

Swinerton Family History

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The Swinnerton Society

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

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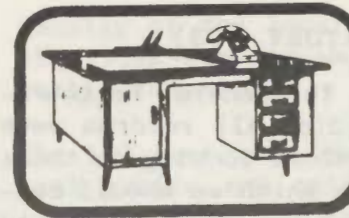
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From the Editor's desk

On the 9th May, the Rev.Edward Swinnerton organised our first 'Mini-gathering' at Hambleton Church Hall for members from the North West i.e. Lancashire, Merseyside and North Cheshire. The 23 members of the family who attended listened to a short speech of welcome by our host and then to a short talk by myself on the history of the Society and the current state of research into the family history. This was followed by a superb tea prepared by Mrs.Doris Swinnerton and her daughters. Throughout the afternoon I was kept busy answering questions, explaining the trees and exhibits I had brought (our embryonic photograph collection aroused particular interest) and selling the society's books and pottery.

Those present ranged from one of our octagenarian members to a 2 year old - a difficult age range to cover but everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and we were delighted to meet 4 of our new members for the first time.

I hope we will be able to hold these in other districts (would you be willing to organise one in your area ?) and our very grateful thanks go to the Rev.Edward and his family for all their efforts which made the meeting such a success.

Our main Bi-Annual Gathering is being held at Swynnerton on the 5th September this year. Will you be there ? A booking form is enclosed, please let me have it back as soon as possible - I know it is still some time away but there is a great deal of advance preparation to be done and the more notice I have, the easier it makes the job for me.

We already know of 10 coming from America/Canada and we hope to have a good turnout from our home members.

HOW WE TRACE YOUR FAMILY HISTORY (3)

Prior to 1837 (the starting date for General Registration dealt with in the last article) all records were in the hands of the Church but before looking at those there are one or two other sources which we should consult first as these can give us clues to the area in which our ancestors lived.

The most important of these is the Census. You have just had to complete a Census Form - perhaps you thought it was a frightful chore but to the genealogists of 100 years hence, the information you gave will be invaluable. There has always been opposition to a Census in keeping with the British Character - the idea was first mooted in Parliament in the middle 1700's but it was 1801 before the first one was actually taken. Since then they have been held every 10 years (with the exception of 1941) but the first three were only counts of heads and it was not until 1841 that names, ages, etc. were given.

The 1841 Census is of limited value as for those over 15 it only gives the age rounded down to the nearest 5 years, it does not give any relationship and it only says Yes or No to the question whether the person was born in the County of residence or not. Curiously, though, it does tell whether a person was blind, deaf or dumb.

From 1851 onwards, however, the information is much fuller and as it gives an accurate age (remember, however, that the Census-taker would only have written down what he was told, - no documentation evidence had to be produced), the exact relationship to the Head of the household and, perhaps most valuable of all for our purposes, the place of birth, you can see that a lot of very useful information can be gleaned from it.

One used to be able to examine the original books but due to wear and tear, these have now been micro-filmed and there are copies of these films in many local libraries, record offices, etc. However, these are

usually of the local area only and if you want to see the films for the whole country, you have to go to the Public Record Office in London.

The 100 year rule applies, that is members of the general public are only allowed to examine the films of censuses over 100 years old but for those later than that, you have to pay for a specific search to be made by an official and you have to produce a very good reason for requiring the information. This, of course is to protect the confidentiality of the census as there may be details of people who are still living contained in it.

Thus, at the moment, we are only allowed to examine the Censuses for 1841, 1851, 1861 and 1871 - the 1881 Census will not be available for public inspection until April 1982.

Here is a typical example of an entry from the 1851 Census for a member of our family.

NAME	Rel.	Status	Age	Occupation	Birth Place
JAMES SWINNERTON	M	Head	53	Bricklayer	Betley
Hannah	"	M Wife	50		Madeley
HENRY	"	U Son	9	Scholar	Betley
DANIEL	"	U Son	5	Scholar	Betley
SARAH	"	Wid.Mother	78	Bricklayer's widow	Ches.Acton

BESS of HARDWICK

David N. Durrant
1977

Tutbury Castle

One Swinnerton was in a brawl with another servant of Henry, son of Bess of Hardwick, and the other had been killed in the 1570's. Henry wrote to his mother about it. (p.81) She sent Henry's letter on to the Earl of Shrewsbury, her husband. Swinnerton was described as a "vane lewd fellow" !!

ex Eunice Wilson

THE CLOCKMAKING SWINNERTONS of NEWCASTLE, (Part II)

Continuing the story of the first brother THOMAS :-

NEWCASTLE PARISH REGISTERS (Published Part II)

1708 Burials. Thomas Swinnerton, Clockmaker.

WILL signed 5 Jul.1708 in the presence of Joseph Swinnerton, John Redshaw and John Riley.

Probate granted Cheadle 14 Oct.1708 to Sarah Swinnerton (sister) and Mrs.Saml.Machin of Seabridge (described in will as 'my loving kinsman' - presumably related to Edward Swynnerton of Yewtree's wife Margaret Machyn). She was also with Thomas, an executor of Edward Swynnerton's will dated July 1702.

Redshaw was a Newcastle Clockmaker apprenticed to Thomas Swinnerton, he was made a freeman 29 Jan.1711 and he, Saml.Machin and John Riley were all Trustees of the Old Meeting House.

The will mentions the land 'lying beyond Gallowtree hill' being his wife's portion 'within Stoake Court' bequeathed to 'nephew Edward Swinnerton second son of my brother Joseph Swinnerton'; the rest of the estate was left to his sister Sarah. His wife is not mentioned and was presumably dead by this date. I do not know her name unfortunately.

The entry in the Newcastle Register of Burials Jul.25 1714 Sarah Swinnerton buried, and in the Wolstanton Register 13 Nov.1686 John Bull and Sarah Swinnerton married, may be relevant, but presumably only the former refers to Thomas' sister.

In NEWCASTLE PARISH REGISTERS: 5 Nov.1693 we find Thomas Swinnerton and Mary Harrison married. (I do not know which Thomas Swinnerton this is).

STOKE ON TRENT CHURCHWARDEN'S ACCOUNTS (Published A.Hilton John)

1589-1702

1691 Paid unto Thomas Swinnerton for ye repareation of ye Beel	02-00-00
1695 Spent att John Shaw Meeting Thomas Swinnerton	00-01-00
1695 Pd.to Tho.Swinnerton ffor his workmanship att ye Bells and ironwork	10-11-00
1695 Spent wn I Bargained wth Tho.Swinnerton to hang ye Bells	00-10-00
1695 Spent wn I Bargained with Tho.Swinnerton for ye clock	00-00-06
1695 Pd to Thos.Swinnerton for a New Clock and painting ye dial board, he having the old clock	06-00-00
1702 Pd. to Choz.Swinnerton for mending ye clock since 1695 and for mending bells	15s.00d

The Clockmaking Swinnertons of Newcastle, (Part II) cont'd

There is also an entry for 1653 :

Received of Thos.Swinnerton for a buriall 0-10-0

but I can trace no Swinnerton burial at Stoke from 1652-4

Pape (p.179) gives a list of benefactors of the Newcastle dissenting meeting house which includes 'By Mr.Swinnerton £10' - this could be Thomas. In Ch.6 on the Meeting House, Pape also refers to the certification of the House of Thomas Swinnerton at the Quarter Sessions 22 Dec.1691 as a place of worship under the Toleration Act 1689, allowing dissenters to hold assemblies for worship. (See also Quarter Sessions Minute Books 1669-1717, and Staffs. Hist. Coll. 4th Series Vol.III)

I know of two lantern clocks by Thomas Swinnerton, both with verge and balance wheel escapements, and both in America - slides of one are enclosed which you can keep. I have also seen a picture of a longcase ('Grandfather') clock by him although its present whereabouts are not known.

I am interested in the references to Thomas Swinnerton in the Deeds of Ernest Swinnerton Milnes mentioned in the Staffs.Hist.Coll.Vol.VII Account of the Swinnerton Family which apparently include agreement of 1 Feb.1703 in which Thomas Swinnerton 'of Newcastle-under-Lyme ... the guardian of Thomas Swinnerton, son and heir of Edward Swinnerton deceased' leases the 'Ewetree property' in Whitmore to Richard Allman of Keele for 3 years at £60 p.a. Are these deeds still in existence ? If so, I would be very grateful to have any information there on Thomas, John or Joseph of Newcastle, or on the Yewtree property - if possible photo or xerox copies of the papers concerned. Also I would be interested to know where the Yewtree at Whitmore was and if it still exists. I assume it was on the site of the present 'Yewtree Farm' on the Keele-Whitmore road south of the M6 which is noted on the current O.S.map. I will contact the owner and see if any of the old buildings still exist.

Perhaps you also know of other sources referring to the Clockmaking Swinnertons. I suppose it is too much to hope that there is an existing portrait of Thomas the Clockmaker ? The reference mentioned in your letter was to the journal 'Antiquarian Holology', I think, which I have seen.

Obituary

Seldom has the membership of the Society been reduced so much by death as during the last year and among those who have died occur the names of some who by reason of their literary work or other activities should be recorded in our *Transactions*.

Rev. CHARLES SWYNNERTON, F.S.A. (d. 17 November 1928) was formerly on the Ecclesiastical Establishment in India, and saw considerable active service with the army. He joined the Society in 1914 and was appointed Member of Council in 1916.

As vicar of Leonard Stanley, Mr Swynnerton became much interested in the history of his church and the results of his research were embodied in papers printed in *Archaeologia* (1921-2) lxxi, 199-226, in our *Transactions* (1922) xlv, 221-69, the *Church Builder*, July 1915, pp. 84-91, and *Antiquaries Journal*, January 1929, pp. 13-25. Papers on other aspects of the history of Leonard Stanley, and of Stonehouse, have also appeared in recent volumes of *Transactions* and at the time of his death he was preparing for the present one further notes on Gloucestershire charters.

Mr Swynnerton was a member of the William Salt Archaeological Society, to whose publications he contributed some valuable papers. He was also the author of *Romantic Tales from the Punjab*, of which a second edition has been published recently by the Oxford University Press.

* * * * *

A 16th CENTURY DIVINE.
Thomas Swinnerton studied at Oxford and Cambridge, B.A., 1515-16, M.A., 1519. As Roberts, preached under the assumed name of Thomas Roberts fled abroad, 1553, on the accession of Queen Mary, died and buried 1564 at Emden in East Friesland. [Alum. Oxon].
The Dictionary of National Biography says he was a Protestant divine, son of Robert Swinnerton, of Swinnerton. Was he of the same family as Henry Swinnerton, burgers in 1687?

QUERIST.

THE WILL OF HENRY SWINNERTON, OF SHREWSBURY.

[117 D7ax]. Henry Swinnerton, of Shrewsbury, Draper. To my loving Mistress Martha Harwood, widow, £10. To her daughter, Mistress Martha Harwood, spinister, £20. To John, Thomas, Edward, Anne, Mary and Abigail Harwood, the sonnes and daughters of my said Mistress Harwood, £10 each. To my friend, Mrs. Jane Higginson, £10. Fifty pounds to the poor householders of St. Chad's, in the parish of Shrewsbury. Mentions: Richard Presland, draper, and Joseph Pearson, cutler, both of Shrewsbury; John Manning, of Chomey, Chasser; Ruth Bateman, of Black Parke, near Whitchurche, widow; Ruth Bateman, daughter of the said Ruth Bateman; my father in law, Mr. John Harvey; my sister in law, Elizabeth Trevor, and her children; my sister, Margaret Burridge. Mentions: John Pitchford, of Shrewsbury, cabinet maker; Mrs. Bennett, of St. Chad's; Mr. Edwards, of Newport, to preach my funeral sermon; Lucy Minners, widow; Lydia Perry, servant to Mrs. Harwood.

My Mistress Martha Harwood and my friend, Mr. Richard Pristland and Mr. Joseph Pearson, executors. Witnesses: Thomas Lloyd, Saml. Warth, Arthur Tonge. Proved 22 Oct., 1683.

Henry Swinnerton, grocer, was admitted a burgess of Shrewsbury in 1661, and John Harwood, grocer, in 1668. The former came from Wrexham; the latter was son of John Harwood, of Hawburne, Co. Berks.

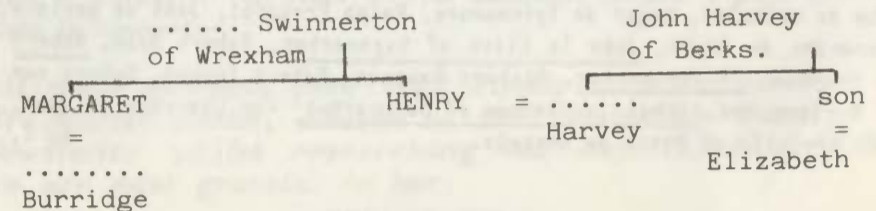
These two newspaper cuttings were sent to me recently and are taken from "CARADOC NEWSPAPER CUTTINGS" Vol.18 p.12. They appeared in the 'Shrewsbury Chronicle' 20 March 1931.

The first one, of course, deals with Thomas Swinnerton, the famous divine who was the subject of "Who was Who in the Swinnerton Family No.1". To my knowledge, there is no connection between him and Henry Swinnerton of Shrewsbury.

This Henry, as the cutting says, appears in the Shrewsbury Burgesses Roll - 1681. Henry Swinnerton of S(hrewsbury) grocer, s. of -- of Wrexham. B.149

His burial is recorded at St.Chad's, Shrewsbury on 8 Aug.1683 but so far we have not succeeded in placing him in the family.

From the information given we can compile the following little tree



HENRY III 1216 - 1235 p.34 membr 12

1217 De ecclesia collata. - Magister Robertus de Chebbesye habet litteras domini regis de presentacione ad ecclesiam de Swynnerton vacantem et ad donacionem domine regis spectantem racione terre Roberti di Swynnerton qui est cum inimicis domini regis, in manu sua existens Teste comite, apud Rading, xxiiij die Februarii, anno regni domini regis primo. Per eundem.

EDWARD I 1292 - 1301 p.620 membr 32d

Nettleham Jan.28 1301. Commission of oyer & terminer to Roger le Brabazon & John de Wasteneys, touching the persons who assaulted Stephen, parson of the Church of Swynnerton, clerk of Thomas earl of Lancaster, the king's nephew at Stafford, co.Stafford and carried away his goods. By p.s.

The commission appeared to be ineffective because we next get :-

EDWARD I 1301 - 1307 p.346 membr 16d

1305 March 11, Westminster. Commission of oyer & terminer to William de Mortuo Mari, Roger de Bella Fago and William de Mere, touching the persons who assaulted Stephen, parson of the church of Swynnerton, clerk of Thomas, earl of Lancaster, the king's nephew, at Stafford, co.Stafford and carried away his goods.

Result not known !

EDWARD II 1307 - 13 p.228-9 membr 5

1310 May 25, Kennington. Pardon to John de Swynnerton, John son of Adam de Wethales, Roger de Tytnesoure, Ralph Proudfoot, John de Bentele, Alexander de Adele, John le Clerk of Swynnerton, Robert Bole, Robert de Stedeman of Swynnerton, Richard Baseson, Robert Trypon, Robert son of Margery and 'Ithel Jonesknav of Swynnerton' for the rape of Joan, late the wife of Peter de Gresele. By K.

EDWARD II 1313 - 1317 p.356 membr 20.

1315 October 6, Walsingham. Licence to Roger de Swynnerton to crenellate his dwelling place of Swynnerton, co.Stafford. By K. on the information of R.de Northburgh.

EDWARD II 1313 - 1317 p.416 membr 20d.

1315 October 4, Kings Lynne. Commission of oyer & terminer to J.de Hastings, W.de Darce, H. de Louther and W.Trussel of Notehurst touching the persons who killed John de Swynnerton at Eccleshale, co.Stafford. By p.3

p.492

1316 - --. Commission to Fulk Lestraunge, William Trussel the elder and William de Stafford to deliver the gaol of Stafford of Gilbert de Cottesmore, Thomas le Porter, Geoffrey Gilbardenman and Robert le Fisshere, prisoners for the death of John de Swynnerton.

EDWARD II 1317 - 1321 p.593 membr 6.

1321 June 1, Westminster. Mandate to Vivian de Staundon to deliver the castle of Hardelagh to Roger de Swynnerton to whom the king has granted the custody thereof, or to Adam de Wetenhale, his attorney.

Also in this volume pp.53, 418 and 484 (this latter no. concerns Richard de S. - complaint of assault and Roger de S. son of Roger de S. complaint of assault).

In 1307-13 is an entry 1310 re Roger de S. and John, his brother and Elkin de S. on the rape of Joan (p.307)

1308 - an entry re Richard, parson of Swynnerton (p.136)

In 1313-17, p.25 on - is a list of Pardons to adherents of Thos. earl of Lancaster for death of P.de Gavaston, including Roger and John de Swynnerton.

All these extracts very very kindly done for us by Mrs.Muriel Reson, Editor of the Coplestone Family Newsletter whilst researching her own family and we are most grateful to her.

GENEALOGICAL MAGAZINE OF NEW JERSEY

Vol.29 pp.13, 14. Essex County Gravestones. The Old Newark Burying Ground. 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. (See letter from James Swinnerton of New Berlin, N.Y. to the Editor, Newark Sunday Call, Sept. 8 1901.

Vol.6 p.92 Blauvelt Bible. The following records are from an old Dutch Bible formerly belonging to the late Mrs. Mary Swinerton and now in possession of Mrs. P. English of Spring Valley, N.Y. (Jan. 1931). Note: The contents of the Bible are Dutch names and I think have no connections with the Swinnertons).

AN UNUSUAL SOURCE

One would never normally think of Insurance Policies as a source of Family History but, as you will see, these old policies give valuable information about the life-style and standing of the Insured. These extracts relate to SAMUEL SWINNERTON and his son, (also a Samuel) who were members of the family from Gloucestershire who moved to London and then emigrated to America. Samuel was the great-great-grandfather of the REV. HENRY ULYATE SWINNERTON (see SFH.3 p.65) and the ancestor of our members Mrs. Diana Cunningham, Mr. P.S. Lum, Mrs. Marjorie Culley, Mr. Philip Culley, Mr. Charles Felix and Mrs. Susan Hammen.

They have been kindly extracted for us by Mr. David Hawkings, a member of the Society of Genealogists who lives in West Drayton and who has now finally succeeded in locating the site of the White Hard at Colnbrook. He hopes to be able to show it to any descendant who comes to the Gathering this year as it is, of course, very close to Heathrow Airport.

POLICIES with the SUN INSURANCE Co.

No.	Ms.	Date
No. 794660	Ms. 11937/73	15 Oct. 1806
SAMUEL SWINNERTON SENR. and SAMUEL SWINNERTON JUNR. both of Colnbrook in Middx. Innholders.		
On their new Dwelling House, Taphouse, Cellars and Offices, etc. adjoining/called the White Hart Inn/situate as aforesaid. Bricked and Tiled not exceeding Eight Hundred Pounds		
Household goods, wearing apparel, printed books and plate therein not exceeding two hundred and sixty pounds.		800
China and Glass therein only not exceeding forty pounds		200
Stock and utensils of goods in Trust therein only not exceeding three hundred pounds		40
Three Stables with lefts and granaries over adjoining and to the above not communicating not exceeding two hundred pounds		300
Stock and utensils therein only not exceeding one hundred pounds		200
Ten stables with lefts and granaries over and Offices all adjoining near not exceeding six hundred pounds		100
Stock and Utensils therein only not exceeding three hundred pounds		600
Coach-house only near not exceeding thirty pounds		300
Barn & Offices adjoining near not exceeding two hundred pounds		30
Stock and utensils therein only not exceeding One hundred pds.		200
Stock and utensils in Rick Yard, not exceeding Seventy pds.		100
from lefts such hay or corn as shall be destroyed or damaged by Natural heat.		70
		3000

No.	Ms.	Date
No. 796588	Ms. 11937/74	10 Nov. 1806
SAMUEL SWINNERTON JUNR. of Colnbrook, Innholder.		
On four houses on South Side of HAZE POUND, Southwark, brick and tiled and two houses adjoining to above.		
		£ 500
On two houses adjoining in GREAT HAZE POUND, near, brick and tiled		
		£ 100
		£ 600

No.	Date
No. 907395	12 July 1815
SAMUEL SWINNERTON of Colnbrook, Middx. Innholder	
On two houses adjoining being No. 39 & 40 Great Haze pound (sic) Southwark in tenure of Mrs. Laless and Mr. Dewsett. Brick and tiles	
	£ 100
Four houses adjoining in south side of Haze Pound (? or Pond) aforesaid in tenure of Brierton, Wilkins and others	
	£ 350
Two houses adjoining to last above in tenure of Mandy & Kendal	
	£ 150
	£ 600

No.	Date
No. 910769	17 Oct. 1815
SAMUEL SWINNERTON of Colnbrook, Middx. Innholder	
On a House & Offices all adjoining in Clapham Road Place, Surrey in tenure of Mr. Blackburn, private, brick and tiled	
	£ 400

NOTES ON THE FAMILY OF SWYNNERTON, OF SWYNNERTON AND OTHER PLACES IN CO. STAFFORD.—III.

BY THE REV. CHARLES SWYNNERTON, CHAPLAIN IN BENGAL.

"Swynerton was the seat of that knightly and ancient family of Swynerton in Staffordshire."^a In early Saxon times it was a royal residence.^b The Manor comprises the whole of Swynerton and part of Stone, and contains in all 7,219a. Or. 28p.^c In the reign of Edward the Confessor it was held by the Saxon Broder.^d Passing at the Conquest into the hands of the ancestor of the Swynnertons, it gave the family the surname which they have ever since borne. In old MSS., Church Registers, and on old seals the name is spelt variously, as Swynarton, Swynmarston, Swynerton, Swynnerton, Swinerton, Swinnerton, Swynton, Swynoferton, Sonerton, Sonnertone, Swennerton, and Swynesorton.^e In Domesday it is Solvertune.

As mentioned in a former paper, the ancient manorial residence of the Lords of Swynerton stood at the bottom of the hill south of the present mansion. In old charters the place was called "The Castle and Manor of Swynerton." The Castle was surrounded by a moat. Its site is still visible on an island in the small lake into which the original moat has been expanded. None of the foundations exist.

In this warm and sheltered situation the descendants of Norman Alan, the Swynnertons, and also their successors the Fitzherberts, from 1563, resided until the Civil Wars, when the house was destroyed by an order of Parliament, as appears from an extract from the MS. Journal of the Parliamentary Commission at Stafford:—"Feb. 29, 1643. That Keele House be forthwith demolished by Capt. Barber's souldiers, and that Mr. Fitzherbert's house at Swinnerton be forthwith demolished by Capt. Stim's souldiers."^f The house at Swynerton was accordingly destroyed, though Keele House was after all allowed to remain unmolested.^g

The old Church at Swynerton belongs to two periods. Part of it is early Norman, probably not later than 1100. The rest, including the chancel, is of the reign of Henry III. (1240-1260). The Lady Chapel on the south side of the chancel was added as a mortuary chapel by Lord Roger de Swynerton, Baron of the Realm, in the early part of Edward III.'s reign. The Norman fabric was built and the living endowed by either the first or second Lord of the Manor,^h

^a Society of Antiquaries, MS. 99, p. 197, temp. Elizabeth.

^b Camden's Britannia, by Gough, vol. ii., p. 507, where he notes: "N.W. of Stone is Swinnerton, the estate of a family of its name from the Conquest to the reign of Henry VIII., when it passed to the Fitzherberts of Norbury, in Derbysire, by marriage with the heiress of Swinnerton, to whom it now belongs. It was anciently a Royal Seat, and had a market now disused."

^c Fitzherbert Records, Swynerton.

^d Domesday Book.

^e Publications of the Record Commissioners, Pt. 1, p. 406, No. 28.

^f This is curious as being still the local pronunciation of the name. It occurs on a seal at Hilton of "Margaret de Sonnertone," wife of Sir John de Swynerton, 13 Dec., 1372. Also in certain old Church Registers.

^g Assiz. Rolls, vol. i., p. 291, 56 Henry III., Stafford Library.

^h Fitzherbert Records at Swynerton, vol. i., p. 160.

ⁱ Ibid.

^j Foot of Fine, 2 Hen. III., 1218, No. 1, vol. i., Salt Library, Stafford, where Sir Rob. de Swynerton establishes claim to advowson by right of his descent from the Norman Founder.

most likely the latter. The later building was due to the munificence of Sir John de Swynerton and Margery, his wife, living in 32 Hen. III., 1247-8.^k The Church has been lately restored by the present Rector and Patron, the Rev. W. Taylor. It is dedicated to St. Mary, and in the King's Books was rated at £10 2s. 6d.^l

1. Alan de Swynerton, the first Lord. In the early part of the present century there existed an old Swynerton pedigree, of which the late accomplished Mr. Edward Jones thus writes: "While on a visit at Butterton, about five miles from Swinnerton Park, on 19th Dec., 1829, Mr. Swinnerton^m shewed me this pedigree, which his father, the late William Swinnerton, told him had been compiled by his father, Thomas, in 1712, at an expense of £1,500, which he [the grandson] greatly murmured at. The date and other notices in the handwriting of Thomas Swinnerton are interspersed with it."ⁿ From this pedigree he quotes the title and introduction as follows: "Hoc stemma antiquitissimæ familiæ Swinnerton ex archivis in Turre Londineusi, aliisque rotulis in Officio Armorum alibique remanentibus quanta fieri potest diligentia et fide collectum est." The family derived its name from the Lordship of Swinnerton, and was at an early period of knightly and baronial degree. Erdeswick says that in 20 Conqueror, A.D. 1085, "COMES ALANUS held Swinnerton of Robert de Stafford, and that this Alain is ancestor of the Swinnertons. Holinshed, in his Chronicle, states that when the Conqueror laid siege before York, he advanced, at the request of his queen, Maud, his nephew Alane, Earl of Britain, with the gift of all those lands that sometime belonged to Earl Edwine,^o and calls him a man of stout stomach, and one that would defend what was given to him. In Tailleurs Cronical of Normandie, in the catalogue of the noblemen that came into England with the Conqueror, this Alain is called Alain Fergant, Earl of Britaine."

I should be glad to feel assured that the suggestion here thrown out is true, namely, that Alan, Comte de Bretagne, and Alan de Swynerton were identical. The Count of Brittany possessed no fewer than 442 manors in England, and Swynerton may have been one of them. The house of "Comes Alanus" became founder of more than one of the knightly families of the period.

The extract from Domesday referred to by Erdeswick is as follows: "Staffordshire Terra de Roberti de Statford in Percolle Hund. Isd R ten II Hid in Sulvertune & Aslen de eo Broder tenuit & liber homo fecit Tra e VIII car in Dmo e una & X villi & V Bord cu VI car Ibi X ac Pti silva I Leve Ig & I Lat. Valet XL solid." Rendered thus: "Staffordshire. Land of Robert de Stafford in Pirehill Hundred. The same Robert holds two hides in Swynerton, and Alan holds

^k Ibid., No. 149, p. 585.

^l Lewis' Top. Dict.

^m He was the last of the Swinnertons of Butterton, a branch of the family which had existed on the same spot for five centuries, being descended from Thomas Swinnerton of Butterton and Maud Latimer, temp Edward II. (Vinc. Coll. Pat. et Clo. Rolls, p. 156, 157).

ⁿ Fitzherbert Records, p. 148.

^o Note that Earl Eadwine's chief stronghold was probably in Co. Stafford: "Our one writ in those parts (Cod. Dipt. iv. 201) is addressed to Earl Eadwine in Staffordshire, and the entries of properties held in that shire and in Cheshire by him and his father are endless." Freeman's Norman Conquest, vol. ii., p. 561.

them of him. Broder held them and was a freeman. The land contains 8 carucates, one of them in demesne, and 10 villeins and 5 borderers with 6 carucates. There are 10 acres of meadow, a wood one mile long and one broad. It is worth 40 shillings."

What is undoubtedly true is that Alan de Swynnerton, the founder of the family, held among other manors a knight's fief at Swynnerton of Robert, Earl of Stafford, that at the Conquest he succeeded Broder the Saxon, and that he was living at the time of the Domesday Survey in 1086, when he was probably not less than fifty years old.

2. Sir Robert de Swynnerton, the Crusader, the second Lord, and the successor and probably the son of Alan. I conjecture that his name was Robert, because Robert was the favourite name of the Lords of Swynnerton in both the Norman and the Plantagenet periods, while at the same time, not to mention that it was a common name in the reigning family, Robert was the name of Alan's feudal superior at Stafford. But though he is not mentioned in history, his effigy (as I take it) exists at Swynnerton Church. It is that of a Norman cross-legged knight, and it lies on the south side of the chancel, in the position of a founder's tomb. Its date must be assigned to the early part of the 12th century, hardly later than 1125.^a The statue represents a knight, measuring 6 ft. 2 in. from head to foot, lying partly on his side, and clothed in close-fitting mailed armour. Round the head is worn a slight fillet. The features are exposed. The right hand is in the act of drawing the long heavy sword, the scabbard of which is grasped by the left. On his left arm hangs an early Norman convex shield, which is 34 inches in length, 19 inches broad at the top, and 16 inches broad in the middle. The original model must have been even longer, as it narrows rapidly from the centre down, and, being of free-stone, is considerably worn. The legs are crossed at the knee, and the feet rest on a lion or dog couchant. It is remarkable that the monument has been moved to its present position probably as late as the 14th century, since the canopy is of that date, and it is evident that one of the sedilia, of which there are now only two, has been encroached upon to make room for it. What its original position in the old Norman church was, can now be only matter of conjecture. It has apparently been disarranged perhaps more than once. One large stone, which had evidently formed part of it, was found some years ago buried in the wall, having been used in filling up the entrance to the gallery above the rood-screen. But whatever the history of the figure, it certainly marks the present resting-place of the second Norman Lord of Swynnerton; "for beneath it there is a grave or burial chamber, carefully built with ashlar work, which on being opened by some accident during the restoration of the church in 1856, was found to contain the body lying exactly and close under the stone figure, and *corresponding with it in length*, being beyond a doubt that of the Red-cross Knight whose effigy reposes above. Portions of his arms were found

^a J. R. Planché, Esq., *Somerset Herald*, to whom I showed a careful sketch of the tomb, with the measurements of the shield, judged that it was erected very early in the century.

within, what appeared to have been a spear-head, and other fragments of iron, but greatly consumed by rust. The corpse had been wrapped in lead a quarter of an inch thick, made to fit close to the form, but it was burst open, as is usually found to be the case with leaden coffins. There appeared to have been a coffin of wood outside the lead, but it was reduced to a soft kind of powder. The skeleton was very perfect. All the teeth were sound and firmly fixed in the jaws, except two in the front which were missing. The beard was in perfect preservation, and of a reddish brown." The Rector, in company with Mr. T. Fitzherbert, the Lord of the Manor, who happened to be then at Swynnerton, inspected the tomb almost immediately after it was broken open. The broken masonry was restored.^a

That this tomb was that of Alan's successor is almost certain. It cannot be that of Alan himself, since it is extremely unlikely that he was buried at Swynnerton. Besides, the remains in the sarcophagus indicate a man who was still in the vigour of manhood, while Alan lived to an advanced age. Nor can it be the tomb of Sir John de Swynnerton, living in *temp.* Stephen and Hen. II.,^b still less that of Sir Robert de Swynnerton, living in Hen. II. and Ric. I.^c It is of too early a date. On the other hand, it must be the tomb of the founder of the ancient church (1100 to 1120); for though it was moved, or more probably restored, to its present position in the more recent church so late as the reign of Edward III., a sedile on the south side of the choir would hardly have been cut away to make room for it unless it was well known to be a memorial of the Norman founder. Beyond a doubt, therefore, it belongs to the second Lord of the Manor, a knight who took part in the first Crusade in 1096. A cross-legged effigy does not always indicate a Crusader; it may also indicate a knight who had vowed to take part in a Crusade, or even to make the pilgrimage. But besides the monument, there are other reasons for believing that one of the first representatives of the family was indeed a Crusader. The bezants in the ancient crest may have been intended to bear some reference to such a fact.^d So also the simple shield, which—a true Crusader's shield^e—is merely a cross with the *fleur-de-lis*. But above all, a tradition, long preserved in every branch of the family, bore witness to mighty deeds done by one of its founders against the Paynim. For instance, to quote once more the Butters-ton pedigree: "This motto (*Avauncey et archez bien*) was granted in the Holy Wars as a reward for most extraordinary courage shown by an ancestor of the family in killing a Turk on the field of battle." In point of fact, mottoes were not generally used before the reign of Edward III. Yet the tradition contains at least something of truth, which the existence of the effigy of Sir Robert de Swynnerton in Swynnerton Church abundantly proves.

^a From a MS. by the Rector himself, the Rev. W. Taylor.

^b *Vide* Deed of 7 Ric. I., 1195, in which he is mentioned by name as the father of another John, both deceased.

^c *Planta. Roll.* 5, p. 71. Stafford.

^d *Vide* Cussans' *Heraldry*, p. 70.

^e *Ibid.*, p. 57.

FAMILY NOTES

We are sorry to have to record the passing of Mrs.VIOLET HADFIELD (nee Swinnerton) (VS.5) on the 6th May at the age of 90. She was a member of the Yorkshire Branch and a sister to our photographer, Mr.JACK SWINNERTON of Blackpool.

NEW MEMBERS

MRS. M.D.E.MARTIN
[redacted]

Mrs.M.M.SWINNERTON
[redacted]

Miss. ROSEMARIE SWINNERTON
[redacted]

MR.F.W.H.SWINNERTON
[redacted]

ARTHUR K. SWENERTON
[redacted]

Mrs. PEARL PAGET (nee SWINNERTON)
[redacted]

Mrs. GWENDOLINE MAY SWINNERTON
[redacted]

Mrs. ANNIE EVELYN EMERY (nee SWINNERTON)
[redacted]

Mrs. ANNE HAMER (nee SWINNERTON)
[redacted]

and her sister, Miss JOAN SWINNERTON

ALBERT EDWARD SWINNERTON
[redacted]

G. FRED LINCKS
[redacted]

DR.ELWIN NELSON SWINERTON Jr.
[redacted]

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