

# ***Swinnerton Family History***

**The Journal of the Swinnerton Society**



ISSN 0508 6755

VOLUME FIVE

NUMBER TWO

SEPTEMBER 1982

# The Swinnerton Society

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

A member of the Federation of Family History Societies.

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## From the Editor's desk

When compiling the list of donors in the last issue, I used the Register of Members and totally failed to acknowledge three very generous donations from: Mrs. Pauline Saul, the Birmingham & Midland Society for Genealogy & Heraldry and the Rossendale Society for Genealogy & Heraldry. My apologies and our very grateful thanks to all three.

I have also since received a donation from Mr.James Swinnerton for which our grateful thanks.

## NEWS FROM THE PARISH

I am sure many of you will be very sorry to hear of the death of Mr.Will Watkin in August, aged 71. I cannot do better than quote the Rector's words in the Parish Newsletter :

"Will Watkin was a faithful servant of his parish church for well over half a century. He looked after both church and churchyard, led the bellringers and was our grave-digger. There was no doubting Will's affection for St.Mary's, and he had an unrivalled knowledge of church and village. He died suddenly, doing what he loved best - ringing in his own tower surrounded by his friends. I will miss him very much not only for what he did but as a friend."

Will was a great character who many of our family had got to know well over the years we have been visiting Swynnerton, he was always in evidence at our family gatherings and we shall miss him.

The new Tower Master is Mr.Len Venables.



## OUR NAME

A long time ago I mentioned in this journal some of the many different spellings that have been used over the years - we found 40 and even today there are 6 in use amongst members of this Society. However, we are very lucky. A recent article on families gave us as one of two examples of a 'small family' being researched and certainly we come very, very low down on the list of current surnames. If you study the following list you will see just how lucky we are.

## THE TEN MOST COMMON BRITISH NAMES, 1853 & 1975

	1853	1975
1st	Smith	Smith
2nd	Jones	Jones
3rd	Williams	Williams
4th	Taylor	Brown
5th	Davies	Taylor
6th	Brown	Davies
7th	Thomas	Evans
8th	Evans	Thomas
9th	Roberts	Roberts
10th	Johnson	Johnson

Here is a good example (sent to me by Mrs. Pauline Litton) of the confusion that can be caused by variations in spelling.

MACCLESFIELD, Cheshire.

St. Michaels Parish Register

1738/9 Samuel Williams married Keziah SWINNERTON

St. Michael's Bishop's Transcripts.

(The copy of the Register that was sent to the Bishop)

1738/9 Samuel Williams married Kezia SWAINSON

Marriage Bond 6Feb.1738/9

Samuel Williams & Kesiah SWINERSONS to marry at Sutton Chapel.

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

BY THE REV. CHARLES SWYNNERTON, CHAPLAIN IN AFGHANISTAN.

9. Sir Roger de Swynnerton, Kt., Lord of Swynnerton, and of the manors of Great and Little "Barwe," in co. Chester, and Rushton, and other manors, in co. Stafford, which had belonged to Hugh De Spenser, Earl of Winchester. A Great Banneret of Edward III., and Baron of Parliament. In 2 Edw. II., 1308, he was Governor of the town of Stafford, and in 1311, of the strong border castle of Hardegh (Harlech?), in Wales.<sup>a</sup> When the court was split into hostile factions, he joined Queen Isabella's party, and was an adherent of Thomas, Earl of Lancaster. In 1313, Oct. 16, he received a pardon for his share in the Earl's rebellion, and for being concerned in the death of the King's favourite, Piers Gaveston. The letters patent conveying the pardon are in French,—"*Don a Westmostier le xvi jour de Octobre. Antielles lettres de pardoun out les souscrits de mot en mot c'est a Savoir.*" Among the names of noblemen and knights that follow is that of Roger de Swynnerton.<sup>b</sup> It is evident, therefore, that he took part in the siege of Scarborough, which was held for the fugitive king by Gaveston, and that he witnessed the execution of that favourite minister after he had fallen into the hands of the "Black Dog" of Warwick (1312). In the same year (1313) he was enrolled among the chiefs who were to accompany the king "*ad partes transmarinas.*"<sup>c</sup> I know not if he was present at Bannockburn, but in 1321 he was again in arms, and was made Governor of Eccleshall Castle during the vacancy of the Bishopric of Lichfield and Coventry, to which it belonged.<sup>d</sup>

In 1322, he must have been high in favour with either the King or Queen, since in that year he was made Governor of the Tower of London, where the Queen was at that time residing.<sup>e</sup> In the same year, on the Monday and Tuesday next after St. Peter ad vincula, 2 and 3 August, he produced the notorious Mortimers, then in his custody, before the judges both at Westminster and in the Tower.<sup>f</sup> On 14 November, being still Constable of the Tower, he was one of the Assessors and Collectors of the Tenth and the Sixth granted in the Parliament at York.<sup>g</sup> In the same year he was one of the "manu-captors," his brother Stephen being the other, for the good behaviour of Peter, Earl of Nottingham, an adherent of the Earl of Lancaster, who had been discharged from prison.<sup>h</sup> In 1323, being still Constable of the Tower, he was one of the Commissioners appointed by

<sup>a</sup> Burke's Commons of England.

<sup>b</sup> Rymer's Foedera, vol. i. p. 231. The name of Sir John Swynnerton, Kt., of Repyndon and Hilton, is also in the list.

<sup>c</sup> Ibid. p. 212, Pa. 6 Edw. II., p. 2, m. 9. in Tower of London (What expedition?)

<sup>d</sup> Burke's Commons of England.

<sup>e</sup> Burke's Commons of England. Hume and Smollett's History.

<sup>f</sup> Publication of the Record Commissioners, vol. ii., 263: 35.

<sup>g</sup> Ibid.

<sup>h</sup> Ibid. vol. i., 647: 66.



Edward II., to take the recognizance of the Mayor and Aldermen of London.<sup>1</sup> In 17 Edward II., 1323-4, he received a writ of military service.<sup>2</sup> It appears to have been under his Governorship of the Tower that Roger Mortimer was permitted to escape (1323-4). In 1324 he was summoned to attend the "Great Council," and was accordingly returned by the Sheriff of Staffordshire, in pursuance of a writ tested at Westminster on 9 May.<sup>3</sup> In 1325, in Hilary Term, he was directly commissioned by the King to execute sentence of death on Henry Tyes, an adherent of Thomas, Earl of Lancaster, the King's brother-in-law, and of Humphrey de Bohun, Earl of Hereford.<sup>4</sup> In 1326 we still find him constable of the Tower.<sup>5</sup> In 2 Edw. III., 1328, an *Inquisitio ad quod damnum* was held, to enquire whether Sir Roger de Swynnerton might not have view of Frank Pledge, also Infangenthef, and Outfangenthef, in his manor of Swynnerton, and the amendment of the assize of bread and ale broken and drunk by the men and tenants of the same manor, to hold to him and his heirs for ever. Dated at Northampton 14th May.<sup>6</sup> In the same year he was found by another inquisition, dated at Lincoln, to be possessed of the forest of "Barwe," containing 600 "roborum et ligna folia aut corticum non portantia" ex Commissione Regis et quod id potest succedere.<sup>7</sup> In the same year he held a command under the young King Edward III. in his first expedition against the Scots, being then a Knight Banneret.<sup>8</sup> For his expenses in this war, as well as for his attendance on Queen Isabella during the time he was Constable of the Tower, he had an assignation out of the Exchequer, of £145 13s. 8d.<sup>9</sup> In 1329 (Feb. 16), he was again summoned in the King's name to withstand the Scots.<sup>10</sup> In 7 Edw. III. 1333, he held a distinguished command at the battle of Halidon Hill, and shared in the subsequent siege and capture of Berwick. "Monsieur Roger de Swynnerton" was one of the twenty-five chief commanders of the King's army who signed the counterpart of the articles of capitulation made between the King of England on the one side, and Patrick Dunbar, Earl of March, and others, within the castle and town of Berwick on the other.<sup>11</sup> In 1329, Hugh le Despenser, Earl of Winchester, having been attainted, forfeited his lands. These lands, or part of them, the King granted to Sir Roger de Swynnerton, both for his good services in war, and in order that he might better support his new dignity of Banneret.<sup>12</sup> The first grant, consisting of the manor of "Magna Barwe," in co. Chester, with all lands in Rushton, Cornfield, Austenfeld, and Caldun, in co. Stafford, was made in 1334.<sup>13</sup> In the same year he further received the manor of Little "Barwe."<sup>14</sup> The King's Charter conveying these lands is dated at Nottingham, 16 July, and concludes thus:—

<sup>1</sup> Madox. Hist. of Excheq. Parch. Com. vol. i., p. 614.

<sup>2</sup> Publ. of Record Com., vol. v., 647.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid. vol. i., 647: 66.

<sup>4</sup> Placita before the Lord the King at Westminster. Hilary Term, 1325.

<sup>5</sup> Burke's Extinct Peerage.

<sup>6</sup> Inquisitiones. Mem. 11, at Stafford.

<sup>7</sup> Calend. Inq. ad quod damnum.

<sup>8</sup> Burke's Commons of England.

<sup>9</sup> Burke's Extinct Peerage.

<sup>10</sup> Rot. Scot. vol. i., 521.

<sup>11</sup> Rymer's Foedera, vol. ii. pt. ii., p. 865, 1333. Rot. Scot. m. 14, in Tower of London.

<sup>12</sup> Calend. Rot. Pat.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid. p. 120.

"Consideratione premissorum ac obentu laudabilis obsequii quod idem Rogerus nobis indicis impendit concedimus quod ipse habeat et retinent sibi et heredibus suis manerium de Magna Barwe in Com. Cestrie cum pertinentiis ac omnes terras in villis de Rushton, Cornesford, Austenfeld in com. Staff., quae fuerunt praefati Hugonis le Dispenser."<sup>1</sup>

These grants, says Ormerod, "were in part of three hundred pounds worth of land for the supporting of the state of Banneret for life."

In 1335, on March 27, he again received orders to meet the King with horses and men at Newcastle-on-Tyno.<sup>2</sup> In the devastating war which ensued (1335-1337), he played a distinguished and prominent part, and on the 23rd April, 1337, he was raised to the peerage by writ with the title of Baron Swynnerton, of Swynnerton.<sup>3</sup>

In the same year, Lord Roger de Swynnerton agreed to serve the King with twenty men-at-arms or more, under the command of Thomas Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, in a fresh expedition into Scotland.<sup>4</sup> In the same year he was commissioned by the King to publish and expose to the clergy and people in co. Stafford, a schedule relating to the obligations entered into by the King's ambassadors to avoid war between England and France.<sup>5</sup> He held a similar commission on Feb. 22, in the year 1338.<sup>6</sup> Later on in the same year he died, apparently in the midst of his career.<sup>7</sup> He was the most distinguished of the Swynmertons, and so greatly esteemed by his Sovereign that he married his son Thomas to the sister-in-law of the wife of Edward the Black Prince.<sup>8</sup> He left several children by his wife, a lady named Margaret,<sup>9</sup> among whom were—

(1.) Robert, a priest, who succeeded him.<sup>10</sup>

(2.) Thomas, heir to his brother Robert.<sup>11</sup>

(3.) Humphrey, ancestor of the Swynmertons, of Eccleshall.<sup>12</sup>

(4.) Richard, of Cherleton. In 19 Edward III., 1345, Ricardus de Swynnerton had the King's license to make a pilgrimage to Rome, "Cum duobus capelanis, duobus valetis, duobus garcionibus et duobus equis."<sup>13</sup> He left a son Thomas, who in 42 Edw. III., 1368, grants lands in Shelton, within the feoff of Swynnerton, to certain persons specified.<sup>14</sup>

The following is a list of Sir Roger's lands, in Staffordshire alone, on the day of his death:—

Rushton,	} Cert. Terr.
Cornesford,	
Austenfeld,	
Caldun,	

<sup>1</sup> Ibid. Lib. o. p. 169-6. V. New Edition of Ormerod's Cheshire, by Helsby, vol. i., p. 712. <sup>2</sup> Dated at Nottingham. Rot. Scot., vol. i., p. 333, Stafford.

<sup>3</sup> Burke's Extinct Peerage. <sup>4</sup> Dated at Stamford. Rot. Scot. vol. i. p. 490.

<sup>5</sup> Rymer's Foedera, vol. ii. pt. 2, p. 994, Claus. 11 Edw. III., pa. 2, m. 28, d. in Tower of London.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid. p. 1013. <sup>7</sup> Burke's Extinct Peerage. <sup>8</sup> V. future paper. <sup>9</sup> V. future paper.

<sup>10</sup> Rymer's Foed., vol. iii. pt. 1, p. 52, 19 Edw. III., 1345, m. 4. Rot. Franc. in Tower of London.

<sup>11</sup> (Note)—Huntbach MSS., vol. ii. p. 67\*. She is said to have been living in 1342.



Swynnerton Manor.

Uleshall, }  
Ueswall, } Terr. Ten. \*  
Suggenhall, }

10. Sir Robert de Swynnerton, Kt., and Priest,<sup>h</sup> tenth lord, eldest son of Baron Swynnerton.<sup>i</sup> His name occurs in a deed bearing date 23 Edw. III., 1349, in which "Robertus dominus de Swynnerton" gives the manors of Desere and Badenhall, at Eccleshall and Halesote, in co. Stafford, to his brother Humphrey and his heirs.<sup>j</sup> According to Ormerod, he died in June, 23 Edw. III., 1349, leaving his brother Thomas his heir.<sup>k</sup> Huntbach assigns his death to 1349, and again to 1351.<sup>l</sup>

11. Sir Thomas de Swynnerton, Kt., eleventh Lord of Swynnerton, and, by the courtesy of England, in right of his wife, lord of Braybrooke Castle, of the manor called Le Estallesee, and of lands in Roston, Carleton, Buxton, Disburgh, and Weldon, all in Northamptonshire.<sup>m</sup> He married Maud de Holland, sister of Thomas Holland, Earl of Kent, and sister-in-law of Edward III.'s cousin-german, Joan Plantagenet, the "Fair Maid of Kent," who was afterwards the Princess of Wales, wife of Edward the Black Prince.<sup>n</sup> She died in 1361, a few months before the death of her husband.<sup>o</sup> She was buried in Swynnerton Church.<sup>p</sup>

Sir Thomas Swynnerton, like his father, was famous as a soldier. He was Hostarius to Edward III. (F. Wardrobe accts. Archaeologia, vol. 32, p. 92). In 1338 he received the King's letters of protection to go beyond the seas, accompanying the army to Flanders, and thence to France.<sup>q</sup> In 16 and 17 Edw. 1342-4, he was High Sheriff of co. Stafford, a post of far higher importance then than it is now, since it included the supreme military command, under the King, of the whole shire.<sup>r</sup> In 17 Edw. III., 1343-4, he was the King's escheator in Staffordshire, and on 17 October an inquisition *ad quod damnum* was held before him at Stafford, according to the tenor of the King's writ, when the jurors declared, on oath, that it would not be to the damage of the King to grant permission to Ralph, Earl of Stafford, and Margaret his wife, and Humphrey de Hastings, Archdeacon of Lichfield, for their souls when they had departed from this life, and for the souls of their ancestors, and their heirs, and for the souls of all the faithful departed, to found a house of Austin Friars at Ferbrigge, near Stafford.<sup>s</sup>

\* From the Fitzherbert Record. I have not yet seen any of the Inquis. p. m. of the Swynnertons of Swynnerton.

<sup>h</sup> Huntbach MSS. vol. ii. p. 67, Stafford.

<sup>i</sup> Ibid. Also Ormerod. <sup>j</sup> Lichfield's Survey, p. 110.

<sup>k</sup> New Edition of Ormerod, vol. i. p. 712. <sup>l</sup> V. MSS. at Stafford.

<sup>m</sup> V. Lady Maud Swynnerton's Inquisition p. m. 25 Edw. III.

<sup>n</sup> MS. 573, f. 107, Gonville and Caius, Cambridge.

<sup>o</sup> Her Inquisition p. m. 25 Edw. III. According to Huntbach she was left a widow and living in 1361.

<sup>p</sup> Soc. of Antiquaries, MS. 95, p. 197.

<sup>q</sup> Rym. Fod. p. 1642, Aleman. p. 1, in Tower London.

<sup>r</sup> Sir Simon Degge's MSS., Stafford.

<sup>s</sup> Inquis. ad quod damnum. No. 23, p. 173, Salt Library, Stafford.

When war raged again between England and France, Sir Thomas de Swynnerton was once more in the field. He very probably broke lance at Crecy, as directly after the engagement he was with the King at the siege and capture of Calais,<sup>t</sup> (1346-8). He was at home again in 1351, and in that year gave a receipt of rent of 40s. to Jas. de Pype, Kt., which he sealed with a seal engraved with the Swynnerton shield, and a crest consisting of a *chapel de fer* adorned with two eagle's feathers.<sup>u</sup> These were probably the more ancient insignia of the family, since at that time his crest was a bear statant.<sup>v</sup>

He next appears to have been on service in Scotland, for in 31 Edw., 1357-8, 14 October, there is an Issue Roll as follows:—"To Sir Thomas de Swynnerton, Knight, lately taken in the wars of Scotland, in money paid to him of the King's gift for his ransom, &c., £100."<sup>w</sup> And again in 1359, a commission was issued for the purpose of indemnifying him for certain Scotch prisoners of his who had escaped.<sup>x</sup> In 1358, the King's commission, "pro regardo pro comorantibus super custodia Johannis de Francia apud Savoye," was directed to him and to Hugh de Swynnerton.<sup>y</sup> This was an order charging him to superintend those persons who had the care of King John of France, the prisoner of Poitiers, at the Savoy Palace.<sup>z</sup>

He died, according to Ormerod, in December, 35 Edward III., 1361. He left issue—

- (1.) Robert, who succeeded him.<sup>a</sup>
- (2.) William, ancestor of the later Swynnertons, of Swynnerton.<sup>b</sup>
- (3.) Hugh (?)
- (4.) Alice (?) who married Sir John Gresley, who was High Sheriff of co. Stafford in 46 Edw. III., 1372-3, and who died s.p. in 1394.<sup>c</sup>

An emblazonment of a war standard, ascribed to Sir Thomas de Swynnerton, may be seen at the College of Arms. There is another at the William Salt Library, Stafford. They differ only in the motto. That at the College of Arms is as follows:—

The Cross of St. George—Per fess of four, *or* and *azure*—on a *vert*, gorged with a collar *azure*, which is garnished with six bezants, a bear statant *argent*, tusked *or*, bearing in his mouth an apple or pomegranate *vert*, between three daisy-tufts *argent* in chief and as many *argent* in base—AVAUNTUREZ ET—in chief a daisy-tuft *argent* and in base another—MARCHEZ AVAUNT—in chief three daisy-tufts *argent* and as many in base—border *argent* and *sable*—motto *argent*.<sup>d</sup>

<sup>t</sup> Bodleian Library, Anthony Wood, MS. E. 11.

<sup>u</sup> Seals and Arms from original sources, Stafford, MS. 404. <sup>v</sup> College of Arms.

<sup>w</sup> Issue Roll, Michaelmas. 31 Edw. III., Copy at Stafford.

<sup>x</sup> Cal. Rot. Pat. p. 170. <sup>y</sup> Rym. Fod., vol. iii. pt. i. p. 413, in Tower, London.

<sup>z</sup> MSS. at College of Arms. Harl. MSS. <sup>a</sup> Huntbach MSS. vol. ii. p. 190.

<sup>b</sup> Pedigree of the Grosleys in Shaw's History of Stoke.

<sup>c</sup> *Avanturer* occurs in Cotgrave's French Dictionary, 1650. A modern emblazonment of this standard, from the College of Arms, is among the Fitzherbert records a Swynnerton.



## WHO'S WHO IN THE SWINNERTON FAMILY (5)

### **The Rt.Hon.LORD STAFFORD**

Our Patron is the 14th Baron Stafford and is descended from William FitzHerbert who married ELIZABETH SWINNERTON (died 1616), younger daughter and co-heiress of Humphrey Swynnerton of Swynnerton and Hilton - the last of the Swynnertons of the old line - who died in 1562.

### **D. H. SWINNERTON**

DEREK HARDING SWINNERTON is the only child of Harding Swinnerton (1885-1972) and Clara Elizabeth Cooper and is a cousin to the Secretary and members Mr.G.A.Swinerton, Mrs.Barnes and Mrs.Papps. He and his family visited this country last year for the first time for many years. He is a member of the Adbaston Branch, being a descendant of John, the 3rd son of William Swinnerton of Adbaston.

### **Sir PETER SWYNNERTON DYER FRS.**

Sir Peter is the 16th Baronet and succeeded his father, the late Sir Leonard Schroeder Swinnerton-Dyer in 1975 and also took his place as a Vice-President of our Society. A descendant of Thomasine SWINNERTON, grand-daughter of Sir John Swinnerton, Lord Mayor of London in 1612, who married the 1st Baronet (Sir William Dyer), he is Master of St.Catherine's College, Cambridge and recently Vice-Chancellor of the University.

### **Mrs.Robert ELLER**

Mrs.Mabel Grey Eller (nee SWINERTON) is the daughter of Fred Wilkinson Swinnerton (1867-1959) and Marion Allardyce. She is at least 3rd generation American and possibly more but we have yet to find out who who grandfather Algernon Swinerton was.

### **S. K. ARMITSTEAD MA.**

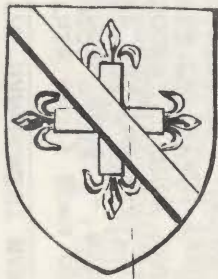
Sydney Kenrick (Ken) Armitstead is the son of William Kenrick and Maria Gezina SWINNERTON (1892-1978). A member of the Society's Council and a keen genealogist, he is our principal researcher and authority on the Swinnertons of Warwickshire of which he is a descendant. He has also traced many of his family lines and has 3 separate descents from the same man - Sir John Savage temp. 1390. Head of Modern Language at the Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, he is also a keen photographer, deep-sea sailor, County Commissioner for Sea Scouts and a producer for the Amateur Theatre.

### **C. L. SWINNERTON**

COLIN LEONARD SWINNERTON is the son of our member Leonard Swinnerton and nephew to member William Swinnerton of Shotton. A former Treasurer of the Society and still a Council member, Mr.Swinerton is a member of the Betley Branch, being a descendant of Ralph, the 3rd son of William Swinnerton of Betley.

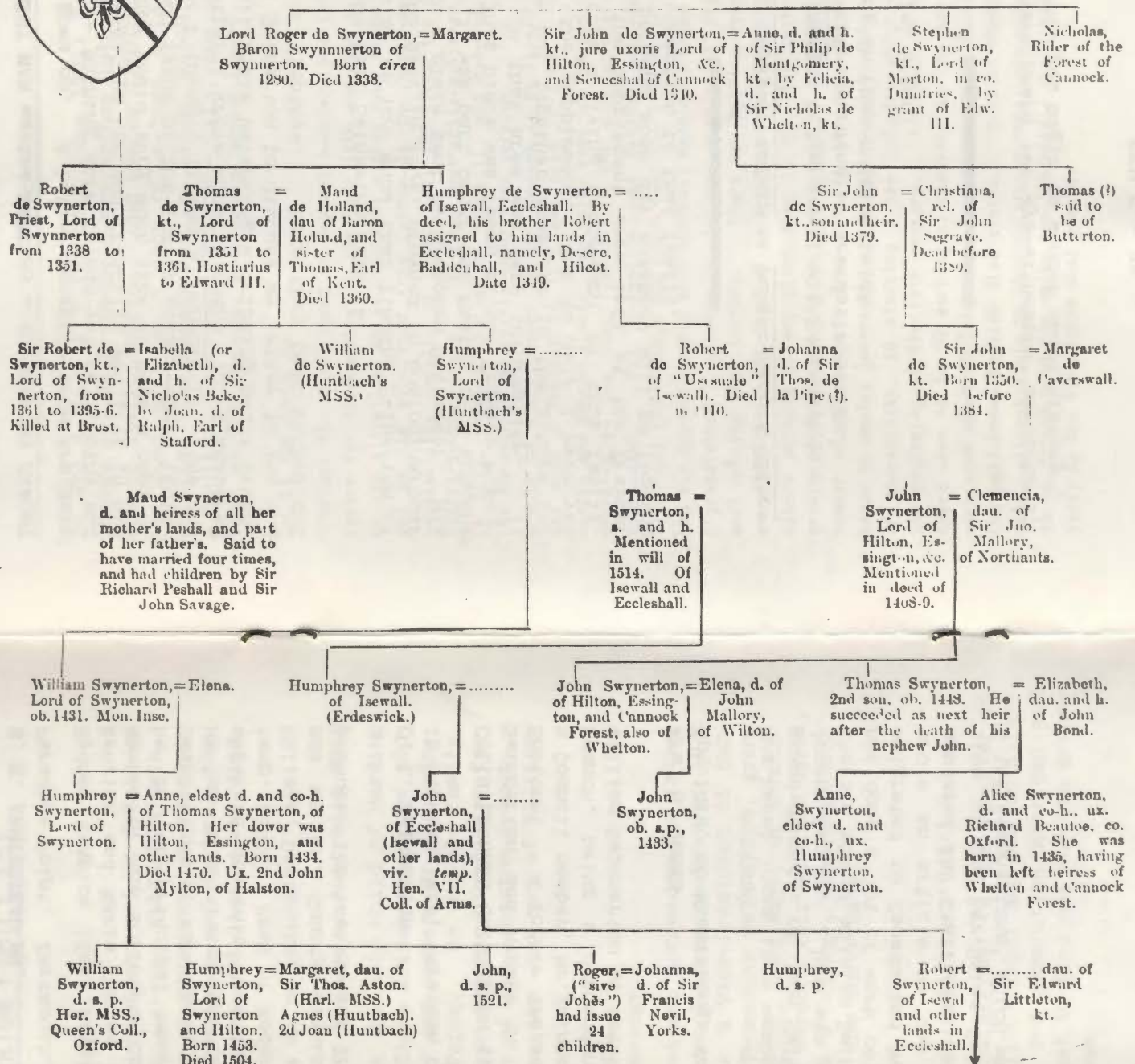
### **Mrs. H. JONES**

Mrs.Hazel Jones is a member of the Betley family and a grand-daughter of Jane SWINNERTON (1863-1959) who married Joseph Carter. Jane was a great-granddaughter of Ralph the 3rd son of William Swinnerton of Betley. Mrs.Jones has done a lot of work on the descendants of Ralph who emigrated to Canada and New Zealand and some years ago wrote an article on the Village of Swynnerton which appeared in 'Staffordshire Life' and also the Introduction to the Rev.Brian Swinnerton's booklet 'Swynnerton & the Swynnertons' which was published in 1971.



# A PEDIGREE SHOWING THE PROBABLE CONNECTION OF THE SWYNNERTONS OF SWYNNERTON, OF HILTON, AND OF ECCLESHALL, 14TH AND 15TH CENTURIES.

This pedigree does not pretend to be certainly correct. It is put forward in the hope that it may elicit additional information from other Genealogists. The principal authorities are *Heralds' Visitations*, *Huntbach*, and *Erdeswick*.



From "The Reliquary" Vol. XX1 No. 84 April 1881  
Compiled by the Reverend Charles Swynnerton



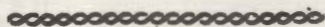
## THE HANDSOMEST MAN on the CAPE

This story goes on. A letter recently from Mrs. Hazel Jones says :- Nothing more to add yet re Timothy but we had fun visiting Lee and Priscilla who live in his house. They would very much like to have a copy of the Christmas issue of the family gossip-sheet (Editor's note - I thought it was a Journal !) - the one with the letter I wrote about Timothy .... I answered a 'phone call while balancing a dripping paint brush! It was Bill Swinarton to discuss my letter to you and a surfeit of Timothys. Have they been sorted out yet ?"

A letter from Bill Swinarton says :-

"In particular we now know that Timothy Swinerton of Cape Cod, who died in 1802, drowned in Boston Harbour according to a piece sent by Gretchen Hovemeyer. His son Timothy 3, was part owner and Master of a schooner in 1834. This piece was found at the Trayser Museum. So my stay in that area was very informative. It will all be put together sometime in the future for a story in the Supplement. But to date I have yet to come across a living descendant of this family.

Copies of the Supplement were left at the Trayser Museum and perhaps some day somebody will be looking for their connection to that family."



## CASES IN THE COURT OF ARCHES

## Public Record Office

8926 JOS. SWINERTON v. James Tayler & Edward Vernon  
(1716) churchwardens of Newcastle, Staffs.  
drinking in church (Lichfield)

(ex. Mrs. Muriel Reson)



"After you have heard two eye-witnesses' accounts of a car accident, you begin to wonder about history".

## THOMAS SWINNERTON - the Clockmaker

In Vol.4 No.6 & 7 (March & June 1981) I wrote about Thomas and Mr. Traherne's researches into the Clockmakers of Staffordshire. Our member TIMOTHY SWINNERTON has just sent me a copy of a book by Alan Treherne entitled "The Massey Family, Clock, Watch, Chronometer & Nautical Instrument Makers - Catalogue of an exhibition at The Museum, Newcastle under Lyme"

In it he says :-

"Perhaps the development of Newcastle-under-Lyme into an important centre for clockmaking in the late 18th and 19th centuries was due to its situation, as an important market town in North Staffordshire and on the main road from London to the north-west, and to the availability locally of iron, coal and (from the Cheadle area of Staffordshire) brass. The town apparently achieved borough status in 1173, under a charter of Henry II, and many of the records of the Borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme survive. The first clear reference to a clockmaker in the Borough is to Thomas Swinnerton, who was made a freeman in 1675 and died in 1708. He made lantern clocks and turret clocks, replacing some of the old clocks in local churches by new ones fitted with the more accurate anchor anchor escapement. His apprentice John Redshaw was made a freeman in 1712, and the Redshaw and Beech families (the first John Beech serving his apprenticeship with Redshaw) made many brass dial long case ('grandfather') clocks, in typical provincial style, throughout most of the 18th century. There was nothing remarkable in this as practically all English market towns had one or two such clockmakers working at any given time in the 18th century. With the growth of Newcastle in the second half of the century, however, a number of clockmakers from outside the borough settled here and began to employ journeyman clock-makers and to take a steady stream of apprentices, so starting a new industry which was thriving at the beginning of the 19th century. For much of the 19th century there were 40 to 50 working clockmakers in the borough, producing each week about 60 long case clock movements or fusee movements for the well-known English dial clocks. Most of these movements were sold, without dials to wholesalers or retailers outside the borough, to be fitted with the white (or 'painted') dials made almost exclusively by the Birmingham dial makers."

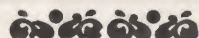


On pages 74 & 75 of Vol.4 No.5 of this journal (Dec. 1980) I drew up a conjectural tree for the ancestry of Job. I have now discovered that a WILLIAM SWINNERTON baptised a daughter ELIONOR at Horsley, Gos. on 14 Oct.1593 and another daughter MARY, also at Horsley, on the 6 June 1600. As there were so few Swinnertons in this area at the time, I think it highly likely that he may have been an Uncle to Job and Antipas.

In addition, a BENJAMIN SWINNERTON married Hester Webb at Hawkesbury, Gos. in 1633 and baptised a daughter ABIGAIL at Tetbury on 26 Sep.1640. He could well have been a brother to Job.

A little later, GEORGE SWINNERTON, the ancestor of the Rev. HENRY ULYATE SWINNERTON and thus of our member Diana Cunningham, married twice and raised two families in Tetbury. One of his sons was also BENJAMIN but, more significantly, I have just discovered that his son JOHN baptised a son JOHN ANTIPAS SWINNERTON at Berkeley, Gos. on 11 Dec.1760.

The name Antipas is so rare that I feel there must be a direct link between these two Gloucestershire families. George was born around 1692.



SHEFFIELD CUTLER'S COMPANY APPRENTICES

(from The History of the Company. Ref.338.6.SF.Vol.2)

GEORGE SWINNERTON. s. of Geo. Sheffield Park. Mason  
1. to John Fox of Burgess St. Cutler. Sept.1761  
2. to Paul Jefcock. Cutler. April 1767

JOSEPH SWINNERTON.s.John. Sheffield Park. Collier.  
to Joseph Woodhouse. Knife Maker. July 1799

THOMAS SWINNERTON. s.of George.Sheffield Park.Mason  
to John Fox. Cutler. Aug.1758 (dec'd.)



Butterson Grange, a square red-brick farm house, designed by the famous architect Sir John Soane, was built by local craftsmen in about 1816-17 for Thomas Swinnerton, owner of Butterson Hall and its estate.

Plans for the house, the only one in Staffordshire to have been designed by the architect, together with a model, are to be seen in the Sir John Soane Museum in London.

The house is unusual in the thickness of the walls and the low pitched roof, together with the adoption of a system of central chimneys.

The front of the building has three bays and the side two bays. Each bay has two giant pilasters — shallow pillars that are attached to the wall.

The middle bay is recessed, and the giant pilasters here look at one another.

In his book of Staffordshire Buildings Professor Sir Nikolaus Pevsner describes the weird building as looking like the work of an enterprising architect of 1905-10 trying to get out of Georgian fetters.

Newcastle Borough Council have recently drawn the attention of the Environment Secretary of the need to upgrade the listing of this building from Grade II to Grade II\* in view of its special architectural and historic interest.

ANOTHER SPORTING LINK ?

Our Chairman, Mr.John Swinnerton, has been told that there was a boxer ERNEST JOHN SWINNERTON who fought under the name of 'Jim Prendy'. Can anyone give us any information about him.?.



## A SHORT HISTORY OF SNEYD & ESSINGTON

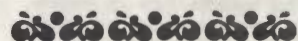
Walsall Archives Service

### THE VERNON FAMILY OF HILTON HALL

In 1547 Sir Henry Vernon of Sudbury, Derbyshire married Margaret, daughter and co-heiress of HUMPHREY SWINNERTON of SWINNERTON and HILTON in Staffordshire. Part of her inheritance was the manors of Hilton and Essington. On Sir Henry's death the manors passed to his second son, who in turn bequeathed them to his only child also called Margaret. In 1613 Margaret married her cousin Sir Edward Vernon, thus keeping the estates in the family. Essington and Hilton formed only a small part of the vast Vernon family lands and on the death of the next baronet in 1658 the two manors were bequeathed to his second son, Henry. And so the line of Vernon of Hilton Hall was established.

Hilton Hall (or Park) is now run as a guest house for the elderly by a community of nuns. The building dates from the early eighteenth century but was enlarged and altered in 1830. The famous architectural historian Niklaus Pevsner, in his survey of buildings in Staffordshire describes the house, built in red brick with stone facing, as 'most interesting' but his research failed to throw very much light on its history.

(ex Mr.H.A.Swinerton)



### THE MASTER PAINTERS of BRITAIN Gleeson White 1910

SWYNNERTON, Mrs.A.L. Wife of Mr.J.Swynnerton, a well-known sculptor, and a frequent contributor to the more important exhibitions.

(ex. W.R.Swinarton)

## Myself when young

'I WAS wearing a new dress from Liberty's, my first pair of silk stockings and dancing slippers. Jack, our poodle, was beside me. I can still smell the oil of lavender she used.' Evelyn Bellhouse was seven when Manchester artist Annie Swynnerton was invited to her parents' home in Alderley Edge to paint her. The year was 1911 and Mrs. Swynnerton was 67, already well established as an artist of the first order and bracketed with names like Laura Knight. Her husband, the Manx sculptor Joseph Swynnerton, had just died and she had returned from Rome where they had been living.

'My father invited her to stay with us and I can remember her smoking a cigar. She didn't finish the painting while she was with us but she took my dress away with her, and the couch I'm sitting on belonged to the artist J. S. Sargent, a friend of hers.'

The following year the painting of Evelyn was exhibited at the Royal Academy and prompted rave reviews. 'Her child's portrait Evelyn, daughter of Vernon Bellhouse, Esq. is likely to add greatly to her reputation. The rich and mellow colouring, the wonderful effect of golden light and, above all, the exquisite unearthly expression sometimes seen on the child's face all combine to make it one of the best pictures of the year,' wrote the art critic of the *Standard*.

Said the *Manchester Guardian*: 'One of the best pieces of face portraiture in the whole exhibition.' And the *Observer*: 'The picture is so original in conception, so firm in construction, so daring in treatment, so uncompromising in its rejection of easy expedients to obtain pretty effects, that it may be said to stand alone among the portraits at Burlington House.'

Vernon Bellhouse's little girl wasn't aware of the sensation she had caused. After the exhibition the picture came back to Alderley Edge to be hung at the top of the stairs. But when they moved to a smaller house no wall could accommodate it adequately and it was stacked behind a chest of drawers.

'I'd had enough of it by then anyway,' Miss Bellhouse confessed. 'As you grow older you don't particularly want to be reminded daily of what you were like as a child.'

Now she has decided to sell the painting and it will be one of the major items at Sotheby's sale of paintings, drawings, watercolours and prints on October 14. The experts have estimated a price somewhere between £1,000 and £2,000.

Two days earlier at a sale of silver and jewellery, a magnificent group of silver-gilt yachting trophies belonging to the late Sir Michael Duff of North Wales will be sold. They are all in perfect condition and were awarded mainly in Portsmouth for specific races. One trophy by W. Eley dated 1827 is expected to fetch £1,500.

P.H.

CHESHIRE LIFE



## ALIAS

I discussed some time ago (Vol.4 No.2 March 1980) the use of the word 'alias' and said I had yet to read a detailed article or history of the use of aliases or how they came into being. My attention was recently drawn to an article on the use of the word in which the author says :

"The reason for an alias is two-fold. First, one often sees such names as Pierce alias Pearce. In this case the alias is used as perhaps it would be used today, and it usually means that the entry represents two possible spellings of the same name.

The second reason for aliases is tied up with copyhold land. It usually occurs when the mother of a family re-marries, having had children from her first marriage. Quite often, if the children were very young, they would take the surname of their step-father but in order not to lose their claim to their natural father's copyhold, they would use both names as their surnames. Remember that the only place where the entitlement to copyhold land could be registered was in the manor courts, and without birth certificates, etc. to prove descent from a particular person, it was easier to continue the surname. ~ So the alias would continue for generations, and would be used very much as a hyphenated surname of today; therefore, either name would be considered as a separate entry if both names occur.

One other point. The word alias is often abbreviated to 'als', and quite often the title used to indicate the abbreviation makes it look like 'ats'."

Swynerton alias Beane was the only one I had encountered in our family but now Mr. John Unett, a very well-known genealogist, has found us another. In a letter to me he says :

"Can you help me with John Swynnerton als. Unnett of St. Andrew by the Wardrobe, London who died 1550 leaving a widow Elizabeth, extract of his will enclosed though I am sure you have already seen it. I can't tie him in with any Unetts of Staffordshire or co. Hereford.

He may be connected with John Unett who d.1622 and asked to be buried in St. Anne's Church, Blackfriars, only a few yards from St. Andrew, but I can't place him either.

Please do not go to any trouble, but if you have done any work on him can you suggest how the 'alias' came about as I know of no Unett-Swinnerton marriages ? "

I do not know of any such marriage either but hopefully someone may.

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## CANTERBURY MARRIAGE LICENCES

EDWARD SWYNERTON of Ulcombe, clothier and Elizabeth Barlinge, same parish, virgin, at St. Mary Bredman, Canterbury. Robert Barlinge of Ulcombe, yeoman, bondsman May 30 1603.

WILLIAM SWYNNERTON of Marden, cordwinder, bach. about 23, at his own govt. and Frideswith Hynde, same parish, maiden, about 25, daughter of Henry Hynde, late same parish dec. and now in the govt. of Joan Hynde, same parish, widow who consents. At St. Alphage, Canterbury, June 3rd 1622.

THOMAS SWINNERTON of Bonnington, clerk M.A. bach. about 33 and Margaret Hales of Sellenge, virgin, 20 and upwards daughter of William Hales of Nackington, gent, who consents. At Sellenge or Nackington. May 19 1640 .

## General Licences

Preacher's Licence (visitation of Archbishop Laud 1637 Vol.X.8.2 folio 84) 95a THOMAS SWINERTON curate Upper Hardres. 18-24 April.

Licence to preach anywhere in Kent diocese (Vol.XIV. 135a) - THOMAS SWINERTON M.A. clerk.

Licence to serve cure (Vol.XIII 1634 - 97a) - THOMAS SWINNERTON M.A. clerk, Upper Hardres, rector. 16th April.

(ex Mrs. Heather Lewis)

## FAMILY NOTES

We welcome two new members :-

Mr. PATRICK FRANCIS SWINNERTON of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Mr. Swinnerton is a member of the Betley Branch and a son of William Henry Swinnerton and Mary Cleare and a great-grandson of Ralph Swinnerton of Betley.

MRS. MARGARET TAYLOR who is the daughter of the late Professor HENRY HURD SWINNERTON about whom we have written in past issues of this journal. Mrs. Taylor has been able to amplify our knowledge of this branch of the family considerably which, of course, derives from the Adbaston Tree.

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Not family but a very old friend, a pioneer in One Name Research and a contributor to this journal over the years, Mr. Frank Higenbotham died recently. Obituaries have appeared in many newspapers and Family History Journals and I will not attempt to repeat them here but will simply say that Frank was a kind and gentle man, full of knowledge and information about family history and all of us in the specialist One-Name field owe him a very great deal and will miss him very much.

By one of those curious co-incidences which occur so often in Family History it was the Rev. George B. Swinnerton who wrote the history of an American part of the Higinbotham family.



*"Many a man with no family tree has succeeded because he has branched out for himself."*

(Howard Lamplin)

## 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.