

The Swinerton Saga



Ross and Earl Swenerton posing for the traditional photograph for the 2011 Gathering

THE JOURNAL OF SWINNERTON FAMILY HISTORY

VOLUME 15. NO.7

DECEMBER 2013

Annie Swynnerton's Paintings – No 18

Isabel Dacre



Oil on canvas, 70.3 x 51.9 cm
Manchester City Galleries

THE SWINNERTON SAGA

VOLUME 15 NUMBER 7
DECEMBER 2013



No 151

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Editor - Col I.S. Swinnerton

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

From the Editor's Desk

They say every picture tells a story – this one certainly does and explains why this issue of Saga is again just a collection of bits and pieces about the family and contains very few contributions from myself. My shoulder has now been operated on but it is still very painful to type for any length of time. I am very grateful to Brian, Ray and Roy for once again supplying me with ready typed material.



In the last issue, I mentioned that we did not possess any photographs of last year's gathering for our Gatherings Archive. Now, thanks to our American members Ross and Janet Swenerton we do have a few so our archive file is complete. We are still in need of some more so do please have another look. Next year, 2014, marks the 40th Anniversary of the founding of our society. In the

archives is a copy of a letter sent out by me on the 16th January 1975 inviting other members of the family to join as you will see opposite. This should have gone out in December 1974 but, as I explained in Newsletter No.6, business, military duties and Christmas itself prevented me from producing a December newsletter (it was issued every month in those halycon days!).

Will the society survive to celebrate it? As you will see from the Chairman's letter, no offers to take over from the present chairman and , secretary have been received. We have had a volunteer to be treasurer which is a step in the right direction and we have a membership secretary and a vice-chairman but Margaret is fully committed to her role as churchwarden as well as looking after our publications and, of course, her family.

Time is running short so do please think about it.

Jain

Dictionary of English and Welsh Surnames (Bardsley)

Swinnerton, Swinerton.

Local of Swinnerton, a parish in co, Stafford, three miles from Stone.

Robert de Swynnerton, co staff, Hen.111-Edw 1. R, John de Swynnerton, co derby, 20 Edw. I. R

1563. John Swynerton and May Fawnte: Marriage Lic. (London), 1 27.

1609. Henry Swinarton, London: Reg. Univ. Oxf. vol ii p 305.

1617. Randle Swinnerton, of Chester, Lawton: Wills at Chester, i, 186.

1802, William Utterson and Henrietta Swinerton: Married St.Geo Han Sq.ii 258.

THE SWINNERTON SOCIETY

A non-profit making organisation devoted to the research and publication of Swinnerton family records and the welfare of Swynerton Church.
A member of the Federation of Family History Societies

President:
The Rt. Hon. THE LORD STAFFORD

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Beach Tree House
Norton Road
Seventon, West Midlands
Telephone. 5095

16th January 1975.

Dear *John*

In Newsletter No. 5 I promised you news of the latest saga in the Family History.

Well, as you can see from this letter, we now have a Family Society. This has been "on the stocks" for a long time and at last we have got round to setting it up.

There are only 5 other such 'Family' Societies in this country (in America there are many) but there are some 17 Regional Family History Societies in various parts of the country, two University Societies and 6 or 7 other Societies who deal with Genealogy and Heraldry on a national basis.

Most of these belong to the British Federation of Family History Societies of which I (for my sine!) am the Chairman. If any of you are interested in the Society in your area, I would be delighted to send you details.

We are naturally delighted to have secured such distinguished personages for our President and Vice-Presidents; we will publish a brief 'curriculum vitae' of them in a future issue – you have already read those of our first council members in Newsletter No. 2.

We hope to hold a yearly 'gathering' of the family at Swynerton, probably in July and we hope as many of you as possible will come. It will take the form of a short service in Swynerton Church conducted by one of the family, followed by tea in the Village Hall with an exhibition of family papers, documents, pictures, etc.

It should be a most interesting occasion and will give an opportunity for me to meet you all and for you possibly to meet some new relations!

May I wish you all a very Happy, Prosperous and Peaceful 1975.

Yours sincerely,

John

The Chairman's Page



2012 was a year of national celebration with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the hosting of the Olympic Games.

2013 has been a year of celebration for your Chairman, Treasurer and Chaplain. In June Keith and I celebrated our Golden Wedding with a dinner and entertainment at the Imperial

Hotel in Llandudno. Amongst our guests was the Vicar who married us (Rev David Edwards) and his wife. It was a wonderfully joyous occasion. Later in the month we concluded our celebrations with a cruise along the River Danube. September brought the happy announcement of Rachel's engagement to Crispin. Both families had been eagerly awaiting the news and are now looking forward to the wedding next July. Congratulations Rachel and Crispin. Later in September Keith underwent a full knee replacement in Abergele Hospital. He is now progressing quite well albeit rather painfully and looking forward to walking Rachel down with aisle without limping.

2014 will be an emotional year. For our immediate family we can anticipate the joy of a wedding. For our nation's 'family' we can anticipate a year of commemoration of the outbreak of World War One. What can we anticipate for our Swinnerton family? So far no-one has come forward to volunteer to take over as Chairman or Secretary so sadly we may well have to anticipate the demise of the Swinnerton Family Society in 2014. Whether that happens is up to you.

Elizabeth

The First World War

The emphasis in 2104 is, as I am sure you are aware, on the centenary of the start of WWI on the 4th August 1914. 97 Swinnertons are recorded on the medal roll cards as having served and there may be more who served in this country only and did not go overseas and so did not qualify for any medals. The rolls include one member of the newly formed Royal Air Force, formed from the merger of the Royal Flying Corps and the Royal Naval Air Service on the 1st April 1918: a male member of the Red Cross, a member of the Church Army/YMCA and two officers of the Indian Army Reserve of Officers who served in India and two nurses. There were also four Swinnertons.

More about the Constable of the Tower of London

Maud was betrothed to John de Mobraway (*sic*) as a child. After his father's estates were confiscated, John (then about 12 years old), his mother Aline and Maud de Holand, who was living with them, were taken to the Tower of London on 26 Feb 1321/22.

Roger Swynnerton was Constable of the Tower at this time and the father of Thomas. Following these events, control of John de Mobraway's (*sic*) marriage was given to Henry, Earl of Lancaster, whose daughter Joan then married the 15-year-old John de Mowbray. When John came of age, he obtained a license to grant a life interest in two de Mowbray manors to Maud, who was then free to marry.

* * * * *

THOMASINE PESHALL (d.1506+)

Thomasine Peshall was the daughter of Humphrey Peshall or Persall of Horsley, Staffordshire (d. June 3, 1488) and Helen Swynnerton. She was older than her brother John (1484/5-1564+) and brought suit in the court of requests on his behalf, charging Thomas Harcourt of Ranton with "rape of ward" for carrying John off upon Humphrey's death and marrying him, when he was still underage, to Catherine (sometimes called Helena) Harcourt (c.1482-1546), Thomas's daughter. The case appears to have been thrown out. Harcourt claimed that the bishop of Coventry and Lichfield had purchased John's wardship and marriage from the Crown and then sold both to him.

MORE ABOUT ANNIE SWYNNERTON

Annie was born in Salford and studied at the Manchester School of Art. Manchester Art Gallery is home to 18 of her paintings, including landscapes and portraits. She painted a portrait of William Gaskell in 1879, and also her fellow artist, Susan Isabel Dacre, in 1880. Susan Isabel Dacre was born in Leamington and educated at a convent school in Salford. She worked as a governess in Paris and was in the city during the Franco-Prussian War and the Paris Commune. Returning to England, Dacre studied art at the Manchester School of Art where she met Annie. The 2 women become friends for life; they were both strong supporters of votes for women and Dacre was active in the Manchester Society for Women's Suffrage whose driving force was Lydia Becker. Manchester Art Gallery has 16 works by Dacre, including a wonderful portrait of Lydia Becker. The portrait of her by Annie is also in the Manchester Art Gallery.

Inquisitions post mortem by Roy Talbot.

Theses were device from the late mediæval period whereby the estates of the great and the good were inspected by escheators appointed for the purpose to see what could be purloined by the crown to swell the coffers of the Exchequer. That of *John Swynerton* (JS126) is dated 18th March 1431 and, following the preamble, is calendared as follows:-

By a fine levied at Westminster on the quindene of St. John the Baptist, 1341, and a month from Michaelmas in the same year, Roger Bankwell and Adam atte Maregrous, deforciant, granted the bailiwick of the seneschalcy of Cannock Forest to John Swynerton, querent, and to the heirs of his body, to hold of the king and his heirs by due service in perpetuity. Failing such heirs, the bailiwick should remain successively to Thomas Swynerton and to the heirs of his body; and to the right heirs of John in perpetuity. The concord was made by the king's licence by letters patent. The fine and letters were shown to the jurors.

The bailiwick descended from John Swynerton to John Swynerton as son and heir of John Swynerton. From John son of John, it descended to John Swynerton as son and heir and, from John son of John son of John, it descended to John Swynerton, named in the writ, son and heir of John son of John son of John son of John. He died seised of two parts of the bailiwick, and reversion of the third that Clemence, widow of John Swynerton, senior, then held in dower.

He died seised of the following in demesne as of fee.

Fradley, 10 acres land and 2 acres meadow, each acre worth 3d yearly.

The bailiwick and land and meadow in Fradley are held of the king in chief by grand serjeanty, by being the seneschal and bailiff of the forest of Cannock. Annual value of the bailiwick, 40/-.

Roger Bakewalle and Walter de Aston of Somervile, chaplains, were seised of the following messuage, lands and tenements in demesne of fee. They gave them to John Swynerton son of John Swynerton, knight, and Christine his wife, and to the heirs male of the body of John son of John. They descended from John son of John to John Swynerton as son and heir of John son of John. From him, they descended to John Swynerton as son and heir of John son of John son of John, and from him they descended to John, named in the writ, as son and heir of John son of John son of John son of John.

Stretton, a messuage and 20 acre land that John Eyton holds at will; and 8/- rent from a tenement presently held by John Bridde and Isabel his wife, held of Robert Congreve by 5d yearly. Each acre of the land there is worth 4d yearly. He died seised of the following in demesne as of fee.

Great or Little Wyrley, 30 acres land and 6 acres meadow, each acre worth 2d yearly, presently held at will by Thomas Hyde, which certain 20 acres are held by William Payto, knight, by suit of court there once yearly.

Featherstone, 12d rent from a messuage and ½ virgate, presently held by Richard Eton and John Walker; 12d rent from a messuage and virgate, presently held by John Batele; and 12d rent from a messuage and ½ virgate, presently held by William Bayly.

He died on 28th September last. Thomas Swynerton of Hilton, his kin and next heir as the brother of John father of John, is aged 30 and more.

This all infers that he outlived all four of his sons and that, despite so doing, Uncle Tom was still about. It was the beginning of the end of 'Swynnerton of Hilton'. Thomas begat daughters. In what was, doubtless, a dynastic arrangement one of them took as second husband her third cousin twice removed, Humphrey Swynnerton, Lord of Swynnerton, who thus acquired the appellation 'of Swynnerton and Hilton' instead.

* * * *

Swinnerton House, Melbourne, Victoria.



Swinnerton House is one of Melbourne's finest student accommodation. Its impressive architecture has won two prestigious Design Awards from the Building Designers Association of Victoria. This new stylish furnished building offers a choice of single room and ensuite room. As you can see, it has been converted from the former of Swinnerton Bros, the former industrial fan manufacturers and, before that, of the Swinnerton motor car.

The House of Seven Gables by National Hawthorne

John Swinnerton - Character Analysis

John Swinnerton was a real-life Salem doctor in the late 17th century. His presence in the novel is another instance of Hawthorne's fondness for mixing real people into fictional situations. (For other examples, see "In a Nutshell.") In the first chapter, John Swinnerton pronounces Colonel Pyncheon dead of natural causes. But we are suspicious of this conclusion, what with Matthew Maule's curse and the gossip that Colonel Pyncheon's body was found with fingerprints on his neck. But John Swinnerton turns out to be telling the truth: Colonel Pyncheon died of the weird Pyncheon-style stroke his family sometimes gets. After the Maule disaster, it seems unlikely that Colonel Pyncheon died a natural death, but there you go – Hawthorne keeps you guessing.

Nathaniel Hawthorne (born Nathaniel Hathorne; July 4, 1804) was an American novelist and short story writer. He was born in 1804 in Salem, Massachusetts to Nathaniel Hathorne and the former Elizabeth Clarke Manning. His ancestors include John Hathorne, the only judge involved in the Salem witch trials who never repented of his actions. Nathaniel later added a "w" to make his name "Hawthorne" in order to hide this relationship.

ED: It is interesting that he chose the name of John Swinnerton for one of his principal characters as the real-life John was the son of Job Swinnerton, one of the few elders of Salem Village who refused to get involved in the Salem Witch Trials.



The House of the Seven Gables (also known as the **Turner House** or **Turner-Ingersoll Mansion**) is a 1668 colonial mansion in Salem, Massachusetts, USA. The house is now a non-profit museum, with an admission fee charged for tours, as well as an active settlement house with programs for children. It was built for Captain John Turner, and it stayed with the family for three generations.



The editor at the House of the Seven Gables in the 1970s. Sadly, it was closed on the day I visited.

Royal Visit to Merchant Tailors' Hall

On the 16th of July 1607, James I. accompanied by Henry, Prince of Wales, visited the Merchant Tailors' Company of London, at their hall in Threadneedle Street. The records of the company contain several interesting notices of this royal visit. A short time previous to it taking place, a meeting was held to consult how the king could best be entertained and *Alderman Sir John Swynnerton* was entreated 'to confer with Mr Benjamin Jenson, the poet, about a speech to be made to welcome his majesty, and for music, and other inventions'.

* * * * *

Swinnerton – yet another explanation.

'This name is of English locational origin from a place in Staffordshire called Swynnerton situated three miles from Stone. Recorded as Sulvertone in the Domesday Book of 1086 and as Swynforton in the 1272 Assize Court Rolls of that county, the name derives from the Olde English pre 7th Century 'Swinford-Tun' meaning 'settlement ('tun') by the pig ford'. The surname from this source is first recorded in the latter half of the 13th Century, (see below). One John de Swynnerton appears in the Derbyshire County Rolls in 1292. In 1534 Thomas Swinnerton, under the assumed name, John Roberts, published 'A mustre of scismatyke Bysshappes of Rome'. On August 5th 1567 Rogerus Swynnerton, an infant, was christened in Newcastle upon Tyme, and on September 2nd 1583 Jocasta Swinnerton and Thomas Burslem were married in Burslem, Staffordshire. The first recorded spelling of the family name is shown to be that of Robert de Swinnerton, which was dated 1272, 'The Hundred Rolls of Staffordshire', during the reign of King Edward I, The Hammer of the Scots, 1272 - 1307. Surnames became necessary when governments introduced personal taxation. In England this was known as Poll Tax. Throughout the centuries, surnames in every country have continued to "develop" often leading to astonishing variants of the original spelling'.

The above can be found on the internet in the American *Surname Archive* trying to persuade you to buy it framed and complete with a coat of arms!

* * * * *

A family tree can wither if nobody tends it's roots (anon)

A Christmas Greeting from our Chaplain



Last year, in my first Christmas as a South Staffordshire Rector, I wrote of the sense of being drawn back to our ancient roots, and the importance of people's ancestral connection with the land. Now that I have been here a little longer, I am really beginning to appreciate the importance of story in rooting us to the land and to our family. As I meet with the parish's longer-established families to arrange marriages, baptisms and funerals, we begin to weave together a rich social history of land won and lost, of hearts won and lost, and even of wars won and lost (well, we are bang in the middle of civil war territory!). Doing so, we notice how that history shapes the villages today. There are so many characters that I wish I had known and, if time travel were possible, I think I would choose to visit here. The story of the parish becomes, inevitably, part of my story.

Earlier this year I spent some time at the William Salt Library and in Lichfield Record Office, trying to ascertain the Chancel Repair Liability in our parishes. The task would have been achieved far more quickly if I hadn't been lured by the sirens of the archives. Oh, the rich seams of social history contained in clergy diaries and correspondence, turning the old tithe maps into a vivid, living history! Now I understand the joy of family history research - the peace of the archive rooms, the excitement of unearthing a new piece of the jigsaw, and the satisfaction of bringing family trees alive with the social commentary found in wills, gazettes and other sources. The stories contained in those dusty papers become, inevitably, part of our story. At Christmas, we hear again the familiar story of the Nativity. If we're not careful, we find that we've let the story become so familiar that it doesn't even begin to touch our senses. But if we explore it - if we weave together the histories of the places and the people - if we travel backward and forward in time, if we read it alongside the social commentary of The Bible, then we bring the story alive again. When we immerse ourselves in scripture and in prayer, and when we listen to the echoes of the last 2000 years, the story of Jesus becomes, inevitably, part our story.

His story, made real for us at Christmas, is our story - a story that brings peace, joy, light and colour to our lives, a story that does not end.

May God bless you and all those you love, this Christmas and always,

Reverend Rachel x



A memorable occasion.

The Domesday Gathering in June 1986 when some 240 Swinnertons or Swinnerton descendants came from all over the world to celebrate the first ever mention of the name of the Staffordshire manor in the Domesday Book of 1086 from which our name is derived
Were you there?

BRICK WALLS

In genealogical research, particularly in researching one specific name as we do, one often comes across a man who suddenly appears in the records from nowhere. There are no previous known references to him but he marries and produces descendants. We have several of these and I, and others, have spent many years trying to break down what have become known as these 'brick walls'. Sometimes we succeed in attaching them to a branch of the family and, with the access to records that is available now through modern technology that we did not have 60 years ago when I started, we have in the last few years had some successes but we still have a long way to go!

Here are two examples.

1. Thomas Swinnington of West Bromwich.

Known facts:

- Said he was born in Lichfield in 1841 Census. How did he know that?
- Swinnington is a Black Country/Birmingham pronunciation of the Shropshire/Welsh version of our name.
- Area of research to pursue – parish registers and Bishops' Transcripts of the Lichfield area. Nothing on line or in print for the relevant time scale that I can find – means a visit to Lichfield Diocesan Record Office.
- Look at a possible candidate from elsewhere – a lot of Shropshire people moved into the industrial areas of Tipton, Wednesbury, Rowley Regis, Walsall, West Bromwich, Birmingham etc.

Family information from the late Frank Swinnington told us that Thomas married Amelia Hawkins but he did not know when or where neither have we found it.

My latest research in June this year came up with more mysteries.

In the 1841 census Thomas appears in Great Croft Street, Darlaston, Staffordshire aged 30 with Amelia (30), sons Samuel (9) and Thomas (5) and daughters Mary (17) and Amelia (2) – all born in Staffordshire. [HO107/979/3/17 p.26].

Amelia died in 1842 in West Bromwich and Thomas married Sarah Martin in 1844 in Wolverhampton RD.

(Also in the 1841 census is another Thomas Swinnington (25) in Bilston, Staffs born Staffordshire with Mary Swinnington (25) (no birthplace given) living in

the house of Thomas Salt and family. [HO107/1001/9/33 p.20] As yet these are unidentified).

In the 1851 census, Thomas appears as Thomas SWANINGTON (40) Bricklayer, born Lichfield with wife Sarah (47) born *Wensbury* (sic) (Wednesbury), Staffs and son Samuel (19) and daughter Mary (16), both born Darlaston, and son Thomas (14) and Amelia (3), both born West Bromwich. Also listed is Joseph Martin (10) described as son-in-law but actually meaning stepson – a common error.

(We have Sarah Malbond in our records as the second wife of Thomas Swinnington (TS111) – but this cannot be correct, the only record of a marriage of a Sarah Malbond that I can find is to John Smith in 1863. Wolverhampton RD).

Thomas (TS111) appears to have died (as Swinnerton) in 1865 in West Bromwich.

Thomas Swinnington aged 24, (i.e. born 1854) son of Thomas Swinnington married Sarah Dunn, daughter of Joseph Thomas Dunn at St Paul's, Walsall on 4 Dec 1878.

2. John Swinnerton of Eccleshall

Known facts:

- Buried 1841 aged 77 in Eccleshall (before 1841 census) – that is to say he was born about 1764 and I say about because we have to be very careful about estimates of age given at death.
- Married Ann Miles in Barlaston 1785.
- Burial says that he was of Slindon, Eccleshall
- No baptism of him recorded in Eccleshall
- Slindon is a small parish, with its own mission church of St Chad, north of Eccleshall. There are no holdings of registers at the DRO.
- Eccleshall Rural Deanery includes Cotes, a village and township, four miles N by E of Eccleshall, and gives name to that quarter of the parish, which includes the small hamlets and townships of Aspley, three miles N by W; Chatcull, five miles N; Cold & Mill Meece, three miles NNE; and Slindon, two miles N of Eccleshall. Horsley is an extensive township of scattered houses, giving name to the southern quarter of the parish, in which are the small hamlets and townships of Pershall, one mile W; Walton, one and a half miles ESE; and Wootton, one mile S of Eccleshall. Within two miles

further to the SW is the extensive tract of land called Offley Hay, which was not enclosed till 1841, and the hamlets of Garmelow and Copmere. Broughton, a small village and chapelry, five miles NW by W of Eccleshall, is in the western or Woodland Quarter of the parish. This quarter includes the hamlets of Gerard's Bromley, six miles NW; Charnes, four and a half miles NW; Croxton, three and a half miles NW; Podmore, six miles NW; Sugnall Magna & Parva, two and a half miles NW; and Three Farms, from one to two miles N of Eccleshall.

- Swynnerton is very close to Slindon although it is in the Trentham Rural Deanery.

Possible candidates

- John Swinnerton baptised at Swynnerton 11 June 1765 son of Mary Evans
- John Swinnerton baptised at Whitmore 16 Feb 1764 son of John & Ann Swinnerton
- John Swinnerton son of Mr Thomas Swinnerton, Grocer, baptised at Newcastle under Lyme 29 Aug 1766 (NUL is 2½ miles N. of Slindon).

* * * * *

Transcription errors

You have to be very careful with these newly available records particularly when you are looking at transcriptions by other people on the internet who may well not be family historians but paid workers for one of the big commercial firms.

St Bartholomew the Great. London, London England

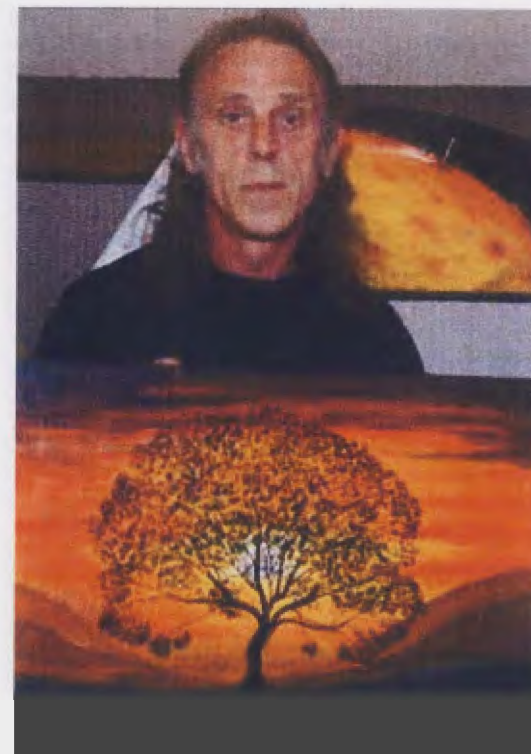
(yes that is how it is listed so it is fairly obvious as to it's origin)

Joseph Twynnerton: Gender Male: Christening Date 15 Aug 1802: Birth Date 27 July 1802: Father's name Joseph Twynnerton: Mother's name Hannah.

* * * * *

People will not look forward to posterity, who never look backward to their ancestors. (*Edmund Burke*)

Dave Swinnerton – the Ross-on-Wye Artist



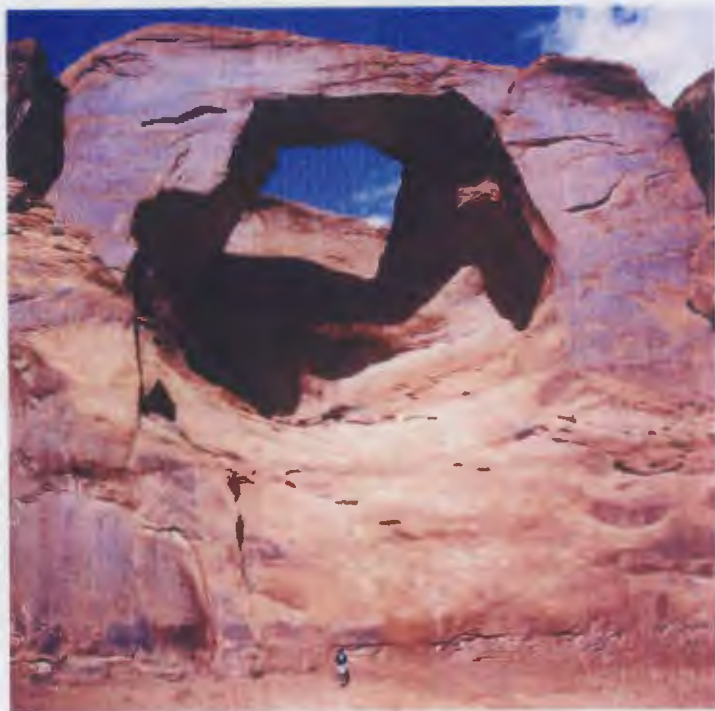
David Swinnerton was born in Walsall, Staffordshire. He attended Walsall College of Art and, following several years in engineering, he moved to Ross-on-Wye which rekindled his passion for painting. According to the internet, he spends endless hours in his attic studio working with a range of materials – charcoal, water colours, pastels and mixed media but mostly prefers to use acrylics.

He describes himself as an artist and photographer living in Herefordshire with his partner Tina. He uses Olympus cameras as they suit his style of photography and has had work accepted by the National Portrait Gallery in London. He started in photography some 30 years ago with film.

He has also published a book 'Through the Lens. Volume One' which contains many splendid colour illustrations of his work.

Swinnerton Arch

is located in a remote part of Monument Valley, Arizona, south of Hunt's Mesa. It is number 10-15 in the Vreeland catalog. Also known as Swinnerton Bridge, it is a very young pothole natural arch eroded through DeChelly sandstone. It is considered young because the span of the lintel is smaller than the diameter of the pothole that created it. This pothole formed and grew very near to the edge of a cliff. At a point in the very recent past, the thin wall separating the pothole from the cliff face collapsed. This event must have been sudden and catastrophic. Remnants of the wall remain scattered at the foot of the cliff. The event likely took place within the last two hundred years, or even less. The arch has a span of 40 feet, a height of 50 feet, a width of 15 feet and a thickness of 5 feet, as measured by Jay Wilbur with laser triangulation (Jay also provided the formation analysis). Because it is within the boundaries of Monument Valley Tribal Park, the services of a Navajo guide must be obtained to visit this arch. Access requires a lengthy and complicated 4WD route followed by a short walk.



The Forty Niners

The Cromwellian conquest of Ireland by the forces of the English Parliament, led by Oliver Cromwell, during the Wars of the Three Kingdoms took place in 1649–53. Cromwell landed in Ireland with his New Model Army on behalf of England's Rump Parliament in August 1649.

Since the Irish Rebellion of 1641, most of Ireland had been under the control of the Irish Catholic Confederation. In early 1649 the Confederates allied with the English Royalists, who had been defeated by the Parliamentarians in the English Civil War. By May 1652, Cromwell's Parliamentary army had defeated the Confederate and Royalist coalition in Ireland and occupied the country—bringing to an end the Irish Confederate Wars (or Eleven Years' War). However, guerrilla warfare continued for a further year. Cromwell passed a series of Penal Laws against Roman Catholics (the vast majority of the population) and confiscated large amounts of their land.

The Parliamentary reconquest of Ireland was brutal, and Cromwell is still a hated figure in Ireland. The extent to which Cromwell, who was in direct command for the first year of the campaign, is responsible for the atrocities is debated to this day.

Cromwell imposed an extremely harsh settlement on the Irish Catholic population. This was because of his deep religious antipathy to the Catholic religion and to punish Irish Catholics for the rebellion of 1641, in particular the massacres of Protestant settlers in Ulster. Also he needed to raise money to pay off his army and to repay the London merchants who had subsidised the war. Anyone implicated in the rebellion of 1641 was executed. Those who participated in Confederate Ireland had all their land confiscated and thousands were transported to the West Indies as indentured labourers. Those Catholic landowners who had not taken part in the wars still had their land confiscated, although they were entitled to claim land in Connacht as compensation. In addition, no Catholics were allowed to live in towns. Irish soldiers who had fought in the Confederate and Royalist armies left the country in large numbers to find service in the armies of France and Spain—William Petty estimated their number at 54,000 men. The practice of Catholicism was banned.

The Long Parliament had passed the Adventurers Act in 1640 (the act received royal assent in 1642), under which those who lent money to Parliament for the subjugation of Ireland would be paid in confiscated land in Ireland. *In addition, Parliamentary soldiers who served in Ireland were entitled to an allotment of confiscated land there, in lieu of their wages, which the*

Parliament was unable to pay in full. As a result, many thousands of New Model Army veterans were settled in Ireland.

They became known as the Forty Niners (not to be confused with the gold diggers of 1849 with the same name) and Captain Thomas Swinnerton was one of these.

Who he was we do not yet know but almost exactly 100 years later we have the first record of a Swinnerton (spelled Swenarton) being born in Dungannon, Co. Tyrone to John Swenarton who had married Abigail Haydock in 1736.

TRANSCRIPT of the first ADJUDICATION on Roll No 1. of the FORTY-NINE LOTS

“BY HIS MAJESTIES Commissioners appointed for putting in execution an Act of Parliament, intituled, An Act for the explaining of some doubts arising upon an Act, intituled An Act for the better execution of his Majesties gracious Declaration for the settlement of his kingdom of Ireland, and satisfaction of the severall interests of Advent, Sould, and other his subjects there, and for making some alterations of any additions unto the said Act for the more speedy and effectuell settlement of the said kingdome; and of soemuch as is still in force & remains to be executed of another Act, intituled, An Act for the better execution of his Majesties gracious Declaration for the settlement of his kingdome of Ireland, and satisfaction of the severall interests of Advent, Souldiers, and other his subjects there.

“WHEREAS upon stating of the arrears of the Commissioned Officers who served his Majestie or his royal Father of blessed memorie in the warrs of Ireland before the fifth day of June one thousand six hundred forty nyne, It appeared unto this Court that there was due to the R' Honorable Robert Earl of Leicester, for service done by him to his Majestie or his royal Father, as captain of horse, colonell and captain of foote and generall of the army, in the late warrs of Ireland, before the fifth day of June one thousand six hundred forty nyne aforesaid, the sume of Twelve thowsand one hundred and fifteen poundes seaventeene shillings fower pence; And it further appeared, upon distributing the securitie by the said Acts sett apart for satisfaction of the said arrears amongst the said commissioned officers by lotts equally & indifferently drawne in open court the six & twentieth day of September in the eighteenth yeare of his Majesties raigne that now is, that the arrears of the said commissioned officers who served before the said fifth day of June one thousand six hundred forty nyne, then to be satisfied, being by order of this Court devided into one hundred equall lotts, the arrears above men~coned were contained in & hereditam hereafter mentioned were contained in and did make up the severall lands tenements and hereditaments hereafter men~coned were seised sequestered disposed distributed sett out or sett apart by reason of or upon accompt of the late horrid rebellion of war which began or broke out in his kingdome of Ireland upon the three and twentieth day of October one thousand six hundred fort one, and therby are forfeited to and vested in his Majestie according to the true intent and meaning of the said Acts, and unto the uses therein limited mentioned and appointed (that is to say) To the use of the said commissioned officers who served his Majestie of his royall father in the warrs of Ireland

before the fifth day of June one thousand six hundred forth nyne; It is thereupon ordered adjudged and decreed by the said Court, That the said Robert Earl of Leicester is by the said Acts lawfully and rightfully intituled unto, and that hee his heires and assignes shall and may have hold and enjoy the lands tenements & hereditam hereafter mentioned (that is to say) A tymber house slated, on the Wood Keay of the citty of Dublin, now or late in the possession of Nicholas Hansham, and returned, taken to have been formerly the proprietie of Sir Luke Fitz-Gerrald, the yearly quitt rent whereof is one pound thirteen shillings; and also part of a front howse, backhowse & backside east side of Bridge streete in the citty of Corke, now or late in the possession of Thomas Crooke, and soe returned, the proprietie of David Meskell, the yearly quitt rent whereof is fifteen shill eight pence, which said part of front howse, backhowse and backside are valued in the distriu~con therof at eighty three pounds twelve shillings; a front howse and backside in the same streete.....”

A web article on Library Ireland describes land being given to Cromwell's army and adventurers in several counties. The debt claimed by the Adventurers amounted to £336,000 to be paid in lands, the position of which was to be determined by lot. Ten counties of the richest part of Ireland—Limerick, Tipperary, King's and Queen's Counties, Meath and Westmeath, Down, Antrim, Armagh, and Waterford - some of them planted with English and Scottish during the last century, were now to be handed over to the newcomers, halved between the army and the Adventurers.'

Parliament was now faced with settling its enormous debts. The English army in Ireland had not been paid for 18 months and the adventurers were demanding to be recompensed. The adventurers were so called because they lent or adventured money to parliament, a decade earlier, in response to an act called the Adventurers' Act. They were members of Parliament, merchants and tradesmen. Cromwell himself was one; he advanced £600. The money was required to raise an army to subdue the rebels in Ireland. The adventurers were offered two and a half million acres of Irish land, which was to be confiscated at the end of the rebellion, as security of their money. Suppliers of provisions and ammunition to the army also had to be paid. Irish land was to be used to settle all these debts. The lands of the defeated Irish and Old English Catholics were declared confiscated and preparations began for its distribution to the various people to whom the government was indebted. In order to facilitate the redistribution a survey of the land was begun.

There is a book *The Irish landed gentry when Cromwell came to Ireland*, a full text of which is in the University of Pittsburgh. I think the book has been scanned and not edited because there are many obvious errors, In the index of Siemanks (*sic*) (?surnames) both Swinerton and Swynerton are listed. Thomas Swinerton and Thomas Swynerton are listed under The “Forty Nine” Officers but I think they are probably the same man.

Brothers organise football match in memory of sister

The Western Gazette Saturday, October 20, 2012

The memory of their one-year-old sister has spurred two Crewkerne brothers into organising a 12-hour football match for charity. Adam, 20, and Dan Swinnerton, 22, want to raise money for Ups and Downs South West, a Down's Syndrome group which works with families affected by the condition.



Brothers Dan Swinnerton, 22, and Adam Swinnerton, 20, both of Crewkerne, are organising a charity football match in aid of Down's Syndrome charity, Ups and Downs South West, in memory of their sister Amy-Grace. Their sister, Amy-Grace De Se-Ja Martin was born on November 24, 2008, with the syndrome and died on January 30, 2010. The brothers are organising the football marathon at Wadham Sports Centre on Sunday, November 18.

Daniel Paul and Adam Peter are the grandsons of our member Alan John Swinnerton of the London2 Branch.



Still pouring with rain at Brno, Czechoslovakia, in August 1969 but it's all sunshine for Audrey Mc Elmbury (centre) of USA, winner of the women's road championship. On her right is Bernadette Swinnerton (GB) runner-up, Nina Trofimova (USSR) was third/

Family Notes

Sadly we have to say farewell to:

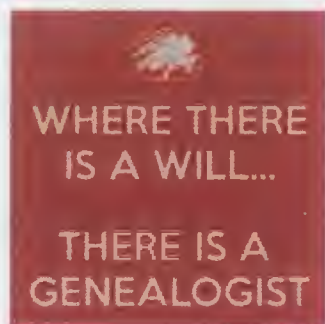
Brenda Frances Hodson (née Swinnerton) not a member but who attending many of our Gatherings. She was the eldest sister of Geoffrey Swinnerton, our expert on Swinnerton China. She died on the 5th August 2013 aged 74..

Margaret Taylor, a member for many years, a daughter of Professor Hurd Swinnerton and Florence Daisy (née Bennett) who died on the 10th August 2013 at St Albans aged 97.

I am asked to remind you that the
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of the
Swinnerton Family Society
will take place at Swynnerton
on Saturday, the 14th June 2014 at 2.00pm.

Now all that remains is for me to apologise again for a hotch-potch *Saga*. I hope that by the time it comes to prepare the April *Saga*, I shall be back to normal (after a new knee in the New Year which should not affect my typing!). I wish you all a very happy Christmas and (if the Chancellor allows it) a prosperous New Year.

* * * * *



*"..what the next generation will value most is not what we owned, but the evidence of who we were and the tales of how we lived. In the end, it's the family stories that are worth the storage."
— Ellen Goodman*

Pictures from the 2011 Gathering



The Secretary, Chairman and Treasurer at the AGM



Getting together for a chat

The Swinnerton Family Society

The objects of the society are:

1. To research and record the history of the Swinnerton Family.
2. To establish links with members of the world-wide Swinnerton Family to promote a sense of kinship and to encourage them to study their own family history and contribute it to the history of the whole family.
3. To publish a magazine – *The Swinnerton Saga* – to record that history.
4. To preserve those records together with associated objects and ephemera.
5. To assist, where possible, in the welfare of St Mary's Church, Swynnerton.

Patron – The Rt. Hon The Lord Thomas of Swynnerton

President – Colonel Gair Swinnerton

Chairman – Mrs Elizabeth Livesey

Secretary – Miss Iris Crouch

Treasurer – Keith Livesey

Subscriptions – Ray Swinnerton

Vice-Chairman and Publications

Mrs Margaret Antill

Database – Roy Talbot

Website – www.swinnerton.org

Malcolm Smith

Subscriptions £12 per annum (or local currency equivalent)

USA: Mrs Diana Cunningham,

Canada: Kevin Bowers,

Australia: Mrs Glenda Simpson,

UK and the rest of the world -- see Ray Swinnerton above

Published by the Swinnerton Family Society,

ISSN: 0508 6755