

The Swinnerton Saga



A wet Clydesdale Walk

Our Member Ena Wood (née Swinnerton) leading out her family and friends on her string of 'great horses' from her stables at Sessay, Yorkshire

**THE JOURNAL OF SWINNERTON FAMILY
HISTORY**

VOLUME 15. NO.6

AUGUST 2013

Annie Swynnerton's Paintings – No 17

Summer Idyll

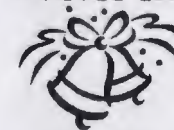


Oil on Canvas
93.4ins x 86.5ins.
1912

Present location unknown.
Sold at Christie's
17 Nov 1988

THE SWINNERTON SAGA

VOLUME 15 NUMBER 6
AUGUST 2013



(No 150)

C O N T E N T S

From the Editor	122
The Chairman's Page	123
Swynnerton Church	124
Mr Samuel Johnson	127
My Lord Mayor	128
Eleanor Swynnerton of California	130
Humphrey and Edward Swynnerton	132
Railway Accident at Wrexham	133
Edward Swynnerton of Walsall	133
Six Fighting Sons	134
Captain Swynnerton in the Civil War	136
From the Newspapers	137
Thomas Swynnerton – Engineer	138
The Annual General Meeting	140
New Data on the Internet	145
Henry Swynnerton of Walsall	146
Railway Accident at Kidsgrove	147
Help from Old Friends	148

Editor - Col I.S.Swynnerton

© The Swynnerton Family Society

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



From the Editor's Desk

If you look at the number of this issue on the contents page you will see that this is a significant milestone.

Ironically, it is the first one ever that has had only a minor input from me because the tendon in my right shoulder

has snapped and it is very painful to type for any length of time. I am, therefore, most grateful to Brian Swinnerton, our indefatigable internet researcher, for giving up a great deal of his time to type up material I already had in various formats and to Ray Swinnerton, Valerie Dall and Roy Talbot for contributing articles.

At the AGM I handed over the last few remaining Swinnerton artefacts in my possession to Keith for inclusion in the archives and the newspaper cuttings collection to Margaret. This has not been sorted and mounted for some years so Margaret is going to have a go at it and then photocopy it.

I also handed over to her the 'Gatherings File'. This contains a record of every get-together we have had since 1975 – programmes, orders of service and photographs. However, the 2012 folder contains only the Programme and **no photographs whatsoever because no-one sent me any!** So – if you have any, please let Margaret have them either by email or post to make our collection complete. You will find Margaret's address on the back cover.

Jain

Malcolm Smith

The Swinnerton website was started by Steve Parkhouse in August 2002. Steve was a member of the Swynnerton PCC and worked at the BT Centre nearby. Malcolm took it over in April 2006. Since then he has expanded it considerably, digging out facts about the family from a multitude of sources, added trees or newer version as I have sent them to him and added the details of each Saga. As well, he has acquired items from such as EBay and donated them to the archives. All this he has done despite some family health problems and, what's more, he has paid all the expenses himself. I am sure you will agree that we owe him a very great vote of thanks for all his hard work and dedication over the last seven years.

The Chairman's Page

I was delighted to welcome 18 people to the AGM on 8th June - more than the usual attendance for these affairs. Much of the meeting was



given over to John Swinnerton's proposals for an up-graded web-site, details of which can be found in the Minutes. John was asked if he would be willing to become our new web-master as Malcolm was ready to relinquish the position and, happily for us, John agreed.

You will notice that the time of next year's AGM has been altered. We shall meet at

2.00 pm with the meeting due to start at 2.30 pm on 14th June 2014.

This has been done in response to a member's request in order to enable anyone travelling a long distance to complete the journey in one day without having to organise overnight accommodation.

You will also read in the Minutes that your Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer have given notice of their intention to resign at next year's AGM. The Membership Secretary would also like to resign if possible but would gallantly continue in post if necessary.

We have a volunteer willing to be nominated as Treasurer next year so we need you to come forward to take over as Chairman or Secretary. You will recall that a few years ago the original Swinnerton Society had to fold due to lack of members willing to take office. The same fate will befall the new Swinnerton Family Society if no volunteers are forthcoming so please consider putting your name forward if you want the Society to continue to function in future.

Elizabeth

Just so that you know what is involved, here is my job description. The Chairman needs to keep in touch with other committee members (this is usually done by email) and call meetings when required (normally only before a Triennial Gathering). I have taken it upon myself to contact the folk at Swynnerton and to make arrangements for booking the Church Hall for our Annual General Meetings and Triennial Gathering. Prior to committee meetings and AGMs, I have liaised with the Secretary in order to draw up the Agenda. I also provide this Chairman's page for the Saga at the request of the Editor.

Swinnerton Church - North Staffordshire

An interesting account written by the Reverend Henry Ulyate Swinnerton after his visit from America in 1886 and given to me by his great-granddaughter Diana Cunningham in July 1979.

The spot, Swinnerton, where Swinnerton Hall stands, with its tiny village, its ancient church, rebuilt in recent years, but unchanged in architectural effect, and its Roman Catholic chapel, was a market town of Mercia (the country at the Treadwater of the Mersey), dating from Saxon times, and gave its name to the Norman invader knight to whom it was given by William the Conqueror. The knight is said to have been his nephew, and he said that Alan (or Aleyn) de Britaigne "was a man of stout stomach, and would keep what was given him"

The church stands directly opposite the rear, or usual entrance of the Hall. The front, as we would call it, look over the broad slope of the demesne and Park - the road passing between as shown in the sketch. Rev. Mr. Taylor, the Rector at the time we visited the place, in 1886, told us that his father purchased the living for him, and he seems to have restored the church from a pretty ruinous condition to its present very perfect state. He put in a very fine chime of bells. I think he said, twelve in number.

Swinnerton Park and hall has been ever since the time of Henry VIII the seat of the Fitzherbert family, Sir Wm. Fitzherbert of Norbury, at that time married one of the two daughters of Sir Humphrey Swinnerton. The other, of Hilton Hall in South Staffordshire, marrying Sir Henry Vernon, of Sudbury. The Fitzherberts were and are Roman Catholic and have their own church, or chapel, adjoining the Hall, with which it is connected by a cloistered approach - as well as their own priest.

The ancient church, in very good condition, as I have said, has some parts apparently of the original structure remaining and other parts of several different periods. The tower, I could see at once, is ancient Norman, as its masonry shows and the character of the doors. This is true only of the lower part, the upper part being later work. It dates from the time of William Rufus.

The front outer door is round-arched with zig-zag moulding characteristic. It is not well shown in the sketch. The inner door communicating with the church is very much richer arch, with row after row of zigzag work and also he peculiar beak-head sculpture. On the ruined Norman base the tower has a belfry story of the decorated period, very plain, and gargoyles at the angles, but the corner turrets not finished off into pinnacles.

The body of the church, of different periods, has a pretty early English North porch, beyond which is seen "perpendicular" burial chapel of some other family whose name I do not recall. This part, the nave of the church, has

a clerestory lighted by quarter foil openings. The wall beyond, not seen in the view, as I recall, appeared to be quite different perhaps of the Puritan period, with square openings.

The Lady Chapel, which serves as a vestry room, is built adjoining the chancel, whose roof is seen beyond it. The Lady Chapel has a door and two windows, and from it an inner door leads into the chancel. The building is a very complete and quite beautiful little specimen of old gothic of different periods.

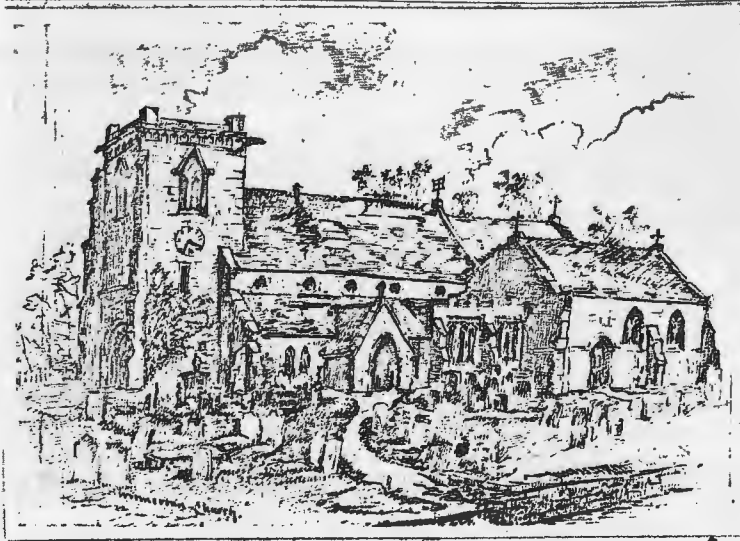
I heard of nothing of interest in the church yard, which is very small and raised above the road upon a haw-haw wall. Inside the chancel, at the very bottom of the south wall, is an ancient burial niche, with the recumbent effigy figure of a crusader - some old Robert, Richard or Roger de Swinnerton with his shield bearing its primitive cross on his arm and his legs crossed in sign of his having been to Palestine in the holy war in defense of the sepulchre of the Lord against the Saracens. There is also in the Lady Chapel a curious carved statue of Christ apparently, but of which nothing is known.

Just beyond the church, with garden between, is the Rectory, with its school house, for the Protestant children, a little distance to the left. Beyond this, directly on the curving road, stand the few houses and the Fitzherbert Arms Inn, which compose the village.

The Rectory, in which we were pleasantly entertained at dinner and over night, is a goodish-sized house with pleasant appointments and everything in good style. In our bed room I noticed a picture of Sir Peter Lumsden, - an officer in India whose name was in the papers often in connection with the Russian encroachments on "the Pamire" at that time. I alluded to it to Mrs. Taylor, and she said "Sir Peter is my brother".

"Swinnerton Old Park" is a second large estate, on which I was told there had never been anything built. When we came, by rail from Chester, we waited at the inn at the station for a fly to take us to the Hall. On the mantel piece I took up a card which said: "The North Staffordshire Hounds will meet at Swinnerton Old Park on (the Friday following). The daughter of Mrs. Taylor said she was going to ride with the hunt the following day.

The other estate, mentioned above, Hilton Hall, in South Staffordshire, which went to Henry Vernon, was the birthplace of that Admiral Edward Vernon, of the time of Washington's early life, after whom Mount Vernon took its name. Lawrence Washington greatly admired the Admiral and named his place after him. He left a daughter who died as a child and George Washington inherited the place from them



A pen and ink sketch done by the Revd Henry Ulyate Swinnerton after his visit in 1886



The Revd Henry's five daughters Rosamund, Susan, Sylvia, Cernelia and Catherine

THE LATE MR SAMUEL JOHNSON

A NOTABLE PERSONALITY.

The funeral took place on Wednesday of last week at St Margaret's Church, Betley, of Mr Samuel Johnson of Wrinehill, near Crewe, who was well known in Cheshire and North Staffordshire as a "specialist in blood troubles" and whose death occurred on the previous Saturday.

Mr Johnson who had reached the advanced age of 83 years, was the third son of John and Hannah Johnson, grocers of Weston, near Crewe. At the age of 11 years he was apprenticed to a grocer at Manchester.

Having served his apprenticeship and on the suggestion of his uncle, **Dr. Samuel Swinnerton, of Market Drayton**, he went to London, preparatory to taking up study for the medical profession. In London he was employed by another uncle, **Henry Swinnerton**, corn factor, and when Dr. Swinnerton died he gave up his medical studies and returned to Manchester, where he was employed by Messrs Bullen Bros., provisions merchants. After remaining about five years as manager he left Manchester to assist his uncle, **William Swinnerton, of Betley**, in his business as seedsman and general dealer,

After remaining with him about two years he married, and set up on his own account as a draper and general dealer, and later as an auctioneer and valuer, and travelled the countryside for years.

He conceived the idea of engaging in medicine, when the formulae for the Manufacture of the famous Chinese pills came into his possession, and these He made and sold on his travels for many years. He was a careful reader of medical research works, of which he had a fine collection, and scientific writers also claimed his attention. His patent medicine business grew to such dimensions that it claimed his entire attention. Mr Johnson was an energetic worker, a teetotaler and non-smoker. He leaves a widow and five adult children.

Every manifestation of sympathy was shown, and most of the residents of Wrinehill and district attended the funeral, which was conducted by the Rev. Barraclough and the Rev. Sir Robert Boughey, a lifelong friend of the deceased.

There were present at the funeral the four sons – Messrs. Herbert, Bertram, Harold and Everard Johnson; Messrs, Cyril, Percy and Clifford Johnson (grandsons); Messrs George Lewis (brother –in-law); Mr. W. G. Moss, Mr W.H. Muckley, Wrinehill; My Thomas Steel, Den Farm; and Mr. Thomas Bickerton.

The Examiner Feb 4th 1921

My Lord Mayor by Valerie Hope.

I have only just discovered this fascinating book published in 1989 by the City of London to celebrate the 800th anniversary of its Mayors. The review says that some were famous and many were noteworthy though little is known about them outside the City itself. Amongst them you will find Henry FitzAilwyn, who became Lord Mayor in Richard the Lionheart's reign and served for 20 years until he died in office:

A few were notorious like Nicholas Brembre, who was a staunch supporter of Richard II and was knighted by him for his help in suppressing the Peasant's Revolt but was hanged at Tyburn for treason when the Lords-Appellant came to power.

Perhaps the best known of all is Richard Whittington (and his cat!) who was elected three times.

Since 1215, in King John's reign, London's Mayors have been elected by its citizens at a ceremony that is still held annually. Many have been, or still are, wealthy and successful merchants and financiers who have made a specific contribution to the life and development of our country. During their term of office, they travel the world fostering trade and exploration and promoting the City as one of the world's great financial centres. In the past they have founded schools and hospitals and carried out many other good works.

My Lord Mayor is the official octo-centennial publication of the City of London. Full of wonderful coloured illustrations and much previously unseen material from the Guildhall Library, the book traces the history of the Lord Mayors and describes the colourful traditions marking the mayoral year such as the unique election, the spectacular annual Lord Mayor's Show (at which I have been a regular attender for many years) and the splendid banquets held in Guildhall and Mansion House.

The entry that holds particular interest for us, of course, is that for *Sir John Swynnerton*, Lord Mayor in 1612. It says he came from Shropshire (we know it was Oswestry) and that his fortune was derived from the trade in French and Rhenish wines. It tells us that he was one of the founder members of the famous **East India Company** in 1599 and was master of the Merchant Taylor's Company in 1606 when they entertained the King and Queen at a

reception which cost over £1,000. The music for the occasion was written by John Bull, and included a tune which later became our national anthem. Lord Mayor Swynnerton's pageant during his year of office was *Troia Nova Triumphans* by Thomas Dekker, when he entertained the Count Palatine, who was soon to become the husband of King James's favourite daughter, Princess Elizabeth better known as the Winter Queen (of Bohemia). One of the last official engagements of his mayoral year was the opening of the City's first proper fresh water system at New River Head, Islington. The architect of the scheme was Hugh Middleton, a Goldsmith. We are told that the New River scheme showed the co-operation between King and City at its best. Hugh had great difficulty in raising sufficient funds and in getting the necessary authority to cut through public rights of way so the King, who had watched the scheme with interest from his house nearby in Theobalds Park, agreed to take half a share in the project, and so it went ahead and prospered.

The Merchant Taylors' Company is one of the original Great Twelve Livery Companies of the City of London. Livery Companies, or Guilds as they were previously known, began in mediaeval times as fraternities which were often religious but were also there to protect the interests of particular trades. Today, there are 108.

The Company, originally known as the *Guild and Fraternity of St. John the Baptist in the City of London*, was first incorporated under a Royal Charter in 1327, confirmed by later charters in 1408, 1503 and 1719.

Its seat is the Merchant Taylors' Hall which stands between Threadneedle Street and Cornhill, a site it has occupied since 1347. The Company's motto is *Concordia Parvae Res Crescunt*, from the Roman historian Sallust meaning *In Harmony Small Things Grow*. The Company was at first an association of tailors so I can only assume that Lord Mayor Swinnerton's father, also John, was a tailor because the Lord Mayor was a wine-merchant. By the end of the 17th century, the company's connection with the tailoring trade had virtually ceased and it became what it is today, a philanthropic and social association



California Kids

Edited by Jim Silverman 1992

ELEANOR SWINNERTON

Eleanor Josephine Harvey was born in Butte County on May 27, 1853. Her ancestors arrived in America before the Revolutionary War and settled in North Carolina. Like many of their contemporaries, her ancestors drifted west with the expanding frontier. They farmed in Indiana and helped start schools.



Eleanor's father was a traveler. He moved from Indiana to Missouri where he tried his hand at business. He traveled by wagon to California in 1850, stayed a year in the gold mines, then returned East in 1851. The next year, with his wife and children, they spent five months in an ox drawn wagon following the Overland Trail. They settled in

Susanville, where Eleanor was their first child born in California.

Eleanor lived at Spanish Ranch for a few years as a child. But business drew her father away from farming. They sold Spanish Ranch for \$5000 in 1853 and moved to Marysville, traveling by dog sled.

Her father opened a bank and invested in a hotel and theatre. In 1864, he became the first county judge in Lassen County.

The family moved south to Salinas looking for warmer weather.

Eleanor's childhood was unusual.

As a baby, her cradle was a small rocker that had been used for mining gold.

On visits to Marysville, Eleanor stayed at a hotel and sometimes attended the theatre. Goldminers gave her nuggets to play with. Although she lived far from town,

Eleanor went to school with her sister Fronie. She studied French and Algebra among other subjects. Education and

culture had been highly valued by her family for generations

When Eleanor was 15, after they moved to Salinas, she began teaching at a one-room school. She loved teaching and did so for more than ten years, until she married a lawyer named Silas Swinnerton in 1876. later she taught their



six children at home. Their two oldest girls became teachers when they grew up. One of Eleanor's sons became the first mayor of Salinas.

When she was old, Eleanor wrote her childhood memoirs for her grandchildren. They were added to diaries, letters, photographs and memoirs by other members of her family and were published in a book called *Isaac Julian Harvey, California Pioneer* (Monterey County Historical Society 1987).

Here are some of her adventures.

My father's store

One day before I was three years old, I was in father's store and found four or five large coils of rope. They were nearly as tall as I was and had mysterious holes in them, into which I peered again and again, going up and down the row. At last, in the smallest one, I saw something white. I strained my toes to look further in, stretched out my arms, first one and then the other, trying to reach the object. At last I could touch it. With another mighty effort, I had it.

I drew it out and it was a little white beaver hat – a boy's hat. I crushed it onto my head and showed it to the others. They would not believe where I had found it at first but concluded it must be true so I was allowed to keep my treasure. I wore it every day, every waking moment and insisted it be on my chair at night. But I only had it two or three weeks. One Sunday we went to see a friend and when crossing Spanish Creek my hat blew off and floated down the stream.

Life in Marysville

Father took the family to Marysville to spend the winter of 1856. He had an interest in the hotel *Great Western* and the theatre building across the street. There was always some troupe playing in the theatre.

A Chinese Peddler

One day when I was five or six years old, a Chinese Peddler arrived carrying two long baskets on his spring pole. He asked me if we, Mother and we children, "Like to see?" Of course we would and he set them down and began to take out things- first from the basket that had things for women – laces,



embroideries, ribbons, silks, plain and embroidered, scarves of silk net with heavy silk fringe, the kind the Spanish wore for sashes, shawls of all shades, so beautifully embroidered you could see no wrong side, handkerchiefs - silk for men and the finest linen for women. As he took things out he hung them on chairs and tables until the room was a fairy dream of colours.

Humphrey Swynnerton

Roy Talbot writes that Collections for a History of Staffordshire has been a regular publication since 1880. The current number is volume XXV of the fourth series and is dedicated to transcription of the letter-book of Henry, Lord Stafford (1501-1563), he being the tenth baron. The entry on page 196 of the letter-book is that of a letter dated 28th September 1546 and addressed to Mr. Humphrey Swynnerton [HS154, d. 1562].

Master Swinerton, after most hertye comendacions. And whereas this berer John Lawe, my tenaunt, and your servaunt, William Beache, ar in variaunce for a piece of grownd, which belongyth to a tenement of myne lying in Tyttensor and hathe belongyd to the same tenement this C yere, and my tenautes were never interrupted of yt untill nowe. Wherefore this shalbe to desyre youe to do so moche at this my desyre as for to make an ende betwene them according as yt was covenantyd betwene the sade Beache and this berers father; and that my sayd tenaunt maye have the sayd grownd, paying youe asmoche for the same as an owther will do. And in so doing when I may do youe the lyke pleasure youe shall be sure of yt.

* * * * *

Edward Swynnerton

Ray Swinnerton found this item:

The Frythe, Welwyn, Hertfordshire - Early Days

The name is a Saxon word meaning "wooded country", and was the name of its earliest known resident, John del Frithe in the 13th century. During medieval times the estate belonged to the Holywell convent in Shoreditch. It was leased to the Wilshere family, who had lived there since the time of Richard II. A lease dated Michaelmass, 1523 states -

Dame Johanne Lynde prioresse of the Monasteriy of Saint John Baptiste of Holywell by London in the Countie of Middlesex and the convent of the same place leases to William Wylshere of the parish of oure blessed Lady of Welwyne in the Countie of Hertford yeoman a tenement called the Boreshede which one Edward Swynnerton Gentleman late helde and occupied and another tenement called the Frithe which standeth in a felde called Grigges felde and 50½ acres of land in the same parish.

Llangollen Advertiser, Denbighshire, Merionethshire, and North Wales Journal (1860-1893)

18 February 1876

WREXHAM. SHOCKING ACCIDENT ON THE RAILWAY.—On Friday, at noon, a man named Wm. Swinnerton, a blacksmith, employed at Brynmally Colliery, was received into the Wrexham Infirmary suffering from terrible injuries to the right arm. From what can be ascertained the man has been for a number of years in the habit of taking opium or laudanum and whiskey, and after wandering about out of doors, has lain down anywhere to sleep off the effects of the drug. On the day he met with the accident, he strayed on to the Connah's Quay railway, and lay down to sleep near the signal-box at Wrexham Station, with one elbow resting on the metals. How long he had lain there is of little moment, but whilst in that position a train passed by and completely severed his elbow joint. Dr. Evans, the house surgeon, saw the poor fellow immediately after his admission, and found that the whole of the joint had been taken off. He dressed the wound, treating it antiseptically, and it is hoped that he may eventually recover, though of course he would always have a stiff arm, and one that would be of very little service to him.

There is not a death of a William registered in Wrexham before 1888 when one died aged 75 but, of course, he may have retired to somewhere else.

Swinnerton soldiers who Died in the Great War

Swinnerton Soldiers who died in WWI

I told the story of Edward in *Saga Vol 14 No 12*. However, a recent list of the Swinnertons on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission web site, sent to me by Brian Swinnerton, shows Edwin Algernon Swinnerton, aged 16, having been killed in action on the 30 April 1917 and not Edward. This is completely wrong and I hope we can persuade them to rectify the entry. Six of the sons of William and Agnes Swinnerton of Walsall served in the Great War – Charles, Ernest Frederick, John Samuel, Harold, Bertie Robert and Edward but, sadly, Edward, Harold and John Samuel were all killed or died of wounds.

Under the heading *Walsall Men Amongst Britain's Brave- Six Fighting Brothers* their pictures appeared in the 'Walsall Pioneer' of March 11th, 1916.

WALSALL MEN AMONGST BRITAIN'S BRAVE.

SIX FIGHTING BROTHERS.



LCE.-CORPL. CHARLES SWINNERTON.
1st South Staffs. Regt.
(15, Sunnyside, Parkway).



CORPL. ERNEST F. SWINNERTON—
D.C.M.
1st South Staffs. Regt.
(Margaret-street).



PTE. JOHN SAMUEL SWINNERTON,
2nd South Staffs. Regt.
(Navigation-street).



PRIVATE HAROLD SWINNERTON.
Royal Field Artillery
(Margaret-street.)



PRIVATE BERT SWINNERTON.
South Staffs. Regt.
(Margaret-street.)



PRIVATE EDWARD SWINNERTON.
Notts and Derbys.
(Margaret-street.)

Shropshire in the Civil War by Terry Bracher & Roger Emmett, 2000

3rd July 1644

Sir Thomas Myddelton defeats Royalist cavalry under Colonel Marrow at Whittington as they were attempting to recapture Oswestry, "The town of Oswestry, late taken by the forces of the Parliament under my brother Colonel Mytton's command, was upon Saturday last, began to be begirt, and since strictly besieged by the King's forces, consisting of about 1,500 horse, and 3,500 foot, under the command of Colonel Marrow ; and that thereupon in pursuance of a Council of War's determination, occasioned by an earnest and importunate letter from my Brother Colonel Mytton, directed to me for speedy relief, and raising of the siege of the said town, I did upon the Lord's day last past, with such forces of horse and foot as I then had advanced to the said town of Oswestry, where the enemy endeavoured to storm the town by battering, and storming of the same, violently to have carried it. About two of the clock in the afternoon we came in sight of the town, where the enemy having intelligence of our approach was prepared to receive us, the forced of our enemy consisting of the most valiant commander and soldiers drawn out of the garisons of Chester, Shrewsbury, Ludlow, Denbighshire, Flintshire, and other places. The enemy had taken the passage of water near to Whittington, and very furiously assaulted and charged us, but were repulsed, and forced to return. There several times the skirmish was doubtful, either side being forced so often to retreat, but in the end our foot forces coming up relieved the horse, beat back the enemy, and pursued them with such force that they put the enemy to an absolute flight, in which we pursued them five miles towards Shrewsbury, to a place called Felton Heath. In this skirmish, and the pursuit, we lost several of our horse, some of our troopers, but never a footman that I am yet informed of; many of the troopers are hurt, but I hope will recover : as for the enemy, they lost many stout men, had many of them taken prisoners, some of them being of great quality, as the Lord Newport's eldest Son, *Captain Swynnerton* and besides in their flight, such was their haste, that we found in the way of pursuit of them, the highway as it were strewed with store of bread, cheese, bacon and other good provisions, clothes, and also such necessary appurtenances to an army, besides some whole veals and muttons newly killed. The enemy before the relief came, had taken the Church, being the strongest hold about the town. In the way also was taken seven carts and waggons laden with provisions, as beer, bread, and other necessaries. The town of Oswestry I find to be a very strong town, and if once fortified, of great concernment, and the key that lets us into Wales".

Spotted by **Ray Swinnerton** – this mysterious officer has appeared before, was he Thomas Swynnerton, son of Sir John Swynnerton. Lord Mayor of London, who was killed at the battle of Naseby on the 14th June 1645?



From the Newspapers

Reading Midweek 26th Sept 2012

Owen James Swinnerton was born in 1974 in Frome, Somerset . He was the second son of James Ness Swinnerton and Ellen Elizabeth Owen and was a 4xgreat grandson of William Swinnerton of Betley. Interesting that he combined his mother's surname and his father's name as his forenames. He married Helen McCulloch at Macclesfield in 1966 and they had two daughters, Anna Louise and Victoria Jane



SWINNERTON Owen James

Died peacefully at the Royal Berkshire Hospital on 8th September 2012 aged 68 years. Amazing husband, dad and granddad. He will be greatly missed by all family and friends.

Funeral service to be held at West Berkshire Crematorium on Wednesday 17th October at 12 noon.

Family flowers only please, donations in memory of Owen can be made via www.memorygiving.com/owenswinnerton or cheques made payable to "Julian Starmer-Smith Lymphoma Fund" or "Duchess of Kent House Charity" or "Macmillan Cancer Support" may be sent to A.B. Walker & Son Ltd, 40 The Broadway, Thatcham, RG19 3HP.

Tel: 01635 573672
for funeral flowers www.abwalker.co.uk

The News of the World

UNCLAIMED MONEY

Sums claimed through this column and duly acknowledged now amount to the enormous figure of £7,593,367, and heirs traced to 10,444. If, through this column, any person or persons successfully establishes his, her, or their claim, we shall pay to the solicitors named the sum of £1 is.

SWINNERTON.—William Edward Swinnerton (deceased). Any male relatives of five brothers, Thomas Swinnerton, John Swinnerton, William Swinnerton, Isaac Swinnerton, and Edward Swinnerton, uncles of William Weston Swinnerton, late of Styvechale Grange, Stoneleigh, Warwickshire, should contact E. A. Rotherham and Co., solicitors, of 8, The Quadrant, Coventry.

This notice which appeared in the News of the World in 1976 revolutionised part of our family history. Ken Armitstead, our one-time chairman, noted that I had been elected a member of the Society of Genealogists and wrote to ask me if I could help him as he was stuck on his Swinnerton ancestry. Many letters and telephone calls ensued until one day he mentioned two brothers. It's a long story but this small cutting which I had in my collection lead to our discovery of the Warwickshire Branch!

SMITH AND SWINNERTON'S COKE OVENS.

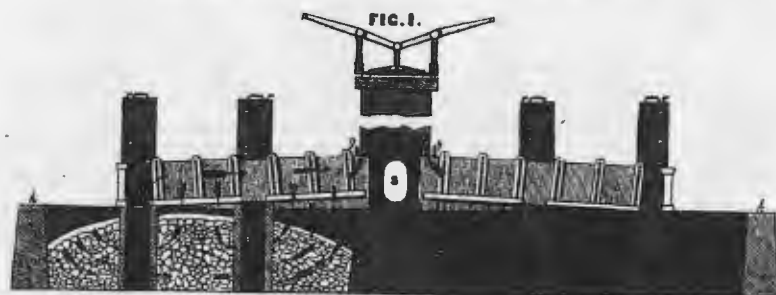
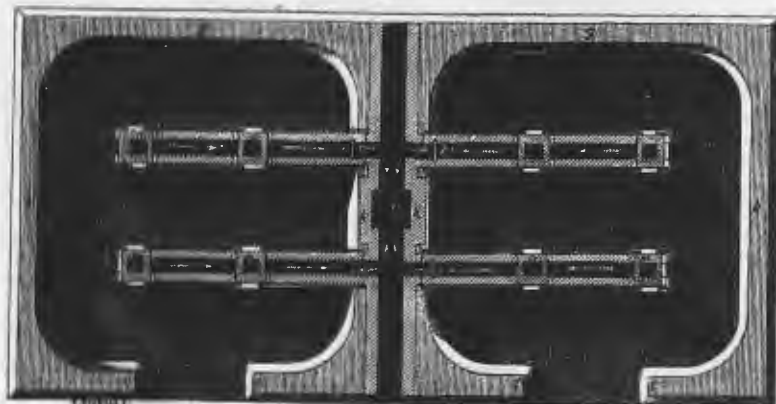


FIG. 2.



THIS invention, by E. F. Smith and Thomas Swinnerton, of Dudley, consists of improvements in treating the coal called in South Staffordshire "new mine coal," or "stinking coal," or other coals containing sulphur, the object of the invention being to produce from coal containing sulphur, coke free or nearly free from sulphur. The same method of making coke from sulphurous coal may also be applied to the manufacture of coke from all kinds of coal.

The invention may be carried into effect either by treating the coal in open coke heaps connected with stacks, or by the use of improved coke kilns or ovens about to be described.

In manufacturing coke in coke heaps from coal containing sulphur, the coal is to be made into coke heaps of the ordinary kind covered as usual with coke dust or other dust. In the centre of the coke heap is arranged a vertical perforated pipe or channel of brickwork, which communicates with the interior of the coke heap and is prolonged upwards so as to constitute a stack or chimney terminated by a damper. When the coal is ignited a strong draught is determined through the stack and coke heap, the air passing from all sides of the coke heap into the interior of the perforated pipe or channel, and from thence into the stack or chimney. Or the stack may be independent of or situated at a distance from the coke fire, in which case we convey the smoke and gases from the fire to the stack by means of iron or other tubes or flues connected with the centre of the coke heap either at the top or bottom of the coke heap.

The improvements in kilns or ovens for the manufacture of coke are illustrated in Figs. 1 and 2. Fig. 1 is an elevation (partly in section) of a coke oven constructed according to the invention; and Fig. 2 is a plan of the same (partly in section).

There is represented in Figs. 1 and 2, a large double coke oven, but single coke ovens, or a combination of more than two coke ovens, may be constructed according to the invention. Each of the ovens consists of four vertical walls *g, h, i, k*, one of the walls having an opening *l*, at which the coal is charged into the oven, and the coke removed therefrom. The ovens are open at top. In each oven one or more small perforated chambers *m, m*, are built according to the size of the oven. Each of the said perforated chambers *m, m*, is prolonged upwards into the short chimneys or stacks *n, n*, and also opens into a horizontal tube or channel *o*. The tubes or channels *o, o*, open into the flue *s*. By means of the tubes or channels *o, o*, and flue *s*, the ovens may be connected with the stack *p*. By means of the dampers *q, q*, either of the ovens may be connected with or disconnected from the stack *p* at pleasure. The coking process can also be regulated or stopped in any kiln or oven by means of the said dampers *q, q*. When the coal in the oven is ignited, air enters from the top of the heap, and descending converges to the perforated chambers *m, m*, and passing through the perforations in the said chambers enters the tubes or channels *o, o*, and passes to the stack *p*. The course of the air is indicated by arrows. The top of the coal in the oven is covered with coke dust, or other dust in the usual manner. Sulphurous coal coked in kilns or ovens constructed according to the invention yields coke free or nearly free from sulphur.

Although the kilns or ovens are especially suited for the manufacture of coke from coal containing sulphur, yet they may be employed for the manufacture of coke from ordinary coal, that is from coal containing little or no sulphur. In this case less draught of air is required through the coal being coked, and instead of employing the draught produced by the stack *p*, the quieter draught produced by the short chimneys *n, n*, is employed. The communication between the channels *o, o*, and the stack *p*, is cut off by means of the dampers *q, q*, and the chimneys *n, n*, are brought into play by the removal of the dampers *r, r*, from the tops of the chimneys *n, n*.

This marvellous find by Malcolm Smith is unlike anything we have seen before. The subject is Thomas Swinnerton (TS20) of the Betley Branch who stared life as a Grocer! Our grateful thanks to Malcolm as always.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 2013



When the Swinnerton Saga arrives in the letter box, and it contains the announcement of the A.G.M., so Hans and I begin to plan our summer visit to the U.K so that we can attend.

For us attending the A.G.M. is a great opportunity to meet family, old friends and acquaintances. Having lived permanently abroad in a variety of countries for 55 years, I have a need to refresh my roots.

Peter Swinnerton and Ann Hooley are my cousins, and we try to meet at an A.G.M. to catch up with family news. This time we had the pleasure of meeting Peter's son John for the first time.

Attending an A.G.M. gives me the opportunity to thank all those who work so tirelessly for the rest of us. This time a number of committee members expressed a desire to relinquish their responsibilities. Are there any volunteers out there?

We shall keep coming to meetings for as long as we can and we look forward to meeting many of you again at the next A.G.M.

Valerie M. Dall
Denmark



In the bar of the Fitzherbert Arms after the Annual general Meeting
Keith & Elizabeth Livesey, Denise Bullock, Peter Swinnerton, Valerie Dall, Anne & Wib Hooley
and Hans Dall

THE SWINNERTON FAMILY SOCIETY

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 8th June 2013 at Swynnerton

PRESENT: Elizabeth & Keith Livesey (Llandudno), Ray & Shelagh Swinnerton (Sandbach), Margaret Antill (Atherstone), Geoff & Carole Swinnerton (Liverpool), Iain Swinnerton (Sherborne), Brenda & Iris Crouch (Romford), Valerie & Hans Dall (Denmark), Anne & Wib Hooley (Sutton Coldfield), Denise Bullock (Staffs), Brian Swinnerton (Liverpool), Peter Swinnerton (Manchester) and John Swinnerton (Manchester).

APOLOGIES: John & Elizabeth Swinnerton (Sheffield), Roy Talbot (St. Albans), Rachel Livesey (Wheaton Aston), Emma Greenlees (Timperley), and Alan & Myrna Jones (Prestatyn).

1. WELCOME :The meeting commenced at 11.00 am by the Chairman, Elizabeth Livesey, welcoming those present to the AGM of the Swinnerton Family Society.

2. MINUTES: Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd June 2012 at Swynnerton were read and after one amendment regarding The Federation of Family History Societies, which should read that the membership cost is 38p per capita not £40, were agreed as being correct.

3. MATTERS ARISING: Keith had written a letter of thanks to Jeremy's Executors.

4. TREASURERS REPORT: These were distributed to the meeting by Keith Livesey.

Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2012

Subscriptions received	1533.45	Saga Printing	799.27
(incl. Funds from Australia)		Saga Postage	403.97
Gathering & AGM	705.00	Caterer	539.00
Sales & Donation	97.50	Speakers	126.58
		Hire of Hall	70.00
		Organist	50.00
Jeremy's Legacy	3482.19	Bank Charge	4.00
		FFHS	44.08
		Ancestry	59.00
		Donation to	25.00
		<u>Friends of St Mary's</u>	
			2120.90
		Surplus	3697.24
			5818.14
	5818.14		

The accounts were audited by an Independent examiner, R. Green. Keith said the Society's fund are healthier than at this time last year because of a number of factors: the reduction in the number of editions of the "Saga" from 4 to 3 had

reduced the cost by £125.00 and the Triennial Gathering made a profit. He said the accounts up to 31st December 2012 had been examined by an independent examiner this year and approved, as a matter of good practice. Now that the executors of Jeremy's will have settled his estate the Society will receive an additional £1,232.45.

Acceptance of these accounts was proposed by Geoff Swinnerton, Seconded by Valerie Dall and agreed.

5. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY. Ray Swinnerton said a majority of members had rejoined and presented us with a chart showing the current membership was 96 with 2 not having yet paid. These were made up from Australia 12, Canada 7, Denmark 1, New Zealand 1, South Africa 1, UK 64 and USA 10.

In the past year three members had died, but 2 more had joined; one of these had membership transferred from a deceased member. We have not lost any members because of changes in "Saga".

6. FEDERATION OF FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETIES. Elizabeth reported that the FFHS would be celebrating their 40th anniversary in 2014 and were offering sponsorship to any of its members who wished to hold an event relating to family history to commemorate this. There were no suggestions for any such event to be held to promote our society during 2014. There is a new periodical. "Discover Your Ancestors". The centenary of World War One will be commemorated with a tour of the battle grounds 19th to 23rd May. A coach will be leaving from Leicester and the cost will be £390 per person.

7. ELECTION OF OFFICERS. Elizabeth announced that she, Keith and Iris would like to stand down next year and Ray said that if someone would like to become membership secretary he would stand down. However, all officers were willing to stand this year. It was agreed to vote for the committee as a whole this being: Chairman - Elizabeth Livesey Vice Chairman - Margaret Antill Secretary - Iris Crouch Treasurer - Keith Livesey Membership Secretary - Ray Swinnerton. These were proposed by Valerie Dall, seconded by Anne Hooley and passed unanimously. Iain Swinnerton was re-elected as President.

John Swinnerton suggested that committee members write Job Descriptions so that members interested in standing may know what is involved in each post. Valerie Dall expressed thanks to the officers.

8. A.O.B. Keith admitted to an error in not having an auditor examine the 2011

accounts. He believes they should be audited through an independent examiner. It was agreed that the examiner should be familiar with accounts and independent, but not necessarily a qualified auditor. At the last AGM it was agreed to use Jeremy Swynnerton's legacy to digitise the Society's archives and it was suggested someone should investigate this. Margaret Antill already has all copies of "Saga" on CD and Iain has practically all family trees on a data base, however, there is still quite a lot in his hand writing. He is happy to keep this rolling as information becomes available. We do not have a way of making some of this information available to the general public. All family trees are on computer. Keith has been given a book of "Paradise Lost" presented to a Swinnerton which is to go into the Archive.

Elizabeth has a letter from the FFHS regarding charitable status. It was decided that the benefits of this are outweighed by the work involved.

Keith raised the matter of the time of the AGM: member Roy Talbot had suggested that as some people travelling from a distance were unable to arrive in the morning it should be held in the afternoon. This was agreed and in 2014 the AGM would be 2.00 for 2.30. Iain commented that the 2015 triennial would be the 40th anniversary of the event and asked who of those present had been at the first. Keith read a list of those who attended quite a number of whom had subsequently died.

Ray asked, since we were not a registered charity, what would happen to any funds should we cease to exist as a society. Elizabeth said it was agreed that should this occur all funds would be donated to the church.

9. ADDITIONS TO SWINNERTON FAMILY WEBSITE John Swinnerton gave a presentation of proposed adaptations to the family website these would provide:

- An online resource of all people found so far in the family tree(s)
- Media files (documents, images, etc.) linked to each relevant person
- Past articles from the Swinnerton Saga linked to each person

Initial Set-up would require him to:

- Transfer existing website to a capable server
- Upload all media files (images, documents, etc...)
- Link each media file to the relevant ancestor
- Test the database's capacity by copying all data from existing software

On-going work would require:

- Additions of each new person to the tree(s)
- Addition of each edition of the magazine
- Linking each new article to its relevant ancestor
- Addition, deletion and maintenance of user's log-in accounts
- All data from the current GEDCOM system to be added
- Addition of any photos

This would provide interactive family trees making information much easier to access. By clicking on a person we would be able to access any "Saga" articles and photos relating to them.

A discussion followed regarding various aspects. Iain asked if purpose of the website was to encourage people to join the society or for members to acquire information regarding the family. Ray thought we needed to make all the information we had available. Geoff agreed with both points and said, as a past membership secretary, he had found that those who had enquiries answered did not necessarily go on to join the society. He believed it was what the next generation will want in time. Brian welcomed the opportunity to develop the site in this way. Margaret Antill felt that information regarding the living should not be accessible. John said the cost would be about £10 to £15 per month.

Ultimately it was agreed that: Information on living members would not be accessible. Non-members would have very limited access but, if they joined they would be given a password to enable them to access all information. This would need to be changed every year. Elizabeth asked John if he would become webmaster as she knew Malcolm was wishing to relinquish the post. He said he was interested if the time was acceptable and that he would discuss it with Malcolm.

Keith suggested that Jeremy's legacy be used for this development and Geoff proposed John go ahead and liaise with Malcolm. Elizabeth proposed John should be appointed webmaster, this was seconded by Valerie and carried unanimously. Elizabeth suggested a donation of £25 be made to the church for the use of the hall and refreshments. This was agreed.
The meeting closed at 1.00 pm.

* * * * *

Who Do You Think You Are? Series 10

If you are a fan of this programme, the celebrities have now been announced for next month's new series! They are footballer and presenter Gary Lineker, actor Lesley Sharp, presenter Nick Hower, comedian Sarah Millican, actor Nigel Havers, actor Una Stubbs, actor Nitin Ganatra, actor Minnie Driver, reporter John Simpson and singer Marianne Faithfull. Only five of them mean anything to me!

New data on the Internet.

The National Library of Wales has added an additional 100,000 pages from six more newspapers to the National Library of Wales digitized collection. With the additions in June there are now 4 million articles and 350,000 pages free online.

FindMyPast has added

- 1.2 million records to its Welsh collection.
- London volunteer soldier records 1859-1955
- Additional 2.5 million Irish court records available to search online in its Irish Petty Sessions Court Registers 1828-1912 collection.

Ancestry.uk

- London Gazette browsable images

Ancestry.ca

- Canadian, British Army and Canadian Militia Muster Rolls and Pay Lists, 1795-1850
- Canada, British Regimental Registers of Service, 1756-
- UK, Royal Hospital Chelsea Pensioner Registers of Soldiers Who Served in Canada, 174

FamilySearch.org has announced

- Cheshire Non-conformist Records, 1671-1900 added index records and images to an existing collection.

Origins.net has added

- Lichfield Consistory Court Wills 1650-1700

* * * * *

It is very interesting to see that the Canadian version of ancestry.com has added the records of soldiers who belonged to regiments that had served in Canada. Up to now, before 1883, the only records of soldiers on the internet are those who qualified for a pension. The records of men who died or did not complete their full service were destroyed. The only record of those soldiers was in the regimental muster rolls. Every regiment had to muster once a month and every man had to be accounted for – on parade or on furlough (leave), detachment or in hospital or confinement. Once a quarter, these were sent to the War Office from all over the world. They commence in 1754 with single sheets of hand-written lists, later they were issued as printed registers to be filled in and were finally discontinued in the late 1800s. It is a miracle that they have survived the heat and the weather but they have.
Brian has already found several Swinnertons who we did not know had been soldiers.

Swinnerton Soldiers Died in the Great War

No 6. Henry Swinnerton of Walsall



Henry Swinnerton was born on the 6th April 1897 at 12 James Street, Walsall, the son of Thomas Swinnerton, a coal miner, and Sarah née Dunn.

When he enlisted at Darlaston, Staffordshire, in March 1915 he said he was a caster's assistant (this would be in a foundry), aged 19 and was living with his parents at I Ann Street, Ryecroft, Walsall. He was enlisted into the Royal Artillery as a Driver and given the number 76939.

Whether he drove a horse in a team pulling a

gun or a cart with ammunition or other supplies, we do not know. Henry was drafted to France on Friday 08 October 1915 and was killed on the 1st September 1916 whilst in trenches in the Colincamps area during the Somme battles.



He is buried in the Euston Road Cemetery at Colincamps, a small village 11 kilometres north of Albert on the Somme. Colincamps and "Euston", a road junction a little east of the village, were within the Allied lines before the Somme offensive of July 1916.

The cemetery was started as a front line burial ground during and after the unsuccessful attack on Serre on 1 July, but after the German withdrawal to the Hindenburg Line in March 1917 it was scarcely used. It was briefly in German

hands towards the end of March 1918, when it marked the limit of the German advance, but the line was held and pushed forward by the New Zealand Division allowing the cemetery to be used again for burials in April and May



Merthyr Telegraph and General Advertiser. 26 January 1872

FATAL RAILWAY COLLISION. — A collision has occurred near the Kidsgrove Station, on the North Staffordshire Railway. Some shunting was going on, and two mineral trains came into collision with each other. A fireman named Swinnerton and a man named Wade, the latter unconnected with the railway, were killed, and another man has since died from injuries received.

I must investigate this further.

* * * * *

Continuing on the railway theme, I cannot resist including the following as a little light relief – I hope you will enjoy it as much as I did.

Irish Trains

The following is an actual exchange of correspondence between a customer and the Irish Railway Company.

Gentlemen,

I have been riding your trains daily for the last two years, and the service on your line seems to be getting worse every day. I am tired of standing in the aisle all the time on a 14 mile trip. I think the transportation system is worse than that enjoyed by people 2000 years ago.

Yours truly,
Patrick Finnegan.

Dear Mr Finnegan,

We received your letter with reference to the shortcomings of our service and believe you are somewhat confused in your history. The only mode of transportation 2000 years ago was by foot.

Sincerely,
Irish Railway Company.

Gentlemen,

I am in receipt of your letter, and I think you are the ones who are confused in your history. If you will refer to the Bible and the Book of David, 9th Chapter, you will find that Balaam rode to town on his ass. That....Gentlemen, is something I have not been able to do on your train in the last two years!

Yours truly,
Patrick Finnegan

Help from old friends.

I am fortunate that I have retained many old friends from my days as chairman or president (or both!) of various family history societies at various times from 1972- 2002, including the world-wide Federation of Family History Societies. They all know I am an avid collector of any references to Swinnertons from anywhere in the world and kindly send me any they come across for which I am very grateful.

One such is Mrs Pauline Pedersen who, for many years, was the secretary of BMSGH and later Administrator of the Federation – a key figure in the developing family history world in the 80s and 90s. Last week I had an email from her which said:

Today I went on a U3A visit to Stoneleigh Abbey. In one of the corridors was an illuminated scroll dated April 6th 1870, a thank you to Lord Leigh for permission to 'hunt harres' (sic) on his land. One of the signatures was Edw. Swinnerton. Does this mean anything to you? A U3A friend took a photograph for me so if it's OK I'll forward to you.

This is the splendid document you see opposite.

A few days later I received another email.

Our U3A speaker yesterday was talking about Lady Godiva - she said that her research showed that the first official Lady Godiva parade in Coventry took place in the 1600s and since women were not seen in public then as performers, Lady Godiva was played by the Mayor's son, James Swinnerton. Two Swinnerton references coming my way in one week, like flippin' buses!!!

I am afraid that the lecturer was not quite right. The first procession was in 1677-78 in the Mayoralty of Michael Earle, Lady Godiva was played by the SON of James Swinnerton. All the Guilds sent boys to the procession and he was chosen.

James Swinnerton was the second son of William S of Butterson and Jane Nicholes (sic), baptised 28th July 1633, married Anne Clarke of Darlaston and settled at Coventry (*Burke's Commoners*). His son John died before him, his only surviving child Anne marriedHilyard (forename not known - yet!).

The Edward who was shooting Lord Leigh's hares would have been Edward bap 2 Feb 1833, died 16 Oct 1894 at Stoneleigh and buried there. His mother Ann (Weston) was a Stoneleigh girl. They owned the farm which became a large part of the Royal Showground - there is still an annual Swinnerton Cup for the best ploughman. The widow of the last one died just before I started the society leaving just over £250,000 (a lot of money then) and most of it went to charity.

Edward had no children which is, via the News of the World (see page 137), how I met Ken Armitstead and discovered the Warwickshire Branch !



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 Iain 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