Swinnerton Family History

The Journal of the Swinnerton Society



ISSN 0508 6755

The Swinnerton Society

A non-profit making organisation devoted to the research and publication of Swinnerton family records and the walfare of Swynnerton Church.

A member of the Federation of Family History Societies.

PRESIDENT

The Rt.Hon.Lord Stafford Swynnerton Park Staffs.

VICE-PRESIDENTS

Frank Swinnerton Esq.
Sir Roger Swynnerton CMG.OBE.MC.
Sir Peter Swinnerton Dyer FRS.
H.Norman Swinnerton ASc.
(America)

COUNCIL

J.W.Swinnerton MBE.TD.BSc.(Econ,)
Col.J.C.A.Swynnerton OBE.
The Rev.Edward Swinnerton
S.K.Armitstead MA.
C.L.Swinnerton Esq.
L.W.Swinnerton Esq.
J.E.Swinnerton Esq.
(Public Relations Officer)

SECRETARY & EDITOR

Lt.Col.I.S.Swinnerton TD.JP.DL.
Owls Barn, Bridgnorth Road, Stourton,
nr.Stourbridge, W.Mids.



From the Editor's desk

On the 22nd January 6 Society members attended the induction of the Rev.Gerald Gardiner, new Rector of Swynnerton. The little church at Swynnerton was packed with rep-

resentatives of all sections of the community - the church itself, the school, the Roman Catholic Church, local industry and the incumbent's previous parish.

The induction was performed by the Suffragan Bishop of Stafford on behalf of the Bishop of Lichfield and was both colourful and most interesting — a mixture of formal liturgy and informal friendliness. It was good to see spokesmen for the various interests standing up and welcoming the new Rector and also to see the Roman Catholic priest robed and taking his place in the service.

(Our party - Messrs. Harold, Roy, Douglas, Joe & Arthur Swinnerton and myself were equally representative - we found 2 of us were Catholic, 2 Non-Conformist and 2 Church of England!)

We were given a very warm welcome and on your behalf extended all our very best wishes to the Rev.Gardiner for a long and happy stay in Swynnerton and assured him of our continued support.

Sadly, he will not actually be living in the village as he is also to be Vicar of Tittensor but nevertheless it is good to have our own Rector again and he has firmly written the date of our next gathering in his diary.

Afterwards there were tea and buns in the Village Hall giving us an opportunity to meet the PCC, parishioners and visiting clergy. Joe Swinnerton, never a man to miss an opportunity, produced some of our commemoration pottery and did a brisk business as a result.

ANOTHER SWINNERTON SOCIETY !

Last year our Vice-President Sir Roger Swynnerton sent me a page from the prospectus of Worksop College which had been spotted by his daughter-in-law, Liz, wife of our member and auditor J.R.Swynnerton of Sheffield, showing that the College had a Swinnerton (Geographical) Society.

Naturally, I was intrigued so I wrote to the Headmaster, Mr. R.J.Roberts MA:-

Dear Sir,

I was recently sent a page from your prospectus as it contained the information that you have a Swinnerton (Geographical) Society.

Am I right in assuming that this was named after Professor Henry Hurd Swinnerton — a well-known member of our family? We published a small biography of him some years ago of which I enclose a copy.

I am sure that members of the Society would be very interested to hear of your Society. We publish a quarterly journal which goes all over the world and I would very much like to do a little write-up about this in the next issue.

I would be most grateful for any information you can let me have.
Yours sincerely

I received the following, most helpful reply :-

Dear Colonel Swinnerton,

Thank you for your letter of the 10th November which the Head-master has passed on to me, concerning the existence of a Swinner-ton Society at the College.

Its origins go back to a time before my arrival at the College but you are quite correct in assuming that it is named after Professor Henry Swinnerton, the eminent former professor of Geology and Geography at Nottingham University. I am informed that my predecessor in the department in wishing to establish a VIth form Geographical and Geological Society considered it would be a good idea to name it after an illustrious local figure, and Professor Swinnerton was the obvious choice. Apparently he wrote to him in the mid-fifties to ask his permission; this he graciously

gave and hence the Society was born, about 1955.

The purpose of the Society is to further geological and geographical knowledge through contacts outside the College. This takes the form predominantly of inviting outside speakers to come and address the Society; many of these come from the universities, including Nottingham, but we also call upon the industrial, service and planning world. The subject matter varies, therefore, from the origins of the Earth or plate tectonis at one end to developing world problems or the problems of British Steel at the other. About five lectures are normally held during the course of the academic year. In addition, outside excursions are undertaken, also to a wide range of different situations – for example, motorway construction, water works, coal mines, port operations, power stations and so on.

We should like to believe that it does provide our VIth forms with an opportunity to expand their horizons in the subject, and all pupils reading Geography at 'A' Level automatically become members; this usually means a membership of 30-40 each year. Certainly many over the years have gone on to read Geology and/or Geography at University and have spoken warmly retrospectively of the Swinnerton Society activities. It continues to flourish and we hope may do so for a long time to come.

I hope this very brief resume might give you some idea as to the nature of the Society and that it would continue to have the approval of Professor Swinnerton!

If you wish to have any further details, I should be only too delighted to provide them, and I should be interested in seeing a copy of any write-up, should you include one in your next publication.

Yours sincerely,

N. M. SIMMONDS

Head of the Geography Department. Chairman of the Swinnerton Society Worksop College.

HAVE YOU SENT YOUR FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHS YET TO BE COPIED FOR THE PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION ?

PROFESSOR HENRY HURD SWINNERTON

Since publishing his biography (Who Was Who in the Swinnerton Family No.2) we have been trying to find out where the Professor fitted in to the family. I found his marriage and birth but was unable to trace the marriage of his parents. Council member John Swinnerton then got involved and did a great deal of research but neither of us was able to make any headway until, at my suggestion, John wrote to the Methodist Archives Centre as Henry's father, of course, had been a Wesleyan Minister.

They were most helpful and sent a copy of his father's obituary taken from the Minutes of the Methodist Conference 1918, p.106:-

"George F.Swinnerton: born in 1839 at Wellington in Shropshire. His first distinctly religious impressions were received in the Sunday School and his conversion took place when he was sixteen years of age under the ministry of the Rev. Thomas Nightingale. As a local preacher he had the joy of seeing many convinced of sin and savingly converted in the village churches of his home circuit. After three years at Richmond, he was appointed to British Guiana, and for five years was constantly fighting with attacks of malarial fever, barely escaping at last with his life. Returning to England, he faithfully served for nearly thirty years. He read much and thought more, and had that culture that comes from a deeply reflective mind. He was an adept in the beautiful art of doing kindnesses, and possessed in large measure the gracious gift of comforting those in sorrow. He loved good people and good causes. The extension of the work of God in general and in the Methodist Church in particular was a passion with him. In 1899 he retired to Harlesden, in the Kilburn and Hampstead Circuit, and continued there in quiet seclusion until the time of his departure. December 8th 1917. The anniversary of his conversion to God, July 8, was to him the greatest day of the year, and was always spent in praise and thanksgiving. His years of retirement were largely devoted to communion with God and earnest prayer for his brother ministers and the prosperity of the churches. "

They also sent a list of stations in which he had served.

1865 British Guiana
1884 Stainland (Nr.Huddersfield)
1871 Bodmin
1887 Pateley Bridge (Yorks)
1872 Downham (Norfolk)
1890 Brynmawr (Wales)
1874 Bungay (Suffolk)
1893 Brecon
1877 Cinderford (Glos)
1894 Hayle (Cornwall)
1880 Reeth (Yorks)
1896 Wolverhampton, Darlington St.
1881 Masham (Yorks)
1897 London, Kilburn

Obviously the reason why we couldn't find his parent's marriage was that it had taken place in British Guiana. The reference to his father's birth having taken place at Wellington put us straight on the track - in fact, I found I already had his birth certificate in our records.

From this and other information I had we were able to complete the following:

GEORGE FI b.8 Oct.1 d.8 Dec.		on	1 8 Se	Smith	British Guiana	MARIA b.11 Mar. 1833 Wellington
GEORGE FREDERICK SWINNERTON	HENRY HURD SWINNERTON b.17 Sep.18 Wangford,Su	ıffolk	Florence Daisy Bennett 6 Sep.19 Nottingh d.19 Nov	06 am	THOMAS NIGHTINGALE SWINNERTON b.22 May 1874 Downham	MARGARET ANN b. 1872 Bodmir = Henry John Trude
FRANK SWINNERTON b.& d.1909 Nottingham d.inf.	ESTHER M b. 1911 Nottingham = Pollack 1942 Bradford	b.	ABETH S. 1913 ingham	b. Notti	1915 ngham	1907 Hendon MARY JANE b. 1873 Downham Dawes 1894 Redruth

I believe JOHN to be a grandson of WILLIAM of ADBASTON but this I have yet to prove.

No.414 page 226

Commission to John Straunge, knight, Richard Aldred Roger Swynerton and the escheator in co.Suffolk to inquire concerning the information that divers lands and tenements in the said county late of John Preston which should belong to the king by reason of John's forfeiture, are concealed from him.

Westminster 26 February 11 Henry IV (1410) (Not in the Patent or Fine Rolls)

(ex.Mrs.Muriel Reeson)

SONNETS AND VERSE

Hillaire Belloc

To
John Swinnerton Phillimore
a dedication
with this book of verse

When you and I were tiny little boys
We took a most pertinent delight
In foolish, painted and misshapen toys
Which hidden mothers brought to us at night

Do you have the child's diviner part -The clear content a love familiar brings -Take these imperfect toys, till in your heart They too attain the form of perfect things.

(ex Mrs. M. R. Went)

Published Oct.1923

.

DON'T FORGET TO RESERVE THE DATE FOR THIS
YEAR'S GATHERING - SATURDAY, 5th SEPTEMBER
AT SWYNNERTON

A DETAILED study of the clock and watch making history of Newbastle is being made by Mr. Alan Treherne, a lecturer at Keele University, whose enthusiasm for the subject was wound up when he realised the significance of some manufacturers' work.

With the help of Mr. Paul Bemrose, Curator of Newcastle Museum, and his staff, Mr. Treherne has already gathered much information from borough records and other sources, but is appealing for help in his studies to Sentinel readers who may have clocks and watches in their possession signed by Newcastle manufacturers.

He is particularly keen to trace the descendants of two noted families in the hope that documents or account books may be still in existence.

These are the Swynnertons Thomas, John and Joseph of the Whitmore branch of the family), working from around 1674 in Newcastle as blacksmiths and clockmakers, and the Massey family.

Edward Massey, senior, worked in Newcastle from about 1763, and his son, Edward, worked from 1790, was an inventor who patented many important devices including a perpetual ship's log and a sounding machine which were widely used.

Mr. Treherne, who plans to write a thesis on his findings, would welcome any information. His home address is Moorside, Bar Hill, Madeley. Information will also be gladly received by Mr. Bemrose at the museum, where, incidentally, several old clocks are display.

This cutting from the "Staffordshire Sentinel" was sent to me in 1977 by the Rev.Brian Swinnerton.

Naturally I was intrigued and wrote to Mr.Treherne giving him what information I had and offering to help if at all possible.

I heard nothing for some time and then, when I had almost given up thinking my letter had gone astray, I received the following:

17 Feb. 1978

Dear Colonel Swinnerton,

Many thanks for your letter of the 5th January concerning the clockmaking Swinnertons of Newcastle. I was particularly pleased to hear from you as I have been intending to write to you for some months now. Let me first give you all the information I have from Newcastle and clockmaking sources: (Most Newcastle records are held in the Borough Museum).

This was followed by 3 pages of closely typed information - Mr. Treherne had obviously gone to a great deal of trouble to extract all this for us and I am most grateful to him.

The letter ended :-

I hope that all this information is of interest. I would be most grateful for any information you can give me, and I would especially like to discover where Thomas was born, where and with whom he served his apprenticeship, anything about the Yew Tree Property, the whereabouts of the Ernest Swinnerton Milne deeds and

the existence of any other Swinnerton clocks. Also perhaps the Swinnerton Society has publications which might be of interest, and I would like to hear more of the Blacksmithing and metalworking tradition of the family.

With best wishes, Yours sincerely, ALAN TREHERNE.

Since then I have been quietly beavering away in the few odd moments I get, trying to fit it all together and answer some of the many questions he posed.

Here is the first part of the information he sent- that relating to the first of the brothers mentioned.

THOMAS SWINNERTON (TS.28)

List of Freemen of Newcastle-under-Lyme 1620 - 1792 26 Nov.1674 Thomas Swinnerton, by Purchase.

From the Borough Minute Book and Thomas Pape transcription:

26 Nov.1674. 'At this assembly ... Thomas Swinnerton (was) admitted to the liberties of the Burrough and payd ... five pounds - admitted and sworn'.

21 Apr.1675. Listed as Burgess present at election of 2 M.P's. (also signed list of Burgesses voting for William Leverson Gower, Suit Roll 1675).

2 Oct.1677. Elected Mill Reeve with John Snowe. 20 Feb.1678. Elected Mill Reeve with John Snowe.

Michaelmas 1679. Elected Overseer of the Poor

" 1680 Elected Serjeant

" 1681 Elected Churchwarden

" 1682 Elected Receiver

31 August 1688 Elected Receiver 'until next account day', also 'Richard Lovatt discharged as Capital Burgess and Thomas Swinnerton elected in his place'.

June 1689 Chosen Capital Burgess

30 Sept. 1690 Appointed (with 3 others) assessors of the Amerciaments for the year.

8 Jan. 1692 Listed with Capital Burgesses as present in the Guildhall for election of M.P. (see also * below)

Michaelmas 1692 Thomas Swinnerton elected overseer of the poor, paid 40s being excused from serving as supervisor of highways next year.

THE CLOCKMAKING SWINNERTONS OF NEWCASTLE cont'd

Michaelmas	1693 1694 1696 1697	Elected Constable Elected Bailiff Elected Bailiff Elected Receiver and Mill Reeve
26 Oct. 26 Jul. 28 Nov. 30 Sept. 24 Jul.	1695) 1697) 1699) 1701 1708	*Present at assembly to elect M.P.'s (Listed with Capital Burgesses) Elected Mill Reeve John Ryley was elected a Capital Burgess in place of Thomas Swinnerton, deceased. (Ryley was a Trustee of the non-conformist meeting house at Newcastle.)

Also in 1701 Churchwardens 'Ordered to pay Thomas Swinnerton £10 for repairing the Chimes he paying out of the said sum the law charges spent on account of his commencing a suit against them!. (I have not been able to find any reference to this in the Newcastle Court Records).

On Jan.9 1700 a lewn of £20 was ordered to be levied for the repair of the church and 'setting the Chimes in order'.

NEWCASTLE QUARTER SESSIONS, Book 1, 1664 - 1717

Thomas appears as Juryman 1700, 1701, 1703, 1705 and 1706. There is also a brief reference to Thomas Swinnerton at the beginning of the Court Baron records.

Madeley Churchwarden's Accounts:

1700 Paid for a clock for the church 05.00.00

Dec. 24 1700 Paid Will. Steel for carrying the old clock to Newcastle and fetching the new
00.01.00

Jan. 2 1702 to Tho. Swinnerton for cleaning the clock

Aug. 3 1705 pd. Tho. Swinnerton for cleaning the clock 4 years and
wire

Apr. 30 1707 to Tho. Swinnerton for cleaning the clock etc.

Mar. 8 1707/8 to Tho. Swinnerton for mending the clock
00.02.06

The Swinnerton clock apparently remained at Madeley until the present clock was installed.

(To be continued)

SWYNNERTON OF YEW TREE (WHITMORE) .- TABLE III.

Arms-Argent, a cross flory sable, over all a bend gules.

Roger Swynnerton, son of Roger Swynnerton, of Butterton; d. about 1493.

Roger Swynnerton, of Whitmore, John Swynnerton, of Whitmore, oc. - Alice; bur. at Whit-Richard Swynnerton, of Whitmore, oc. 1503-1547; d. April, 1547. Ancestor of Swynnerton of Haslington and Betley. 1510-1547; d. June, 1547. oc. 1491-1518. more 24 Sept., 1560 Roger Swynnerton, of Whitmore, son of John Swynner-Amys. Elisabeth, wife of John Oldershaw. ton, oc. 1547; bur. at Whitmore, 22 June, 1875. John Swynnerton, of Whitmore, son of Roger Swynnerton. Living 1547; bur. at Whit-Edward Swynnerton, son - Margaret. Hugh, son of Roger Swyn-Joan, wife of Thomas nerton; bapt. at Whitof Roger Swynnerton; Ryder. more, 14 April, 1560, s.p. bur. at Whitmore, 29 more, 30 May, 1565. Feb., 1635. Edward Swynnerton, son of Ed-Roger Swynnerton, of Yew-Bridget Brough-(1) Katherine, wife of Edward, son of Hugh, =Ellen, bur, at tree Estate; bapt. at Whitmore, 6 May, 1585; ward Swynnerton; bapt. at John Hildershaw. Whitmore, ton, m. Roger of Heath House, Whitmore 12 June, 1583; bur. at Whitmore, 30 Aug., (2) Margaret, d. as-21 Jan., Swynnerton, Trentham; bapt nosa virgo, May, 1675. at Whitmore, 22 1679. bur. 10 March, 1644. 20 April, 1620. 1600, s.p. June, 1600. Edward Swynnerton, of Yew-Sarah; bur. Ralph, bapt. 16 John, bapt. 20 Thomas, bapt. (1) Jane, bapt. Edward, son of (1) Ann. Tree, son of Roger and Bridget Swynnerton; Dec., 1627; bur. 18 Aug., Feb., 1630, "of Beech;" 12 Feb., 1696. 1627; 8 July, 1638. Dec., 1625. Edward and (2) Margaret. Bridget (2) Ann, bur. Ellen; bapt. (3) Ellen. bapt. at Whitmore, 20 29 Jan., 1635. at Whitmore 1683. living 1702. March, 1862; bur. 4 Oct., 1 May, 1636. 1667. Edward Swynnerton, of Yew - Margaret Ma-Roger, d. about Benjamin, bapt. (1) Sarah. John. bapt. 6 Thomas, of New- Joseph, bapt. chyn, bur. 10 Tree; bapt. at Whit-more, 26 Dec., 1649. castle, executor 31 Jan., 1666. 31 Jan., 1666. (2) Mary. Jan., 1664. 1675. June, 1698. of his brother Bur. 2 April, Will dated 6 July, 1702. Edward's will, 1667. 1702. Edward Swynnerton, John Swynnerton, Swynnerton, of Mary, dau. of Thomas ree, bapt. 20 Dec., Turner, of Walgherton, (I) Elizabeth, bapt. 26 Jan., 1694. Joseph, bapt. bapt. 10 Oct., 1688; bur. 10 bapt., 2 April, 1690; bur. 20 Yew Tree, bapt. 20 Dec., 14 April, (2) Margaret, bapt. 1679; wife of 1696. 1691; bur. at Whitco. Chester; d. 23 July, John Stubbe, of Keele. Nov., 1693, April, 1690, s.p. more, 1768. (3) Mary, bapt. 1683; wife of Thomas Stubbs, of Keels. 1763. Edward Swinnerton, = Mary, d. of Tho-Thomas, heir to his Sarah, d. of Wm. Benjamin, Mayor of New-John; bapt. at Joseph; bapt. Whitmore, 10 at Whitmore, 1723; 25 Feb., 1725; Furnivall, of Sandbach; d. at New-castle, 25 Jan., 1812. of Yewtree, son of mas and Eliza-Thomas and Mary; beth Barnes, of bap. at Whitmore, 28 Whitmore. castle in 1762; ancestor brother Edward; bap. | at Whitmore, 5 Feb., of James Swinnerton, who 1720; Mayorof New-castle, 1756; d. at Newcastle, 8 Nov., d. 1800, e.p. was Mayor of Macclesfield d. 1800, s.p. May, 1717; bur. at Whitmore, 19 May, in 1846. See Table V. 1778, s.p. 1796. Thomas Swinnerton, of John; bapt., 29 Aug., 1. William Swinnerton, son of 1. Mary Swinnerton ; Peter Walt 2. Sarah; bapt. at Newcastle, Thomas and Sarah; d. at Newcastle, 3 March, 1761, 22 June, 1764; d. at Bramp-Yewtree; bapt. at 1766; Mayor of bapt. at Newcastle, Esq., hall, ton House, 1839, s.p.

3. Frances; bapt. at Newcastle, 21 Sept., 1759; d. 20 May, 1819. Newcastle, 14 March, Newcastle in 1804; J.P. aged 4 months.

2. William, a 2nd son, d. at 1758; d. without isd. without issue, 27 one, 10 May, 1820. Oct., 1819. 1 Dec., 1768; d. 19 Feb., Newcastle, 11 April, 1763, 1821, s.p. aged 9 months. 4. Margaret; d. in 1839, s.p. 5. Esther; d. in 1848, s.p. Ann Walthall; b. 1798; d. 1858.—James Milnes, Esq., of Woodland and Alton Manor, co. Derby, J.P.; b. 1794; d. 1866. Peter Walthall, M.A., Rector of Wis-Thomas; d.s.p. teston, co. Chester; d. 1825, s.p. Henry Walthall Milnes, M.A., J.P., of Alton Manor; 5. 1829, now living. Ernest Swinnerton Milnes, of Culland House, Eleanor Louisa; dau. of J. B. Thornhill, Eeq., Derby; b. 1833, now living. J.P., late Capt. in 91st Foot.

Reprinted from 'Collections for a History of Staffordshire' (William Salt Archaelogical Society) Vol.VII Part II

The three clockmaking brothers are shown within the outlined 'box'

KNEELERS FOR SWYNNERTON CHURCH

I do hope so. Are you making a Kneeler for us ? If you are a new member and don't know about this, we are hoping to present some new Kneelers to the Church at our Family Service during our Gathering this year. This is a photograph of the first one which was made by Lady Swynnerton.



Several people have asked for the colour numbers as these weren't given on the original instructions. Do please have a go at one - they are great fun. I can also supply a detailed drawing on squared paper if this would be a help.

The colours are :

LIGHT BLUE 0140 BLACK 0403 YELLOW 0295 DARK BLUE 0148 (All numbers for Anchor Wools)

If you require help, write to me and I will put you in touch with someone who has already done one and can advise you.

SWINNERTON

1721	Benj., Jos., of Newcastle L. to John Simpson	
	of Burslem. Potter. £6 47/103	
1721	Jn. to Jos. S. of Newcastle L. join. £6 47/103	
1742	Benj., Thos., to Thos.S. of Newcastle	
	groc. £30 50/230	
1760	Benj. to Thos.Rougth of Pontifract,	
	gros. £21 54/94	

SWINERTON

1732	Jn. Wm.	of Southwark to Jn.Peel. Cit.	
	& Felt.	£5	13/75
1747	Jn. Jn.	dec. to Chas. Nicholls of Presthall	
	Staffs.	atty. £150	18/46

(Where there are 2names, the first is the son who is being apprenticed and the second is the father, e.g. 1721 Benjamin, son of Joseph. etc.)

A HISTORY OF VICTORIA UNIVERSITY

C. B. Sissons 1952

"The failure of the effort to secure a truly provincial university in 1868 was due to a combinsation of untoward circumstances. Certain of these have already been suggested. The inertia of the Legislature merely reflected, however, a fairly widespread apathy with respect to university education. When T. SWINARTON, member for Cardwell, during the debate in December professed to find Cumberland's argument unintelligible and declared that the honourable member would be better employed in advocating two or three common schools for Algoma, he was speaking the thoughts of a considerable section of the people of the province."

(ex W.R.Swinarton)

Many a Family Tree needs trimming. Frank McKinney (1658-1930)

HOW WE/YOU TRACE YOUR FAMILY HISTORY

Having obtained all the information you can from your own family as I outlined in Part I of this series, you must now turn to Public Records. The first and most important of these are the Indexes to Births, Marriages and Deaths which are held at St.Catherine's House in Aldwych, London. These are maintained by the Registrar General — they used to be in Somerset House in the Strand but were moved to St.Catherine's in 1977 and quite recently the Deaths Section has been moved again a few yards up the road to Kingsway House.

Quoting from the offical leaflet :

The main series of records maintained by the Registrar General at St Catherines House relate to births, deaths and marriages registered in England and Wales and births and deaths at sea since 1st July 1837. They are records of separate events and are not linked together in families. Anyone wishing to trace a specific event may well be able to do so by writing to the Registrar General or, rather more cheaply, by spending half an hour or so in the search rooms at St Catherines House where the indexes may be searched free of charge. Fruitless searching can be reduced if one first obtains from family sources and documents, such as the Family Bible and baptismal or memorial cards, as much information as possible about the events being sought.

The registers themselves are not open to inspection. Information from them is supplied in the form of certified copies of entries which can normally be issued within 48 hours if applied for in person or 7/10 days if the matter is arranged by post.

The remarks about "writing to the Registrar General or rather more cheaply " are somewhat amusing — it depends I suppose, on what you mean by cheap. When I started researching the Family History, certificates cost 3/6d each, today if you apply by post they are £8.00 but if you go yourself they are only £3.50! However, many of them are vital to our research and this is why we set up our Research Fund last year.

To obviate frequent visits, many years ago I started to extract <u>all</u> the Swinnertons from the indexes, this vast task was taken over and continued by John Swinnerton and we now have a complete extract of all Swinnerton (and its variations of spelling) Births, Marriages

and Deaths from July 1837 to December 1979. John updates this once a year with the latest crop.

These indexes are also held in Local Registry Offices and it is often easier if you know the place and have a good idea of the date, to go and search there but the reference numbers from the St.Catherine's indexes are of no use to you and, for a marriage, it is essential that you know the name of the church.

There are other useful records at St.Catherine's including Births and Deaths at sea 1st July 1837 - 31st Dec. 1874; Births, Marriages and Deaths of British Citizens overseas (Consular Records) which start at the 1st July 1849; Returns of the same for the Army from 1761 on and for the RAF from its formation in 1920 on.

Quoting again from the official leaflet which puts it very succintly.

The records, however, are

concerned with individual events and not with pedigrees. It may therefore be necessary to make a series of searches to trace the lines of descent back to 1837. For example if a person wishes to trace the record of his father's birth but does not know when he was born it may be necessary first to search for the record of the father's marriage (working backwards from the date of birth of the eldest child of the family). This, when found, should give the bridegroom's age and the name of his father, and will so give a starting point for tracing and identifying the record of the birth concerned. A certificate of that birth will give the names of the parents, including the mother's maiden surname and the process may be repeated for the preceding generation.

This is the essence of the problem, you MUST work BACK-WARDS, logically and in sequence — there are no short cuts (if you try, you will very likely climb the wrong 'tree') and the worst possible thing you can do it to pick a 'name' out of history and try and come forward to yourself.

.... (to be continued)

(Note: At the time of going to press notification has just been received that the cost of certificates from 1st April 1981 is going up yet again to £8.50 and £4.00 respectively).

Julton

VOLUME LXXXI, NO. 52

British Travel Agents

By DWIGHT HARVEY

Want to take a train ride from London to Hong Kong with stops in Paris, Berlin, Moscow and Peking along the way?

First drive north on Route 655 to Waterfall, then take a right to Saltillo and stop at the old East Broadtop Railroad station.

That's not where the train will be. But it is the location of Michael and Linda Swinnerton's travel agency. And they can schedule a tour such as the one above or any of a hundred others.

What!? A travel agency in Saltillo? "That's what everyone says," chuckled Mike Swinnerton.

But the explanation of how the Swinnertons came to America from England and then moved their New York travel agency to Saltillo, of all places, is really very simple.

Their story starts on Mike's fifth birthday in Coventry, the English city where he was born and raised. For a

birthday present, he was given a toy train set.

That toy train sparked a love of railroads in the small boy that has lasted to this day. Although Mike readily

admits he went through a period in his teen years when he was more interested

in girls than trains.

Mike indulges his love of trains in several ways. For one thing, he collects model trains and has a large selection, from all over Europe.

He also collects railroad memorabilia, such as signs and posters, from working railroads. And he visits unusual railroads and takes rides on rare trains in such places as Portugal, Italy. and Cass. West Virginia.

Perhaps the best indication of how seriously Mike takes his interest in trains, however, is the fact that he went

to work for one.

For 15 years he was employed by British Railways, the English train system that is owned and operated by the government. It was Mike's work for British Rail that first brought him to America.

The company sent him in 1977 to their New York office to sell English train travel to Americans. He was to work here for three years and then return to England.

But when his wife Linda, also a British Rail employee, came over here to be with him, she started her own business in New York. Familiar with Europe, she set up shop to sell tickets for land travel to American tourists who fly to the Continent.

Business was very good, and Linda was soon representing several European companies, selling their tickets here. The Swinnertons decided to stay in America.

Then a New York friend took them on a little trip to see the Broadtop Railroad. The Swinnertons fell in love with the countryside in the Broadtop area and were enchanted by the historic railroad.

MOUNTH LSBURG PAGES

DECEMBER 4, 1980

Buy Old Saltillo Hotel

Walking the old Broadtop rail line, they ended up at Saltillo at the train station. Linda wandered across the road Mike said, to the old La Palace Hotel and came back velling, "It's for sale. It's for sale."

The setting was just what the Swinnertons had been looking for, Linda explained. A place in the country with a narrow-gauge railroad and a train station across the street.

Since the Swinnertons travel agency business is done mostly by phone and mail it didn't have to be located in New York.

So they bought the old La Palace and an old brick store building beside it. Mike moved in August and Linda followed in September.

"And there's no way you could get me to go back to New York," Mike said emphatically.

The Swinnertons have started to renovate the old store building and hope to move their travel agency office there sometime next year. Right now the office is set up in a room off the kitchen of the La Palace where Mike and Linda

Also living in the hotel and working with the travel agency business is Julie Turner, another English girl who came to America on vacation and called on the Swinnertons through an ad they had placed in the New York Times.

"She stayed to stuff brochures and she's been here ever since." Mike

The travel agency, named Express International, handles arrangements for land travel (by bus, car, train) for tour groups and individuals overseas. While most of the arrangements are made for other agencies which set up package tours. Mike, Linda and Julie will take customers "off the street."

"We don't have anything to do with airlines." Mike said.

But with the couple's obvious interest in trains, they do handle some unusual and interesting rail tours.

One is the London to Hong Kong trip aboard the Central Kingdom Express, billed as "one of the world's last great iourneys."

Another is the Nostalgic Orient Express, a trip from Germany to Constantinople complete with Swiss chefs and dancing, aboard some of the 1929 Pullman cars from the fabled Orient Express.

And all the trips can be scheduled right here in Saltillo.

An admitted "city boy," Mike is apparently having fun learning the country ways of Saltillo. Although he never hunted before, he's gotten squirrels and a pheasant this fall and said he was looking forward to deer season.

He took plow in hand for the first time last week and plowed up a huge backyard garden which he said will be his wife's responsibility.

"She loves to garden," he said.

A young couple in their early 30's. the Swinnertons are expecting their first child in January. And they are also glad the child will be able to grow up in the country instead of New York.



FAMILY NOTES

Our congratulations to MICHAEL and LINDA SWINNERTON (see previous pages) on the birth of a son RUSSELL MICHAEL on the 17th January 1981.

* * * * * *

Change of address.

Mr.W.E.Swinnerton has now completed his job in America and he and Mrs.Swinnerton will be returning to the U.K. on April 19th when they will be living at

* * * * *

We welcome the following new members :

Miss CAROLE ANNE SWINARTON

Miss KELLY LYNN SWINARTON

Miss LAURIE ROBIN SWINARTON

Miss LINDSAY ELLEN SWINARTON

Carole, Kelly and Laurie are the daughters of our Hon.
Member Bill Swinarton, Lindsay is his niece and also
the niece of member John Joseph Swinarton. She is the
daughter of Harold Lloyd Swinarton and at under 1 year
old has to be our youngest member.

Robert M. Swinnerton,

Mrs. I. D. Swinnerton,

Mrs. G. Morton,

Mrs. M. Steill,

Mr. S.C. Saunders,

Mrs. Jane Swinnerton Ophuls,

In addition, as a result of our new P.R.O., Mr. Joe Swinnerton's recruiting drive by writing to 'names' in the telephone directory the following have joined us:

J. W. Swinnerton

J. Swinnerton

J. Swinnerton

T.H. Swinnerton

D.J. Swinnerton

E. Swinnerton

R.A. Swinnerton

D.R.Swinnerton-Beet

Mrs.S.Davies

B. Swinnerton

Mrs.M.R.Swinnerton

A.J. Swinnerton

As there are so many this time, fuller biographies of each will follow.

We are grateful to our PRO for his efforts as we are to Bill Swinarton of Canada who is responsible for introducing many of our North American members and to Mrs. Eunice Byfield of Australia who has been passing the word around amongst her acquaintances over there. Mrs. Helen Swinnerton of Crib Point, Australia is currently doing a mailing shot for Australia in the same fashion.

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR SUBSCRIPTION ?

I do hope you will continue to support us - as we go to press, 36 members have not yet done so ! If you are one of them, a reminder is enclosed.

The Directory for 1981 is also enclosed, this lists all our members at 1st January 1981 - since then, of course, we have had a very welcome influx of new blood who will appear in the next edition which willbe a special one for the Gathering.

PUBLICATIONS OF THE SWINNERTON SOCIETY

Swinnerton Family History
(The Journal of the Society)

Vol.1 1974-75 (Indexed) (10 issues in Binder)
Inc.postage - U.K. £2.50, airmail USA/CANADA \$8, AUSTRALIA/NZ £3.80

Vol.2 1975-77 (Indexed) (10 issues in Binder)
Inc.postage - U.K. £2.50, airmail USA/CANADA \$8 AUSTRALIA/NZ £3.80

Vol.3 1977-79 (Indexed) (10 issues in Binder)
Inc.postage - U.K. £2.50 airmail USA/CANADA \$10 AUSTRALIA/NZ £4.60

Swynnerton & the Swynnertons (1971)
by the Rev.B.T.Swinnerton
Inc.postage - U.K. £0.75, airmail USA/CANADA \$3, AUSTRALIA/NZ £1.25
Swinnerton Family Trees Vol.1 (1974)
Inc.postage - U.K. £0.75, airmail USA/CANADA \$4, AUSTRALIA/NZ £1.50

Reprints of the works by the Rev. Charles Swynnerton

No.1 Two Early Staffordshire Charters (1979)
Inc.postage - U.K. £1.00, airmail USA/CANADA \$3, AUSTRALIA/NZ £1.35

No.2 Two Ancient Petitions from the Public Record Office (1979)

Inc.postage - U.K. £1.00, airmail USA/CANADA \$3, AUSTRALIA/NZ £1.30

No.3 Introduction to "A History of the Family of Swynnerton" (1979)

Inc.postage - U.K. £1.00, airmail USA/CANADA \$3, AUSTRALIA/NZ £1.45

**** Please send Dollar Notes (USA/CANADA) wherever possible - we can lose as much as 55p in changing a \$ cheque.