

*The  
Swinnerton  
Saga*



*Another beautiful oil painting of a scene in California  
by James (Jimmy) Swinnerton*

**THE JOURNAL OF SWINNERTON FAMILY HISTORY**

**VOLUME15. NO.5**

**APRIL 2013**

## Annie Swynnerton's Paintings – No.16

Cupid and Psyche



Cupid with blue wings, after Strudwick, kisses Psyche  
Painted circa 1890  
Presently in Oldham Art Gallery

## THE SWINNERTON SAGA

VOLUME 15 NUMBER 5  
APRIL 2013

(No 149)

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Editor – Col LS.Swinnerton,

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## From the Editor

In a recent edition of *The Caveman*, the magazine of the Cave Society, their chairman and editor Hugh Cave, a friend for many years, made some very interesting points and I have his permission to reproduce some of them.

Their 2012 Gathering took the established format of Annual General Meeting and formal business in the morning, followed by 'something of interest' in the afternoon - this time, a visit to the excellent Wedgwood Museum at Barlaston, near Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire. The minutes of the AGM are available on the Society's website.

Now, those are two very interesting ideas - the first would be of great interest to members who do not live in the Midlands and the second would save a lot of paper and printing in *Saga* in which, because of the reduced number of issues per year, space is now at a premium.

He said thirteen members were present, accompanied by eight non-members. That is about the same as our usual turnout but they do have 162 members compared to our 100.

There was some lengthy and interesting discussion about the Gathering, including the low attendance, although it was sufficient to meet the AGM quorum criteria of 5% of membership. I am not sure that we have ever had a qualifying quota for an AGM.

It was considered that the format of meetings around the regions had been successful in enabling members local to those areas to attend. We have tried those and, except for one many years ago in Lancashire and the one in Liverpool which saw the re-establishment of the society, they have not been a success.

Well - there is an interesting examination of how two very similar societies do things. Hugh also went to a Guild of One-Name Studies Seminar on 'Running a One-Name Society' last year at Gaydon that I was unable to attend.

He said that "*writing up the analysis of his society, seeking recommendations for a way forward he thought the main problem is the same we had - no one to 'carry the torch' as he and I, plus others who started so many years ago have done. There is no overall commitment. All he could do is make the effort, as you have done. After all, when I am 'six foot under' I will not be worrying about it! All I can say is 'it was fun while it lasted' and I have made good friends around the world because of it*"

Now there's some food for thought. This is my 149<sup>th</sup> issue of the record of our family history and I have to say that it is taking me longer and longer to produce each issue - I find it increasingly difficult, physically, to sit at a computer for long periods apart from the mental stress and cannot realistically see me doing more than finish this volume in April 2015 by which time I shall be 83. Is there a budding editor out there anywhere? I do hope so.

I hope you all have a better Summer than we did last year and I hope to see some of you at Swynnerton in June.

*Jain*



## From the Chairman

The eventful year that was 2012 nearly ended in disaster for us. On our way to spend Christmas with Rachel in her new Rectory we had a serious road accident. The car turned over, landed on its side and we were trapped. Fortunately people in

the car behind us alerted the emergency services who arrived very promptly. The police and paramedics rescued Keith through the hatchback but I had to wait for the fire brigade to come and cut out the windscreen before I could be released. During the waiting time - which seemed far longer than it really was - we were both afraid of the car catching fire - but we were experiencing our own Christmas miracle as we escaped with barely a scratch even though the car was a write-off.

The boot of the car was filled with large boxes containing the many Christmas presents for the eleven of us who would be spending Christmas with Rachel; our two suitcases were wedged behind our seats. When the police saw just how much luggage we had they loaded everything into a police car and proceeded to drive us to Rachel's front door - a lovely Christmas gesture.

But the excitement was not yet over. Ahead of the police car was a car being driven very recklessly. Our policeman checked the ownership and insurance details relevant to the car then apologised for having to delay our journey while he pursued the errant driver. With blue light flashing we careered along the A41 until the policeman was able to catch up and breathalyse the driver.

Everything had happened so quickly and seemed surreal, as if it was happening to someone else but we cannot praise highly enough all the emergency personnel who helped us - that certainly wasn't surreal and their care and attention really did happen to us.

I'd be quite happy for 2013 to be less eventful than 2012. You might so nearly have had to find a new Chairman and Treasurer! However you will have the opportunity to nominate and vote for officers of the Society at the AGM. This is to be held in Swynnerton Church Hall on Saturday morning 8th June 2013, 10.30 for 11 o'clock. Of course if you wish to offer to stand for election yourself, either for one of the offices or as a committee member, I should be delighted to hear from you in advance.

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

The committee really values your support of and in-put into our Society.

*Elizabeth*

## Sgt Henry Swinnerton RAFVR

I wrote Henry's story in *Saga* Volume 14, No.8 December 2010. Since then, we have received the actual account of his death

*Mitchel III HD392/A was hit by flak from Siegburg while bombing railways at Engelskirchen. Swinnerton was hit by scrapnel and killed immediately. I'm afraid this is all I have on Swinnerton and his last flight. The aircraft returned to base, so it is not recorded in the loss register of the Dutch Airwar Studygroup. Source: "De Operaties van 320 Sqdn" p.459/460 by Nico Geldhof.*

*Bas Maathuis*

A rough translation from the original Dutch reads:

**English-The 320 Squadron RAF** was a maritime squadron .It was created on 1 June 1940 in Pembroke Dock as part of the Royal Air Force . From June to October 1940 it was under command of Lt.Cdr. JM Olm, then to March under Lt.Cdr. Willem van Lier (1899-1976). Their motto was "We Are Guided By The Mind Of Liberty".

After May 1940, the squadron flew eight two-engined Fokker T.VIIIW Breeder aircraft to England. This formed the basis of 320 squadron. Their task was to detect and destroy submarines .Two Breeders were lost, after some time, the other Breeders became unusable, mostly due to lack of spare parts. As of August, Ansons deployed in October that were supplemented with Hudsons . On 18 January 1941, the squadron along with 321 Dutch



Squadron RAF moved. After the liberation of Belgium, the squadron on October 18, 1944 transferred to Melsbroek and on April 30, 1945 to Achmer , Germany . On 2 August 1945 the squadron was put under the Naval Air Service

*to Een Fokker T.VIIIW in dienst bij het*

Henry's death is recorded as:

1945 SWINNERTON, HENRY, (Statutory Deaths 1571/AF 01571)  
Sgt.1872820 320 Sqdn. 23 Born Scotland Died 28 Mar 1945, Sebaldsbrueck,  
Cause of Death - Air Operations

Thanks to Mr Stuart Hamilton, whose father, also a Sgt Air Gunner, served in the same squadron with Henry, we now have these pictures of Henry's funeral.



Henry's funeral at Brussels Town Cemetery 28th March 1945.



You will see that the photographs show personnel from both the Dutch Naval Air Service and the Royal Air Force.



## A CONVICT IN THE FAMILY.

We have known for many years that Marine Thomas Swinerton was a guard on a convict ship in the First Fleet in 1788 but we had no idea, even though I have visited the country four times and lectured all over the country and in New Zealand, that we also had a convict until Brian Swinnerton turned this up on the internet.

<i>Stafford</i>			
John Richardson	27 July 1788	Stafford	1
George Smith	27 July 1788	Stafford	1
John Harding (Stafford) Quarter	14 October 1788	Stafford	1
George Proffit	14 March 1788	Stafford	1
Thomas Read (Stafford) Quarter	14 April 1788	Stafford	1
John Beeze	14 June 1788	Stafford	1
Thomas Swinnerton	14 June 1788	Stafford	1

This is an extract from the convict register. The convict records of Tasmania tell us a lot about Thomas.

THOMAS SWINNERTON convict no. 68920

Departed London 14 January 1846 arrived at Hobart 20 May 1846, Van Diemen's Land (now Tasmania). Transported On the ship *Joseph Somes* Age 33. Height 5ft 9ins. Born Walford.

Family - wife Mary, Wolverhampton: brothers John & Joseph, sisters Mary, Sarah and Elizabeth. Reads and writes. Married - no children. Religion Protestant. Collier

Convicted for stealing clothes from his brother-in-law. Prosecuted by his brother-in-law Samuel Evans of 'nosell near eccles' (sic) actually Gnosall near Eccleshall.

Sentenced to be transported for 10 years at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sessions of Stafford Assizes 22 December 1845.

At first, I made a wrong attribution for Thomas because the names of his brother and sisters were identical to another Thomas but Roy Talbot put me right, the key word being Walford which is a small hamlet not far from Eccleshall and now home to the thriving Walford and North Shropshire Agricultural College. Thomas was baptised at Standon, Staffordshire, on the 19 Feb 1815 the eldest child of John Swinnerton and Mary (née Morey) who married at Eccleshall on the 17 February 1814.

His father was baptised at Eccleshall 10 Aug 1788, the son of another John Swinnerton, born about 1764 at Eccleshall, Staffs and Anne (née Miles). They married at Barlaston on the 26 Jun 1785 but at the moment we know no more because he is one of our UFOs.

The *Joseph Somes* (Master Geo. Thompson) sailed from Woolwich on Route 10 taking 148 days to reach Australia. 250 men embarked and despite the attentions of the ship's surgeon, James L. Clark, seven died on the voyage.



The *Joseph Somes*

The ship was named after Joseph Somes, a very rich ship owner and a Director of the Honourable East India Company (HEIC). With the demise of the HEIC, he was amongst the first to seize this new opportunity of leasing ships to the Government having previously done so to the HEIC. He very shortly had ships the trading to every part of world.

His house-flag, which only differed from the White Ensign in having an anchor instead of the Union Flag in the canton, is supposed to have been granted to him as a reward for his many services to the Government in time of need. When the H.E.I.C. sold its fleet, Joseph Somes bought some of its finest ships. He became Deputy Governor of the New Zealand Company and was its principal financier. The largest island in the northern half of Wellington was named after him but in 1997 the New Zealand Geographic Board assigned the official bilingual name of Mātū/Somes in recognition of the island's colourful European and Māori histories. Joseph Somes was one of the promoters of the famous Lloyd's Register of Shipping



It would appear that Thomas did not serve his full sentence having earned some remission probably for good conduct. He married Jane Hill (who we think was also a convict) at Hobart on the 19 Jan 1855 having become the caretaker and gardener at Hobart Church. They had no children and were accepted in Hobart as a respectable couple even appearing as a witness as this excerpt from the local newspaper shows.

## HOBART TOWN AND THE SOUTH.

An inquest was commenced on Tuesday, and concluded on Wednesday, before A. B. Jones, Esq., Coroner, and a respectable jury, on the body of an infant which had been exhumed, on warrant granted to the Police Superintendent, from Trinity burial ground, and of which a woman named Isabella Lucas was the reputed mother. The child was alleged to have been buried on the 22nd December last. The Rev. Mr. Davenport, Thomas Swinnerton, Jane Swinnerton, M. A. Poole (midwife), Dr Turnley, Ann Forster, Sub Inspector Dorsett, and Constable Walker were examined, but nothing to show any foul play in the matter was adduced. Dr. Turnley said that he had made a post mortem examination of the body, but from its advanced state of decomposition he could not arrive at any conclusion as to the cause of death; the only information he could give the jury was that from the smallness of the body it could not have arrived at maturity, but must have been born prematurely. The jury found a verdict accordingly, but though that the conduct of the midwife was highly reprehensible.

Thomas died on the 22 Jun 1879 at Hobart and Jane on the 23 October 1886 – both are buried in the cemetery he looked after for so many years.

Of course, all families have their black sheep but I sense this was part of a family feud. What happened to the wife he said he had left in England we have yet to discover. Nothing changes – those of you who have read the original history of the family (*Collections for a History of Staffordshire, Vol VII Part Two*) will remember those memorable lines in the introduction:

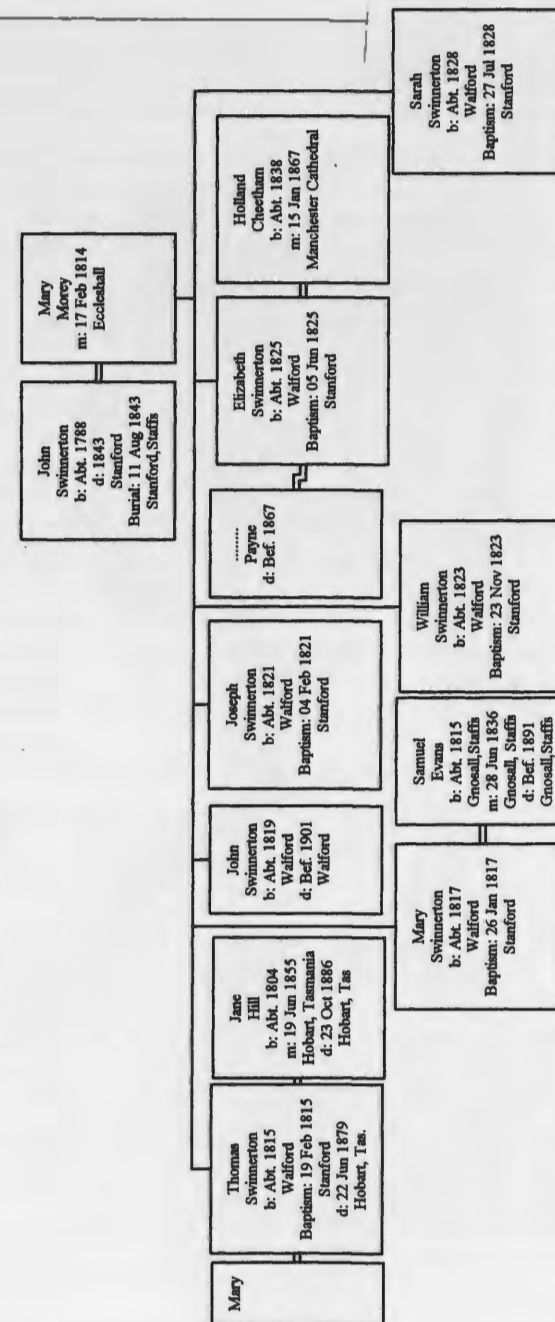


*Hobart Church now St David's Cathedral*

"During the troublous times which succeeded the accession of King Edward II. and for nearly the whole of that reign, the law was parctically in a state of abeyance, and the County of Stafford was at that rtime a scene of unbridled licencw. The defeat of the Earl of Lancaster, however, at the battle of Borough Bridge, in 14 Edw.II, and the few years of comparative peace abd quietness which ensued, enabled the King to enquire into the enormities committed throughout all parts of the Kingdom.

The inquiries which were held in Staffordshire between 1323 and 1325 brought to light deeds of rapine and violence in which nearly all the leading families of the county were involved. ***Amongst these the Swynnertons were conspicuous.***"(my italics)

*Descendants of John Swinnerton and Mary (nee Morrey) of Eccleshall*





## THE BATH BOOKS



This was copied for me by my old friend, Roland Symons, who saw it in one of the books of the Order of the Bath at the College of Arms. These arms were assigned to Lt Colonel Sir John Dyer who was created a Knight of the Order of the Bath on the 2nd January 1815. He was born on the 5 Feb 1772 and served in the Royal Regiment of Artillery. He died at Woolwich on the 14 March 1816 from injuries sustained in endeavouring to stop the horses of Lt Col Irvine of the same service which had run away with the carriage. According to the *New Monthly Magazine* of August 1816, he had distinguished himself on many occasions and had one more medal than the Duke of Wellington! I have shown it here because it clearly shows the Swinnerton Cross Fleury in two of the quarters denoting the fact that he was a grandson of Sir Thomas Swinnerton Dyer, the 5th Baronet, and descendant of Sir John Swinnerton, Lord Mayor of London's granddaughter Thomasine who had married William Dyer, the first Baronet.

## Swinnerton, Staffordshire - the Village and Church

Extract from "The Beauties of England and Wales" by J. Nightingale (Rev.) London, 1813 sent to the Revd. Charles Swynnerton by Charles E. Swinnerton of Boston.

**Swinnerton** - a neat village 4 miles north of Eccleshall, was a Royal residence in the time of the Saxons. In the reign of Edward 1, it was a market by charter. The Manor in the time of the Conquest belonged to Aelain (Ailaine) who held it from Rob de Stafford. He possessed no less than 81 manors in this county alone. His descendants acquired the name of Swinnerton, and many of them were persons distinguished, both in the field and cabinet. Roger, in the reign of Edw. 1st was summoned to Parliament, and soon after was created a banneret. Edward 2nd appointed him Governor of Stafford, and afterwards of the fortress of Harlech in Merionethshire. He distinguished himself highly and was appointed Constable of the Tower, and received from the Exchequer £145.13.8 per annum.

In this family, the Manor continued till the reign Henry V 111, when it was carried into that of the Fitzherberts by the marriage of the youngest daughter of Humphrey Swinnerton, the last male heir, with Wm. Fitzherbert of Norbury; from whom the present proprietor is a lineal descendant. The Mansion House, in which Mr Fitzherbert resides, is situated near the Church on a great eminence which commands very extensive views, not only over a great portion of the county, but over Shropshire and Worcestershire. In this house is a very fine full-length portrait of Sir John F.H.Knight.

The School House contains a remarkable figure of our Saviour sitting. He is represented as in the act of showing the wound in his side, which he received on the cross, to the incredulous disciple Thomas, with the aim of proving to him the fact of the resurrection. This statue was discovered buried at a little distance from its present situation some few years ago, and is generally believed to have been placed there in order to prevent its falling a sacrifice to the fanatical zeal of the Reformers, who in breaking down the images which filled the Churches of our ancestors, too frequently destroyed some of the noblest monuments of art.

Swinnerton Church has nothing remarkable either in its architecture or interior decoration. There are, however, several monuments disposed throughout it, among which is a plain altar tomb, supporting the recumbent figure of a Knight, cross-legged, after the manner of the Knights Templar, and underneath appears the following laconic inscription.

*"Domine de Swinnerton, et Ellen, rexor ejus".*

(The photocopy of the original letter was extremely difficult to read but our former President, the late Sir Roger Swynnerton, typed it up and managed to decipher it all except for one word which I was able to do using modern technology to enlarge it).



### Swinnerton Soldiers who died in the Great War - No.5 Harry Swinnerton

Harry was the only son of William and Agnes Swinnerton of the Dudley family. He was born in Newcastle-under-Lyme in 1880 and was living in Burslem when he enlisted at Lichfield for the King's Shropshire Light Infantry and was given the number 6220. After training, he was posted to the 1st Battalion. This was one of the two Regular Army battalions of the regiment and I think he may have joined before the war given his age and relatively low number.



The battalion was in Tipperary, Ireland, when war was declared on the 4<sup>th</sup> August 1914. Mobilised for war, it joined the 16th Brigade, of 6th Division and landed at St. Nazaire, France, on September 10th. It took part in the early battles of the Aisne and Marne and thereafter served entirely on the Western Front and in just about every major subsequent engagement. It was present at the First

Battle of Ypres in 1914 and in the Ypres salient, 1915, when it played a leading part in the attack on the Hoge positions in August when Harry was killed.

He has no known grave but is commemorated on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial which I described in the March 2012 issue of *Saga*.

Sadly, his records did not survive the bombing of London in 1940 so the only record we have is his medal roll index card. This shows that he went overseas on the 10 September 1914 and was awarded the 1914 Star and the British War and Victory medals. The fact that he was in receipt of the 1914 Star (often referred to, erroneously, as the Mons Star), which was only awarded to men of the original British Expeditionary Force (BEF) who had served in France or Flanders between the 5<sup>th</sup> August and the 22<sup>nd</sup> November 1914, confirms my supposition that he was a pre-war regular soldier. It also records that he was dead.

There is a note on the index card saying that all three medals had been returned and on the reverse is a note dated 16 October 1920 saying that he is listed on the substantive list of deceased soldiers held by the Officer in Command, Infantry Records, Shrewsbury, for whom medal releases cannot be traced. They would have been sent to his next-of-kin who, as his father had died in 1897 and his mother in the following year, would have been to his sister Mary Alice, born in 1878 but she was not found.

Name	Corps	Rank	Regt. No.
SWINNERTON	1st Bn. K.S.L.I.	Pte	6220
Harry			

Medal	Roll	Page	Remarks
VICTORY	* J/1/10213	86	Recd (Gus & R) 8/6/20 Dead
BRITISH	do	do	
14 STAR	8/1/14	91	
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			
10 - 9 - 14			
2/9/5838/3			
8/6/20			
11/5/3459			

Correspondence.

Off. Inf. Recd. Shrewsbury sublt list of deceased soldiers for whom medal releases cannot be traced. 16.10.20.

Address.

(25464-14a) Wt W 1347-ELP 6451 2000m. 10/19 EL 50 Tel 6450/1230

Harry Swinnerton's Medal Card



## PICTORIAL JUVENILE INSTRUCTION

### A miscellany of Religious & Moral Poetry & Prose (1842)

Many years ago in *Swinnerton Family History* Volume 2, I published two short poems taken from the above book. One was entitled 'An Infant Plant of Paradise' and was dedicated to Maria Rebecca Swinnerton, died Nov 18, 1842 aged just one year and three months. The other was to Ann Sophia Swinnerton on attaining her ninth year. Both were written by W. Aught from Tuttle Hill.

At the time I was unable to identify them but when I came across them again a few weeks ago, with the help of our modern databases maintained so meticulously by Roy Talbot, I found them quite easily. They were both daughters of William Swinnerton and Mary (née Truswell) of the Warwickshire Branch. The first one dedicated to Maria Rebecca has a note that her mother died 23<sup>rd</sup> of December 1841. What a sad Christmas that must have been for her family.

\* \* \* \* \*

### Another Swinnerton in Trouble

Gaol list of persons on Charges of Felony in HM Prison, Strangways, Manchester. Salford Hundred County Sessions Aug 23 1880.

Sarah Mc Callum and Mary Swinnerton (18) were jointly charged with stealing at Salford on the 23 July 1880. two aprons and a jacket the property of Agnes Wallace. C. Baker Esq, the committing Magistrate issued a warrant dated the 24 July 1880 and they were received into custody the same day.

They were tried before C. Christie JP on the 23<sup>rd</sup> August 1880



obstructing a pathway!

in the second court: the jury found Sarah 'Guilty after previous convictions' and she was given 9 calendar months hard labour and 2 years police supervision.

Mary was found 'Not Guilty' and discharged although it was noted against her name that she had once been summarily convicted for

### An unknown Swinnerton



Theresa Traynor, a descendant of Simeon Swinnerton of the Dudley Branch has sent this picture. She knows that one of the three men is a Swinnerton but is not sure which! Can anybody identify him from their family albums? Although this branch started in the Dudley/Cosely/Sedgley area, constituent families eventually spread to Bury in Lancashire and Middlesbrough in the North East.

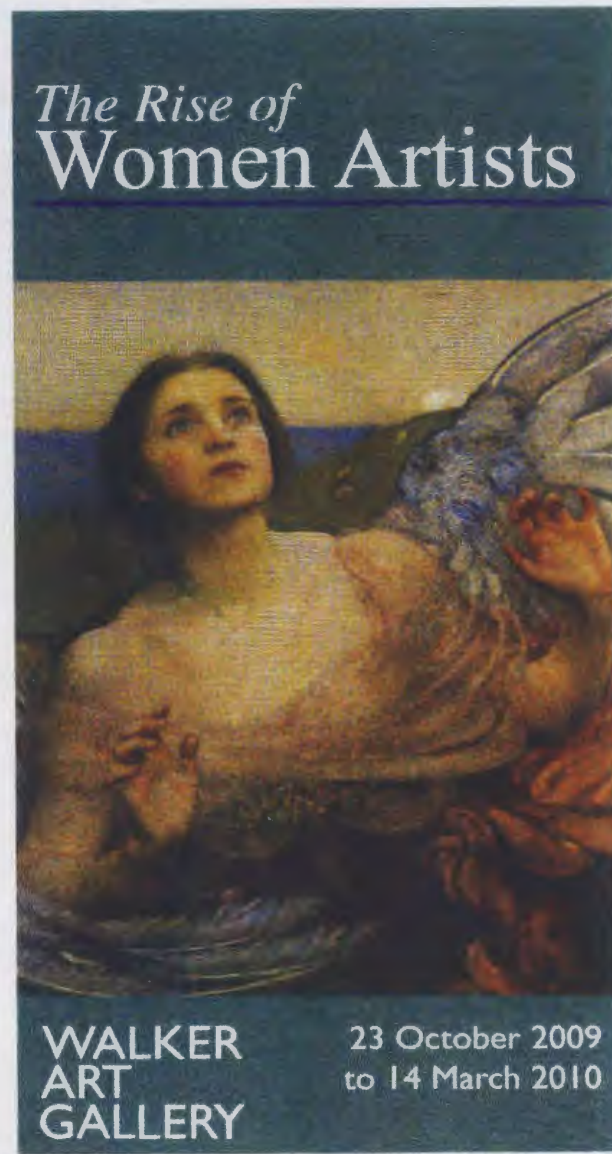
\* \* \* \* \*

#### **Errata**

In the September 2012 issue of *Saga*, Roy Talbot has pointed out that I put two Williams at the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> line of the tree of John & Mary Swinnerton who went to Leeds. There should only be one, son of Samuel and Mary.

Glenda Simpson has sent me some corrections to the last issue of *Saga* Page 82 — Notes on John Swinnerton. Gladys Hutchison is wrongly described as John Swinnerton's granddaughter, she was his great-granddaughter. John Swinnerton's son Alfred John Swinnerton, senior, (the Sydney wrought iron lace manufacturer) - his eldest daughter Ada married Richard (Dick) Murphy and their daughter was Gladys who married Jack Hutchison. Alfred John Swinnerton senior also had a son Alfred John Swinnerton (junior) who was the car manufacturer. Alfred John Swinnerton junior is Glenda's grandfather.





This is the front of the programme of the exhibition and, of course, is Annie Swynnerton's well known painting 'The Sense of Sight' of which she painted several versions.

### The Swinnertons of Salem, Mass.

The following is abridged from a copy by J.R.S. of a paper furnished by Miss N.A. Swinnerton of Massachusetts. 1875. Addressed to the grandson or granddaughter of Benjamin Swinnerton 1682-1742.

\* \* \*

Job Swinnerton, and his wife Elizabeth, came to this country from Staffordshire, England, with the Salem colony, in 1628. They were people of intelligence and property, and Puritans of a decided stamp and active piety. They are represented in the history of the time as unobtrusive, just, worthy people, who took no part in the commotions of the place, prior to the Witchcraft delusions. (See Upham's "Witchcraft" and "Filli Annals".)

They invested considerable property in land, and in the year 1637 joined the 1st church in Salem, now located Washington and Essex St., Higginson Square so named from the first minister. The old church has not now much of the old Puritan in its pulpit.

In 1697, 300 acres land were laid out to Job S. Jr., having land owned by his father as early as 1650. This was no doubt the homestead. He joined Gov. Endicott's farm on the East, and extended up the Plain through Andover St, now farms in Danvers; then Salem village. He also owned land in N. Salem, Middleton, and other estates in Salem village. The house stood on the site of Amos C(?)'s house, on the first farm below the hill in Andover St.

He had two sons, Job and John. Job was a farmer, living below his father on the opposite side. A bridle path then had access to the old road, ½ mile distance. His son, John, had a medical education, and was long time principal physician in Salem. When old, his (Ed: Job senior's) house burned, and his wife perished in the flames. Job was the eldest son, but as John's history is brief we will give his first.

#### Family of Dr. John Swinnerton.

Dr. John S. married Miss Hannah Brown July 2, 1673. Lived in Essex St., Salem. Had 2 children; Mary, born Dec. 1681, and John, named in his father's will, dated Nov. 1688. The gravestone says Dr. S. died Jan 6, 1690, aged 57, and his wife 1713, aged 77. Salem records have "John S. married Margaret Grafton 1711, daughter Mary, born 1712. This more probably the Dr.'s son, and here their history ends.

#### Family of Job Swinnerton, Jr.

Job S., Jr. married Ruth Symonds May 19th, 1658; children Jasper, born 1659, Joseph, 1660, Elizabeth, 1662, Ruth, 1664, Mary, 1670. Mrs Ruth S. died 1670. Job S. Jr. married Esther Baker 1673. There are no children by the second wife on Salem records. Mr. Upham, in his researches, found Joseph and Jasper, and located their residence on his map, but failed to trace your family



up to any .... (?). Mr. Prince has searched it out, by finding Job S.'s will proved 1700, giving 6 more children by 2nd wife - Benjamin (your ancestor), Joshua, James and Abigail, Esther and Hannah. The will gives Benjamin 54 acres of meadow, bought of Capt.E.G.Corwin, part at head of Centre St., and part a nice farm, afterwards owned by Mr.Topley. The old homestead of Centre St., now standing, was probably built by your great-grandfather, Benjamin, and occupied by three generations of your ancestors.

#### Family of Benjamin Swinnerton

Benjamin Swinnerton married Ruth Hoyer; children Jasper, born 1718, Joshua, born 1720, Ruth, born 1725, Mary, born 1730.

Jasper married Elizabeth Swinnerton, daughter of Joseph S. Had one daughter, Ruth Hoyer. They both died in one week, leaving the child a babe. They lived in the next farm to his father which probably was his wife's. Ruth married John Putnam and Sarah (married) Benjamin Upton both good families, (Mary instead of Sarah?)

Joshua S. married Mary Buxton in 1734; children - Hannah 1734, Benjamin 1741. Asa 1743, John 1746, Samuel 1748 (died in infancy), Samuel 1751. Asa married Elizabeth Dempsey, and went to Mirrimack, N.H., and of the rest, except John, there is no record in Danvers.

Ruth, the sister who married Putnam, was mother to Deacon Edward, and Dr. Amos Putnam, both men of conscience, and also to my grand-mother and Ruth, certainly amongst the Putnams, are still men of high standing in Society.

#### Family of John Swinnerton.

Married Elizabeth Phippen. Children: Betsey, Esther Sally, John, Rebecca, Andrew. Betsey married Wm. Cutler lived at Danvers Port. Esther married Joseph Dwinell, son of Z. Dwinell of Maine. Their children - Henry 1798, Mahala(?) 1802, Hezekiah 1808, Sally 1810, Joseph 1812, John 1816. Sally married Ezra Bradstreet 1804; no children. John S.jr. married Lydia Dwinell. Children John and Richard, born in Danvers. Rebecca married David Dwinell, had one son Norman Shepherd d. 1762, Mrs R.D. d. 1852 aged 87.

Richard, the youngest son married Eunice .... lived in Pennington N.H. Had 5 children, 2 sons John M and Moses C. who lived in Rochester N.Y. and 3 daughters Algina (*the document ends here*)

\* \* \*

This was transcribed and typed up by our former President, Sir Roger Swynnerton from a very indifferent photocopy of a barely legible letter! As he said when he sent it to me, there are some discrepancies between this account and our *Early Swinnerton Emigrants to America* in Swinnerton Family History Vol.2 No.8 January 1977, compiled from 'A History of Salem' by the New England Genealogical Society. However, I have seen another paper by Miss Swinnerton on the Medieval Swinnertons in which she got the generations thoroughly mixed up so I am not surprised. Sadly, I have seen files in the library at Salt Lake City which contain these papers and are regarded as historical fact

### Life in the Sgts Mess.



This wonderful photograph in the form of a post card is endorsed on the back

*This is the Billiard Room in the Sgts Mess where they have a dining room etc.*

Underneath is written 'William Henry born 1872 at Madeley'. Unfortunately it does not say where or when it was taken.

I know that it is the Cheshire Regiment and the William Henry mentioned is the Sgt Major W.Swinnerton who served in that regiment for the full 21 years. He can be seen third from the left and he is distinguished by wearing a collar and tie whereas all the sergeants are wearing tunics buttoned to the neck.

I gave details of his career in *Swinnerton Family History Volume 5, No 6.*

As to when it was taken, none of the Sgts are wearing any medal ribbons whereas if you could see William properly he would have been wearing the medals for the Boer War so my guess is that this was taken in the early 1900s just before WWI.



William Henry was originally enlisted on the 12<sup>th</sup> November 1890 and discharged on the 11 Nov 1911 having served in Ireland, India and South Africa and risen to the rank of Colour Sgt. On the out break of war in 1914 he volunteered to rejoin and was enlisted as a Private in the General Service Birkenhead Battalion of the Cheshire Regiment on the 30 Nov 1914. He was welcomed back with open arms and was immediately given back his old rank and then promoted to Acting Sgt Major on the 1st December 1914. We are fortunate that his papers survived the bombing of London in 1940. They show that he was discharged on the 17 Nov 1915 at his own request having been acting as an instructor to the new 15<sup>th</sup> (Service) Battalion This was the 1<sup>st</sup> Birkenhead Battalion – the first of two Cheshire Bantam battalions raised by Alfred Bigland MP but taken over by the War Office on the 15 August 1915. The Cheshire Regiment raised a total of 53 Battalions in WWI



William Henry Swinnerton in his full dress uniform as a Colour Sgt in the Cheshire Regiment. Note the distinctive crossed flags and crown above his stripes (chevrons) of his rank and the unique acorn and oak leaf collar badges of the Cheshire Regiment. Tradition has it that at the battle of Dettingen on the 27<sup>th</sup> June 1743, King George II – the last reigning monarch to command the army in person – was at one time hotly pressed by the French cavalry and was only saved by a detachment who formed around him under an oak tree and drove them off. He is said to have plucked a leaf and given it to the commander and desired them to wear it in memory of their

gallant conduct. They were then the 22<sup>nd</sup> of Foot but were renamed the Cheshire Regiment on the re-organisation of the army in 1881.



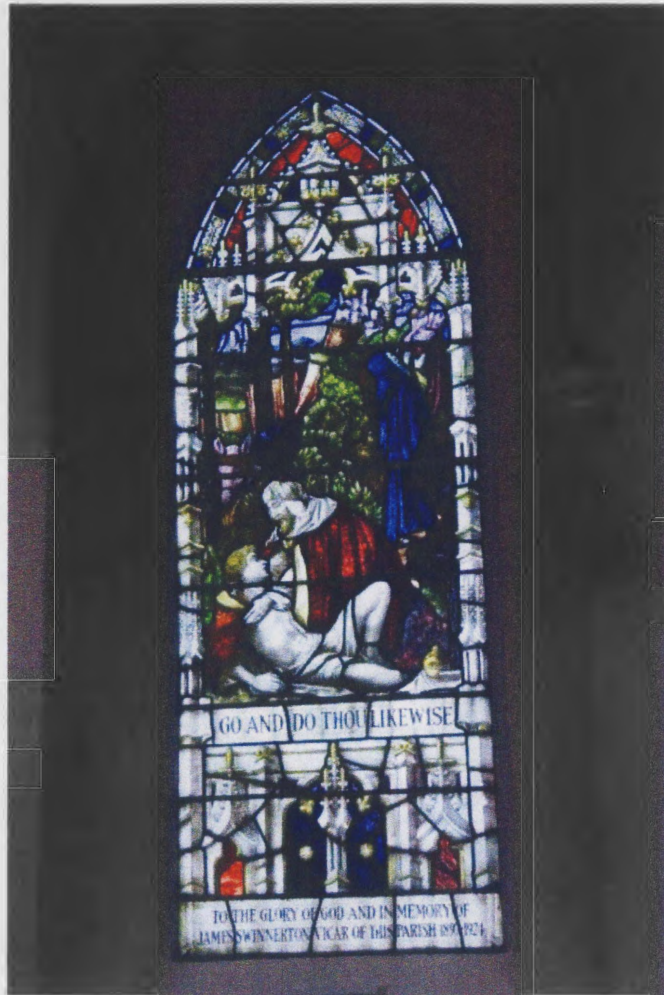
However, some historians disagree with this tradition as the records show that the 22nd Regiment of Foot were stationed in Minorca from 1727 to 1750 when they returned to Ireland. They say that the sprig of oak leaf and acorn comes from the coat of arms of Colonel Henry Howard, the 7th Duke of Norfolk, who raised the regiment in March 1689 at Chester. The Regimental Colour of the regiment shown above certainly does not bear a battle honour for Dettingen. Despite this, the Cheshire Regiment on special occasions and in the presence of royalty, put wreaths of oak leaves on the colours and wore the oak leaf in their head-dress. The tradition was authorised by King George V in 1933.





## Memorial to the Reverend James Swinnerton

I am publishing this again because in the last issue of Saga, it was mistakenly printed in black and white.



We are very happy to welcome to the society Janet Gibbs who is the Revd James's great-granddaughter

## The Bantam Battalions

The story of the Bantam Battalions is very interesting and I owe the following account to Wikipedia.

A **bantam**, in British army usage, was a soldier of below the British Army's minimum regulation height of 160 cm. During the First World War, the British Army raised battalions in which the normal minimum height requirement for recruits was reduced from 5 ft 3in (160 cm) to 5 ft (152 cm). This enabled otherwise healthy young men to enlist.

Bantam units were drawn from industrial and coal mining areas where short stature was no sign of weakness. The name derives from the former town of Bantam in Indonesia, from which a breed of small domestic fowl is thought to have originated. Bantamweight was a weight category in boxing that had originated in the 1880s and produced many notable boxers.

The first bantam battalions were recruited in Birkenhead, after Alfred Bigland, MP, heard of a group of miners who, rejected from every recruiting office, had made their way to the town. One of the miners, rejected on account of his size, offered to fight any man there as proof of his suitability as a soldier, and six men were eventually needed to remove him. Bantam applicants were men used to physical hard work, and Bigland was so incensed at what he saw as the rejection of spirited healthy men, he petitioned the War Office for permission to establish an undersized fighting unit.

When the permission was granted, news spread across the country and men previously denied the chance to fight made their way to Birkenhead, 3,000 successful recruits being accepted for service into two new "Bantam battalions" in November 1914. The requirement for their height was between 4 ft 10in and 5 ft 3in). Chest size was one inch more than the army standard.

The men became local heroes, with the local newspaper, *The Birkenhead News*, honouring the men of the 1st and 2nd Birkenhead Battalions of the Cheshires with enamel badges - "BBB" - Bigland's Birkenhead Bantams. Soon renamed the 15th and 16th Battalions, Cheshire Regiment, they undertook gruelling training and served in some of the most hard fought battles of the war, such as the Battle of Arras in 1917.

Eventually two whole divisions, the 35th and the 40th, were formed from 'Bantam' men, who were virtually annihilated during the Battle of Bourlon. Heavy casualties, transfers to specialized Army tunneling companies and tank regiments, the introduction of conscription, and replacements by taller men, eventually led to Bantam units becoming indistinguishable from other British divisions. A thorough study is published in "*The Bantams: The untold story of World War One*," by Sidney Allinson.



# Trois-Nobles Triumphans. London Triumphant;

OR,

The Solemne, Magnificent, and Memorable Receiuing of that worthy Gentleman, Sir JOHN SWINERTON Knight, into the Citty of LONDON, after his Returne from taking the Oath of Alaioralty at Westminster, on the Morrow next after Simon and Iudas day, being the 19. of October. 1612.

All the Showes, Pageants, Chariots of Triumph, with other Deuices (both on the water and Land) here fully expressed.

By Thomas Dekker.



• LONDON.

Printed by Nicholas Okes, and are to be sold by Iohn Wright dwelling at Christ Church-gate. 1612.

## IN MEMORIAM

I am very sorry to tell you that my cousin Mary Papps (née Swinnerton died on the 16 December 2012 just a few months short of her 90th birthday. Mary was born on the 13 June 1923 at Pedmore, Stourbridge, Worcestershire, the eldest of the four daughters of George Frederick Swinnerton, my grandfather's much younger brother and Amy Louisa (née Greenfield). Together with her three sisters



she was educated at Stourbridge County Girls High School. From there, after her matriculation, she went on to a Teachers' Training College in London but was evacuated because of the bombing during the war. On completing her training she served in the Women's Land Army until the end of the War. Her first teaching post was in Sussex at Chailey Heritage School, a school for children with additional physical and medical needs.

After the war she went to Canada to see her Greenfield Uncle's family in Montreal. On her return she met and became engaged to John Papps in December 1949. He went out to Tanganyika to manage an estate, she followed and they were married in Tanganyika in April 1951. Their son, Andrew, was born in March 1952 - according to Mary in a tent with not another white woman within many miles.

They returned to England the following year and lived near Worcester for a while in Wichenford where Bridgid was born in June 1953. The family next moved to Credacott, Week St Mary, on the Devon/Cornwall border where John was the Farm manager. Elinor was born in October 1957. The next move was to Clyne Farm on the Gower until early 1964, then to Worcester for just over a year before moving to Gwystre Cottage, Cross Gates in June 1965 where John had taken a job with Lister Blackstone (agricultural machinery) which covered the whole of Wales. Here Mary returned to teaching and held a number of posts in local primary schools before becoming Head Teacher of Llanfihangel Rhydithon C. P. School in 1969 and remained there until her retirement in 1983. She downsized to the bungalow in Llanyre just 12 years ago.

Mary had been a member of the society since it was formed and attended the Domesday Gathering in 1986. Despite her hard life and constant moves, she outlived all her three younger sisters. Andrew died very suddenly and unexpectedly in 2006 but she is survived by her two daughters and sons-in-law, a daughter-in-law, granddaughter, four grandsons and two great-grandsons.



## In Memoriam

Very sadly, I have to tell you that Roy Swinnerton died on the 4<sup>th</sup> of March this year at the age of 87. Roy was a founder member, joining when I formed the society in 1976 but I had been in touch with him for some years before I sent out the first newsletter in May 1974. He was a very supportive and loyal member, always turning up for AGMs and Gatherings and we shall miss him very much. We send our sincere sympathy to Doris and the family. I have written many times in this journal over the years about Roy's exploits and also about his family so I will leave it to Richard Abraham in *Cycling Weekly* to tell the authoritative story of his career.



\* \* \* \* \*

**Roy Swinnerton dies, age 87**

By Richard Abraham



### Remembering Roy Swinnerton

Tributes have been paid to Roy Swinnerton who passed away on March 4, aged 87. A prolific track racer in his own right, Swinnerton was later known as the owner of Swinnerton Cycles and patriarch to a dynasty of cyclist; all seven of his children went on to compete nationally and internationally with many of his grandchildren doing

the same.

Crowned grass-track champion over the half-mile in 1956, Swinnerton's achievements include winning the Michelin Perpetual Trophy, the Brooks Bowl and the BSA Trophy during the 1950s. Following his retirement from competition, he focused his efforts on the family bike shop in Fenton, Stoke-on-Trent, with his wife

Doris.

"My memories of Roy are him going round and winning everywhere he went. He was a very good grass-track sprinter," said renowned cyclist and frame-builder Brian Rourke, who worked at Swinnerton Cycles during the 1960s. "He advised me and looked after me, like he would have done [for] any other person who came in



### Another account says:

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 RC and elected president in 1956.

Roy had a great passion for cycling and family life, taking over the family business in 1952 from his father Ted. Roy and his wife Doris went on to create a legacy in cycling in Stoke on Trent and the UK. Roy as well as being an excellent grass track racer Roy also went on to become National Team Mechanic at the 1972 Munich Olympic Games & Track Team Manager Commonwealth Games in 1974 in New Zealand, as well as attending various World Championships as Team Mechanic.

Roy, when it came to cycling, being prolific almost unbeatable on the track as anyone who's seen the beautiful trophies won by Roy on display in the shop. Among them the Michelin Perpetual Trophy, the Brooks Bowl, the BSA Trophy, and the Granta Trophy, and also National half mile grass championship at the Michelin sports in the 1950's.

Roy also had a deep family life, with his wife Doris and their seven

Children, who all went on to compete at both National and International level both on the road and track, cementing the Swinnerton family name in UK cycling history. Roy & Doris also throughout the 50's, 60's & 70's attended and helped to organize every local cycling events all across North Staffordshire.

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 formed and was to become one of the most successful clubs. Stoke AC can boast members competing in Tour De France, The Ladies Tour De France, World Championships, National Championships

both Road and Track and many Divisional Championships. Competing in many countries of the world Germany, both East and West, Holland, France, Czechoslovakia Canada, Belgium, Italy, Denmark, Norway and even Palestine to name but a few.

In 1990 Roy retired from the family business, but was regularly seen on club rides and out on his bike and enjoyed spending time with his 22 grandchildren, who have also started to follow in Roy's wheel tracks, with 2 national achievements, the national sprinters league 1<sup>st</sup> place and national sprint title in their 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation.



*The tomb of Elizabeth Swinnerton, younger daughter and co-heir of Humphrey Swinnerton of Swinnerton, the last of that name and title, who married Francis Gatacre of Gatacre, Shropshire after the death of her first husband Thomas Fitzherbert and was buried at Swinnerton on the 4<sup>th</sup> April 1616.*



# 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](http://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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This is a photograph taken at our first ever Gathering on the 27<sup>th</sup> July 1975 at Swynnerton (how we have changed!!) and is to remind you that our next meeting will be our

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**which will be held**  
**at**  
**SWYNNERTON**  
**on**  
**SATURDAY THE 8<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2013**

10.30am for 11.00am. Tea, coffee etc will be provided.