

Swinnerton Family History

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The Swinnerton Society

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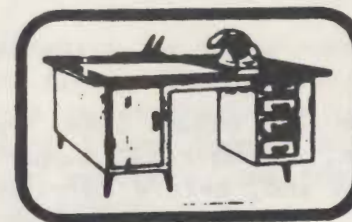
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From the Editor's desk

It is with great sadness that I have to tell you of the death of our Vice-President FRANK SWINNERTON on the 6 November 1982 aged 98. Mr. Swinnerton was,

undoubtedly, one of the most distinguished men our family has ever produced and must rank with the great figures of English Literature. He had outlived all of his contemporaries, indeed he had written the obituary of many of them and was truly a link with another era. I have devoted much of this issue to his achievements and can think of no better memorial to him than to reprint his entry in the Swinnerton Who's Who which he wrote for us himself.

I have had many letters from him over the years, beautifully written like his books and these and a signed copy of his autobiography (published as long ago as 1937!) will always be a most treasured possession.

In his memory, we sent a cheque to the Royal Literary Fund and we send our sincere sympathy to his daughter, Olivia, who is, of course, one of our members.

Mr.Swinnerton's fierce independence comes over very well and was obviously inherited as he once said to me in a letter :- "My Swinnerton grandfather always insisted that he had no relations whatsoever. He wanted to get the credit for being self-created and I have never tried to go beyond his wishes in that respect."

To this day we have not got very far with research into his particular branch of the family despite intensive efforts on the part of several members. At present we are stuck at his great-grandfather - a SAMUEL SWINNERTON who was born, we think in London, about 1800.

FRANK SWINNERTON, 1884-1982

Frank Swinnerton was born on the 12th August 1884, the second son of Charles Swinnerton, a commercial copper-plate engraver, and Rose Cottam who, before marriage was a non-commercial artist. The following account of his career was written for us by Mr. Swinnerton himself.

"My mother and I were alone in the house when I was born. I gave a shout and went to sleep. When Arnold Bennett heard of this, he said, referring I suppose to my natural independence, "That explains a lot about you." We went to live with her Father, Richard Cottam, a commercial steel engraver, who had a big house in the Clerkenwell Road; and when I was eight I caught diphtheria. This was followed by two or three years of paralysis, and then by scarlet fever. We were very poor indeed, and moved to some rooms in the Hornsey Road, Holloway. My Father met with an old friend who invited us to live in his house in East Finchley where my Mother acted as housekeeper and looked after a semi-imbecile old man who had been left in care of this friend, a solicitor. This arrangement did not work for long; and we moved to another house in East Finchley, where my Father died on the eve of my fifteenth birthday.

Some months before this, I had become an office boy in the London branch of a firm of Glasgow periodical publishers, Hay Nisbet & Co. I earned six shillings a week, subsequently raised to eight shillings; but as we needed more money I moved on to other jobs, being uncomfortable in both. But I had made the acquaintance of a slightly older boy named Garfield Howe, who was working for J.M.Dent, the publisher. He spoke of me to Hugh Dent, by whom I was engaged, at the age of sixteen, to act as reception clerk. Another job was created for me and I became what Hugh Dent called his "confidential clerk". It was at this time that J.M.Dent decided to publish a new series of reprints eventually named Everyman's Diary; and I had a lot of work to do in connection with this.

Meanwhile, a young man named Philip Lee had entered the firm of Dent for a while until he bought a partnership in another firm of Publishers, Chatto & Windus, where I was made a proof reader. Lee Warner was a born gambler; and the other partners took fright at his extravagance. He was asked to relinquish his partnership; but by that time I had written my first novel (1909), and I was so well regarded in the firm that I was made their "reader". This was in 1910, and in collaboration with the subsequent founder of the Drama Society, Geoffrey Whitworth, I helped to bring Chattos up to date, my chief success being the introduction of a worldwide success known as THE YOUNG VISITORS, by Daisy Ashford, who at the time the book was written, was only eight years old.

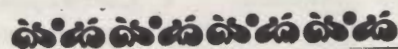
My novel writing continued, and was supplemented by reviewing for THE MANCHESTER GUARDIAN and other papers; also by two critical studies, of George Gissing and R.L.Stevenson. The former was enthusiastically reviewed by H.G.Wells, who had known Gissing; while Arnold Bennett had highly praised my second novel in a letter to myself. The two men became my cordial friends, while I also began to meet my own contemporaries on equal terms. I therefore gave up my work for Chatto & Windus, who had some new young partners; and became, successively Literary Critic to the London EVENING NEWS (3½ years), chief novel reviewer to the London OBSERVER (6½ years), and the writer of a weekly Letter to Gog and Magog in the popular literary paper called JOHN O' LONDON'S WEEKLY. This job lasted for something over six years, when this paper was summarily discontinued amid what would be called a "storm of indignation".

In 1917 the short novel NOCTURNE was published. Owing to a preface which H.G.Wells secretly wrote for the American edition of that book, it was a considerable success in the United States, went on selling in England and was included in the Oxford Press series of World's Classics. And in 1935 I wrote a continually successful study of modern writers called THE GEORGIAN LITERARY SCENE. This book was afterwards included

in Everyman's Library; and both it and NOCTURNE have been the subject of favourable comment ever since. Both, unfortunately, in the present year have been "remaindered" by their respective publishers, owing to the hard times, when sales of older books have been small and the need of ready money has made publishers clear their shelves for cash.

I have had a very long, happy life; happy domestically and rich in friendships, not only with fellow writers but with uncelebrated people. My wife and I have had two daughters, Jane Christine who died nine days after birth owing to injury, and Olivia Mary.

My wife, Dorothy Mary Bennett (before marriage) was the daughter of George Bennett (no relation to Arnold) and Mary Blake. I ought to say that in 1914-15 I was seriously ill with haematuria and albumenuria, and was laid up for six months. Afterward the doctor said "You got better because you meant to: I could do no more for you." If you link this with the moment and circumstances of my birth, you will see why one of my mottoes is "It is better to be a live dog than a dead lion."



BOOKS BY FRANK SWINNERTON

1909	THE MERRY HEART
1910	THE YOUNG IDEA
1911	THE CASEMENT
1912	THE HAPPY FAMILY
1914	ON THE STAIRCASE
1914	R.L.STEVENSON: A CRITICAL STUDY
1916	THE CHASTE WIFE
1917	NOCTURNE
1918	SHOPS AND HOUSES
1920	SEPTEMBER
1921	COQUETTE
1922	THE THREE LOVERS
1923	GEORGE GISSING: A CRITICAL STUDY
1923	YOUNG FELIX
1925	THE ELDER SISTER

...

Books by Frank Swinnerton... cont.

1926	SUMMER STORM
1927	TOKEFIELD PAPERS
1928	A LONDON BOOKMAN
1928	A BROOD OF DUCKLINGS
1929	SKETCH OF A SINNER
1932	AUTHORS AND THE BOOK TRADE
1932	THE GEORGIAN HOUSE
1934	ELIZABETH
1935	THE GEORGIAN LITERARY SCENE
1937	SWINNERTON: AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY
1937	HARVEST COMEDY
1940	THE REVIEWING AND CRITICISM OF BOOKS (J.M.Dent Memorial Lecture)
1940	THE TWO WIVES
1941	FORTUNATE LADY
1942	THANKLESS CHILD
1945	A WOMAN IN SUNSHINE
1948	THE CATS AND ROSEMARY : A BOOK FOR CHILDREN
1948	ENGLISH MAIDEN
1948	FAITHFUL COMPANY
1950	THE DOCTOR'S WIFE COMES TO STAY
1951	A FLOWER FOR CATHERINE
1952	LONDONER'S POST
1952	THE BOOKMAN'S LONDON
1953	AN AFFAIR OF LOVE
1954	A MONTH IN GORDON SQUARE
1955	THE SUMNER INTRIGUE
1956	BACKGROUND WITH CHORUS
1957	THE WOMAN FROM SICILY
1959	A TIGRESS IN THE VILLAGE
1960	THE GRACE DIVORCE
1964	FIGURES IN THE FOREGROUND
1964	DEATH OF A HIGHBROW
1965	QUADRILLE
1966	A GALAXY OF FATHERS
1967	SANCTUARY
1968	THE BRIGHT LIGHTS
1969	REFLECTIONS FROM A VILLAGE
1971	ON THE SHADY SIDE
1972	NOT ALL THY TEARS
1973	ROSALIND PASSES
1976	SOME ACHIEVE GREATNESS
1978	ARNOLD BENNETT: A LAST WORD

Swinnerton, above all else a 'bookman'

By DAVID WILLIAMS

AS an infant in arms Frank Swinnerton, who has died aged 98, was present, in a kerbside capacity, at the funeral of Victor Hugo in Paris. This has double significance. First it brings home to us the fact that by virtue of his great age (he was born in 1884) he spans the generations with a reach equalled by no literary man: second it shows that Swinnerton, even from the time of his being a mere suckling, had a way of being present on bookish occasions.

Swinnerton was indeed, above all else, a "bookman." This is a word which has lost some currency of late.

Since 1922 — even as long ago as that Swinnerton was close on forty — when Reith began his despotic reign over British broadcasting at Savoy Hill, the abundantly diversified media have robbed the writer of his near monopoly as a communicator.

For the young Swinnerton, however, the world of books was busy and populous and profitable to a degree that has become strange to us. He himself became swiftly a busy and deservedly successful inhabitant of that world.

In it he ranged widely. He was novelist, publisher's adviser, contributor to periodicals, composer of not-too-demanding "pieces" after the manner of Augustine Birrell and, later, Robert Lynd.

Strong talent

He had strong writing talent as well as the industry and energy to make the most of it. He wrote numberless books, and the firendliness and integrity that were always part



Frank Swinnerton

of him made him the confident of writers, some of greater stature than himself.

He was born in Wood Green, then a parish in the County of Middlesex, now a part of the London borough of Haringey. He had a hard-up, happy childhood. He went to no elitist school: he knew no university.

He had a failed, good-natured father who faded from the world when Frank, his second son, was fourteen: but he had a mother who was strong, high-spirited, intelligent and who lived to be 76.

Six shillings

Grown-up work started when he was in his fifteenth year. He began in Fleet Street: his paper was the *Scottish Cyclist*, and his wage six shillings a week.

But he soon found more congenial jobs in the same inky area, and, in 1901, became an all-round youngster with publishers J. M. Dent at thirteen shillings a week (at the turn of the century to double your wage in a little over two years was good going).

He remained in publishing, successively with J. M. Dent and Chatto and Windus, for twenty-five years, and his own first novel, *"The Merry Heart"* — he chose a title characteristic of the man, he was — was accepted for publication in 1908 when he was twenty-four.

Upwards of forty novels followed, and a good handful of them, all written before he was forty, can be said to stand a chance of escaping the limbo which 99 per cent of novels are destined for.

Great friendship

The great friendship of his life was with Arnold Bennett, 17 years his senior. And the word "friendship" is chosen here deliberately in preference to "discipleship," though this was also present, because Bennett, fundamentally an unhappy man, leaned on the steady common-sense of his "Swinny" to a surprising degree.

Indeed, as late as 1978 Swinnerton produced a candid and revealing short book about his hero in which the firm facts of Bennett's two unhappy marriages are put fully before us for the first time.

Swinnerton was a modest man who gave his countrymen much pleasure over a staggering number of years.

Open and shut case

YESTERDAY'S report of the death of Frank Swinnerton revived memories of his friendship with Arnold Bennett, who died at home in Marylebone in 1931.

According to Swinnerton one of Bennett's wives was a prying woman, always suspicious of him and given in his absence to opening his desk and reading everything in it—including the notebooks with his ideas for possible books or articles—in case they contained the addresses of other women.

On one occasion she forced the lock of a drawer and found a pile of letters which she had written and which had not even been opened.

In a book published four years ago Swinnerton said these letters had come into his possession and he had them, still unopened. What of them now?

SWINNERTON — On Nov. 6, 1982, peacefully in hospital, FRANK, aged 98, of Cranleigh, loving husband of the late Mary Dorothy and dearly loved father of Olivia. The service will take place at Guildford Crematorium on Thursday, Nov. 11, at 11 a.m. Donations if desired may be sent to the Royal Literary Fund, 11, Ludgate Hill, London.

COLONEL J. C. A. SWYNNERTON OBE.

Another distinguished career has also come to an end - happily only through retirement. Colonel Jeremy has just retired from the Army after 37 years service and I cannot do better than reprint the Army Press Release issued when he was appointed Colonel of the Staffordshire Regiment on 10 December 1977.

"

10.12.1977

NEW COLONEL FOR THE STAFFORDSHIRE REGIMENT

On 10th December, Brigadier R.L.Hargroves, CBE, DL, who has been Colonel of The Staffordshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's) since 1971, was succeeded in that appointment by Colonel J.C.A.Swynnerton OBE.

Colonel Swynnerton was born at Camberley and is the elder son of the late Major General C.R.A.Swynnerton, CB, DSO, who was Colonel of The North Staffordshire Regiment from 1955 to 1958.

Educated at Wellington College, Colonel Swynnerton joined the Army in February 1945, and was commissioned the following year into the North Staffords, joining the 1st Battalion then serving in India. In early 1947 he went to Nigeria as ADC to the GOC in Nigeria and subsequently served in 3rd Battalion The Nigeria Regiment in Nigeria and the Gold Coast.

In October 1949 he rejoined the 1st North Staffords in Fayid, and was with them in Trieste, Korea and Hong Kong until, in 1957, he was appointed Brigade Adjutant of the Mercian Brigade at Whittington Barracks.

After attending the Army Staff College in 1958, he spent the next two years at HQ Easter Command in Colchester, and then commanded 'C' Coy. 1st Staffords in Kenya and Colchester prior to going to the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst as Chief Instructor of New College and then to the Joint Services Staff College at Latimer.

He was second-in-command of 1 Staffords from 1964-66 in Kenya and then Dover prior to being posted to Borneo as Brigade Major of HQ 99 Gurkha Infantry Brigade during the confrontation with Indonesia. In February 1967 he was promoted Lieutenant Colonel and given the exacting but rewarding task of forming and then commanding, The Junior Infantrymen's Battalion at Shorncliffe for which he was honoured with the award of OBE. His next appointment was in BAOR as Assistant Military Secretary.

Promoted Colonel in February 1972, he went to Belfast for a year as Deputy Commander, 39 Infantry Brigade before being posted to be the Deputy Director (Military) of the Senior Officers Was Course at Greenwich.

Colonel Swynnerton left Greenwich in May 1975 to assume the appointment of Deputy Commander of 28 Infantry Brigade in Singapore. Later that year he became Commander of the remnant of 28 Infantry Brigade, and Senior British Officer, Singapore. His task was to implement the plan for the withdrawal of all British Forces in Singapore and the hand-over of the military installations to the Singapore Government. Excepting Embassy Staff and one Barrack Officer, he was the last British Officer to serve in Singapore, finally leaving on 31st March 1976.

Colonel Swynnerton is at present serving in the Ministry of Defence on the Staff of the Director of Army Recruiting. Amongst other duties, he commands the group of 'Centres' where recruits are tested in order to decide to which Corps or Regiment they are best suited. One of these is the Army Recruit Selection Centre at St.George's Barracks, Sutton Coldfield.

Colonel Swynnerton, who is aged 50, comes from a very well known North Staffordshire family which traces its connections with the County through nine centuries. He is a bachelor and lives in Blackheath, London. His interests include cine photography, entomology, philately, shooting; but particularly he enjoys extensive travelling and has taken leave in such widely differing areas as East and South Africa, Nigeria, Cameroons, most countries of Europe, Turkey, Thailand, North Borneo, Bali, Java, Sumatra and Celebes."

It was, of course, most unusual and a great honour for a Serving Officer to be appointed Colonel of his Regiment but a great tribute to Colonel Jeremy. It was a very happy appointment for him as his father, General Charles Swynnerton (see Who Was Who in the Swynnerton Family No.5) had also held the appointment from 1955-1958.

Colonel Jeremy has now moved to live at [REDACTED]

SAMUEL SWINNERTON =

b. circa 1800
(SS.49)

GEORGE SAMUEL SWINNERTON = Harriet Potter Bunce

b. circa 1825

d.2Apr1905 aged 75

Holborn

Cut Glass Manufacturer

(GS.20)

(widow)

27Jan1845 Islington

b.

d. 1886 aged 67

CHARLES JOHN SWINNERTON = Rose Cottam

(3rd.son)

b.2Sep1851

d.11Aug1900

East Finchley

Copper Plate Engraver

(CS.32)

1878 Edmonton

b.3Jun1855 Carlisle

d.17Jul1930 Hove

PHILLIPE SWINNERTON = Louisa E.... Carty

b.10Aug1879

Holloway, London

d. 1963 London

(PS.8)

1916 St.Pancras

b. 1883

d. 1966 Camberwell

MARJORIE M....(MS.232)

b. 1919 Islington

d. 1920 Islington

(MS.232)

HELEN ROSE (HS.84)

b. 1918 Islington

=

Ray Willans

1944 Lambeth

FRANK ARTHUR SWINNERTON = Mary Dorothy Bennett

b.12Aug1884 Wood Green

d.6Nov1982 Cranleigh

(FS.19)

15Mar1924Lambeth

b.19Jul1897

d.16Apr1980 Cranleigh

JANE CHRISTINE(JS.395)

b.14Feb1935 Cranleigh

d.23Feb1935 Cranleigh

OLIVIA MARY (OS.3)

b.26Jul1937 London

THE ANCESTRY of FRANK ARTHUR SWINNERTON

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

BY THE REV. CHARLES SWYNNERTON, BENGAL CHAPLAIN.

(Continued from Vol. XX., page 108).

IN the reigns of the first three Edwards, there lived a knight, "Sir John de Swynnerton de Hulton," a contemporary of Lord Roger de Swynnerton of Swynnerton, who was a man of great renown in the counties of Stafford, Salop, and Derby, and who played an active and an eager part in most of the wars of that eventful period. When I wrote my "Notes" on the life and exploits of Lord Roger de Swynnerton, I imagined this knight to have been connected with some supposed Swynnertons of Repton, co. Derby, in the reign of Richard I. A mistake in the transcript of the deed on which my evidence rested, which should have been, not 7 Ric. I., but 7 Ric. II., led me into this error, and I now find my theory as to his origin must be abandoned. From the fact that he was constantly associated with Lord Roger de Swynnerton in military expeditions, and in the execution of various royal commissions, Burke, and other writers, have supposed that the two knights were brothers; and in the absence of any proof to the contrary, this supposition is probably correct. Indeed I shall presently adduce proof in support of this view. His father then, must have been Sir Roger de Swynnerton of Swynnerton Castle, kt., and his mother Johanna de Hastang.^a

Sir John Swynnerton differenced his paternal coat by enclosing it within a bordure engrailed *gules*.^b The use of a bordure for difference was not uncommon in the earlier history of heraldry. His reason for engrailing his bordure and colouring it *gules*, would probably be found in some change of the Montgomerys or the Wheltons, to which families he was allied by marriage.

He married about the year 1309, the young heiress, Anne de Montgomery,^c to whom he had probably been betrothed from her infancy. Her father was Sir Philip de Montgomery, kt., the hereditary Seneschal of Cannock Forest, who died in 23 Edw. I., 1294, when Anne was only three years old,^d and when in all probability she was left in the wardship of Sir Roger de Swynnerton of Swynnerton. Her mother was Felicia, daughter and heiress of Sir Nicholas de Whelton, kt., in co. Northants.^e Anne was their only child, and as her eldest son was born not later than 1310,^f her marriage in 1309 or earlier, must have taken place when she was not more than eighteen years old. She brought her husband the Forest of Cannock, which, in the reign of Henry III., had been held by Hugo de Loges, and the manors of Hilton and Essington in co. Stafford, besides lands in Wyrley, Frodley, Hopwas, and Pilaton Hall.^g She was dead before 1340.^h

^a Vide previous papers. ^b Harl. MSS. 6128, f. 60; Queen's Oxford MS. H. 10, p. 165.

^c Harl. MSS. 1415, f. 132, and numerous other places.

^d Ibid.

^e From Sir John the elder's Inq. p. m.

^f Ibid.

^g Ibid.

There was another family manor which did not at once come with Anne into her husband's family. This was her mother Felicia's inheritance of Whelton, with the advowson, in co. Northants. It had descended in the same family from the Conquest; and on the death of Felicia's widowed mother Joyce, it remained as settled by her father, Sir Nicholas de Whelton, with Felicia herself. She left it to her issue by a second marriage, but after failure of direct heirs, in 1380 it reverted, after some troublesome litigation, to her great grandson, the second Sir John de Swynnerton of Hilton.¹

The references to Sir John de Swynnerton in the old records are very numerous, and prove him to have been a man of considerable power and importance. In 14 Edw. II., 1310, "Sir John de Swynnerton, Kt.," was one of the "Servientes" performing military service with the Earl of Lancaster. The muster took place at Tweedmouth on the 19th of September, and was held in connection with the king's contemplated campaign against the Scots, when the Barons refused to attend him in consequence of his weakness for Piers Gavaston.² In the same year, an inquisition was held at Oggeleie, in co. Stafford, on the Tuesday next after the feast of St. Thomas the Martyr, before Hugh le Despenser, Justice of the King's Forests on this side of Trent, when the jury consisted of John de Swynnerton, Steward of the Forest of Cannock, Nicholas^k de Swynnerton, Rider of the Forest, the two Foresters of the Fee, the two Walking Foresters, the Vire-dars, the Regarders (a Richard Leveson being one of them), and twenty-four free and lawful men, who gave evidence concerning a certain impediment in enclosing 756 acres of the forest by Robert de Bures, &c.³ In the next year an inquisition was held before the same judge, when the jurors declared on oath that Gladusa, widow of William de la Pole was hindered from tilling 450 acres in "Calwehet," in the forest of Cannock, by the "Lord John de Swynnerton," the steward, who frequently allowed the king's horses and deer to have access thereto.⁴

In 6 Edw. II., 1313, Sir John de Swynnerton was associated with Sir Roger de Swynnerton among the chiefs who, with their retainers, were ordered to accompany the king to foreign parts;⁵ and in the same year he was one of those who were about to join an expedition under Sir Edmund "Malolacus" (Mauley), the Seneschal "Hospitii regis."⁶ On the 16th October of the same year, he received a pardon by Letters Patent for his share in the death of Piers Gavaston, and for having joined the standard of Thomas, Earl of Lancaster.⁷ In 9 Edw. II., 1315-16, John de "Swennerton" was certified, in pursuance of a writ tested at Clipston, as one of the lords of the township of

¹ For a full account of this manor, see Baker's "Northamptonshire."

² Publ. of Record Com., pt. 1, p. 406, No. 28.

^k Whence the name Nicholas? Evidently from old Nicholas de Whelton, between whom and Sir Roger de Swynnerton, Nicholas' father, there must have been close friendship.

³ Inquisitions, No. 80, p. 35, at Stafford.

⁴ Ibid, No. 26, Stafford.

⁵ Rym. Fœd., vol. i., p. 212, Pat. 6, 6 Edw. II., p. 2, m. 9, in Turr. Lond.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Letters in French, Ibid. p. 231, m. 15, p. 1, Turr. Lond. Vide the letter quoted in the life of Sir Roger de Swynnerton.

Roton in Derbyshire.⁴ From 1321 to 1323, he was High Sheriff of the counties of Stafford and Salop, and governor of the castles of Shrewsbury and Bridgnorth, which "Grendon" had been commanded to deliver to him.⁵ In the same year, he was one of the commissioners of array in the counties of Stafford and Salop. His commission was tested at Worcester on 2nd January.⁶ In 1322, he was again a commissioner of array for the county of Salop, the towns of Ludlow and Shrewsbury being excepted, when his commission was tested at Pontefract on March 25th.⁶ In the same year, he was returned as Knight of the Shire to the Parliament which was sitting at York in the three weeks of Easter.⁷ In the same year, he received orders not to proceed in the execution of his commission of array of 25th March, above mentioned, the writ being tested at York 16th May.⁷ This order was occasioned by the renewal of hostilities between the King and the Earls of Lancaster and Hereford, to whose rebellion Sir John de Swynnerton once more joined himself. He appears to have been taken prisoner by the king's army at the battle of Boroughbridge (1322), in which Humphrey Bobun, Earl of Hereford, was slain, and Thomas, Earl of Lancaster, captured, only to die on the scaffold. Sir John de Swynnerton's life was spared on the payment of a fine of £40, and he was discharged from prison, having taken oath and given security for his good behaviour,⁸ and promised that he would loyally serve the king in his wars.⁸ His bond and recognizance were dated at York, 11th July, 16 Edw. II.⁸ In 1323-4, he received a writ of military service.⁹ In 1325, he was commanded to be at Portsmouth on the Sunday next after Mid-Lent, "bien et nettement mountez et armez et appareillez," to accompany Earl Warrenne to Guyenne, and the writ which was tested at Ravensdale on 7th January, reminded him that he owed his life to a promise that he would serve the king.¹⁰ In the previous year, 1324, he had been summoned by general proclamation to attend the great Council at Westminster, which assembled on the Wednesday next after Ascension Day, 30th May, 17 Edw. II., and he was accordingly returned in pursuance of the writ, by the High Sheriff of Stafford.¹¹ In the year 1325, he received a second writ, tested at Westminster on 20th February, to accompany Earl Warrenne into Guyenne, and mention was made that he had been previously summoned on such service by Letters of Privy Seal.¹² In the Vascon Rolls there is a similar commission in French, dated 20th February, which contains similar instructions respecting the expedition under John, Earl of Warrenne.¹³ On Dec. 24th, 1334, King Edward III. commanded the attendance of Sir John de Swynnerton, with horses and arms, for the wars in Scotland. The mandate is in French, and dated Roxburgh.¹⁴ On 10th Feb., 1336, he received a

⁴ Publ. of Record Com. ii., 403, 1.

⁵ Blakeway's Sheriffs of Salop, publ. at Shrewsbury, 1831. Sir Simon Degg's MSS. at Stafford. Fuller's Worthies.

⁶ Publ. of Record Com. i., 543; 23 and 24, Stafford.

⁷ Ibid. i. 255; 68.

⁸ Ibid. i. 573; 166.

⁹ Ibid. i. 647; 66.

¹⁰ Ibid. ii. 210, 211.

¹¹ Publ. of Record Com., i. 647; 66.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Rym. Fœd., vol. ii., pt. i., p. 591.

¹⁴ Rot. Scotiæ, vol. i., p. 306.

¹⁵ Ibid. i. 255; 68.

¹⁶ Ibid. ii. 210, 211; 139, 147.

¹⁷ Rolls of Parl., vol. v., 647.

¹⁸ Ibid. i. 700, 229.

similar writ, which was dated at Knaresborough.¹⁵ On 6th May, he had a similar commission, dated at Westminster.¹⁶ On 3rd October in the same year, he was commissioned to array 2,000 men in the county of Stafford for service against the Scots, in the war which raged as far as Inverness, from 1335 to 1337.¹⁷

Sir John de Swynnerton died 1st March, 1340, when it was found by inquisition *post mortem*, that he held Cannock Forest of the king, with the manors of Hilton and Essington, a ussart in Hopwas, and the estates of Frodley, Wyrley, and Pilatohall, all in co. Stafford; and that he left as his heir, his eldest son John, who was thirty years old and more at the time of his father's death.¹⁸

But besides these possessions in Staffordshire, Sir John died seized of rents in Repyndon (Repton), Melton, and Tykenhall, in co. Derby, as well as of lands in Lincolnshire;¹⁹ and a very interesting question arises, How came these Derbyshire lands into the family? A glance at the history of the old royal manor of Repton just before, will, I think, solve the difficulty. Up to about the year 1232, when the Palatinate of Chester became merged in the crown, Repton was in the hands of the Earls of Chester. The last heir male dying, his lands, not in Cheshire, were divided among his four sisters; one of whom married a De Hastang, and through that family transmitted her rights.²⁰ Mr. De Mazinghi and myself are agreed that these rents in Derbyshire, and especially in Repton, came to the family through the De Hastangs, but we differ, I think, as to the channel. Mr. De Mazinghi attributes their accession to the marriage of the second Sir John de Swynnerton of Hilton, with Christiana, the relict of Sir John de Segrave, who appears to have been a son of that famous warrior, Sir John de Segrave, whom Edward I. left governor of Scotland after the capture of Stirling castle in 1304. It happens that this John de Segrave, Christiana's first husband, had a relative of the same surname, who married one of the heiresses of the De Hastangs, part of whose property consisted of rents in Repton, and of course there is a possibility that the Swynnerton interest in Repton issued from this alliance. But against this supposition, there is the notable fact that the first Sir John de Swynnerton, of Hilton, did himself die seized of rents in Repton, which his son's marriage would not account for. I find here corroborative evidence of Burke's theory, that Sir John de Swynnerton was a younger brother of Lord Roger de Swynnerton of Swynnerton Castle, and that they had both a common mother, Johanna de Hastang, daughter and heiress, or co-heiress, of Baron de Hastang, Lord of Desirée. As a matter of fact, Johanna's paternal manor of Desirée went to her eldest son, by Sir Roger de Swynnerton the elder;²¹ and what so likely as that rents of hers in co. Derby should have fallen to Sir John de Swynnerton, a younger son, who became further enriched by his marriage with the wealthy heiress, Anne de Montgomery? This is, I think, the

¹⁵ Ibid. 405, 407.

¹⁶ Ibid. 421, 423.

¹⁷ Ibid. 460.

¹⁸ A copy of his Inquisition is at Hilton, and another at Stafford.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ For these details, I am indebted to Thos. de Mazinghi, Esq.

²¹ Vide previous papers.

true solution of the difficulty, though at the same time, other rents in Repton may have accrued to the family by the marriage of Sir John de Swynnerton the younger, with Christiana de Segrave. As regards Sir John's possessions in Lincolnshire, I have no information. There is, I believe, a small village in that county named Swynnerton, and if this was Sir John's land, it would be interesting to enquire whether the name Swynnerton was not given to it by the old knight himself out of affection for his paternal home in Staffordshire.

Sir John's issue would appear to have been :

(1). John, his heir and successor.

(2). Thomas. Burke calls this Thomas the ancestor of the Swinnertons of Butterton, but the connection has never been proved. Sir John Swynnerton is said, before he died, to have obtained the royal licence to alienate the Bailiwick of Cannock Forest to his son John and his heirs, and in defect of such issue, to his son Thomas and his heirs; which Thomas is said to have married Maud, the widow of Sir John Latimer, kt. She died 18th November, 35 Edw. III., 1361.^m

(3). Joan (probably). Joan de Swynnerton married Sir Thomas Rokesleigh, and having been left a widow, died in 1366, possessed of the manors of Maplescombe, Aldington, Otford, and Fawkham, in co. Kent.ⁿ

A singular illustration of the peculiar modes of service by which lands were sometimes held of feudal superiors, prevailed at Hilton from a very remote period. On the first day of every year, the lord of Essington was bound to appear at Hilton Hall with a goose, and to drive it at least three times round the huge central fire-place, while "Jack of Hilton" blessed the fire. This part of the ceremony being finished, the goose was cooked, and carried by the lord of Essington, or his bailiff, to the high table, where the lord of Hilton solemnly received it, and apportioned to his vassal a share of the mess. "Jack of Hilton" was an "æolipyle," or vessel for creating a blast of steam. It was the small brass figure of a naked man kneeling on his right knee, shading his eyes with his right hand, et partes viriles frondibus roboreis tectas sinistra prehendentis. The water was poured in at the back of the neck, and the blast proceeded from an orifice made for the purpose. This service, says Erdeswick, was performed until the two manors became united under one lord. It is a remarkable proof of the low condition of public decency under the Normans and Plantagenets.^o

^m Authorities quoted are "Tower Rolls, 4 Mag., f. 67;" and "Vinc. Coll. Pat. ex Clo. Rolls, p. 156-7.

ⁿ Inquisition p.m.

^o Erdeswick describes (in part) the ceremony. There is an engraving of the brass figure in the *Archæologia*, vol. xiii., pl. 27, the original plate of which is at the William Salt Library, Stafford. I take this opportunity of recording my indebtedness to the learned and accomplished librarian, Thomas de Mazzinghi, for much kind help in my researches.

Aylmer Aberfraw Swinnerton :

"Fifty Years of Fuel Testing and Research" Ottawa 1957
(Dept. of Mines & Technical Survey, Canada)

"George Eliot. Her Early Home". Arranged by Emily Swinnerton, illustrated by Patty Townsend, Lillian Russell and G.G.Kilburne. Raphael Tuck., Germany
c.1900.

Frank Arthur - books on books... including "The Novels of Frank Swinnerton" (of which the British Library are wanting volumes).

George Isaac Swinnerton - Service of Devotion for the Three Hours. 1911.

Henry Hurd Swinnerton - Lectures, Bible Stories, etc. and Palaeontology 'The Peak District', assisted by H.H.Swinnerton. 1919-1936

Henry Ulyate Swinnerton. History of the Ancestors and Descendants of John Roseboom and Jesse Johnson 1897

James Swinnerton - 'Jimmy and his Scraps'. New York 1906

Sir John Swinnerton - Maioralty. (Percy Society)

W.T.Swinnerton, Letters of, to Ivan Panin 1907-13

Charles Swynnerton - Romantic Tales of the Punjab. London 1928.

John Swynnerton - A Christian Love-Letter sent particularly to K.T. a gentlewoman mis-styled a Catholocke, but généralement intended to all of the Romish religion, to labour the conversion to the true faith of Christ Jesus. London 1606.

Sir Roger Massy Swinnerton - a plan to intensify the development of African agriculture in Kenya. 1954.

(ex Mrs.Muriel Reson)

CALENDAR OF ASSIZE RECORDS

SURREY INDICTMENTS. ELIZABETH I Pub.HMSO 1980

3073. Southwark Assizes. 9 Mar 1601. Before Francis GAWDY, J. & Serjeant William DANIEL
Gaol prisoners include ROBERT SWYNARTON
- 3081-2 Same assize: Trial jury for about 20 prisoners including ROBERT SWYNERTON
- 3082 MEADE, Geoffrey & SWYNERTON, ROBERT, labourers of SOUTHWARK, indicted for grand larceny. On 10 February 1601 at STREAT-HAM they stole 5 sheep (26s) from John HODESDEN, gent.
Guilty: allowed Clergy.
- Southwark Assizes, 28 February 1603. Before Francis GAWDY, J. & Serjeant John HELE.
List of Gaol Prisoners remanded includes ROBERT SWINERTON.
(See SFH.4 No.10 p.165 for Robert's previous indiscretions)

ESSEX INDICTMENTS. JAMES I. Pub.HMSO 1982

- 748 March 1612. Sheep stolen from SIR JOHN SWYNERTON
- 1198 March 1617. Grand Jury Presentment
The Bridge in Birch on the highway from Layer de la Haye to Birch has fallen down. It ought to be rebuilt by the heirs of SIR JOHN SWYNNERTON.
- 10 refs. to LADY THOMASINE SWYNNERTON - all concerned with the Bridge.
- 1617 That she ought to repair Birch Hall Bridge
- 1619 Repeated.
- 1619 July. Indicted for not repairing it: writ to appear in Court.
- 1620 July. Another writ to appear in court.
- 1621 March. Another writ to appear in Court.

Don't know whether they gave up trying at this point or whether the Bridge was repaired ! (and she the widow of a Lord Mayor !)

(ex Mrs.Pauline Litton)

THE "GROVE" RURAL LIFE MUSEUM, RAMSEY, ISLE of MAN
THE MANX MUSEUM AND NATIONAL TRUST

Extract from Guide to the Museum, pp.22-23

"The jewellery is mainly drawn from the Grove collections, and offers good examples of the craftsmanship lavished on even minor pieces in the Victorian period. It also illustrates the obsession with mourning fostered by the Queen in her long widowhood.

In this context the delicately pleated hairwork such as the pair of matching "lace brooches" is of interest. Generally in England this was the fashion of the earlier part of the Queen's reign, associated with the older custom of giving jewellery featuring gold, black enamel and seed pearls, "in memoriam" at a funeral, often under the terms of the deceased's will. In the Isle of Man the fashion survived much later and the jeweller ROBERT SWINNERTON* of Victoria Street, Douglas, was still making such ornaments as late as 1886. Hairwork was also sometimes a hobby, as illustrated by the superbly-worked floral boquet which is often on show here."

* RS.23 - son of Charles Swinnerton (CS.14) of the Betley family.

THE GIBBS OF THE GROVE by J.Stowell Kenyon
published by The Manx Museum & National Trust

Extract from page 24

"They (the Misses Janet and Alice Gibb) were much disturbed by the building boom of the sixties (1960s), the homes of their friends disappearing under a sea of bungalows, Ormly Hall of Canon Paton's father, and now Thornhill of the *Callister/Clucas families on their doorstep. "They felt" as Mr.J.C.Crellin said at the opening of the Grove Museum "they were going to be closed in and finally destroyed."

* Charles Swinnerton (CS.14) married Mary Callister.
(ex Sir Roger Swynnerton)

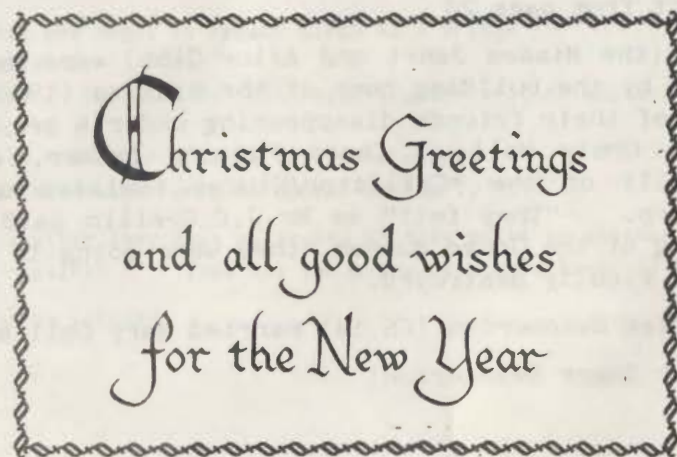
FAMILY NOTES

On the 1st January 1982, as you can see from your Directory, we had 166 members consisting of :

1 President	28 USA
5 Vice-Presidents	13 Canada
1 Honorary Member	6 Australia
79 Full UK Members	2 South Africa
28 UK Senior Citizen Members	1 Singapore
2 UK Student members	1 France

During the year we have sadly lost, through death, 1 Vice-President and 2 members but have gained 4 Full UK members, 2 Senior Citizen UK Members, 2 USA and 1 Canada making a total of 172.

However, at the end of the year, 11 members from the UK, 10 from the USA, 1 from Canada and 1 from Australia have not sent their subscription and we therefore regretfully have to assume that they no longer wish to be associated with us. This reduces our membership to 149. If your journal has a red 'spot' on the front cover, you are one of them and this is the last one you will receive.



PUBLICATIONS OF THE SWINNERTON SOCIETY

Swynnerton 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.Swynnerton

Inc.postage - U.K. £0.75, airmail USA/CANADA \$3, AUSTRALIA/NZ £1.25

Swynnerton 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.