

*The  
Swinnerton  
Saga*



*The Silver War Badge*

**THE JOURNAL OF SWINNERTON FAMILY HISTORY**

**VOLUME 15. NO. 9**

**AUGUST 2014**

## Annie Swynnerton's Paintings – No.19

### Girl with a lamb



The lamb is raised to her chest in gesture. Background of dense trees with dappled sunlight falling on the girl from the left.

Oil on canvas, 66.5 x 56 cm. Collection: Brighton and Hove Museums and Art Galleries

Accession number FA 000310

## THE SWINNERTON SAGA

VOLUME 15 NUMBER 9  
AUGUST 2014

### C O N T E N T S

No 153	
From the Editor	202
Meet your new Chairman	203
Meet your new Vice-Chairman	204
The Road to War	206
Swinnerton Nurses in WWI	209
The Silver War Badge	210
Other Wars	211
UFO 6	212
Sir Thomas de Swynnerton	214
A Tragic Life	215
The Old Newark Burying Ground	218
A Well-read Country Gentleman	219
It's a small world	220
The Swinnerton Family Society AGM	221

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

This issue is a little late but I hope it will still go out in August. The reason is twofold – firstly because I have been having a lot of medical/hospital appointments which cut into a day's allotted typing time (I can still only sit at my computer for half an hour at a time) and secondly, more happily, I have been involved in family celebrations. In one weekend we had an 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday, another birthday and a wedding which all took place here in Sherborne. Our visitors included my elder daughter from Puerto Rico and my sister-in-law from Australia so there was a lot to catch up on. We were very lucky with the weather; it was a beautiful weekend – hot and dry. Everything went well and even the latest addition to the family, aged just three months, was on her best behaviour and never uttered a sound during the ceremony!

\* \* \*

There was another 'family' wedding in August when our Chaplain, the Revd Rachel Livesey married at Lapley Church, Wheaton Aston, Staffordshire. Elizabeth said the day itself was magical – so many parishioners wanted to be involved; the flower ladies spent two days creating stunning arrangements in the church while another band of ladies prepared afternoon tea for goodness knows how many people. The bell ringers rang peals both before and after the service, the latter lasting nearly three hours. Keith and Rachel were transported to church in a vintage Rolls Royce loaned by one of the parishioners while the bridesmaids and I travelled in a decorated trailer behind a tractor! It was brilliant and so many villagers were around the lanes to wave and take photographs. There was even a piper in full regalia to greet us as we arrived at the church.

We shall look forward to seeing Rachel and her new husband at our Gathering on the 6<sup>th</sup> June next year for which arrangements are well in hand – the church and church hall have been booked for the AGM and ecumenical service. It will, of course, be the anniversary of D Day – I wonder whether any of the family took part in that? Watch this space!

\* \* \*

I am very sorry to have to tell you that our newly-elected secretary, Valerie Dall has had to resign. She has developed a problem with her left eye which has left her unable to read, write/type or even watch TV. Obviously she is not able to drive and Hans's health is not good and he is no longer able to drive either. This is very sad news, I am holding the fort temporarily but obviously I cannot do that for long and so we urgently need a volunteer to come forward and take over. The duties are not onerous due to modern communications, most of the committee business is done by email. Please help.



## Meet your new Chairman

I am Julian Douglas Swinnerton Hawley, I was born in Stoke on Trent in 1955. My father, Douglas, was Sales Manager for Spode and then Wedgwood, my mother, Kathleen, was a State Registered Nurse. My father's grandmother was Elizabeth Swinnerton of the Shut Lane branch of the Swinnerton family, an off shoot of Yew Tree. Her sister Harriet's son was Percy Swinnerton Clews who ran the George Clews Chameleon ware factory in Tunstall. She married Joseph Hawley from an old North Staffordshire family of Burslem manufacturers. My father and I joined the Swinnerton Society in 1982.

I went to Newcastle High School and then did a degree in Ancient and Medieval History at Birmingham University. For the last twenty years I have been Human Resources manager with Eaton Corporation, a large international American power management company. Prior to that I was in human resources positions in the ceramic, plastics and dairy industries. I am hoping to retire at the end of this year or early next.

I am married with one daughter aged 18 and a dog, Reg. My wife Elaine is an artist. I live in Charlton, a small village near Evesham, Worcs. My hobbies are bee-keeping, family history, military history and collecting WW1 artefacts. I also collect stoneware made by my ancestor J G Hawley; grow and sell tree ferns and am a Stoke City supporter.

\* \* \*

*Editor's note:* The Shut Lane Branch of the family starts with Hugh Swinnerton, the younger son of William Swinnerton of Butterson and Fortune (Walker). from Dilvern.

Julian is the great-grandson of Joseph Hawley and Elizabeth Swinnerton (born 1846) the daughter of Thomas Swinnerton (born 1807) of Shelton and Ann (Williams) from Audley. Julian's parents, Douglas and Kathleen, were both members of the society for many years and regular attenders at our Gatherings, having joined the society in 1985.

The 2015 annual General Meeting of the  
SWINNERTON FAMILY SOCIETY  
Will be held on Saturday 8th June 2015  
at 10.30am in Swynnerton Church Hall





We also have a new Vice-Chairman.

**Brian Edward Swinnerton** was born on the 7<sup>th</sup> of July 1947 in Liverpool, the second son of James Swinnerton and Mary (née Ager). He joined the society in 1981 with his late father, and his brother James is also a member. After school, he served a five - year apprenticeship with Cammell Laird, the famous shipbuilders of Birkenhead. He also gained his City and Guilds Certificates in Engineering to ONC level. Despite being past retirement age, he is still working for an NHS Trust as a Maintenance Engineer.

He is a member of the Wrexham Branch who are descended from Thomas Swinnerton and his wife Jane (maiden name unknown). They had one recorded son, Morris Swinnerton who was born in Wrexham Abbots in 1727. Unfortunately, we have not yet discovered which Thomas it was.

He is the father of Paul, Ian and Caroline. He served for six years in the 12/13th and 4<sup>th</sup> Battalions of the Parachute Regiment (TA). He says his hobbies are Genealogy and DIY – time permitting!



*Brian and his family today*

Brian has recently opened a Swinnerton Group via Face Book. He says it is open to all of Swinnerton origin, whichever way we our ancestors spelled our name, who are interested in discussing the family history. It is quite separate from the Society web page and invites any of you to join him – an interesting development.

## THE ROAD TO WAR - AUGUST 1914

Earlier this year, I was asked to give a lecture on August 2<sup>nd</sup> in support of the many commemorations of the outbreak of The Great War – that date was selected as being the anniversary of the infamous ultimatum sent by Germany to Belgium demanding surrender or they would invade. This is a précis of what I said which I thought might interest you.

Many people believe that the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria, heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, and his wife Sophie, Duchess of Hohenburg at Sarajevo in June 1914 was the cause of the Great War of 1914-18. The assassin, a Bosnian student named Gavrilo Princip was supporting a movement to separate Bosnia-Herzegovina from Austria-Hungary and unite it with Serbia.

In fact, for the real causes, I believe we must look much further back. The assassination was only the spark which set alight an already tense situation in



*Austria-Hungary*

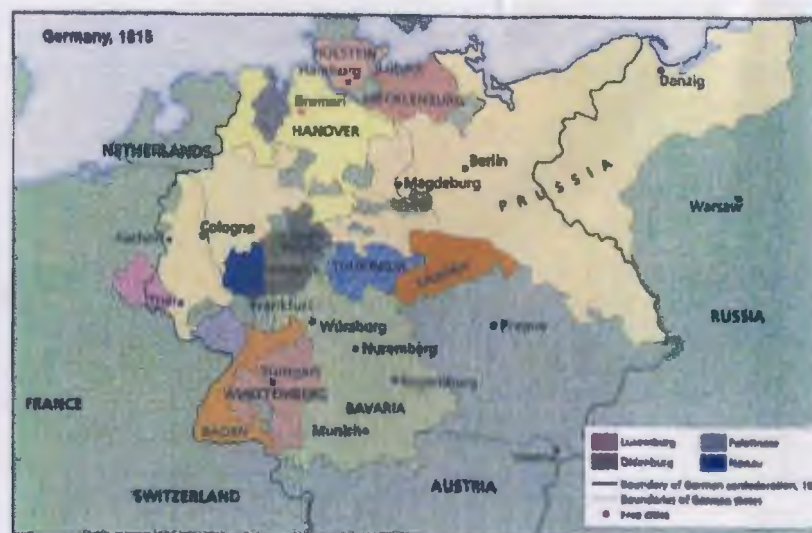
Europe brought about by the ambitions of the German Emperor, Kaiser Wilhelm II, in his own words 'to take his place in the sun' by expanding his navy to rival the British Royal Navy, his desire for African colonies to rival France and Britain and supplying guns and training to the Boers.

The events that led up to the outbreak of World War I are very complex indeed and I tried to simplify and summarise them to help people with no military background to understand how the war, which eventually involved 57 countries, came about.

On 26 November 1862, Otto von Bismarck was appointed Minister – President (Prime Minister) and Foreign Minister of Prussia by King Wilhelm I. He very quickly provoked three short, decisive wars in his quest for German unification which had long been one of his primary aims. An attempt to federate Prussia and the 27 smaller kingdoms and principalities had been made in 1848 but was not successful. However, by diplomacy and the use of the Prussian army he was able to form a German Confederation in 1850.







In 1865, on the death of the King of Denmark, with Austria, he invaded Denmark and annexed the two mainly German-speaking Duchies of Schleswig and Holstein. Prussia acquired Schleswig and Austria, Holstein.

In 1866, Austria reneged on the agreement. Bismarck used this as an excuse to declare war on his former ally and, in a lightning blitzkrieg (the first time this familiar term was used) of seven weeks, beat the larger Austrian army at the battle of Königgrätz.



Prussia

As a result of the Peace of Prague (1866), the German Confederation was dissolved. Prussia annexed Schleswig, Holstein, Frankfurt, Hanover, Hesse-Kassel, and Nassau and Austria had to agree not to intervene in German affairs in future. In 1867, Prussia and several other North German states joined together to form a new North German Confederation, King Wilhelm I serving as its President, and Bismarck as its Chancellor. Austria was excluded.

In 1870, with their support, and the use of some very dubious diplomacy, he forced France to mobilize to support her stand that the throne of Spain should not go to a German prince. Bismarck used this as a pretext to attack his arch-enemy, the Franco-Prussian war was very brief and ended with the capture of both French armies and their Emperor, Napoleon III.

In 1871 the North German Confederation transmogrified into the German Empire with King Wilhelm I as Kaiser (Emperor) and Bismarck as Chancellor but cleverly he retained his personal control of Prussia. The Kaiser died in 1888 and was succeeded by his son Friedrich III who only reigned for 99 days as he was already suffering from an incurable throat cancer. He was succeeded by his son Wilhelm II, known to generations as 'Kaiser Bill', who, as we have seen, was one of the causes of the Great War.



The German Emperor's Standard 1883-1918

28 June 1914 Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria, and his wife were assassinated.

5 July 1914 The Austrian government requested German support if Russia moved to assist Serbia.

23 July 1914 Austria sent an ultimatum to Serbia which was accepted except for one point – that Austro-Hungarian troops be allowed entry to Serbia to search for the assassins.

25 July 1914 as a precaution Serbia mobilised her army

28 July 1914 Austria refused to compromise and declared war on Serbia.

30 July 1914 in support of Serbia, Russia ordered general mobilisation

31 July 1914 Germany mobilised her forces and demanded Russian troops be disbanded.

1<sup>st</sup> Aug 1914 Russia refused so Germany declared war on Russia. France mobilised to support her Russian ally.

2<sup>nd</sup> Aug 1914 – An ultimatum was sent from Germany to Belgium demanding access to Belgian territory and the use of the forts of Liege and Namur otherwise they would invade. Germany invaded neutral Luxembourg.

3<sup>rd</sup> Aug 1914 – Germany declared war on France and invaded Belgium



**4<sup>th</sup> Aug 1914** – Britain sent an ultimatum to Germany to withdraw troops from Belgium by midnight (11.00pm our time) because we were bound by the



Colonies within the Empire were automatically involved.

Treaty of London of 1839 to defend Belgium's neutrality (Austria and the German Confederation, led by Prussia, were also signatories to the Treaty!). No reply was received so we declared on Germany and Austria-Hungary. The Dominions (Canada, Newfoundland, New Zealand, the Commonwealth of Australia and the Union of South Africa) and

\*\*\*

## The Protagonists

## The Allies

Belgium  
Britain  
France  
Greece  
Italy  
Portugal  
Rumania  
Russia  
Serbia  
USA

## The Central Powers

**Austria**  
**Bulgaria**  
**Germany**  
**Turkey**

No accurate figures for casualties for both sides are known only widely differing estimates. However, those for the British Army are known and they are horrendous – 662,000 killed, 140,000 missing and 1.65 million wounded.

August 1914 was a memorable month in the history of the world by any standard. I hope that I have conveyed to you some of the main points.

## Swinnerton Nurses who served in World War I.

In the last issue of Saga I printed 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.

Of course, that is not necessarily all the Swinnertons who served – there may be others who volunteered or were conscripted and served in the Home Service battalions in this country. There was no equivalent in WWI of the WW2 Defence Medal. If you know of any, please let me know.

I also said that, surprisingly, there is no mention of our two nurses, Sister 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 said that I would investigate further. Last month, I paid a visit to The National Archives at Kew and, after a long day, finally found their records. Sister Kate's records did include her medal card but Margery's did not.

K-0711  
Campaign - 1944-45 Star

(A) SWINNETON T.F.N.B. letter

(B) KRAI

Action taken

No.	NAME	PAGE
12	Russell	29
18	" "	" "
ASIAN	Murphy	9

THEATRE IN WAR

Return from SF3 (S.S.) 102 36/2/19

As you can see, the quality is not very good but it does show that she was awarded the 1914-15 Star, British War medal and Victory Medal. It also shows that she went to France on the 24<sup>th</sup> of July 1915. You will also notice a line near the bottom which says 'SWB list nur/279' This came as a great surprise to me because it means she was awarded a Silver War Badge and I had never known a case before. I have examined many hundreds of medal index cards in my time but had never come across one before awarded to a woman.



Margery's records show that she remained a member of the Territorial Army Nursing Service after the war and was appointed a Staff Nurse in the 1<sup>st</sup> London General Hospital on the 1<sup>st</sup> December 1925. However she resigned in 1931 (she is ranked as a Sister) because she was now Mrs Hugh Thomas and on leave from the Gold Coast. Sadly, she was required to surrender her badge, a poor reward for someone who had given many years of service, and her 'Parchment' (her enrolment form) was 'filed with her papers'.



### The Silver War Badge

The Silver War Badge, sometimes erroneously referred to as the Silver Wound Badge, was issued in September 1916 to men (and women as I have now discovered) who had been honourably discharged due to wounds or sickness during World War I.

The badge, which was made from silver, was intended to be worn on the right breast in civilian clothes to denote that the wearer had 'done his bit' and to stop silly women giving white feathers to apparently able-bodied young men who were not wearing the King's uniform. It was not allowed to be worn on a military uniform.

It bears the royal cipher of GRI (*Georgius Rex Imperator*) which means George, King and Emperor and around the rim *For King and Empire; Services Rendered*. Each badge was uniquely numbered on the reverse.

A list of all recipients has recently been placed on the internet – it has the advantage over the ordinary medal rolls that it normally gives the date of enlistment.

\* \* \* \* \*

### 'Jimmy' Swinnerton

From the internet.

'Before comic books there were comic strips. In 1892, James Swinnerton published the first newspaper comic strip ever called **'The little Bears and Tigers'** run by the *San Francisco Examiner*. The first successful comic series though was Richard Outcault's 'Down in Hogan's Alley' which debuted July 7, 1895 in Joseph Pulitzer's *New York World* as a single (*sic*) picture of life in an urban slum. Its central character was 'The Yellow Kid' who was a bald, impish tyke with a knowing grin'.

### Other Wars

Paybook photograph of NX7798 Private Sidney George Swinnerton, 2/1st



Battalion, Australian Infantry. Private Swinnerton, aged 23, died on 19 August 1941, as a Prisoner of War (POW).

I don't know to which family Sidney belonged – perhaps one of our Australian members could help?



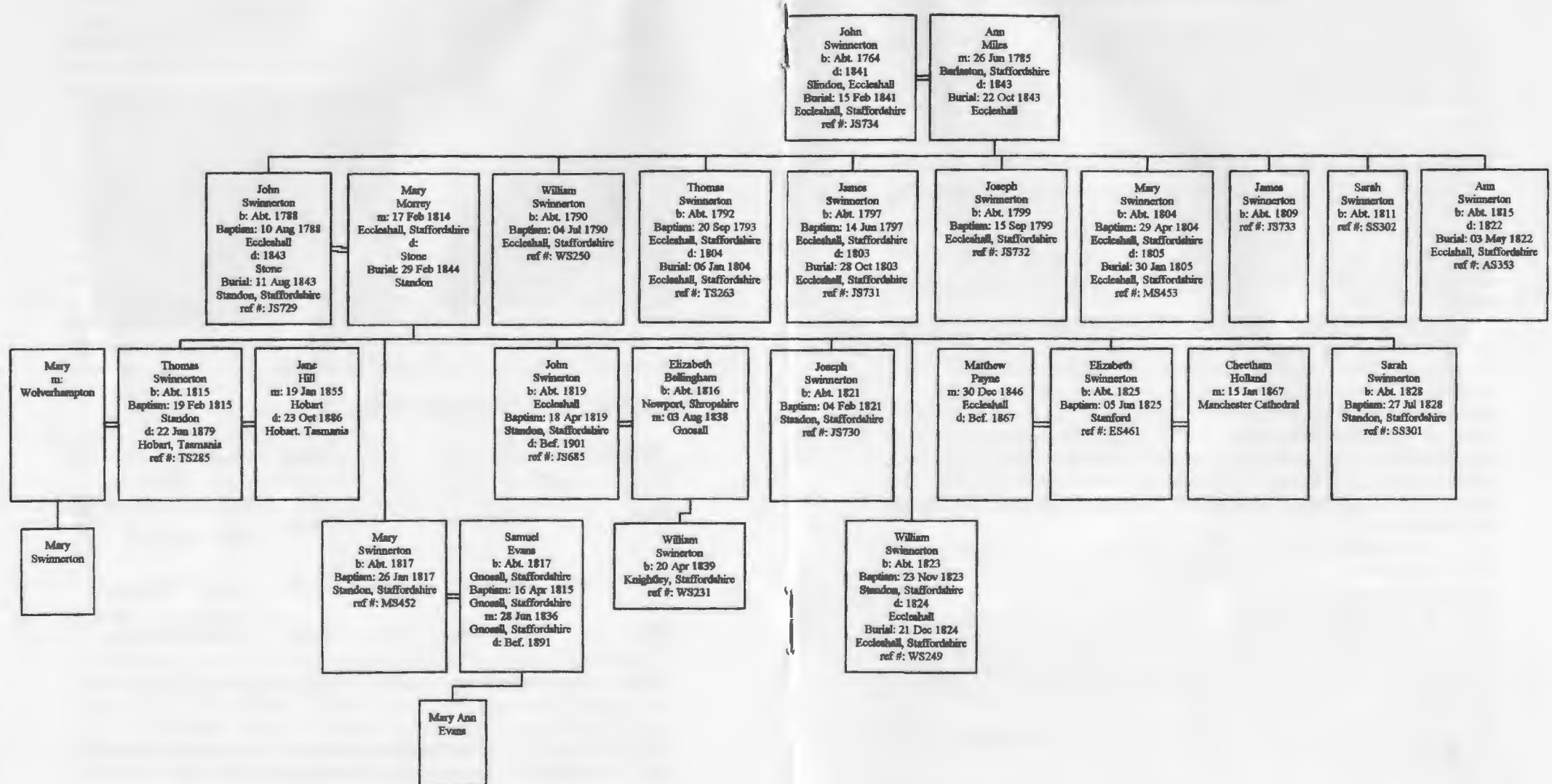
\* \* \*

### Anglo-Boer War Records 1899-1902

Forename(s)	Surname	No.	Rank	Regiment
Arnold	Swinnerton	32, 344	Trooper	Gorrings Flying Column, Brabant's Horse
Edward Albert	Swinnerton	4775	Trooper	Imperial Yeomanry
Harry	Swinnerton	4776	Trooper	Imperial Yeomanry
S J	Swinnerton	7705	Sapper	Royal Engineers

Arnold belonged to the Yew Tree Branch; Edward Albert was the father of our one-time chairman, Joe Swinnerton and Harry (really Isaac Albert) was Joe's uncle but, sadly, was killed in action: Stephen Joseph belonged to the Betley Branch.

## UFO 6 - Descendants of John Swinnerton and Ann (Miles) of Eccleshall



This is the Family Tree of Thomas the Convict and also shows his brother-in-law Samuel Evans who caused him to be transported to Australia,



## Sir Thomas de Swynnerton

Note concerning the marriage of Sir Thomas de Swynnerton and Maud de Holand (gen 31): the fact of this marriage has been questioned in the past as it appears to rest solely upon the statement in the Savage pedigree in the Visitation of Cheshire for 1580.

Review of the printed sources shows that Robert de Holand and his wife Maud la Zouche did have a daughter named Maud who was betrothed as a child to John de Mowbray. After the order for the confiscation of the estates of John's father, John (then aged about 12), his mother Aline, and Maud, who was living with them, were taken on 26 February 1321/2 to the Tower of London to be received by the Constable of the Tower, then Roger de Swynnerton, father of Thomas.

Following the imprisonment of Maud's father and the confiscation of his estates, the marriage of John was granted on 28 February 1326/7 to Henry, Earl of Lancaster, whose daughter Joan was then married to John de Mowbray, then fifteen years of age. When John came of age, he received a license to grant a life interest in two Mowbray manors to Maud, then free to marry.

That Maud did marry Thomas de Swynnerton depends upon the sources for the article "Ancestry of Obadiah and Mary Bruen", TAG 26:12-25 (1950). In that article Donald Lines Jacobus cited the article by Rev. Canon Bridgeman, *"An Account of the Family of Swynnerton of Swynnerton and Elsewhere in the County of Stafford"*, (Wm. Salt Soc, vol. VII pt. II, cit.), which shows that the widow of Thomas de Swynnerton was named Maud (or Matilda), and that there was formerly in Swynnerton Church an "effigy of a woman over whom is written, "Matidis de Swynnerton," and a shield giving the arms of Holand, viz: azure, semee of Fleurs-de-lys argent, a lion rampant guardant argent".

\* \* \* \* \*

### I don't believe it!

According to an entry in Family Search on the internet, Keturah Swinnerton was christened 28 December 1778 at the Cathedral of St Peter Sheffield, daughter of George Swinnerton and Ann. Her daughter Annabel Guy, aged 29, married Homer R. Chalford at Cuyahoga, Ohio on the 27<sup>th</sup> March 1919. If you do the maths, it's just not possible.

Apart from anything else, the Church of St Peter and St Paul, Sheffield did not become a Cathedral until 1914.

## A Tragic Life

Extracted from the Knoxville Journal Illinois, on June 20, 1854

On May 1, 1775, twelve days after the battles of Lexington and Concord, a seventeen year old boy named James Swinnerton enlisted in the Continental Army in the town of Oakham, Massachusetts. During the war, James Swinnerton reenlisted several times, and on October 18, 1776, was wounded in the neck and shoulder by a British musket ball fired at him in the battle of Pell's Neck on Long Island, New York. Following his injury, he was transported to Bedford, Massachusetts, where he recovered in a hospital. After his release from the hospital, he again enlisted in the army.

When the war was finally winding down, James Swinnerton married Eleanor Guilford in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, on March 2, 1780. By 1800 James and Eleanor Swinnerton had moved to Leicester, Vermont, and had seven children living (six other children all died shortly after birth). Their fourth oldest living daughter, Mercy Swinnerton, was born March 30, 1792, probably in Leicester. During the years following 1800, the family evidently spent some time living near Paradox Lake in New York, but by July 31, 1806, were clearly living in what was then Franklin County, Ohio, near the town of Delaware. On this date, James Swinnerton's oldest living son, James Guilford Swinnerton, Jr., was married to Lucy Carpenter in Franklin County.

On March 12, 1810, the Swinnerton family witnessed the marriages of two of its daughters in (I believe) Hartford, Ohio. Lucinda Guilford Swinnerton married Ira Carpenter, brother of the Lucy Carpenter who James, Jr., had married four years earlier, and Mercy Swinnerton married a young man who had also grown up in Vermont, Merriness Willet Loveland.

Merriness and Mercy Loveland established a residence near Delaware, Ohio, where Mercy became pregnant with their first child in January of 1811. This child was born on October 8, 1811, in Delaware, Ohio, and was named Mercy Caroline Loveland after . Tragically, the nineteen year old mother lived only thirteen days after the birth of her daughter after evidently experiencing complications during childbirth. She is buried in the Oak Grove Cemetery in Delaware, Ohio. Merriness Loveland must have been overwhelmed by the situation in which he found himself. His own family was still in Vermont, and he suddenly had a thirteen day old daughter to care for. He ended up turning to his deceased wife's parents, James and Eleanor Swinnerton for help raising his daughter. On June 2, 1812, before his daughter's second birthday, Merriness Loveland enlisted in the army and fought in the War of 1812. After a three

month stint in the army, Merriness returned to civilian life and married for a second time - this time to Ruby Sturdevant, the daughter of Roswell Sturdevant. Merriness and Ruby Loveland, and Roswell Sturdevant and his wife subsequently moved to Madison County, Illinois, where their names appear in the 1818 Illinois State Census.



**Mercy Caroline  
(Loveland) Holderman**  
(Photo taken in Kansas  
about 1861)

It is likely, therefore, that Mercy Caroline Loveland, the subject of this essay, knew neither of her parents. The first public documentation of her existence I have discovered is in the Revolutionary War

pension application of James Swinnerton, dated October 4, 1820, in which he describes the members of his family: "My family consists of my wife aged fifty-nine years, one son aged eighteen years rather sickly (William B. Swinnerton), two daughters Elmira age twenty-two, Adeline age twenty-one, both unhealthy, and an orphan grandchild, Caroline Loveland, aged nine years." On October 13, 1821, Eleanor Guilford Swinnerton, grandmother of Mercy Caroline Loveland, was the first white person to die in the Grand Prairie Township of Marion County, Ohio. She is buried in the Grand Prairie Cemetery. The job of raising Mercy Caroline Loveland was probably assumed by James Swinnerton's two daughters still at home, Adeline and Almira. James

Swinnerton continued receiving his Revolutionary War pension until his death on December 6, 1824. He is buried next to his wife.

Very little is known about Mercy Caroline Loveland's life for the next several years. The next public record of her life occurs on April 19, 1832, when at the age of twenty she married Jacob Holderman, the son of Abraham Holderman (originally from Chester County, Pennsylvania) and his wife Charlotte O'Neal (whose family had come from Maryland). The marriage ceremony was conducted at the Swinnerton homestead by John Kirby, a justice of the peace. One of the witnesses of the ceremony was Adeline Swinnerton, Mercy Caroline Loveland's aunt, who, ironically, married John Kirby, the justice of the peace, ten years later.

Then tragedy again struck the life of Mercy Caroline Holderman when her daughters Jane Anne and Almira drowned while bathing in the Spoon River on June 14, 1854.

Mercy Caroline Holderman's daughter, Elenor Holderman Woods moved in the 1870's or early 1880's to Oregon; the Woods family evidently settled near Cottage Grove in Lane County. On May 20, 1884, Mercy Caroline Holderman and her grandson, Ellsworth, went to Cottage Grove to spend some time with the Woods family. While she was there, she became ill; she died on May 19, 1886, at the age of 74 in Cottage Grove and is buried in the Shields Cemetery in Cottage Grove.

For much more information on this family see  
<http://HollyMillRun.com/genealogy/>

\* \* \* \* \*

**A note recently sent to me.**

Alice Elsie Swinnerton, age 37, of Back, 126 Lozells Road, Aston, Birmingham. Buried October 27, 1925...common grave: no. Square 151, grave number 037856. Burial fees: 16/6; Minister's fee 2/6; total 19/-  
Witton Cemetery was an overflow burial ground for surrounding Birmingham towns etc. their own local graveyards being full.

\* \* \*

**This has to be an error in transcription!**

Joseph Twynnerton, born 27 Jul 1802, christened 15 Aug 1802 at St Bartholomew the Great, London, son of Joseph Twynnerton and [Hannah



## The Old Newark Burying Ground

An article in the "*Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey*" by E.A. Baldwin and R.W. Cook entitled "Essex County Gravestones" gives an account of the earliest burying ground in Newark, New Jersey which was located where the present Branford Place runs from Broad Street to Halsey Street and adjacent area. Burials took place from the late 1600's until 1818. After 1790 most burials were made in the graveyard behind the New Presbyterian Church across Broad Street. The old cemetery gradually deteriorated, becoming a dumping ground for refuse, and interfering with the orderly progress of the city. Over a period of many years, through legislative actions and court cases, the city strove to eliminate the burial ground and turn the property to other uses. In 1887 the city began removal of the remains, but it was not until about 1900 that arrangements to dismantle the cemetery were completed.



To receive the remains, a crypt was prepared in Fairmount Cemetery, Newark, under a monument dedicated to the first settlers of the city. The gravestones from the old burial ground were mounted along the walls of the crypt (which was an underground passageway, about six feet wide and possibly eight feet high) around the foundation of the monument. Unearthing of the old cemetery was completed in 1888 and the ones which had been dug up were placed in wooden boxes. These boxes were deposited in the crypt, November 26, 1889, being stacked in three parts of the passageway to a height of perhaps five feet. Services of recommitment and dedication of the monument took place on December 19, 1889.

In 1890, before the crypt was closed, Mr. James Swinnerton, at the request of the city authorities, spent several days with a candle, making pen-and-ink sketches of the devices and inscriptions of the tombstones which lined the walls of the crypt.

In 1925 the New Jersey Historical Society published abstracts of the inscriptions in its Proceedings (New Series, Vol. X, pp. 193, 321, 424). This article relied on Dr. John S. Condit's 1847 copy of the inscriptions (owned by the Historical Society), checked against Mr. Swinnerton's sketches. Over the years, doubt has been expressed about the accuracy of some of the inscriptions given in this article, and it was believed that a check of the stones in the crypt might clear up some of the questions. Accordingly the Genealogical Society of

New Jersey made arrangements with officials of the Fairmount Cemetery and the proper authorities of the city of Newark, for permission to enter the crypt and copy the inscriptions found there. This work was done during several visits made in the fall of 1955.

The actual copying and checking of inscriptions proceeded under great difficulty. The wooden boxes containing the bones had completely disintegrated over the years and it was not always possible to push the loose bones aside in order to examine gravestones set in the wall. Because of this, some of the inscriptions could not positively be checked; and if there were any gravestones set in the floor, under the bones, they too could not be reached. Most of the inscriptions, in any case, were found and copied. Afterward, the copy thus obtained from the original stones was checked against the Swinnerton sketches, now in possession of the Newark Public Library. Below, as a consequence, is a complete abstract of the inscriptions from the tombstone in the Fairmount Cemetery crypt, largely taken from the stones themselves and doubtless the best obtainable.

*Mr James Swinnerton mentioned was the father of the modern comic and a descendant of James Swinnerton and Eleanor Guilford mentioned in the previous article.*

\* \* \*

### A WELL READ COUNTRY GENTLEMAN

Biography database 1680-1830 on CD-Rom

Swinnerton, William (Male) Title; Esq Address: Litchfield (*sic*), Date; 1748. Subscribed to Sermons on several important practical subjects (Vol. 1.) 1748. HOOLE, Joseph, London.

Swinnerton, William (Male) Title; Esq Date 1763 Subscribed to Ecclesiastical Law (Vol.1.) 1763 BURN, London

Swinnerton, William (Male) Title; Esq Address: Butterson Hall. Staffordshire, Date 1789 Subscribed to A topographical survey... Somerset... Lancaster, 1789, TUNNICLIFF, William, Bath

This is William of Butterson whose picture was painted by George Stubbs.



## IT'S A SMALL WORLD!

PAGE TWELVE

ROAN ANTELOPE

AUGUST, 1955



Derek Swinnerton (left foreground) threw a very enjoyable party at the Club on June 22, on the eve of leaving the home for the U.K.  
Photograph by Pat Fenn

## 16 Shaft

This shaft has seen a few farewells these last few weeks. First, our old friend, Arthur Gray, who was followed closely by another popular 1120 timberman, Derek Swinnerton, both en route for the old smoke. Arthur is going to be a vicar man, we hear, and Derek a Taddy boy.

After these two, our Major, Jack Forrester, pulled out, and the place seemed quite empty until we saw Harry Edwards took over Jack's job.

We wish these chaps everything of the best in their new ventures.

Congratulations to Bill Page on his promotion to Night Shift Boss. Bill was a member of 16 Shaft's successful First Aid Team, which won the first prize this year. Also in the Team were J. Botha (Captain), J. J. Nel, C. Spicer and A. Dellow. Well done, lads, keep up the good work!

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Joe Duffy on the happy event. Another girl, Joe? Ah! well, plenty of time for a boy.

A smashing time was had by all at the sundowners given by Arthur Gray and Derek Swinnerton. George Napier and Jimmy Robb gave us a couple of nice songs, and our magazine Editor obliged with a natty little number from his, no doubt, vast repertoire, called *Roger Rum*. Allan Brock and George Grimshaw were crack on form, too.

Our young material transporter, Jack van Niekerk, did well to be chosen for Northern Rhodesia against Southern Rhodesia at Livingstone. We're proud of you, Jack.

Three years ago, I was asked to stand in as chairman for a year of the Somerset & Dorset Family History at very short notice because the chairman fell ill two weeks before the AGM and the committee knew they would not be able to find another in such a short time. They asked me because, of course, I have chaired several such societies over the years and was the first chairman of the Federation of Family History Societies (in a history of the FFHS written by the late Donald Steel MA, after reviewing the claims of four candidates including himself, he concluded that I was the true founder). During my year our administrator retired and it was my job to find a successor. I succeeded and he was appointed but about three weeks ago he told me he had known about Derek but had not connected him with me. He went on to say "I had forgotten all about Derek, which is a bit strange of course, especially as I have now known you for some time, but was reminded by my sister, who is participating in an oral history project, and who sent me a draft with Derek's first name, but no surname. "Swinnerton" I said at once, but it was only later, as I lay in the bath (the Archimedes principle), that I put two and two together. I cannot really remember Derek (other than through photographs), except that he gave me an enormous box of Britain's lead soldiers (RAF I'm afraid) for Christmas. I remember my parents saying that he'd died in his sleep".

Derek had been a mining engineer and one of his father's closest friends when mining in Northern Rhodesia (now Zambia)!

## THE SWINNERTON FAMILY SOCIETY

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 14th June 2014 at Swynnerton

## PRESENT

Iris & Brenda Crouch (Romford), Elizabeth & Keith Livesey (Llandudno), Iain Swinnerton (Sherborne), Ray & Shelagh Swinnerton (Brereton Green, Sandbach), Helen Swinnerton (Hong Kong), Myra & Alan Jones (Prestatyn), Audrey Cherry (Sutton in Ashfield), Julian Swinnerton Hawley (Worcestershire), Gerald Swinnerton (Victoria, Australia), Harry Swinnerton (son of Gerald, currently in London but moving shortly to Seattle, USA), Rosalie Price (Market Drayton), Peter Swinnerton (Manchester), John Swinnerton Manchester, and Brian Swinnerton (Maghull Liverpool)

## 1. WELCOME

The meeting commenced at 2.30 pm by the Chairman, Elizabeth Livesey, welcoming those present to the AGM of the Swinnerton Family Society.

## 2. APOLOGIES

Geoffrey & Carole Swinnerton (Liverpool), Rachel Livesey (Wheaton Aston), Emma Greenlees (Timperley), Valerie Dall (Denmark), Margaret Antill (Atherstone), and Anne Hooley (Streetly, Sutton Coldfield)

## 3. MINUTES of AGM held on 8th June 2013

These were read by those present and agreed as being correct by those that attended.

## 4. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

## 5. TREASURER'S REPORT

Keith Livesey, the treasurer, was concerned that we are spending more than we are receiving in subscriptions and asked if we should consider increasing the subs. or reduce the number of "Sagas" further.

A long discussion ensued where it was pointed out that subs. more than covered the cost of printing and posting 3 issues of *Saga* annually. Keith explained that there were other costs, subscription to FFHS, research and a donation to St Mary's for the use of their hall and refreshments for the AGM.

John Swinnerton suggested a two tier system for those willing to receive *Saga* on line and a higher rate for those wanting a printed copy and offered to run workshops at the 2015 AGM/Triennial to help those who were not computer literate.



It was thought that everyone for whom the membership secretary had an e-mail address could receive a copy of the next *Saga* by this method in addition to the printed copy so they would know what this would look like. The status quo could remain for this year and a decision made next year should this prove necessary.

Keith presented a statement of accounts which are shown on page 224.

#### 6 MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

Ray Swinnerton presented his report and commented that membership numbers are fairly static with some new members replacing those who have died or not renewed so far.

#### SUMMARY FOR 2014

	Paid	Not paid	Comments
AUSTRALIA	14	0	4 members rejoined
CANADA	7	0	
DENMARK	2	0	
NEW ZEALAND	0	1	Repeated efforts to contact were made without success.
S. AFRICA	1	0	
UK	66	0	2 new members, 1 rejoined,
USA	9	1	S.K. Swenerton did not rejoin.
Total	99	2	

Two members have died – William Swinnerton of Melbourne and Liz Yendal

#### 7 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

OFFICE		Proposed	Seconded
CHAIRMAN:	Julian Hawley	Iain Swinnerton	Peter Swinnerton
SECRETARY:	Valerie Dall	Peter Swinnerton	Shelagh Swinnerton
TREASURER:	Margaret Antill	Iris Crouch	Keith Livesey
MEMBERSHIP SEC:	Ray Swinnerton	Alan Jones	Rosalie Price
VICE-CHAIRMAN	Brian Swinnerton	Ray Swinnerton	Shelagh Swinnerton

All candidates were accepted unanimously.

Valerie was unable to attend the meeting because she was could not drive due to an infection in her eye, therefore Iris continued to act as secretary.

Elizabeth thanked the outgoing officers for their service and handed the chairmanship of the meeting over to Julian.

#### 8 FUTURE AGMs GATHERINGS, CELEBRATION OF 40TH ANNIVERSARY

Julian introduced himself, he has been a member since 1980, is of the Shut Lane Branch which is part of the Yew Tree line and lives in Evesham, Worcs

The AGM of 2015 would be the occasion of a Triennial Gathering. As some members were not familiar with this event the usual format was explained i.e. that it was a whole day meeting including an ecumenical church service, AGM, lunch and a speaker or some other activity. Some members who did not live locally often stayed over in a hotel on Friday/Saturday night and might join with others for a visit to Swinnerton landmarks on Sunday morning.

John Swinnerton said perhaps someone could talk about the various family trees and that it might attract younger members. A visit to the Potteries was also a suggested activity.

It was thought that the Gathering would be an opportunity to attract new members and that it, and the Swinnerton Family Society in general could be publicised on the internet. A PR person seemed to be needed and as Brian Swinnerton was already in touch with a number of people called Swinnerton on the internet and was now the Vice Chairman he agreed to fulfill this role.

#### 10 PROPOSED DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Saturday 6th June 10.30am

#### 11 AOB

Elizabeth said that there was considerable archive material that belonged to the family which she had in her possession as outgoing chairman and wondered what was to be done with it. Evidently there were such items as paintings, books given as prizes to members of the family, framed trees and other ephemera etc. It was decided everything should be brought to the 2015 AGM for those present to decide what is to be kept and who would have them. Iain objected to this saying that he was very reluctant to see a unique collection of Swinnerton material which he had collected over the last 50 plus years broken up. (After the meeting, the new chairman took charge of it all).

Discussion regarding subscriptions continued; Gerald Swinnerton wondered if a sliding scale of fees could be instituted. Ray said this would be difficult to implement because, as it is, standing orders often do not get changed and therefore some continue to pay the old rate. John thought distributing the "Saga" electronically would be simple and it would be possible to "Test drive" a web site version of "Saga" with the option of a hard copy.

A motion was proposed by Keith Livesey and seconded by Gerald Swinnerton that a questionnaire be included in the next "Saga" asking members if they were willing to receive the publication (a) by post, (b) downloaded from the web site or (c) by e-mail.

Iain had brought a file of various family trees which he cannot connect to the original main family tree as yet for those present to browse through. He also reminded us that the current volume of "Saga" was the last he would be editing and therefore a new editor was needed from the middle of 2015.

Elizabeth proposed that a £25 donation be given to St Mary's church in appreciation for the use of the hall and refreshments, this was seconded by Gerald and agreed.

The meeting closed at 4.00pm.

\* \* \*

# ACCOUNTS for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2103

Subscriptions: received	1,034.45	"Saga" Printing	635.46
Jeremy's Legacy (Balance)	1,232.45	"Saga" Postage	262.33
		Research	477.80
		FFHS Sub.	40.48
		AGM (Donation to St Mary's)	20.00
			1436.07
		Surplus	830.83
			2266.90
<u>2266.90</u>			

Bank balance at 31.12.13

3,795.42

Cash

100.00

Surplus

831.03

4,726.45

Represented by

Bank Balance 4,646.45

Cash Balance 80.00

4,726.45

The accounts were audited by an Independent examiner, R. Green on 6th June 2014



My great-uncle, John Henry Swinnerton (1871-1949) had very poor eyesight and so was not fit for service in the Great War so he became a Special Constable. He combined this with his job as salesman for the family engineering firm which involved travelling all over the country so how he managed I do not know but I remember him well as a rather gruff man with a good sense of humour.



# 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* – Julian Swinnerton Hawley

*Vice-Chairman and PRO*

Brian Swinnerton

*Secretary* – *Vacant*

*Treasurer* – Mrs Margaret Antill

*Subscriptions* – Ray Swinnerton

*Database* – Roy Talbot

*Website* – [www.swinnerton.org](http://www.swinnerton.org)

Webmaster: John Swinnerton

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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