

The Swinnerton Saga



Laura Swinnerton is an amateur event rider and showjumper competing at a professional level all over the UK at affiliated and international events with her two main horses, Sorcha II and Lennox II.

THE JOURNAL OF SWINNERTON FAMILY HISTORY

VOLUME15. NO.8

APRIL 2014

Annie Swynnerton's Paintings – No.18

Illusions



Oil on canvas
68 x 51 cms

Manchester Art Gallery

Accession Number: 1936.207: Louisa Mary Garrett Bequest
Half-length portrait of a young girl with wispy blond hair, dressed in a suit of armour and chain mail with her hands raised to her chest in gesture. Background of dense trees with dappled sunlight falling on the girl from the left.

THE SWINNERTON SAGA

VOLUME 15 NUMBER 8
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No 152

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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 Mrs Margaret Antill (see inside of back cover)

From the Editor's Desk

Safely through another operation – a new knee eight weeks ago – but progress is very slow, they say I expect too much too soon!

This is the 152nd newsletter or Journal that I have produced since the first one in May 1974 and, looking back through them, my how they have changed! The first one was just a single double sided A4 sheet headed *SWINNERTON FAMILY HISTORY, Heraldic and Genealogical Studies of the Swinnerton Family*.

When I asked for comments, John Swinnerton, one of our founders and subsequently our first chairman when we set up the society, said he thought it was a bit funereal because SWINNERTON in the heading was white print on a black back ground, so the next one in June, increased to two double side pages, had a blue heading. The issues were a bit irregular for some time so the next one was September 1974 which was purple and October was Green! This pattern of a different colour heading for each issue was kept up until the end of Volume Two but we never had black again. By September 1975, the number of pages had doubled. With Volume Three, which started in July 1977, we had separate covers with pictures on but still in A4 format. However, with Volume Four, which commenced in December 1979, we succumbed to the popular A5 booklet size and began a regular quarterly issue

In connection with the 40th Anniversary of the society, I have been looking at Ray's membership figures and we have a remarkable number of long standing members who joined me in the first four years and who have stuck with us, despite a few trials and tribulations, for nearly the full 40 years.

Of the founders in 1974 (John Swinnerton OBE, Ken Armitstead MiD, the Revd Brian Swynnerton LCP. TD. CF, and myself), sadly, only Brian and myself survive.

However, when I sent out invitations to join us in 1975, the following (in alphabetic order) who are all still members, joined and can be deemed to be founder members: Norah Scott, Barrie Swinnerton, Colin Swinnerton, Franklin Swinnerton, Dr Guy Swinnerton from Canada, our first overseas member, John Swynnerton and Ena Wood.

They were joined in 1976 by David Brock, Rosalie Price, Malcolm Smith, Ray Swinnerton and Geoffrey Swinnerton.

In 1977 along came Eunice Byfield, our first Australian member, David Raymond Swinnerton and Tim Swynnerton and in 1978 Edythe Seeley, Anne Swinnerton and Peter Swinnerton.

So 22 (nearly 25% of our current membership) have supported the society for nearly 40 years and I, personally, appreciate their support very much and would like to say a sincere Thank You to them all.

The Chairman's Page



As I write my farewell message as Chairman I am delighted to be able to report that we have now had nominations for the posts of Chairman and Secretary. If these, and the nomination for Treasurer, are approved at the AGM on 14th June the future of the Society should be assured. (The AGM will start at 2.30 pm following requests from members to hold the meeting in the

afternoon.)

Hopefully, over the past few years the present Committee has launched the newly formed Swinnerton Family Society and steered it on to a steady course and will look forward with confidence to handing over to the new Committee to guide us through the next few years.

I should like to thank my Committee members for all their support in the past and wish the prospective Committee every success for the future.

Elizabeth

**THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE
SWINNERTON FAMILY SOCIETY
WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY 14TH JUNE 2014
AT 2:30PM IN SWYNNERTON CHURCH HALL**

Our outgoing Chairman, Elizabeth, has suggested that members attending the AGM may like to meet informally at the Fitzherbert Arms from 12 noon for lunch. The church hall has been booked from 2.00 pm until 5.00 pm and we plan to serve tea/coffee after.

Alan and Myrna Jones from Prestatyn are hoping that some of the members who have travelled a long distance will join them and stay over at the Holiday Inn on Saturday night for dinner and a chance to sit down quietly and renew old acquaintances and friendships. Your editor certainly will - it's a very long way from Dorset. If you are fairly local and don't need to stay overnight, just join us for dinner. If enough wish to join us, Alan is willing to try and negotiate a block booking. If you are interested please contact Alan direct by either email:

or by post at

It would be good to see you and have a chance to relax and catch up with your news

Swinnertons who served in World War I.

As I said in the last issue of Saga, the emphasis this year is on the anniversary of the outbreak of The Great War on the 4th August 1914, euphemistically known as the 'War to end all Wars' - how wrong that was.

For the first time I have been able to assemble a complete listing of all men of the name Swinnerton or variants who qualified for one of the three medals awarded to all who served overseas between 1914 and 1920.

Their medal cards are on line at www.ancestry.com. Here is the list:

Name	Regiment or Corps	Regtl Number
A Swinnerton	Royal Garrison Artillery	50527
A R Swinnerton	Army Service Corps	T1/4885
Albert Swinnerton	Royal Field Artillery	145426
Albert Swinnerton	RGA, RE	50527,311092,602419
Albert Swinnerton	20 th London Regiment	2669,630880
Albert Swinnerton	Army Service Corps	T/289910
Aleck Swinnerton	Royal Air Force	15894
Arthur G Swinnerton	Coldstream Guards	13926
Arthur L Swinnerton	South Staffs Regt, MGC	9108, 39226
Arthur W Swinnerton	Liverpool Regiment	3758
Benjamin Swinnerton	Royal Field Artillery	90733
Bertie R Swinnerton	Royal Warwickshire Regt	22485
C W Swinnerton	13 th Essex Regiment	18284
Charles Swinnerton	1 st North Staffs Regiment	5944
Charles Swinnerton	RAMC	85584
Charles E Swinnerton	20 th London Regiment	2159
Charles Henry Swinnerton	7 th Royal Warwickshire	266743
David Swinnerton	North Staffordshire Regt	19347
Edward Swinnerton	Durham Light Infantry	33677
Edwin Swinnerton	Machine Gun Corps	84357
Emlyn M Swinnerton	Royal Garrison Artillery	60486
Eric Swinnerton	Lincolnshire Regiment	260028
Ernest Swinnerton	Royal Engineers	4508, 49687
Ernest Swinnerton	2 nd South Staffs, LC	8327, 210517
F Swinnerton	Suffolk Regt, Essex Regt	51233, 44322
Frank Swinnerton	KRRC, Corps of Hussars	7919, 41953
Frederick Swinnerton	York&Lancaster Regt, NF	25380, 39097
Frederick J Swinnerton	Royal Field Artillery	71641
Frederick W Swinnerton	Cheshire Regiment	33766
Fredk Thomas Swinnerton	South Staffs Regt	58156
George Swinnerton	Royal Field Artillery	2249, 686740
George Swinnerton	Royal Field Artillery	229521
George Swinnerton	DLI, LC, HLI, A&SH, MGC	41068,23804,76155,8594,4888

George C Swinnerton	North Staffs Regt	201937
H Swinnerton	Lancs Fusiliers, RFC	3810, 162528
Harding Swinnerton	South Staffs Regt	1826, 201900
Harold Swinnerton	Royal Field Artillery	76809
Harry Swinnerton	Royal Field Artillery	76939
Harry Swinnerton	Royal Field Artillery	98714
Harry Swinnerton	1st Shropshire Lt Inf.	6220
Henry Swinnerton	Royal Field Artillery	110316
Henry Swinnerton	KRRC, Labour Corps	6102, 569650
Henry Swinnerton	Army Service Corps	M/378225
Henry J Swinnerton	KSLI	2147, 200591
Henry W Swinnerton	Army Service Corps	M/285781
Herbert Swinnerton	Lancashire Fusiliers	15684
Herbert Swinnerton	Machine Gunn Corps	87767
Herbert Swinnerton	1/25 th London Regt.	
Humphrey S Swinnerton	Army Service Corps	M2/148946
J H Swinnerton	Army Cyclist Corps, Military Foot Police	15188, P13007
James Swinnerton	Liverpool Regiment,	2402, 305596
John Christopher Swinnerton	Indian Miscellaneous List	
John T Swinnerton	Royal Engineers	304466
John T Swinnerton	North Staffordshire Regiment	201450
Joseph Swinnerton	Royal Garrison Artillery	177153
Joseph Swinnerton	Cheshire Regiment	15424
Joseph Swinnerton	South Staffordshire Regiment	9550
Joseph Swinnerton	Army Veterinary Corps	SE/31513
Joseph O Swinnerton	British Red Cross Society	
Louis E Swinnerton	Army Service Corps	S3/027536
Major Swinnerton	Worcestershire Regiment	9103
Noel William Swinnerton	Royal Engineers, 3rd Royal Garrison Battalion, Royal Welsh Fusiliers, Royal Engineers	1298, 1298, 548147
Norman Swinnerton	Royal Field Artillery	243992
Percy W Swinnerton	Rifle Brigade	P/1750
R S Swinnerton	Royal Engineers	215753
Richard Swinnerton	Manchester Regiment	16047
Richard A Swinnerton	Army Service Corps	S1/4885
Robert Swinnerton	Church Army	
Robert Swinnerton	Young Men's Christian Association	

Robert H Swinnerton	Royal Army Medical Corps,	1174, 528079
Samuel Swinnerton	Shropshire Light Infantry	15314
Samuel J Swinnerton	Royal Warwickshire Regiment	4055
Stephen J Swinnerton	Royal Engineers	62353
Thomas E Swinnerton	Royal Field Artillery	37384
W Swinnerton	Lancashire Fusiliers, Royal Army Chaplains Dept	
Walter Swinnerton	Shropshire Light Infantry Depot	23994
William Swinnerton	Cheshire Regiment	18840
William Swinnerton	18th Welsh Regiment Depot	27576
William Swinnerton	Welsh Regiment, Royal Welsh Fusiliers, Durham Light Infantry	201588, 68550, 83215
William Swinnerton	Royal Army Service Corps	R/367232
William F Swinnerton	Liverpool Regiment, Gloucestershire Regiment	96716, 50385
William H Swinnerton	Royal Field Artillery	48292
William H Swinnerton	Royal Welsh Fusiliers, Labour Corps	65357, 39405
William J Swinnerton	Labour Corps	194142
William L Swinnerton	Lancashire Fusiliers	52723
William T A Swinnerton	Manchester Regiment	252275
Wm Swinnerton	Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey)	G/2653
Wm Dowie Swinnerton	Royal Army Ordnance Corps	T/150
John Swinerton	1st North Staffordshire Regt, Labour Corps	8776, 20771
Thomas Swinerton	Labour Corps	169538
Joseph Sinnerton	Scots Guards	7418
Robert Sinnerton	Army Service Corps	T4/127679
Robert McC Sinnerton	Highland Light Infantry	37976
William Sinnerton	Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders	S/22132
O R Swenarton	6 th Royal Hussars	2640
F R Swynnerton	Indian Army Reserve of Officers	

Note that the list includes men from non-combatant organizations such as the Church Army and the British Red Cross.

Surprisingly, there is no mention of our two nurses, Margery Swynnerton and Sister Kate Swinnerton whose records I have published in previous issues of *Saga* and who both served in the Balkans and thus should have qualified for at least the British War Medal and Victory Medal. I do know that Sister Kate was awarded the Royal Red Cross and am investigating the rest.



1914 Star, War Medal & Victory Medal



Royal Red Cross

THE TERRITORIAL FORCE NURSING SERVICE.

Prior to the Territorial and Reserve Forces Act of 1907, there had been no national medical or nursing service dedicated to the care of the volunteer army. The regular army had been supported by the Army Medical Service, together with Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service (QAIMNS), who employed less than 300 nurses to provide nursing care in military hospitals at home and abroad. The Act made provision for the first time for both medical and nursing support to be available to the new force. Richard (later Viscount) Haldane, Secretary of State for War 1905-12, took the first steps in setting up the TFNS in March 1908, when he invited twelve women to form a TF Nursing Council; six were ladies of high standing, including his sister Elizabeth, and the other six were eminent London matrons. The group met for the first time at the War Office on the 16th June 1908 to discuss the steps to be taken to form a nursing service for the Territorial Force.

Provision was made for 23 TF hospitals in towns and cities throughout the country, each to hold 530 patients. There was no place for these units in

peacetime so they were to be housed in schools and other public buildings vacated by their residents at the time of mobilization, each with a staff of 91 trained nurses. To qualify for appointment as a sister or staff nurse in the TFNS, candidates had to be over 23 years of age and have completed three years training in a recognised hospital or infirmary.

In July 1908 the service was inaugurated and the enrolment of staff for the 23 hospitals began. Elizabeth Haldane, as vice-chairman of the Council, together with Alfred Keogh, toured Scotland and the provinces, holding meetings with the express aim of recruiting trained nurses for the TFNS. By March 1909 all four Scottish hospitals and 11 in England were up to establishment.

The new Territorial matrons were to spend 7 days training in a military hospital every second year, but the nurses who joined the TFNS would get neither pay nor special training during peacetime in return for their



commitment. They were required to declare their intention to serve on January 1st of each year, while continuing to work in civilian hospitals and private homes, and it was felt that the high quality of their training, and their continued employment within the nursing profession would amply qualify them for military nursing without additional instruction. They each received a silver service badge, the design based on the 'double A' cipher of Queen Alexandra, which was to be worn on the right side of their dress or apron during the normal course of their civilian

duty, with the permission of their employer.

In 1913 the TFNS nurses were allowed to volunteer for overseas service if not required for duty at home and at the outbreak of war there were 2,117 members of the service ready for mobilisation and of the 23 TF hospitals, 19 were open and receiving casualties by the last day of August 1914, with the other 4 following by the end of September. The number of nurses in every field increased rapidly during the first six months of war, and continued to rise throughout the next four years in order to staff the ever growing number of military, auxiliary, Red Cross and private hospitals. Although traditionally, military nurses were required to be either single or widowed with no dependents, during wartime the extreme shortage of trained nurses meant that married women were welcomed into the TFNS, and if a serving nurse wished to marry, permission was normally granted for her to remain in the service. However, in 1920 all married women were required to resign, and the service reverted to one of single women – what was useful in war was not thought to be appropriate for peacetime!

The TFNS was originally formed to staff the TF hospitals at home, and the majority of its members spent their wartime service in the United Kingdom, not only in the 25 territorial hospitals, but also in hundreds of

auxiliary units throughout the British Isles. Within a short time they were also employed in the eighteen territorial hospitals abroad, and alongside their QAIMNS colleagues in military hospitals and casualty clearing stations in France, Belgium, Malta, Salonica, Gibraltar, Egypt, Mesopotamia and East Africa. The figures for the actual number of women who served as trained members of the Territorial Force Nursing Service during the Great War vary with different sources, but the figure given by Elizabeth Haldane is 8,140 women who were part of the wartime TFNS, with 2,280 serving abroad. Not all of these were serving at the same time, and in October 1918, shortly before the Armistice, there were 3,095 trained nurses of the service in military hospitals in the United Kingdom, with 1,964 in overseas stations. After the Armistice some nurses chose to return to civilian life immediately, while others sought permanent employment within the military framework; but these jobs were scarce, and with several thousand nurses being demobilised from the QAIMNS Reserve, most of the women had returned to civilian employment by the middle of 1919. For many, the Territorial Force Nursing Service was to remain an important part of their lives, and wherever they were in the world they continued to register their wish to serve at the beginning of each year. In 1921, with reorganisation, the service expanded, and became the Territorial Army Nursing Service - in this form it would go forward into another war, and beyond.

(With acknowledgments to Wikipedia)

* * * * *

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We will remember them".*

From *For the Fallen* by Laurence Binyon 1869 -1943. Binyon was born in Lancaster, the son of Frederick Binyon, a Quaker minister, and Mary Dockray. Binyon was educated at St Paul's School, London and Trinity College, Oxford where he won the Newdigate Prize for poetry in 1891. In 1915, despite being too old to enlist in WWI, he volunteered at a British hospital for French soldiers, working briefly as a hospital orderly. He returned in the summer of 1916 and took care of soldiers taken in from the Verdun battlefield. He wrote about his experiences in *For Dauntless France* (1918) and his poems, "*Fetching the Wounded*" and "*The Distant Guns*", were inspired by his hospital service *For the Fallen*, his best known poem, was published by *The Times* in September 1914, after the Battle of the Marne.

Dorset Remembers the Great War. Brian Baker 2012.

No 13310 Pte John Samuel Swinnerton - aged 32. 8th Btn South Staffordshire Regiment Fordington Cemetery

At 2.30 pm on 20 November 1914 an inquest was opened into the death of Pte John Swinnerton of the South Staffordshire Rgt. John, who before the War lived in Walsall, Staffordshire, with his wife and three children, had only been in the Army 11 weeks when an unfortunate sequence of events led to his death. On the Friday previous to the inquest he turned out for afternoon parade at Lulworth Camp and complained of a sore throat. He was sent to the camp hospital where he was told that if he bathed it in cold water it would be alright, but on the Sunday matters were worse and, after seeing the MO again, he was told that he had abscesses but that nothing could be done until they had burst. A lance corporal George Swingler told the inquest that on the Monday night they had a terrible time with him, 'as it seemed at every moment as if he would choke'.

John returned to the camp hospital, only to be told by the medical orderlies that they could not summon the doctor because they did not know which tent he was sleeping in, and when eventually an ambulance was called for from Wareham Camp it did not arrive, and it was not until the next day that John was taken to Dorchester Hospital by private car. Dr Collard, acting house surgeon there, described how he observed, on John's arrival, that the swelling under his jaw, which he believed to be caused by a decaying tooth, stretched from one ear to the other and after consulting with the dental surgeon it was agreed to remove the offending tooth under anaesthetic. Then, seeing that the patient was turning blue and breathing badly, the doctor placed John on the floor and tried to resuscitate him, but in vain.



The post-mortem report said that the patient, who was in a weakened state because he had been unable to eat, had died of suffocation, but the Coroner was quick to point out that his death had been exacerbated by a series of blunders. He thought it extraordinary that the medical orderlies did not know which tent the doctor slept in, and that a camp comprising over 4,000 men did not have its own ambulance. He also expressed his surprise that the tooth was not extracted days earlier at the camp and added, 'There was difficulty enough in getting men for the army, and it was a pity that any should be lost in such a way as this'. The reason given by the Army doctor for the tardiness in recognising the seriousness of the case was that they did not consider it urgent because 'in the camp there are many false alarms'.

Chronicle 26/11/1914.



The Haberdashers' Aske's Boys' School

Nurturing Excellence

Headmaster - Peter Hamilton MA



To all members of the Haberdashers community

It is with much regret and sorrow that we advise the Haberdashers' Aske's Boys' School community of the recent death of Margaret Taylor, who passed away in the company of her family on Saturday 10 August 2013.

A lady of boundless enthusiasm and extraordinary vitality, Margaret Taylor played a pivotal role in helping to elevate a well-respected London school into one of the leading independent schools in the nation.

She was only 30 when her husband, Dr Tom Taylor, himself only 38, was appointed as Headmaster of The Haberdashers' Aske's School, Hampstead. He quickly concluded that the extent of war damage to the school, its limited location and lack of easily accessible sports facilities, made a new location essential. It is rumoured that Tom and Margaret spent many a happy Sunday afternoon driving around Hertfordshire looking for a new location before finally alighting on Lord Aldenham's estate. As a result, in 1961 the school moved to a potentially ideal campus at Elstree and later adopted its current name, The Haberdashers' Aske's Boys' School. Dr Taylor retired in 1973 and died eight years later. The school which he did so much to revive is now recognised around the world as being one of the leading British independent schools, with an outstanding reputation for academic excellence, a remarkable range of extracurricular and sports activities, and a strong and supportive multi-cultural community, all within magnificent grounds and facilities.

throughout his time at Haberdashers', Tom always relied on the steadfast support of his wife Margaret, and between them they built up a reputation that



extended far beyond the walls of the school. Her involvement in so much of the school's life brought Margaret great fulfilment. Though the mother of a large family herself - 5 daughters and 1 son - she always had time for others, especially the staff and their children. She showed kindness and understanding toward everyone she came across. Her dedication to the boys at this flourishing school with all its activities were noteworthy. She helped make the costumes for school plays, including those travelling to Germany touring the country in two minibuses. She was a warm hostess for visitors and staff in their home in the grounds. She was a source of strength for all, always supportive and

encouraging, and was held in the highest respect.

Margaret's support for the school remained undiminished throughout the years after Tom's death in 1981. She was a constant attendee of school plays and concerts, and her speech at the 50th Anniversary celebrations of the move to Elstree when she was 95 remains a high point for all. Equally, her willingness to be the first Patron of the school's fundraising campaign proved hugely important in establishing the credibility of the Habs Foundation. Her passing will be felt deeply by thousands of old boys, teachers and parents. They will never forget her humour, her strength, her enthusiasm and vitality.

Margaret Taylor was a committed Christian all her life, a deeply spiritual lady and a very active member of the congregation of St Michael's Church, St Albans - the city where she lived in retirement. She had a remarkably wide range of interests and never lost her energy and enthusiasm for life. She was a qualified physiotherapist, an accomplished artist and a very competent pianist. For many years she was much involved in the establishment and running of children's playgroups. She was a keen and knowledgeable archaeologist, notably in the excavations of Roman remains in St Albans, and was an active member of several of the city's societies. She was a widely travelled lady and after attaining the age of 82, found time for many years to work with a daughter doing voluntary historic renovations for The National Parks & Forests of USA & Alaska - particularly enjoying the projects in The Tetons mountain range. She retired as a St Albans Abbey Guide only when she reached her 95th birthday. Throughout all, she never lost her love of gardening and continued to swim every day from Spring to Autumn until toward the end of 2012. Margaret will be enormously missed by her children, grandchildren,

great grandchildren and by her many friends.

Margaret expressed the wish to be cremated quietly. There will be a Service of Thanksgiving for her life at 2.00pm on Thursday 26 September 2013 at St Michael's Church, St Albans, AL3 4SL. Margaret requested no sombre colours or flowers but donations instead to St Michael's PCC ref. Margaret Taylor Font Restoration. This is the church where she worshipped for over 30 years.

The school will also host a Margaret Taylor Memorial Concert in due course, when gifts to the Habs Foundation will also be accepted in support of Music at The Haberdashers' Aske's Boys' School. Further details will be announced in due course.

Dr Margaret Taylor was born on the 29th November 1915 at Nottingham, the youngest daughter of Professor Henry Hurd Swinnerton and Florence Mary née Bell. She married Thomas Whiting Taylor at Nottingham on the 27 November 1937.

Henry Hurd Swinnerton (1875–1966) was a geologist and professor of geology at University College Nottingham from 1910 to 1946. In the 1930s he

was a member of the Fenland Research Committee, contributing valuable knowledge of the geomorphology of the Lincolnshire coast. In 1942 he was awarded the Murchison Medal of the Geological Society of London. Margaret's grandfather was the Reverend George Frederick Swinnerton, a great-grandson of William of Adbaston. A Methodist Minister, he had served in 1865 in British Guiana, 1871 Bodmin, 1872 Downham, 1874 Bungay, 1877 Cinderford, 1880 Reeth, 1881 Masham, 1884 Stainland, 1887 Pateley Bridge, 1890 Brynmawr, 1893 Brecon, 1894 Hayle, 1896 Wolverhampton, Darlington Street (Superintendent),



1897 London, Kilburn.

Such was the life of a Methodist Minister in those days.

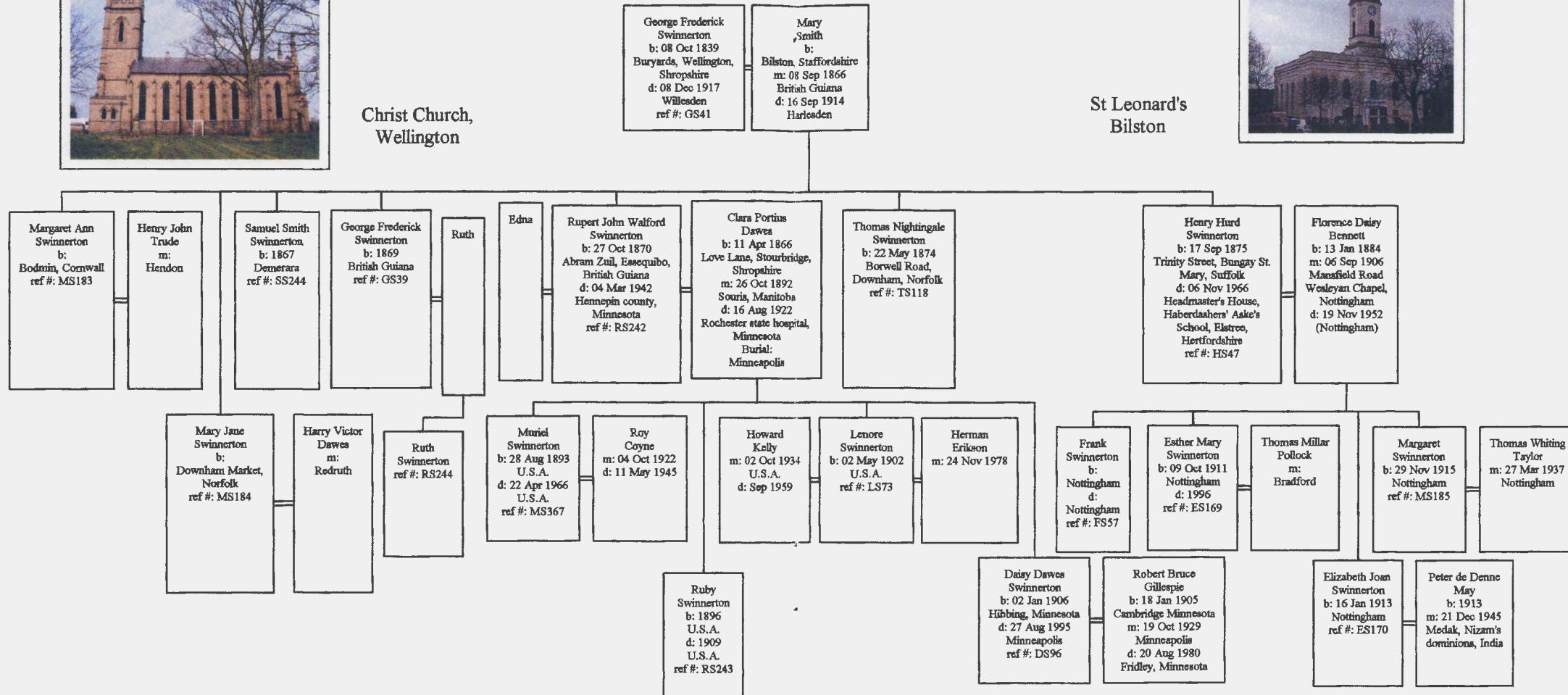
Descendants of George Frederick and Mary (Smith) Swinnerton



Christ Church,
Wellington



St Leonard's
Bilston



A branch of the Adbaston Family. Gerrge Frederick was a great - grandson of Willam of Adbaston.

Clandestine Marriages

Until Hardwicke's Marriage Act came into force in 1754, Londoners had unprecedented choice in where they might marry. Not constrained to the home parish church of bride or groom, many wed at a centre of clandestine marriage, or elsewhere by licence. The dictionary defines clandestine as secret or surreptitious.

"An Act for the Better Preventing of Clandestine Marriage", popularly known as Lord Hardwicke's Marriage Act 1753, was the first statutory legislation in England and Wales to require a formal ceremony of marriage. It came into force on 25 March 1754. The Act was precipitated by a dispute about the validity of a Scottish marriage, although pressure to address the problem of clandestine marriage had been growing for some time.

Before the Act, the legal requirements for a valid marriage in England and Wales had been governed by the canon law of the Church of England. This had stipulated that banns should be called or a marriage licence obtained before a marriage could take place and that the marriage should be celebrated in the parish where at least one of the parties was resident. However, these requirements were for guidance not mandatory and the absence of banns or a licence – or even the fact that the marriage was not celebrated in a church – did not render the marriage void.

The registers of these marriages have recently been published on the internet for the first time and Brian Swinnerton of Liverpool, our indefatigable searcher, found the following. They have not yet been identified but no doubt our database manager Roy Talbot will be able to help there.

All London, Clandestine Marriage and Baptism Registers, 1667-1754

Ellen Swinnerton of Houndsditch, London married 17 Oct 1708 John Cook of Houndsditch.

William Swinerton of Christ Church, Surrey married 2 November 1735 Ann Horwood of St Olaves, Southwark.

Officiating Ministers: Gaynam. Gaynam's register. (1735 Jun - 1738 Jul)

Ann Swinerton of St Margretts, Westminster married 25 February 1749 Wm Fisher at St Margretts, Westminster

Officiating Ministers: Tarrant, Symson, Deveneu. Tarrant's register (1749 Oct - 1751 Feb)

Ann Swinnerton of St James Westminster married Richard Lovard 17 Feb 1754

May Fair Register. Officiating Minister: Keith. (1753 Nov - 1754 Mar)

The Swinnerton Locomotive

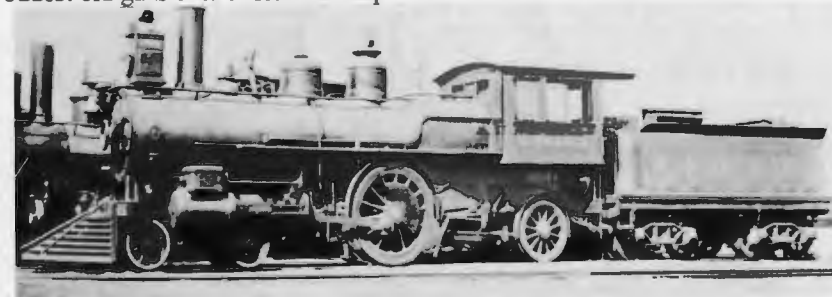
Extract from Locomotive Engineering

There's no point in pretending that this is going to be a large gallery in the Museum. Locomotives with non-circular wheels have always been something of a minority taste.

In 1887, in the USA, the Swinerton Locomotive Driving Wheel Company took delivery of a unique locomotive confidently called "Onward" built by the Hinkley Locomotive Works of Boston (USA). Its unique feature was that its wheels were not round.

C E Swinterton (*sic*) specified that each driving wheel should actually be a polygon with 118 sides, each segment being about 2 inches long. The theory behind this quite daft arrangement was that the line contact at the intersection of each segment would have better rail adhesion than a circular wheel, which was supposed to have only a point contact; this is not of course actually the case as even steel deforms under enough pressure, so there is on fact a contact *area* even with a circular wheel.

Many railroad men still remember the "Onward", She was one of the oddest old girls ever to leave a shop



'Onward' – almost certainly the only locomotive ever built with non-circular wheels

The Swinerton Locomotive had a single driving axle, (an arrangement long abandoned elsewhere because of its poor adhesion) chosen presumably to emphasise the effectiveness of the invention. The "Onward" was tried on several north-eastern lines, but worked about as well as you would think it would, and failed to convince practical railway men that it had any special advantages. It was sold to the Portland and Rochester Railroad- after the polygonal driving wheels had been replaced with conventional ones and she hauled regular passenger trains.

Finally, though, she outlived her usefulness as a single-driver engine, and when the Boston & Maine leased the P. & R. the 598 (as she was known then), was sent to the Manchester locomotive Works and rebuilt into a 4-4-0 type--- four leading wheels and four drivers. She hauled milk trains on the

Massachusetts Central Division for a while. "Onward " was cut up for scrap in 1905.

No other hard information on the performance of the polygon wheels has so far been unearthed, but it seems very probable that the non-constant radius would have caused very severe vibration. It also seems likely to destroy brake-blocks very quickly- there is clearly a brake-block acting on the single driver in the photograph above.

Another disadvantage - like we need one - is that polygonal wheels must have been very expensive to make. Circular wheels can of course have their periphery turned true on a lathe very easily. There is also the question of wear; I would have thought that the sharp corners would blunt rather quickly, and you would need to keep taking a file to the wheels to "sharpen" them. Great fun!

Some mechanical fallacies are very hard to kill out. We supposed that the Swinerton polygonal wheel had lost its grip, but we find out by a newspaper notice that the company which controls this peculiar invention are struggling to force it into use for street-car service. We understand that the Lobdell Wheel Co. is making cast-iron chilled wheels after the Swinerton design for street-car service. We hope they will be able to demonstrate more value for the thing than what surface railroads were able to do. The Lobdell Wheel Company was by 1867 the world's largest manufacturer of railroad wheels with 300 full time employees.

* * * * *

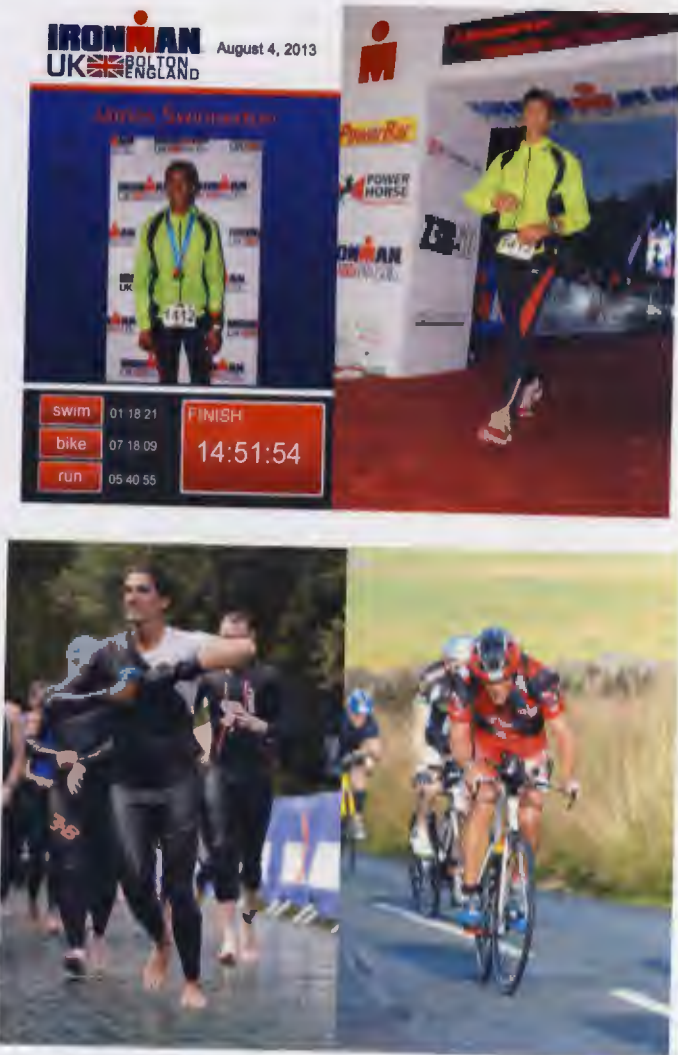
James Swinnerton of Toronto

James was born on the 4th June 1965 in Toronto, Canada. He is the son of Walter Montieth Swinnerton who was born in Bridgton, Glasgow and Lorraine Delores Cassidy born in Toronto, Canada.

Brian Swinnerton of Liverpool met up with James and his half brother and their respective families back in August 2013 when James was over in England with his wife Linda (the daughter of our member Alvin Fisher) and their daughter Olivia. They were all staying with family in the North West. At the same time James took part in the gruelling Bolton Ironman competition on the 4th August.

James was successful in completing the race (2.4 mile Swim, 112 mile bike, 26.2 mile run) in 14 hours, 51 min & 55 sec. Of some 1600 competitors registered he was 1165 overall, and finished 163 out of 216 in his Division (male, age 45-50). A very respectable result indeed for such a hard physical task.

Walter Monteith Swinnerton is a descendant of Roger Swynnerton and Bridget Broughton of the Yew Tree Branch..



James in action

The story of the Swinnerton Family Society.

*It has been suggested that, in this 40th Anniversary Year of its foundation, I should bring up to date the history I wrote on its 10th Anniversary in 1984. (*Swinnerton Family History – Volume 5 No. 9 June 1984*. However, as many of you either may not have seen that or forgotten it (as I had!), I have decided to reprint that as well. This is what I said then.

How the society started.

I have often been asked what made me start a Family Society and how did it all begin? Over the years I have told bits of the story to a lot of people but I have now been persuaded that the 10th edition of the Journal would be the appropriate place to record the story for posterity. Somewhat reluctantly, I have agreed but on your heads be it!

I have always been fascinated by History from an early age and it is still my main source of relaxation. I love visiting places of historical interest, castles, churches, stately homes etc and then reading up the historical background 'and I suppose 90% of my reading is either straight history or historical novels.

I was very fortunate in that at King Edward's, I had a history master who could really make the subject come alive (so many seem to think that all they need to do is to make you learn dates and battles by rote) and he imparted to me his own enthusiasm for the subject and gave me a fascination for history which has stayed with me ever since.

Of Family History I knew nothing. I had virtually no family, my mother had died when I was only 3 and I never knew a single grandparent. Three had died before I was born and the fourth had emigrated to Australia. My sister had left home to make her own life while I was still at school, the only relatives with whom I had any contact were four cousins of my father who, however, as my grandfather was the second and their father the youngest of a large Victorian family, were nearer my age than his! Two of them, I am glad to say, are members of the Society today and to the eldest, Mrs Mary Papps, I owe a great deal. Her knowledge of our immediate family was a great help to me when I was just starting. (*Sadly, both Jane Barnes and Mary Papps have since died. Jane had no children but Mary's two daughters Bridgid Weaver and Elinor Pennington have kept up their membership.*)

It was whilst on leave one day in 1953, and visiting the two girls still at home, that I met their father, my great-uncle. Although the head of the family (I addressed him as 'Sir'), he was almost a stranger to me as I had only met him once or twice. I thought of him as a Victorian and to tell the truth I was somewhat in awe of him.

However, on this occasion he made much of me and took me into his study for a chat. To my astonishment, having asked me about myself and my progress in the Army etc, he proceeded to talk about the family. My father later told me, when I recounted the interview to him, that he had told me things that he did not know and he would be the next head of the family!

I found it all very interesting and made notes of what he had told me, intending to proceed with some more enquiries, but my leave was short and once back on duty, I had no time to take the matter any further.

Three months later I received a telegram to say that my Great Uncle had died, quite suddenly and totally unexpectedly, aged 66. I have often wondered since if he had had a premonition and thought he should pass on what he knew 'just in case'. Why he missed out a generation I shall never know but it was he who was responsible for originally arousing my interest for which I shall be forever grateful.

Soldiering, marriage and later a young family meant I had very little time over the next few years to pursue my enquiries very far until the early 60's when, back home and in the family firm with my father, I was able to discuss the family in more detail. My father had a marvelous memory for names and places but not particularly for dates. He had, of course, worked with no less than three of his uncles in the family firm and, unlike myself, had known all of his grand-parents well.

I decided the time had come to put down on paper all the details we had accumulated and drew up my very first proper family tree. I was very familiar with trees and tables of descent, of course, from all my historical reading and was very proud of my first effort. Today I laugh at it, it was the worst possible type of tree - just names and an occasional date (year only mostly!), no places, occupations etc which make a tree come alive.

However, it was very professionally done on a drawing board with Uno stencils and Indian ink and I was very pleased with it! Studying it again and again, it did not take long for me to realise how incomplete it was but, having exhausted the memories of my father, cousin and great-aunt, I had no idea how to set about filling the gaps or taking it back any further. There were no evening classes on 'How to Trace Your Ancestors' in those days as there are now and no societies of like-minded enthusiasts. In fact, as I learned later, there was one society, The Society of Genealogists in London but I had never heard of it.

So I went along to my local library to see if they had anything on the subject. They had just one book (today there are dozens and I have even contributed to some myself). It was called 'Trace Your Ancestors' by L.G.Pine. It had been published in 1958 and was a gold mine of information for me just what I wanted. I still have a battered but treasured copy (I rushed

out and bought my own) which, despite the many others now available, still makes very sound reading.

From its very first chapter 'How to Start', it took the reader through the various stages which have since become so familiar - Public Records, Church Records, Census Returns etc. etc.

This was exactly what I needed and, armed with this primer, off I went to London for my first examination of the Indexes of Births, Marriages and Deaths and Census Records. This was the start of many visits to Record Repositories and Libraries and I quickly started to make progress. Fortunately, I realized fairly early on that there were comparatively few Swinnertons and so I started to note down all the references I found to the name — 'in fact, unknowingly, I became a 'One-Namer'. I had not at that stage, of course, realised that that not every member of the family agreed with my spelling of the name and there were Swynnertons, Swinertons and Swinningtons!

I obtained some birth and marriage certificates for my great-grandparents and death certificates for my great-great-grandparents (their births and marriages took place before the start of General Registration in 1837) and entered these details on the tree. Looking at the latest version, I realised that there must be other quite close members of the family about, descendants of great-grandfather's brothers. Back to my father for advice and, yes, he had known an Uncle George from the other side of the family when he was young and there was a Cousin George who lived somewhere in Birmingham but with whom he had had no contact for over 30 years!

A search of the telephone directory revealed a G.A. Swinnerton in Olton. I tried the number and indeed it was the right one. I don't know who was the most surprised. That call was the event that really started the expansion of my network because it was followed a few days later by a letter from Cousin George (which I have before me now) not only giving me details of his side of the family but also mentioning a John Swinnerton, President of the Radio Society of Great Britain, who had written to him some years before on the subject of Swinnerton Family History.

Because George had an out-of-date address for John, it took me some time to contact him but I see that I finally did so in July 1970 and we met for the first time a few months later. The research that he and the College of Arms had done in connection with his Grant of Armorial Bearings proved most helpful and lead me into the modern history of the Betley Family.

At about the same time, I finally decided to apply for membership of the Society of Genealogists (having 'done my own thing' for 16 years although I had recently been introduced to the Birmingham & Midland Society for Genealogy & Heraldry).

I was duly elected a member of the Society of Genealogists (you had to be elected in those days as a suitable person!) and shortly afterwards received a letter from a Mr. S.K.Armitstead who had seen my name in the list of new members in the Journal. Ken and I soon struck up a voluminous correspondence in an attempt to trace his great-grandfather and this gave rise to the present-day large Warwickshire Branch.

About the same time, whilst researching in the William Salt Library, Stafford, the librarian mentioned that there was a Reverend Brian Swinnerton who had been doing some research on his family. Naturally, I contacted him to find he was not only of the Betley Brunch but also had been Curate of Swynnerton! Our meeting lead to our collaboration on 'Swynnerton and the Swinnertons', Brian wrote it and I edited and published it in 1971.

So there you have it. By 1971, I had gathered together the three men who, with myself, were to be the Founder Members of the Society. Through them, my circle of correspondents increased enormously and, because I found I was having to write the same thing over and over again to different people, I published the first Newsletter in May 1975 - in pure self-defence! The Society followed very quickly and was officially founded on the 1st January 1975.

That all took place 30 years ago - a lot has happened since.

* * * * *

A letter to the Revd Henry Ulyate Swinnerton

January 14, 1880

Dear Henry –

This "Swinnerton" affair is getting exceedingly interesting. I saw Mrs. Mayfield last evening and got her to relate what she told us before. Which we got somewhat distorted. I wish I could infuse some of the enthusiasm with which she tells it --- I will now as near her own words—"as possible give it – "When I was quite a little girl and visiting with my Aunt, at the time the 'S' church was undergoing alterations, I remember distinctly well, the findings of the body—that had been buried hundreds of years. My Uncles resided at 'S' village one being chief gardener of the 'S' park the other a tailor in 'S' village and he always made the clothing for the valets and men servants and people on the 'S' place as well as being a kind of general upholstraman to the 'S' Hall putting up the draperies on the 12th night festivals which are kept up on a grand scale at the Hall --- when the grand city folks and Nobility come from town (London) to participate in it. When all the Tenants and grand folks and people about, in common enter in the festivities. I remember distinctly Uncle bringing some of the hair and beard, home to aunt in a piece of paper and telling her of the circumstances of finding the body, she says how soft and

silky the hair was and how soon it crumbled to powder by exposure to the air and by handling it. She says I had some of it on my hands. Uncle said Mrs. Taylor, the rector's wife, in the absence of her husband was so curious to know what was in the tomb she ordered the workmen to open it and Mr Fitzherbert was away but coming home in a hurry. He was very angry at Mrs. Taylor for what she had the audacity to do (open the tomb) and there was great talk of going to law about it --- but the rector's wife making promise to secrecy, or to that effect and the matter was hushed up. Her uncle said the body was wrapped in heavy lead and he spoke of



a Plate bearing "Swinnerton" of Swinnerton the rest could not be made out. (how spelled she didn't know). There seems a something not very clear about the plate so she would not say positively about it.

About the Effigy. She says the Girls always called it Christ as it was spoken of as Lord and we thought it meant for Christ it had some of its toes broken off and was in Armor with a very long sword and was of great size --- so very big --- seems it often both in girlhood days and after years and only last summer when I was home I visited the place and such a quaint little church with it's deep tiny windows and very small glass- The Hall is fitted up grandly with it's rich old furniture and full length Portraits of the Swinnertons such fine looking and large men and there is no mistake about their belonging to Royalty alone " She further says since she has twice been there on the 12th night festival, once when the Duke or Earl, I do not remember which, of

Sutherland and Lady was there "Very great folks you know she said. She tells of the procession of the 12th Night "when all both great and ----- down to the ----- of village folks march in line following behind an immense Boor's or Swine's head on a large Salver carried by two valets --- being decorated very richly----

This is the grand dish on the table. How all were Merry and mingled together. Yet says she --- you can easily tell, by their bearing the great folks the Nobility from the farmer, tenants and village people. The great folks have a red cloth laid down in the huge hall to dance upon while the others have the bare floors. It all ends up in a grand ball. She each time was a visitor and was in the gallery looking down at the Throng -- I inquired about photographs --- she said she never saw any at the Place and further it would be quite difficult she judged to get for the place Park was so much wooded, heavy trees, that there was only one good view, unless you are very close to it. She will write to her People and see if any can be provided. She relates --- that Bellamy or something knew that manse was sold --- at the time George IV --- (the one that married a Miss Fitzherbert) --- so of course she has been informed. Geo IV sent word to have the Hall and Park fitted to receive a Royal guest that Bellamy or Bellamer, a separate estate was sold of the money expended in repairs of furniture and probably the furniture is of that period or a portion of it at least --- of Buttern Hall she knew nothing not even un --- the manse but remembers that there is a large estate in that direction but as she visited her Aunt at "Swinnerton" only knew of that place.

I asked of if there were many of the 'S' names in that district. She told me she knew of but one family and he was a tenant on the 'S' estate and he was afflicted and now the farmer was Dead --- Insane ---

The present Fitzherbert a Nephew of former occupant who was a bachelor who was very formal and devoted much time and money in restoring the Estate. The F before him was a great spendthrift fond of high living and had greatly impoverished in keeping up a great retinue --- She adds in conclusion that it is a Grand Grand Old Place and of untold wealth. --- nearby there are potteries when Tiles? of celebrated names are made. This Ladies husband is a decorative fresco painter --- a fine store on 6th Avenue and they are well to do --- Intelligent having much --- and she is a bright very pretty and natural person so full of Enthusiasm and informs her listeners so much that it is somewhat difficult to retain all she says you loose it in the Enchantment that her story tells --- I had to freeze my heart --- and thaw out my ears and this was somewhat difficult. I have tried to give it in its entirety I know I have not put any lustre to it --- and I am sure it has lost much by its power of --- and ink. I received your card of the 13 today and will try and make extracts of work you refer to --- but I am a dull reader and poor writer --- that is not quick --- so I know it will take time. I sent in Aunt Kate's package the papers of father. After

Mrs. M had told her story I gave the Reliquary to read, reading the portion about the Effigy and the body found to her, myself. Her eyes sparkled like diamonds with that simple delight of having a verification of her words -- I never felt more like taking a trip to England and visiting the old place. I can hardly resist the temptation. Had I the vaguest idea of what it was when I was there I should most certainly have gone and seen it. I have been at Chester several times and it is only a few hours from there – Fannie was over to see Addie and her baby today all well and we are the same. Very truly and Love to all

Samuel A. Swinnerton

Samuel Augustus Swinnerton was one of the Revd Henry Ulyate Swinnerton's older brothers and a son of James and Fanny Swinnerton who had emigrated to America in 1833.

This is an amusing letter – for the abbreviation 'S' you need to substitute Swinnerton. In *Strolling through Staffordshire*, Craig Thornber has this to say about the village:

The entrance to the church is through the 12th century base of the tower at the west end. The current belfry was built later. The doorway between the tower and the nave has a Norman arch. The nave has a north and south aisle added in the 13th century according to Salter. The chancel is late 13th century and to the south of it is a chapel dating from the early to mid 14th century. The latter has a defaced sedilia and piscina. It contains an effigy thought to be of Sir John de Swynnerton who lived in the middle of the 13th century. Pevsner (*The Buildings of England*) dates it as early 14th century and Arthur Mee (*The King's England – Staffordshire*) speculates that the figure may be a Swynnerton who was Constable of the Tower of London in the 14th century. The north aisle was rebuilt in the 19th century and the south porch was added at that time. The church is known for its seven foot high statue of a seated figure of Christ made about 1260 to 1280.

Arthur Mee gives the story that it may have been brought from Lichfield Cathedral to save it from destruction during the Civil War and Pevsner sates that it was probably made in Reims (ed: this has since been strongly disputed). The church is not normally open during the week but I was fortunate to gain access when volunteers were preparing the church for the weekend.



HYMN IN HONOUR OF OUR ANCESTORS *

Browsing through old copies of our journal while recuperating, in *Swinnerton Family History*, Vol.3 No 9 April 1979, I came across a reference to my old friend Hugh Cave of the Cave Society who had quoted Ecclesiasticus XLIV to his members and I urged our readers to look it up. I wonder how many did? Here is what the it says.

44 Let us now sing the praises of famous men,
our ancestors in their generations.
The Lord apportioned to them great glory,
his majesty from the beginning.
There were those who ruled in their kingdoms,
and made a name for themselves by their valour;
those who gave counsel because they were intelligent;
those who spoke in prophetic oracles;
those who led the people by their counsels
and by their knowledge of the people's lore;
they were wise in their words of instruction;
those who composed musical tunes,
or put verses in writing;
rich men endowed with resources,
living peacefully in their homes—
all these were honoured in their generations,
and were the pride of their times.
Some of them have left behind a name,
so that others declare their praise.
But of others there is no memory;
they have perished as though they had never existed;
they have become as though they had never been born,
they and their children after them.
10 But these also were godly men,
whose righteous deeds have not been forgotten;
11 Their offspring will continue for ever,
and their glory will never be blotted out.
11 Their bodies are buried in peace,
but their name lives on generation after generation.

The Pirate Radio Hall of Faame



www.offshoreradio.co.uk/djsd.htm

Alexander Dee, real name Dennis Swinnerton, was born in Birmingham in 1944 and trained to be an actor for two years after finishing school but, instead of finding fame on the stage or silver screen, it was offshore radio that brought him success. He joined Radio City in 1965. This station, on Shivering Sands fort off the Kent Coast, had a huge turnover of staff, as various presenters were given a one week trial and then paid off with a fiver for their troubles. But Alex stayed for a year. In 1966 he transferred north to Radio 270 where he hosted the 9.00pm to midnight show. His theme tune on Radio City was *Manhattan Spiritual* by Eric Delaney and his band. On Radio 270 it was *Along the Boulevard* by Joe Loss and his Orchestra. Alex left 270 in November 1966 after expressing doubts about the ship's seaworthiness to a newspaper. In 1969 he was back on Radio City's old fort, not for broadcasting purposes but to start a "hippy" commune. (There is a newspaper cutting about this on Bob LeRoi's website). It is thought that he was later heard on BBC local radio but, when contacted, was working as a shop assistant. There is a video of Alex with his son, as they were in 1982, on YouTube. The photograph is from *Who's Who in Pop Radio* published by the New English Library.



Roy Swinnerton, Doorman at the Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton for many years, The theatre opened on 10 December 1894 with a performance of Utopia Ltd by the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company and is still going strong today,

*The Rakes perform at HMV Oxford Street in London 2007
March 12, 2007*

*Lead Guitar
Mathew Swinnerton
in action.*



The Swinnerton Family Society

The objects of the society are:

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

Patron – The Rt. Hon The Lord Thomas of Swynnerton

President – Colonel Gair Swinnerton

Chairman – Mrs Elizabeth Livesey

Secretary – Miss Iris Crouch

Treasurer – Keith Livesey

Subscriptions – Ray Swinnerton

Vice-Chairman and Publications

Mrs Margaret Antill

Database – Roy Talbot

Website – www.swinnerton.org

Malcolm Smith

Subscriptions £12 per annum (or local currency equivalent)

USA: Mrs Diana Cunningham,

Canada: Kevin Bowers,

Australia: Mrs Glenda Simpson,

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

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