

SWINNERTON FAMILY HISTORY

Heraldic and Genealogical Studies
of the family

Compiled and edited by

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SWINNERTON HERALDRY (continued)

THE BRANCHES OF THE FAMILY

It was often the custom for branches of the family to use the arms of the main line with some extra 'charge' (device) added to emphasise that this was a branch but at the same time to indicate relationship.

The main branches of our family, in order of seniority, were :-

SWYNNERTON OF HILTON
SWYNNERTON OF ECCLESHALL (ISEWELL)
SWYNNERTON OF BUTTERTON
SWYNNERTON OF WHITMORE

and a much smaller one

SWYNNERTON OF OSWESTRY AND LONDON

SWYNNERTON OF HILTON

These arms, as we have seen, are given in THE GENERAL ARMORY under 'SWINNERTON' as :-

'ar. , a cross patee flory sa. , a border eng. of the last.'

Bridgman, however, gives Hilton as :-

'a cross flory sable, within a bordure (border) engrailed gules'

He, or his printer, have however missed out the first part of the blazon - the colour of the field.

THE REV. CHARLES SWYNNERTON writing in 'The Reliquary' (Vol. XIII, 1878) goes one better and gives it as :-

'argent, a cross forme fleurette sable, within a bordure engrailed gules'
and gives his authority - 'The College of Arms'.



In GENERAL ARMORY TWO (Edited and Augmented by Cecil R. Humphery-Smith 1973) which is Alfred Morant's Additions and Corrections to Burke's General Armory with additions by Mr. Humphery-Smith from other heraldic sources, we get :-

'SWINNERTON OF HILTON - Arg., a cross flory sa., within a bordure engr. gu. - Sir Roger de Swynnerton ob. (obit. = died) 1338. Harl. MSS 6128 fo. 60 '

Far be it for me to argue with such eminent authorities but these could not have been the arms of Sir Roger because he never owned the Manor of Hilton; it belonged, in fact, to his younger brother SIR JOHN de SWYNNERTON who purchased it from John de Ratingden in 5Edw. II (1311-12) and was the founder of the Hilton line.

As the arms of SIR JOHN they are given in the Roll of Arms in SHC 1913 already mentioned as :-

'JOHN de SWINFORTON ¹ - argent, a cross sable (formy flory), a border engreled gules'

and illustrated as in Fig. 8

(¹ a footnote at bottom of page - 'of Hilton, j. u. d. 1340)

j. u. is short for jure uxoris and means 'by right of his wife' but this is rather mysterious because, as we have seen, John purchased the manor of Hilton himself and did not inherit it through his wife although he undoubtedly owed much of his advancement to her.

The border is red but, unfortunately, we cannot show colour here so it is left blank for you to colour in yourself if you wish.

In the illustrations to the Visitation (SHC. Vol. III plate 2) the cross for Sir John is shown with straight sides and splayed ends as in Fig. 4.

This branch of the family died out in the male line in 1562



SWYNNERTON OF ECCLESHALL

The General Armory does not mention this branch but in SHC. Vol. VII Bridgman gives the arms as :-

'Argent, a cross flory sable, overall a bend gules'

This is shown in Fig. 9. Here the additional 'charge' or difference is the bend gules (a red diagonal bar). Again we have left it blank for you to colour.

The Rev. Charles in the same issue of 'The Reliquary' previously cited, gives the arms as :-

'Argent, a cross forme fleurettee sable, differenced with a bend gules'

and again gives his authority as 'The College of Arms'.

In SHC. Vol. II Part II (History of the Parish of Blymhill) also by the Rev. & Hon. G.T.O. Bridgman, on p.113 dealing with the Swynnertons of Eccleshall he says :-
'A pedigree of this family (without dates) in Vincent's Staffordshire Visitations at the Herald's College which begins with JOHN SWINNERTON of Eccleshall, the father of Robert The arms of this family are given as argent, a cross fleury sable, with a bend gules.'

In SHC. Vol. III (The Visitation of 1583) under 'Doubtful Arms' we get :-

'EDWARD SWINNERTON of ECCLESHALL - argent, a cross formee flory sable, debruised with a bend gules'

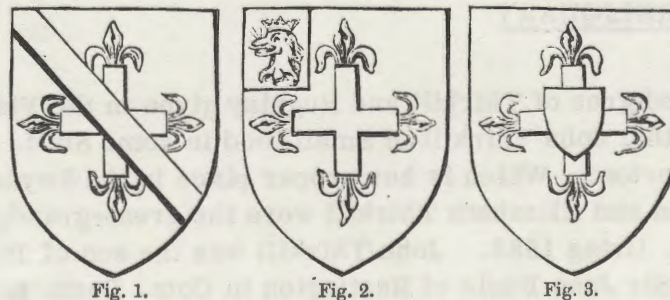
and in GENERAL ARMORY TWO :-

'SWINNERTON OF BUTTERTON and ECCLESHALL - arg. a cross flory sa. overall a bendlet gules.'

Note again the variation between flory and formee flory and also the difference in the extra charge between the last two. A bendlet is also a diagonal bar but normally only half the thickness of a bend so this would appear as in Fig. 10



This branch of the family died out in the male line, according to Bridgman (quoting Chetwynd in SHC. Vol. II) in 1621 but later research seems to indicate that was not so and that there may be descendants alive today.



In his article on The Swynnertons of Eccleshall (The Reliquary - Volume XXI, 1881, p.169) the Reverend Charles Swynnerton gives these three illustrations and says that these are found in a MSS in the College of Arms.

Figure 2 is, in fact, a representation of the Arms of the family of Pershall or Parshall who were descended from the Swynnertons.

Figure 3 is, however, another mystery and I have not yet been able to find out whose arms these are supposed to be.

Note how pronounced the fleur-de-lys ends are in all these three coats.

FAMILY NOTES

Our warmest congratulations go to Mrs. PATRICIA ANN SWINNERTON, wife of Colin L. Swinnerton, now of Telford, who was recently awarded her Bachelor of Arts degree through the Open University. Mr. Swinnerton tells me that it took his wife three years of part-time study, including a full week at summer school but nevertheless she has still managed to produce a second son during her studies. A remarkable effort. The degree was conferred upon her at a ceremony at Nottingham University on May 1st. We would like to know if any other member of the family is attempting, or has achieved an Open University degree, or is this a first ?

TWO STRAYS

These two entries are interesting in that they are well outside the area in which the family is usually found.

DIRECTORY OF LEEDS. 1853

JOSEPH SWINNERTON - 15 Waterloo Road. Painter, paperhanger, oil and
colour dealer.

(ex D. A. Palgrave)

CENSUS FOR 1841 PRO. Ref.H0107458

WILLIAM SWINNERTON. Age 15. Soldier
Brompton Barracks, Gillingham, Kent.
(ex R. F. Gambier)

THE AMERICAN SWINNERTONS

Further to our story in the last issue, Mr. Michael Walcot wrote to me and said that in the "Walcot Family History" there is a John WALCOTT, born Salem, Mass. 7 Dec. 1666, a fairly prosperous yeoman and carpenter within Salem parish for most of his life. He owned a farm there in 1700, later sold to John PUTNAM, and in 1734 (Sept. 18) he bought for £25. 00 three acres of meadow in Middleton of JOSEPH SWINERTON of Salem, husbandman. (Essex Registry of Deeds, book 71, leaf 115)

EXTRACTS FROM THE RELIQUARY

Vol. XXI, January 1881

SWYNERTON. In the Pedigree of Thirkill and Rugeley given in the Visitation of Staffordshire, 1583, it is stated that John Thirkill of Smallwood in com. Staff. married Elizabeth da. of Swynerton of Swynerton. Which is her proper place in the Swynerton Pedigree ? No date is given; but John and Elizabeth Thirkill were the great-grandparents of Wm. Rugeley of Shenstone esq. living 1583. John Thirkill was the son of John Thirkill of Smalewood, by a dau. of Sir John Poole of Hartington in Com. Derby. Knt. W.G.D.F.

Vol. XX, October 1879

Sir Robert de Swylyngton, knt. the younger, May 23rd, 1379, bequeathed 13s 4d to the Friar-Preachers of Pontefract, to celebrate for his soul.

SOCIETIES IN 'OUR' AREA

Liverpool Family History Society :

Mr. Harold Culling, 11 Lisburn Lane, Liverpool.

North Cheshire Family History Society :

Mr. F. R. Jarrett, 44 Fir Tree Avenue, Knutsford, Cheshire¹/₂