The idea was to save weight and add strength as the body structure was designed to have all the components attached to it. Little is known about the car's mechanical details except that it was registered as a 6 hp Kelicon, possibly indicating that its motive power was a Kelecom motorcycle engine.

In about 1912, Alfred established his own foundry on two blocks of land, at 9 Weston Road, Rozelle (later renamed Victoria Road). He continued to build Weston marine engines, experimented with an early semi-diesel engine and a four cycle petrol engine. He developed and patented a high pressure centrifugal blower used on Wurlitzer organs at the Capitol and State theatres, and St Andrew's Cathedral as well as for furnaces in factories and gas works. Alfred was also interested in wireless, and built loud speakers for early public address systems used by politicians.

Alfred's second car was hand built in 1914 and had his name "Swinnerton" emblazoned across the radiator. The car was a low-slung roadster and was powered by this 11 hp 4-cylinder internal combustion engine, also built from scratch at his Rozelle foundry. Its final drive was by belts similar to the then popular cycle cars of the period. Alfred was said to have been instrumental in overcoming the bearing problems experienced with the Australian Six automobile.



John and Eliza emigrated to Australia in 1878. They had nine children in all including an un-named daughter who died at birth.

In her notes, Gladys only mentions George, Alfred John and Lucretia but research by Brian using his web contacts has shown that they all went to Australia.

John aged 47, described as a Tilemaker, with his wife Eliza aged 44 and his children George (22), Elizabeth (19), Joseph (14), Lucretia (11), Eunice (8), Sarah R. (5) and Frederick (3) arrived in Australia on the 27 July 1878 on the ship *Dalhousie*. The county of origin for all of them was given as Shropshire and all could read and write except for the youngest three.

John gave his mother as Mary Mainwaring (his mother had died about 1795 and his father had re-married); Eliza gave her father as George Round. In the column headed '*Relative in the Colony*', Alfred J. Swinnerton of Redfern was listed as John's son.

Alfred Jnr., Brian discovered, arrived in Australia in 1877 on the ship *Kapunda*. He was aged 20 and was a brickmaker so his later skills as a foundry man were learned in Australia. However, having grown up in Broseley, perhaps he was a maker of fire bricks used in the furnaces in that cradle of the Industrial Revolution.



An example of the famous Sydney Lace

The Beulieu Encyclopaedia of the Automobile,

G.N.Georgano, The Stationery Office, London, 2000.

Correspondence with the Swinnerton family in 1964 on Museum files.

After design and construction by Alfred Swinnerton, this automobile engine was fitted to a car of his own construction, a roadster built in 1914. Between 1915 and 1925 the car travelled some 45,000 miles (72,418 km). As well as the engine, the Museum also has the steering wheel from the car, object No. 96/133/1. Framed within the steering wheel is a photograph of the Swinnerton car.

After 1925, the engine was removed from the vehicle and it was stored in Mr Swinnerton's workshop. Alfred Swinnerton died on 18 May 1962 and the following year his engine was donated to the Museum by his widow Mrs A. Swinnerton. The engine was located for the Museum by Don Harkness, who recognised its significance.

NOTES on JOHN SWINNERTON

Editor's Note: In her notes (published in Volume 12, No 3), Gladys, who was a daughter of Alfred John by his first wife, is wrong (as was her father), in saying that her grandfather was really also Alfred John. Her grandfather, Alfred's father John, was baptized plain John at Astley in Shropshire on the 11 October 1829 and someone wrongly informed the registrar in Australia at his death that he was Alfred John. Astley is a small village in the Borough and Liberties of Shrewsbury and from the time of the Anglo-Saxons until 1860 the church was a chapel to the Collegiate Church of St Mary in Shrewsbury.



Alfred John the car builder.

HENRY V111, The Mask of Royalty

by Professor Lacey Baldwin Smith

The greatest disadvantage which the religious idealist had to face was the government's conviction that heresy and sedition were two sides of the same coin. The energy of Mr. Swynnerton, who preached even on workdays, was disconcerting enough to elderly and conservative ecclesiastics, but his zeal and even his impudence in claiming to know the King's mind might have been forgiven him if the authorities had not feared that he was consorting with 'light people', filling their idle minds with dangerous ideas and providing religious justification for civil disobedience. Behind ribaldry and sacrilege lurked the spectre of social revolution. The crazed Mr. Collins was imprisoned because he defamed the crucifix by shooting an arrow at the figure of Christ and shouting out to the effigy 'to defend itself', but he died at the stake in 1538 because he was 'wont to exclaim against the nobility and great men of the kingdom, and rashly to bring forward against them many passages of holy Scripture'.

The 'Mr Swynnerton' mentioned was the *Revd Thomas Swynnerton* – (TS.170), who was eventually forced to flee to the Continent to avoid imprisonment. Educated partly at Oxford and partly at Cambridge, he dopted the Lutheran Religion and wrote several works against the Popes and Papists under the name of John Roberts. He died at Emden in 1554.

James Swinnerton of Middlesex

On the next page is the naturalization certificate of James Swinnerton who emigrated to America on the 1st July 1833. He came back to England on the 10th November 1844 to see to the administration of the effects of his mother, Sarah Frances (née Ulyate) and sailed back to America on the 20th of November 1845. It is interesting that he is described as an alien!

James was born in Colnbrook, Middlesex on the 22nd of November 1809 and pursued a successful career in England as an Heraldic Painter. His father, Samuel, was a publican and the insurance policies on some of his properties have been published in past issues of this journal.

James was the great-grandson of George Swinnerton and his second wife Ann (née Suff) of Tetbury, Gloucestershire and the ancestor of our American representative, Diana Cunningham. George is another of our UFOs but, who knows, with all the new records becoming available, we may yet find his place in the family.

United States



of America.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY,
COUNTY OF ESSEX.

At a Court of Common Pleas, held at Newark, in and for the said County of Essex, of the Term of May
in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty one

Be it Remembered, That on the *Twelfth* day of *August*
in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and *fifty one*
James Swinnerton an Alien, a native of

England

personally appeared in open Court, and prayed to be admitted to become a Citizen
of the United States, pursuant to the directions of the several Acts of the Congress of
the United States of America, and the Supplements thereto, in such case made and
provided. And the said Applicant having thereupon produced to the Court such
evidence, made such declaration and renunciation, and taken such oaths as are by the
said Acts required.

It is thereupon Ordered by the Court, That the said

James Swinnerton be admitted to all the rights, privileges
and immunities of A FREE CITIZEN, of the United States of
America.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY,
COUNTY OF ESSEX.

I, JOHN R. WEEKS, Clerk of the
Court of Common Pleas in and for the County of Essex, do hereby certify, that the
preceding is a true copy of the record of the Naturalization of
James Swinnerton as the same remains on the records of the
said Court, in my office.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my
name, and affixed the seal of the said Court at Newark, in
the County of Essex aforesaid, the *Twelfth*
day of *August* - in the year of our Lord one
thousand eight hundred and fifty *one* - and
of the Independence of the United States, the *Twenty*
fourth -

JR Weeks



James Swinnerton



Fanny Rutter



James and Fanny's son, the Revd
Henry Ulyate Swinnerton, Diana's
great-grandfather. Having
corresponded with him for some
years, The Revd, Charles Swynnerton
visited him in America after his first
wife had died in India. Charles's
family thought he was looking for a
possible new wife – the Revd, Henry
had five daughters!

Corporation of the City of London at the Guildhall.

Letter-Book E Circa AD. 1314-1337 Edited by Reginald R.Sharpe,D.C.L., of St. John's College, Oxford, and of the Inner Temple, Barrister-At- Law; Recording Clerk in the Office of the Town Clerk in the City of London. London; Printed by John Edward Francis, Bream's Buildings, E.C. MCMIII

p.176 Writ to the Mayor, Aldermen, and Commonalty of the City, notifying the appointment of Robert de Haselshawe, Provost of Wells, **Roger de Swynnerton, Constable of the Tower**, and John de Dytton, Canon of St.Paul's, together with such clerk as they may think fit to nominate, to be assessors and collectors of the sixth of movable goods granted by the Burgesses in the recent Parliament (nuper in quodam tractatu) at York, and enjoining that every assistance is afforded them. Witness the King at York, 2 Dec., 16 Edward II. (AD.1322).

And be it remembered that the above writ was read before the Mayor, Aldermen, and Commonality on Monday next after the Feast of the Circumcision (1 Jan.), 16 Edward II. (1322-3). the appointed assessors being present except John de Dytton. On which day it was agreed by the said Mayor, Aldermen, and Commonality to send a certain letter under the Common Seal to the King praying that he would grant some abatement in respect of the aforesaid sixth, inasmuch as they had frequently before undertaken divers burdens.

Agreement between John Albion, son of Godwyn le Feliper, and Richard de Rothinge, fripperer (felipar) as to the discharge of a debt due by the said Richard to the said John. Robert Davi mentioned as attorney of the said John. Witnesses, Andrew Horn, the Chamberlain, Richard Pynfoul, John ate Vigne, Henry de Norhampton, Richard de Huggelee, Richard Deveneys, and others (not named). Dated Wednesday the Eve of the Epiphany (6 J an.), 16 Edward II. (AS. 1322-3).

(This Parliament granted a tenth from the barons and shires and a sixth from the towns. Stubbs, "Const.Hist. " ii. 353n. p.300)

Return: We send you John de Gxonia, Richard de Hakeney, Hemy Wymond, and William de Brikelesworth to do, &c, as in the writ is ordered. The King to the Mayor, Sheriffs, Aldermen, and the Commonalty of the City, commending to their notice **Roger de Swynnerton**, whom he was sending to them on important business. Witness the King at the vill of St.John, 7 Sept., to Edward III, (AD.1336)

A similar letter addressed to the Mayor, Sheriffs and Aldermen alone. Another copy of the writ to the Treasurer and Barons of the Exchequer, forbidding them to exact Queen's gold on certain stuns paid by the City and dated from the vill of St.John, 1 July, 10 Edward III [AD1336]

THE ROUNDS OF BIRCH HALL – The Manor of Little Birch

Arthur Golding lived for a time at Little Birch Hall, and his first son **Henry** was born there and baptised in Great Birch Church on 6 September, 1572 - Henry Golding Esq. died in 1575 and mentions young Henry - his nephew in his will of March 20th of that year. It might appear that Arthur was left a rich man, but it turned out that Henry's properties were mortgaged to the Queen, and his widow Alice had a life interest in Little Birch. This involved Arthur in endless lawsuits for twenty years, and owing to increasing debts and claims he had to sell his properties in Birch and the adjoining parish of Easthorpe, and Little Birch was purchased by Sir John Petre of Ingatestone, created Baron Petre of Writtle in 1603, to settle on his eldest son, but by 1609 it had been sold to **Sir John Swynarton or Swinnerton** and Thomasine his wife, who had already purchased in 1601 Stanway Hall and other properties across the Roman River.

Sir John Swinnerton was a merchant tailor of London, who secured a lucrative post as Controller of the Wine Office to Queen Elizabeth. He was Sheriff of London in 1602, and Lord Mayor in 1611, and died in 1616. By his wife Thomasine (Buckfold) he had four sons and three daughters - the properties passing through his sons Henry, Richard and Robert, who each died childless, to his fourth son Sir (*sic*) John Thomas Swinnerton, whose daughter Thomasina married Sir William Dyer and in whose family Little Birch remained into the 18th century. As tenant of Little Birch Hall, the Swinnertons had for a time John Eldred (1565-1646) an eminent merchant who came and settled in the Colchester area of which borough he was Alderman and Bailiff. He died at Little Birch Hall on 6th October, 1646, aged 81, and was buried in Little Birch church, close to the Hall. Previously Eldred and Dame Thomasina Swinnerton had jointly repaired the church.

As young Henry Golding was baptised at Great Birch it might suggest that even at that date the church of Little Birch was not fit for use - hence the need of the Eldred/Swinnerton restoration. By the end of the 17th century the church was ruinous and not in regular use, probably through the Civil War, including the local siege of Colchester in 1648 In the Essex Quarter Sessions Records Vol XIX, 1611-1624, No. 197/132, 133, at the Epiphany Sessions of 1612, Sir John Swinnerton was ordered to make a bridge in Little Birch in the highway from Copford to Laver de la Haye which is a great annoyance - "cart and horse" in right of the manor or capital messuage of Birch called Byrchhall. This would probably be where there is now a bridge at the end of the lake.

THE WINE TRADE. by A.D.Francis.

Published by A. & C. Black, London. 1972

p.44in 1605, acquired some thirty ships of 100 tons or more which were better found than those of their Mediterranean competitors and included several of two or three hundred tons. The company was primarily constituted for trade with Turkish and Venetian ports but was allowed certain rights of consular in other Mediterranean ports as far west as Malaga.

The terms muscadel, muscadine, or malmsey were still used for Greek wines, but the name malmsey began to be a generic term for all sweet wines and to be applicable to similar wines from Malaga and soon from Madeira.

An act of the first year of Queen Elizabeth alluded to the great affluence of sweet wines during recent years and to the evasion of duty by many of them. In particular it laid down that malmseys from Malaga, which were made of the very same grape as Greek malmseys, should be counted as sweet wines. The importers objected to this, and after several years during which the point remained in question seemed to have won their case. The merchants of Southampton, however, petitioned for Malaga wines to be regarded as sweet wines.

The reason for this was that they had been granted a monopoly of the trade in sweet wines by Queen Mary as a reward for the welcome they gave to her husband King Philip of Spain. This monopoly did little to restore their trade but for a time they collected the fines levied on sweet wines landed in London or elsewhere for infringing the monopoly. The fines were increasingly evaded, but some continued to be paid at least until 1637, when the farm of the moiety of the fines, which were due to the king, was sold for twenty pounds. In that year therefore the monopoly was still in force though not many fines were collected and the trade in sweet wines had greatly declined. In theory Southampton maintained her right into the eighteenth century, for it is mentioned in S. Baldwin's Survey of the Customs published in 1770.

In the first years of the century the trade still flourished and sweet wines were the most expensive wines, fetching 4/- a gallon as against 3/8d for sack. Most of the wines came from Crete or Zante, still in Venetian hands, though some came from Turkey, where Greek vineyards were still tolerated. Much came in English ships, but some came by way of Venice or Livorno. The extent of the trade in the last years of Queen Elizabeth was shown by the considerable stocks kept in London and by the keen competition for the farm of the duties.

In 1612, which was a prosperous year, the imports of sweet wines were still high and computed to be 12,700 butts. By 1621 the figure had fallen to 7,200 butts, but in 1619 the farm of sweet wines for eight years was sold for an increased rental of £10,873, so the trade must still have been valuable, though it had lost ground compared with that in French and Spanish wines. In 1612 *Sir Frank (sic) Swinnerton* had offered £9,000 a year and a down payment of £8500 to farm them for eight years. A few years earlier he had not offered more than £15,000 a year to farm the French and German wines together. By 1613 the farm of the French and German wines together had risen to £19,000 a year plus a down payment of £10,000.

p.47 (In the first years of the reign of James 1) the importation of Bordeaux wines rose again and in 1612 Sir John Swinnerton (*sic*) made a much higher bid for the farm of the French wines than he had in the days of Queen Elizabeth.

* * * * *

May 1605, Calendar of the Cecil Papers in Hatfield House, Volume 23: Addenda,

Sir John Swinnerton, his brother-in-law, who owes him money, has dealt most unjustly with him and refuses to make amends although petitioner has appealed to him through the mediation of Swinnerton's Aldermen to determine the dispute between them. The Lord Chancellor showed petitioner's suit to Swinnerton so that the latter might show cause why it should not be granted. But Swinnerton ignored the whole matter and, accordingly, the Lord Chancellor granted petitioner's request. Swinnerton has arrogantly reacted by imprisoning petitioner's surety. Petitioner declares that he has lost £8000 within the last few years, and asks that the Council grant letters to the same effect as those issued by the Lord Chancellor, and that his surety be released upon bail by a supersedeas from the Lord Treasurer.

* * * * *

The (just readable) document on the next page is another bit of Australian history. It is the enlistment document into the Australian Army Pay Corps of Frederick (Pilkington) Swinnerton, grandfather of our membership secretary Ray. He had previously served in the British Army in the Royal Lancaster Regiment and I have told his full story in previous issues.



A

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES
AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE
 Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.

Name: *John Swinnerton*
 Unit: *1st Cavalry Division*
 Island of: *Malaya*

Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

1. Do you know what service you are enlisting for?
 2. Do you know what duties you will have to perform?
 3. Do you know what conditions of service you will have to accept?
 4. Do you know what risks you will have to run?
 5. Do you know what penalties you will have to incur?
 6. Do you know what rewards you will have to accept?
 7. Do you know what dangers you will have to face?
 8. Do you know what hardships you will have to endure?
 9. Do you know what sacrifices you will have to make?
 10. Do you know what losses you will have to suffer?
 11. Do you know what pains you will have to bear?
 12. Do you know what dangers you will have to face?
 13. Do you know what hardships you will have to endure?
 14. Do you know what sacrifices you will have to make?
 15. Do you know what losses you will have to suffer?
 16. Do you know what pains you will have to bear?

John Swinnerton
1st Cavalry Division
Malaya

Couple surprised by daughter's early arrival Ello, ello! PC John delivers own baby.



BY TOM MULLEN
tom.mullen@thesentinel.co.uk

POLICEMAN John Swinnerton helped wife Sarah deliver baby Isabella at home.

John found himself dialling 999 when his heavily pregnant wife, Sarah, went into labour in their bedroom.

The pair had planned a home birth, but the baby started to arrive long before the midwife could attend.

And before John could even speak to the operator, his new baby daughter Isabella was here.

Now the couple say they wouldn't change a thing after their 8lb 15oz bundle of joy was found to be in perfect health.

Father-of-three John, who lives in Alsager and works for Staffordshire Police, told how the drama unfolded after Sarah's contractions began at 4.30am on May 1.

The 35-year-old constable said: "We had always planned to have a home birth. We had our first baby in hospital and our second at home. "But you obviously have a midwife with you, and by the time we phoned up it was too late for her to get here in time.

"It all happened in about an hour-and-a-half, much quicker than we expected. We planned to have a water birth, so I was there with our home birthing pool, trying to pump it up in time.

"Sarah was saying she wanted to push. We spoke to the midwife on the phone, and she said to call an ambulance. "I phoned an ambulance and then Sarah said the head was out. I went upstairs and before long, Isabella was here.

"There were initial worries when the baby at first appeared not to be breathing. But seconds later the couple could finally relax as Isabella began to cry and an ambulance crew arrived. John said: "They helped me cut the cord and said everything was OK. She's absolutely lovely.

"It's certainly a story to tell my mates down the pub." Isabella is a third child for the married couple, who also have daughter Scarlett, aged five, and three-year-old son James. Sarah said her biggest worry was not having painkillers on standby.

The 34-year-old social worker said "Giving birth with no pain control was definitely an experience. "People have said it must've been really romantic but I didn't quite see it like that at the time.

"It was the second time we've had one at home, so it was just a case of doing what came naturally. Although it wasn't quite as dramatic last time. "Thank goodness John was there, that's all I've been thinking. It was an experience, but hopefully not one we will have to go through again."

Family Notes

We were very, very, sorry to hear of the sudden and unexpected death, from a heart attack, of Beryl, the wife of our long-standing member Peter Swinnerton of Manchester and mother of Paul, Christopher, Anita, Kay and Elaine. Peter, Beryl and daughters were at the Gathering in June at Swynnerton and, indeed, had been to many Gatherings and had been loyal supporters of the society since Peter joined in 1984. We send our very sincere sympathy to all the family.



This was a double blow for the family because Peter's sister Cynthia, a former member of our society, also died in June this year.

* * *

We were also sorry to hear of the death of Gladys Swinnerton aged 86 on April in Liverpool. Judging by the number of tributes to her in the paper, she was a very popular and much loved lady. She belonged to the Wrexham Branch and was Aunt to our members Brian, James and Rosemaria to whom we extend our sympathy.

That's all for this issue, a mixed bag again, and it only remains for me to wish you all a Very Happy Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.



Perhaps when making your New Year Resolutions you would like to make one to send me something for Saga - far too much of it is written by me. When I read other One-Name Society journals they seem to contain quite a lot of letters from members and accounts of what their families are doing, of what their parents and grandparents did etc. etc. Also, of course, any entries or pictures that you see in the newspapers. Please think about it.



Rachel's Induction into the Benefice of Watershed, on 29 August 2012, by the Bishop of Wolverhampton



PC John Swinnerton (see page 91) at the Family Gathering at Swynnerton June 1979

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

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.