

# ***Swinnerton 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.

A member of the Federation of Family History Societies.

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## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

A few weeks ago I attended the Annual Conference of the Guild of One-Name Studies. This is the specialist body of people such as ourselves who get ALL references to a name and research them and not

just their own immediate family. Within the Guild there are various categories of membership - fully fledged Societies such as ours, correspondence groups where one person circulates a journal or newsletter and individuals who do the research for their own interest but do not publish their results.

Even in such a specialist group there are varying opinions as to what constitutes a One-Name study. I have always held that to be a true One-Namer one must collect and research ALL references to your name anywhere and at any period in history. Not all agree with me - some only do it for one country, some even for a specific area and, of course, there are a very large number of Societies in America who are only interested in the descendants of one couple. As these include the descendants of the females as well, this is a very different concept.

However, it was a most enjoyable Conference and the highlight for me was the lecture on 'How I did it' given this year by Hugh Cave of the Cave Family.

This lecture is always most valuable, one is able to hear and see how someone else got started, how they carry out their research, their methods of recording their information and how they produce their journal. Illustrated with slides, it was a most enjoyable talk and, as usual, I was able to compare my own methods and ideas and afterwards swap notes and argue (in the nicest possible way!) about the merits or demerits of the various systems.



Another lecture and discussion period was on a subject that is coming very much to the fore in Family History these days - the use of computers. To me they are almost a closed book but I learned a lot and can see that they could be very useful for such large tasks as indexing but I feel that they are of very limited use to a One-Namer - the small cheap personal ones do not have sufficient capacity for storage of data and one would need to spend several thousand pounds to get worthwhile results. I shall stay with my Card Indexes!.

One thing that did come out in the discussion was that many of those present could quote statistics for their family which I could not!. They could reel off from memory the number of Births, Marriages and Deaths for a period, knew how many references they had to their name etc. etc.. These are figures I have never had time to extract but as I know such facts do interest some people, when I got home I did some preliminary counting and I hope the results will make interesting reading.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### SWINNERTON STATISTICS (1)

As I told you in SFH.4 (page 98), General Registration of Births, Marriages and Deaths in England and Wales commenced on 1 July 1837. An analysis of the BIRTHS for Swinnerton registered since that date reveals the following (for convenience I have broken the figures down into 25 year periods):-

<u>PERIOD</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>AVERAGE/YEAR</u>	<u>BOYS</u>	<u>GIRLS</u>
1837-1862	410	16	206	204
1862-1887	484	19	259	225
1887-1912	512	21	251	270
1912-1937	357	14	188	169
1937-1962	370	15	165	205

The variations of Swinerton: Swynnerton(4): Swinniton(1): Swinton(1): Swinnington(30): Swinington(1): Swineraton(1): Swinnorton(1): Swinnerton(1): Swinarton(1); Swinentons(1): Switherton(1): Swinervon(1) and Swinerton(1) have been included but I have NOT counted the Swinertons as it would appear it was almost as common to spell it with one 'n' as with two.

From 1912-1962 these variations almost died out and the only ones registered differently to Swinnerton in this period were 1 Swinnerten and 3 Swynnertons.

There were many examples of the common Christian names (John, William, Mary, Ann etc.) but a surprising 50 names only appeared once - some of them quite common ones. Amongst the more unusual were Simeon, Letitia, Lucretia, Oscar, Heturah, Ephraim, Annias, Aseneth, Briton, Sabina, Selina and Seba (these three all from one family!), Sampson, Pathenia and Major.

The prize, however, must go to George Baden Powell Swinnerton (born in 1900) and - a cousin of mine and father of one of our present members - Shadrach Seth Harding Swinnerton (born 1885 died 1972).

\* \* \* \* \*

The comparative figures for Deaths are:-

1837-1862	248
1862-1887	312
1867-1912	308
1912-1937	322
1937-1962	291

From the 1st January 1866 the ages at death were given and from these we can derive some most interesting but tragic figures. We are here looking at Infant deaths but when reading the ages given for adults great care must be taken as you must always remember that the age given is that which the informant thought the deceased person was - they have been known to be 10 years out!.

PERIOD	AGE	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
1866-1887	Boys	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	2	14	26
	Girls	1	1	1	-	3	-	1	6	3	11	34
1887-1912	Boys	-	2	2	-	-	4	1	-	5	14	48
	Girls	-	1	-	1	-	2	2	2	9	12	46
1912-1937	Boys	-	3	-	-	1	-	1	3	4	4	16
	Girls	1	-	-	-	-	1	2	2	4	3	19
1937-1962	Boys	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	7
	Girls	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5

I hope some of our academic members may be able to draw some conclusions for me for our next journal.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

We now have 175 members - 116 from the UK, 32 from America, 14 from Canada, 6 from Australia, 3 from S. Africa and 1 each from Singapore, France, Ethiopia and New Zealand.

In response to my appeals some more subscriptions and donations have come in but there are STILL 31 British, 17 American, 4 Canadian, 2 Australian and 1 S.African member who have not yet paid their dues for this year which were DUE ON THE 1ST JANUARY.

A LAST reminder is enclosed - please send it NOW.

#### CASSANDRA SWYNNERTON AND HER GOD-DAUGHTERS

Cassandra Giffard married Humphrey Swynnerton of Swynnerton and Hilton sometime before 1540. The name Cassandra is found in Greek mythology-being the name of King Priam of Troy's prophetic daughter in Homer's 'Iliad'- and is uncommon as a Christian name in this land of England.

Since it was customary in many families to perpetuate Christian names by handing them down from generation to generation - her husband Humphrey was named after both his grandfather and great-grandfather - it might have been expected that Cassandra would bestow her name on one of her own daughters but her only known children were christened, rather more prosaically, Margaret and Elizabeth.

Despite this omission the name Cassandra was destined to continue in use for some time, if not in the Swynnerton family. In her Will, made on 17 Feb 1564/5, Cassandra left a large number of bequests, mostly (apart from to those to her children and grand-children) to her Gyfforde and Congreve relatives and to her servants. These included 10 shillings each to her god-daughters Cassandre Gyfforde and Cassandre Congreve '40 shillings and one cove' to her god-daughter Cassandre Westonne and 'one cove' to her god-daughter Cassandre Berdmore (possibly the daughter of her 'baylie' Thomas Berdmore who received 10 shillings and Isabel Berdmore who received 'one Kyrtille, a gowne and a cove'.) She also left 'to all my god-children that demand it within one year of my decease 12d each.

Christopher Swynnerton of Whitmore in 1570 also left 'to every godchilde that I have, 4d' so it seems to have been a fairly common practice to remember one's godchildren in one's Will (how the executors were supposed to keep track of genuine godchildren is an interesting question!). However, since four god-dau-



ughters named after her all merited a specific mention and a larger bequest in her Will it appears that it was politic to name a god-daughter after her godmother!. With four Cassandras growing up, there was presumably a far better chance of the name being perpetuated through their daughters or god-daughters than if the name had been given just to one of Cassandra's own daughters. It would be interesting to know how many girls called Cassandra in the late 1500 and 1600s could blame Cassandra Swynnerton for their unusual name!.

Pauline M.Litton

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ARCHIVES at WAKEFIELD LOCAL STUDIES DEPT

..... family and estate collection ...Staffordshire estates of the SWINNERTON family ....

(West Yorks History Newsletter 'For the Record' No.4  
Spring 1982)

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KELLY'S COMMERCIAL DIRECTORY of LONDON 1845

RD.SWINNERTON, chinaman, (!) 6 Cumberland Roe, King's  
Cross.

KELLY'S COURT DIRECTORY of LONDON 1880

G.SWINNERTON, 18 Fortnam Road, Upper Holloway, (Islington)

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*Good families are generally worse than any others.*

(Anthony Hope otherwise Sir Anthony Hope Hawkins in The Prisoner of Zenda)

THE STAFFORDSHIRE POTTERS

From Mr.H.T.Titley

"I was most interested to receive your letter from the Swinnerton Society and your reference to the Swinnerton Pottery. I am only sorry that I did not know of your Society some years ago as I am sure I would have been able to pass on quite a lot of old catalogues and literature that would have been of interest but unfortunately, I have very little to offer now as I retired six years ago.

I joined Swinnertons Vulcan Pottery in the spring of 1951 on the sales side, my father-in-law, Tom Parkes, being the Sales Director at this time. My wife's grandfather was William Bloore and I have found an old photograph of him that may be of interest as he certainly was a fine old gentleman as I remember him.

I was very impressed with the history of the firm you have received from America which as far as I know is correct in all details.

However, your Society may be interested in an old copy of the floatation in 1955 and the AGM in 1959.

The only other document I can enclose is the Certificate of Incorporation of the Company in 1911 which I took with me when I moved to Ash Hall after the takeover by the Pearson Company. You may certainly keep for the Society the few documents I have been able to enclose.

If you got in touch with the secretary of the British Pottery Manufacturing Association at Federation House, Stoke, you might get some further information as the firm was always a member of same and I would think that they have records of what past Swinnertons paid in the early days.

For my part I can only recall the various stories that I can remember hearing about. For example, years before the second world war, Swinnertons built up a tremendous trade with F.W.Woolworths, as I believe at one time, well over half the firm's total production went to this one firm. F.W.W. had their own shape which was called "Luxor" and it was sold as plain white ware in all their stores. They also had about four to six decorated patterns which would always be an underglaze print of the Willow type. One of these patterns which sold in thousands of dozens was called "Silverdale".

The huge business with Woolworths had one very useful asset in that when the industry at large was in a depressed state and other firms were laying off their work force, Swinnertons would go on producing

stock for F.W.W. because they knew that F.W.W. would take same over a period, and thus a settled, contented work force was maintained. We had a huge cellar at the Vulcan Works and at times this would be full with thousands of dozens of decorated F.W.W. patterns.

Swinbertons also had a contract with F.W.W. for pudding basins and in the 1950's they would take between 60 and 70 thousand dozens in a year.

The problem in this case was that we had to produce steadily through the year but F.W.W. stores would not take any until Oct.1st, so again you can imagine the stocks that were built up in the cellar at the Vulcan works.

Some of the "Luxor" white ware was produced at the old Scotia Pottery in Burslem and, at times thousands of dozens would be stored when trade was slow. I can remember one day Mr.Victor Alcock coming back to the Vulcan works after an inspection of the Scotia works, looking like death. He had been walking round the three floors where their stocks were housed when he noticed that the floors were bending under the weight of the ware. They had to get on to the local coal pit and get some pit props to shore up the roof of each floor until the ware could be moved.

The Alcock, Handley and Bloore Teapot factory built next to the Vulcan works was built so that Woolworths could be supplied with a four-cup brown teapot. At one time I understand that we were despatching up to four thousand dozen per week to the Woolworth stores. The factory charged 4/9d per dozen and F.W.W. sold same for 6d each.

I have mentioned this story about the huge business that Swinberton's did with F.W.Woolworth because I wanted to stress that as purchasers of such quantities of earthenware and teapots F.W.W. always insisted on the highest quality at the very lowest price.

My father-in-law told me the story of how at one time before the war, the Woolworth buyer came to see him and in the course of discussion demanded that the price of white teacups should be reduced by 1/2d per dozen and added that if Swinbertons would not agree, he would take his business to other competitors in the area. You can imagine the problem as if the whole business we were doing at that time with Woolworths had been cut off, the Swinberton factories could not have stayed in business and that would have been the end of the tale.

The buyer went away to buy elsewhere but my father-in-law had gambled that such quantities could not be obtained from anywhere else and, of course, he was proved right. The buyer came back a week later stating that he had decided that there should be no change only to be told that would be fine but that the price of cups had now gone up by 1d per dozen.

I cannot, of course, vouch for the exact truth of this last statement but I do know that the Swinberton directors decided they would never again be put in a similar position and set about altering the balance so that 1/3 of the output only would go to F.W.W., 1/3 to the ordinary home market and 1/3 would be for export.

Of course, it was this desire to increase our overall production and distribution that lead us to build the very big factory by the mill at Baddesley Green.

Swinbertons did produce some very fine decorations and one pattern produced I think in the early 1930's called Old English Garden, was really quite famous as Queen Mary saw it at an exhibition in London and purchased a teaset in this pattern.

The Pottery industry has over the last few years changed and nearly all the old family businesses have gone but I shall always remember Swinbertons as a happy firm with a wonderful reputation both home and abroad.

I can only hope that these few notes help in some small way. "

\* \* \* \* \*

#### THEY SERVED THEIR KING & COUNTRY

In SFH.4, No.10, p.172 I mentioned that JOHN CHRISTOPHER SWINNERTON had followed in his father's footsteps and served in the Indian Army. The National Army Museum are compiling a roll of all those who served in India, Military and Civil and I recently completed questionnaires for all those members of our family who had done so.

They were very grateful for the information and in her reply Miss E.Talbot Rice, the Research and Information Officer told me that J.C.Swinberton was awarded the MBE and retired on the 23rd. December 1923.



GEORGE SWINNERTON  
b. 1853 Bootle  
bur.12Jan1928 Anfield  
Water Engineer  
(GS.91)

Harriet Louisa Wheate  
20Apr1876 Liverpool  
b. c. 1857  
bur.7Jan1918 Anfield

JOSEPH EDWIN SWINNERTON b.27Feb1877 bur.16Sep1877 Liverpool (JS.562)	WILLIAM EDWIN SWINNERTON b.4Jun1879 Liverpool d.26Feb1927 Canterbury Water Engineer (WS.180)	= Lilian Katherine Forwood 31Mar1906 Broadstairs	EDITH ANN(ES.331) b.3Jul1880 Liverpool (mar.1899L'pool) GEORGE HENRY SWINNERTON b.27Feb1883 Liverpool bur.10Aug1884 Everton (GS.146)	FRANCES MARY (FS.93) b. 1884 Liverpool George Vaughan 13Nov1908 Liverpool ELIZABETH(ES.195) LILLIE BRISCOE b.26Jul1890 L'pool d. 1901 L'pool	BEATRICE(BS.78) CONSTANCE b. 1886 Liverpool = (1) ..... Nelson 1911 L'pool (2) ..... Dodson	THOMAS EDWARD SWINNERTON b. 1892 Liverpool bur.31Dec1953 Anfield Engineer (TS.188)	= Edith Fanny Morriss 1917 bur.30Apr1965	GERTRUDE(GS.104) b.7Apr1885 Liverpool bur.30Aug1885 Everton JOHN SWINNERTON b. 1894 Liverpool bur.29Jan1894 W.Derby L'pool (JS.563)
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GEORGE RICHARD SWINNERTON  
b.2Feb1909  
Canterbury  
(GS.147)

= Gladys Irene Keeble  
170Oct1936  
b.20Oct1909  
Reigate

PETER RICHARD SWINNERTON  
b.27Mar1938  
Morden  
(PS.67)

= Catherine Mary Ford  
8Sept1962  
Selsdon  
b.27Jun1940

MARGARET(MS.327)  
b.1Jun1942  
= (1)Kenneth Sinclair 1960 Ipswich  
(2)Donald Ramarty

ANNE MARGARET SWINNERTON  
b.12Mar1967  
Croydon  
(AS.253)

DAVID RICHARD SWINNERTON  
b.9Apr1970  
Croydon  
(DS.83)

DONALD GEORGE SWINNERTON  
b. 1921  
Liverpool  
(DS.84)

= Dorothy Merrison  
1947  
Grimsby

GORDON THOMAS SWINNERTON  
b.23Apr1919  
Liverpool  
(GS.148)

= Doreen E..... Crawford  
1946  
Grimsby

GRAHAM P..... SWINNERTON  
b. 1948  
Grimsby  
(GS.149)

= Sandra L Park  
1979  
Lincoln

DEBORAH J....(DS.85)  
b. 1954  
Louth



PROFESSOR SWINNERTON, CHAIRMAN OF THE  
GOVERNORS 1922-1956



Professor H. H. Swinnerton retired from his Chairmanship of the Local Governors in March, when he left Nottingham and went to live in London. There can be few schools in the Trust who can boast a continuous chairmanship covering the time of three Head Mistresses. Dr. Swinnerton was the first Chairman and was appointed in 1922. The wealth of his experience, his wisdom and his understanding ensured a stable, happy and warm relationship throughout the whole time with the Council, the Governors and the Head Mistresses. Dr. Swinnerton went further than this though; his own three daughters were educated in the school and he claimed at a Prize-giving once that he had "three daughters and 750 adopted daughters." Certainly he was always a favourite with the school—at his last Prize-giving the Head Girl described him as a "kind of grandfather" and the girls regarded him in that affectionate way. He had intimate knowledge of the Staff and the human problems connected with them. He was never too busy to help us in spite of his work at the University, his writing of books, his interest in archaeology and his services to Methodism in the City.

We miss his visits to the school to talk about Science and Religion, or to tell us about Geology or to come to the Carols or the Plays; and his welcome at the University to describe the Margidunum finds to our parties of girls. We hope that he will be able to visit us again before long and in the meantime offer him our love and our gratitude for his great service on our behalf.

F.M.M.

From the Nottingham High School for Girls Magazine  
1956-7  
ex Mary Talbot

WHO'S WHO IN THE SWINNERTON FAMILY (7)

MR.P.R.SWINNERTON

On the centre pages of our last Journal there was a Tree showing the descent of the Rev.Edward Swinnerton. On that tree was an arrow indicating that George(GS.91) and Harriet Louisa had descendants and PETER RICHARD SWINNERTON is one of them, George being his great-grand father. On the centre pages of this issue we give the full descent and it is interesting to note that both Peter's grandfather and great-grandfather were Chief Water Engineers, one for Liverpool and one for the city of Canterbury.

Peter,himself, is a Chartered Accountant and joined our Society in 1981.

Much of the research in Liverpool for this Tree has been done by our member BRIAN SWINNERTON of Maghull. He has since discovered that on the Rev.Edward's tree Thomas Edward (TS.113) and Beatrice had children. They were:-

THOMAS WILLIAM (TS.189) b.1909 bur.1933: OLIVE (OS.18) b.12Sep1912 and married a Mr.Parry in 1935: HILDA (HS.172) b.1914, married a Mr.Anderson in 1934 and was buried in 1964: VICTORIA B. (VS.12) b.9 June 1919 and married Thomas Levineous-Derwen 30 Nov 1946: JOSEPHINE (JS.564) b.21 July 1923 and married a Mr. Hurley in 1946 and DOREEN (DS.86) b.24 August 1926 and married a Mr. Hood in 1949.

\* \* \* \* \*

In addition, he has added the following:-

JOSEPH (JS.308) and Ann had another son THOMAS (TS.190) b.1848,d.5 April1849: THOMAS EDWARD (TS.112) d.5 March 1905, his wife Annie was buried 8 July 1897 but they had another daughter BEATRICE (BS.79) bap. 30 May1888 SAMUEL HENRY (SS.145) d.26 Jan1860: THOMAS (TS.114) d.17Jan1852; WILLIAM JOSEPH (WS.106) was buried 15 May 1948: THOMAS EDWARD (TS.113) was buried 14May1958: his wife Beatrice on the 27 April 1966 and, finally, ELLEN (ES.162) was buried on the 8 April 1920.



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

BY THE REV. CHARLES SWINNERTON, BENICAL CHAPLAIN.

(Continued from page 38.)

2. Sir John de Swynnerton "de Hylton," the second Lord, like his father, was distinguished in the wars and politics of the period. Born in the year 1310, he inherited from his mother, Anne De Montgomery, the Seneschalship of the Royal Forest of Cannock, and the lordship of the manors of Hilton and Essington.<sup>a</sup> He was also heir to lands in Repton, Melton, Tykenhall, Bolterford, Aldebrowe, and to Donnington, in co. Derby, as well as to certain rents in Lincolnshire. For all these, as well as for Cannock Forest, held by Grand Serjeanty, he did homage to King Edward III., on his father's death in 1340.<sup>b</sup> Later in life he established his right also to the ancient manor of Whelton, in co. Northants, which had belonged to the De Wheltons from the Conquest to the reign of Edward I.<sup>c</sup> Felicia de Whelton, Sir John de Swynnerton's grandmother was in that reign left sole daughter and heiress of the last heir male. She, however, married a second time, and bequeathed the manor to her issue by her second marriage, Sir James Nevil, of Brampton, who dying without issue, the manor reverted to Sir John de Swynnerton De Hilton. Sir John de Swynnerton, in consideration of a deed apparently illegal, by which the widow of Sir James Nevil had conveyed the manor to John Holt, and Alice his wife, confirmed the grant in the year 1380, to the said John and Alice Holt, for their lives, and to their heirs and assigns for one year after, when the manor once more reverted to the heirs of Sir John de Swynnerton.<sup>d</sup>

Sir John's wife was Christiana, relict of Sir John de Segrave, Kt., whom he married some time between the years 1340 and 1350, and who appears to have brought him an additional share of the manor of Repton.<sup>e</sup> This Christiana was connected, through her former husband and the De Hastings, with the old Earls of Chester, the last heir male of whom dying circa, 1232, left all his lands not in co. Chester to be divided among his four sisters and coheirresses. Of these lands the manor of Repton was part.

Sir John de Swynnerton was trained to arms under those two bold and impetuous spirits, Sir John (his father), and Roger, Baron Swynnerton, of Swynnerton, and shared with them in the earlier wars of Edward III. It was not, however, until his father died, that writs of Service were addressed personally to himself. In 1345 Letters of Privy Seal were directed to "Johannes Fitz Johan de Swynnerton Armigero de Com. Staff," which were tested by Lionel, the king's son, at Westminster, on July 4th, commanding him to appear with horses,

<sup>a</sup> V. ante. <sup>b</sup> Abb. Rot. Orig. <sup>c</sup> Baker's "Northamptonshire." <sup>d</sup> Ibid. <sup>e</sup> Mazzinghi's researches at Stafford.

arms, and men on the Feast of St. Lawrence (Aug. 12), at a place to be subsequently named in order to accompany the king across the seas to his possessions in France for the protection of his kingdom.<sup>f</sup> The campaign which ensued is memorable for the battle of Crecy, and the capture of Calais, on both which occasions Sir John de Swynnerton must have been present, together with Sir Thomas de Swynnerton, of Swynnerton, his first cousin. He was probably knighted, as were many others on the field of Crecy itself, as about this time we find him no longer addressed as "Armiger," but with the usual style of a knight.<sup>g</sup> In 1346 he was appointed King's Escheator of the co. of Stafford, an office of immense power, and of large emoluments. In 21 Edw. III., 1347, he paid the king for his relief for the Forest of Cannock, and for his other lands, all of which are specified in the Roll, which describes him as "Johannes de Swynnerton filius et hæres Johannis de Swynnerton defuncti et Annæ uxoris ejus filix Philippi de Montegomerie."<sup>h</sup> In 1348 and 1349 he was again King's Escheator in the county of Stafford. While in discharge of this office in the latter year a writ was addressed to him to enquire whether or not it would be to the damage of the Lord the King that Stephen de Chalaston should give and assign twenty-four messuages, six acres, and a rent of four shillings in Lichfield to the vicars of the great church of St. Chad, in that city. "Dated the 16th October, in the 23rd year of the king's reign over England, and the 10th of his reign over France."<sup>i</sup> In 1350 he was Escheator of the county of Salop.<sup>j</sup> In 1352 Edward III. granted to him two parts of the moiety of "Sellyng," which had belonged to Henry Fitzroy, to hold the same until the full age of the heir.<sup>k</sup> In 1353 he was a second time king's Escheator of Salop, and also of the "Marches of Wales."<sup>l</sup> In 1354 he was Escheator of co. Stafford for the fourth time, and in 1357 of Salop for the third time.<sup>m</sup> In 23 Edw. III., 1359, he was one of the Commissioners appointed for preserving the peace in Staffordshire. His commission was tested at Woodstock on 4th December.<sup>n</sup> In the same year he was a "Commissioner of Array" for raising archers and other men for the protection of the realm during the king's absence.<sup>o</sup> His commission, which was shared by Humphrey de Swynnerton, was tested at Westminster on 16 November.<sup>p</sup> In 36 Edw. III., 1362, he was High Sheriff of the county of Stafford.<sup>q</sup> He was then 52 years old. Of his public acts during the succeeding twenty years, I have not yet seen any record.

<sup>f</sup> Rymer's Fœdera, 19 Edw. III. <sup>g</sup> Abbrev. Rot. Orig., 20 Edw. III.

<sup>h</sup> Book of Reliefs. Mich. Term. 20 Edw. III. Rot. 1<sup>o</sup>. The lands specified are:—Cannock Forest, an assart and a meadow in Hopwas, and a half virgate of land with its appurtenances in Frodley, all by grand Serjeanty. Also £4 14s. rents in Repton, Melton, and Tykenhall, with appurtenances, £4 rents in "Bettesford," 20s. rents in "Aldeberne," 14s. rents in Donnington, together with other lands and tenements in co. Derby, held by the service of the 40th part of one knight's fee. (Mazzinghi). V. also Rot. 2, fol. 162. Also Harl. MS., 1415.

<sup>i</sup> Abbrev. Rot. Orig. Also Jaquis. ad quod damnum. 23 Edw. III., No. 20.

<sup>j</sup> Abbrev. Rot. Orig.

<sup>k</sup> Rymer's Fœdera, p. 464. Pat. 33 Edw. III., p. 3. Mem. 4. d. Ibid. p. 457. Pat. 33 Edw. III. Mem. 7 d. in Turr. Lond.

<sup>l</sup> Sir Simon Degg's MSS. Fuller's Worthies.



His wife, Christiana, was dead before 1380. He himself died on the Monday next after the Conception of the B. Virgin (Dec. 8) 3 Ric. II. 1379. His inquisition was held at Hilton on Jan. 14, 1380, when it was found by the jury that he was Steward of the Forest of Cannock, and Lord of Hilton and Essington, and that John, his son, was his heir, and of the age of thirty years.

According to Burke, or rather to a pedigree which appears in Burke, he left, as well as John, a son Thomas, styled "of Repyndon," who may have inherited land belonging to his mother, in the manor of Repton, and who is said to have died in 7 Hen. VI., 1429. This pedigree, however, is a concocted affair, and cannot be accepted as evidence.

3. Sir John de Swynnerton, Kt., the third Lord, born in 1350.<sup>a</sup> In 46 Edw. III., 1372, we find him married to Margaret de Caverswall. An original deed of that year, preserved at Hilton, has still attached to it an impression of their seal. This seal is composed of dirty yellowish wax, and is about two inches in diameter. The shield bears on the dexter side a cross flory within a bordure engrailed for Swynnerton, and on the sinister side chequy a fess fretty for Caverswall. The inscription on the border of the seal is "S. Mergerete de Sonmertone."<sup>b</sup> The deed is witnessed by John de Swynnerton the Elder, and John de Swynnerton the Younger. Another deed at Hilton, of 15 August, 7 Ric. II., 1384, shows that Margaret de "Sonmertone" was at that time a widow, and, if the widow of John de Swynnerton the Younger, then her husband must have died within four years of the death of his father.

4. Still following the Vernon pedigree above referred to, which I hope to examine more particularly on my return to England, I find that the next in succession was another John de Swynnerton, who married Clemencia,<sup>c</sup> daughter of Sir John Mallory of co. Northants (or a lion rampant *gules*.) In 2 Ric. II., 1387, he paid the king for his relief for the Stewardship of Cannock (Harl. M.S. 1415.) In 10 Hen. IV., 1408, this son, and Clemencia his wife, are stated to have granted land called Blackleys, to Richard Leveson.<sup>d</sup> John and Clemencia left issue (1) John<sup>e</sup> (2) Thomas<sup>f</sup> (3) Edmund<sup>g</sup> or Edward, (4) Giles,<sup>h</sup> and (5) Peter.<sup>i</sup>

4. John de Swynnerton, Esquire, the eldest, is said to have married Elena, a daughter of John Mallory, of Wilton.<sup>k</sup> He also appears to have died young, leaving one son and heir, John. Elena, his widow, married, secondly, Sir John Bernard, of Isellham, co. Cambridge, and dying in 1440, was buried in Isellham Church, where a

<sup>a</sup> In this account I accept the order of a pedigree kindly supplied to me by Mr. W. F. Vernon, of Harefield Park, Uxbridge. Yet in the absence of further evidence, I am disposed to think this John identical with John No. 2, and Margaret de Caverswall, a second wife.

<sup>b</sup> The local pronunciation even now. Several instances of this spelling (Sonmertone, and Sonerton) occur in old Parish Registers, e. g. at Barthomley co. Chester.

<sup>c</sup> V. also Harl. MSS. 1100, f. 15, 1563, f. 32, and 6128 f. 60. Also Her. MSS. at Queen's, Oxford.

<sup>d</sup> Deed at Hilton.

<sup>e</sup> Harl. MSS. 1415, f. 132.

<sup>f</sup> Ibid. and other Harl. MSS. as before.

<sup>g</sup> The "Vernon" pedigree.

brass commemorates her." The son and heir (John) died, without issue, apparently in boyhood, and the next lord was his uncle—

5. Thomas Swynnerton, Esquire, the fifth lord,<sup>j</sup> who succeeded to the property circa 1431.<sup>k</sup> This Thomas, besides Cannock, Hilton, and Essington, was lord also of the aforementioned manor of Whelton.<sup>l</sup> He married Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of John Bonde (*Gules semmè of billets, or three lions rampant, or<sup>m</sup>*) by whom he had only two daughters, Anne and Alice. He himself died 31 December, 1448. Though many entries respecting him must exist among the Records, very few have yet been found. On 1 July, 15 Hen. VI., 1437, a grant of general pardon, in which he is styled "of Hilton, and Steward of Cannock Forest," was issued to him.<sup>n</sup> Henry VI. was then only sixteen years old, and the kingdom under the protectorship of his uncle, the Duke of Gloucester. What offence the pardon pointed to I know not. In 25 Hen. VI., 1446, he received a confirmation of the Stewardship of Cannock Forest.<sup>o</sup>

By his *Inquisitio post mortem*, dated at Lichfield, November, 28 Hen. VI., 1449, the Jury found that he held no land of the king. But before his death he had granted to Humphrey, Duke of Buckingham, to John Stanley, of Elford, and others (having obtained the royal Licence by Letters Patent exhibited to the Jury), a messuage and lands in Frodley, also all the Bailiwick which Hugo de Loges in the time of Hen. III. held in the Forest of Cannock, and the Stewardship thereof, by virtue of which grant the Duke of Buckingham, John Stanley, and others, were seized of the said premises in trust. The Jury also declared that the said Thomas Swynnerton held jointly with Elizabeth his wife, then living, the manors and lands of Hilton and Essington, and other lands mentioned, and that he left two daughters, Anne and Alice, aged respectively fourteen and thirteen years.

Mr. W. F. Vernon, to whose courtesy I find myself largely indebted, informs me that a copy of this Inquisition was examined and compared with the original in the Tower, in 1595, and again in 1664, and that in July, 1664, it was produced in Court in a suit of ejectment.

Elizabeth, the widow of Thomas Swynnerton, was left Steward of Cannock Forest by her husband's will, which was dated 2 November, 27 Hen. VI., 1448. In this will he leaves all his estates to his wife for life, as well as the profits of the marriage of his two daughters. He also devises ten silver marks to his natural son, Giles Swynnerton.

6. Anne Swynnerton, Lady of Hilton and Essington, was born in 13 Hen. VI., 1434-5. As her eldest son was upwards of seventeen

<sup>j</sup> There lived also about this time at least two Elena Swynnertons, of Swynnerton.

<sup>k</sup> Harl. MSS.

<sup>l</sup> At a court held 18 Oct. 12 Henry VI., 1433, Thomas Swynnerton was admitted to lands called Grymesleys, as next heir after the decease of John, son of John Swynnerton. Wyrley Deeds at Hilton. But he had also paid for his relief for the Forest of Cannock, in 10 Hen. VI., 1431. Harl. MS. 1415, fol. 155 B.

<sup>m</sup> Baker. Also Harl. MSS. 1100 p. 15.

<sup>n</sup> Ibid. Also Her. MSS. at Caius College, Cambridge.

<sup>o</sup> Fitzherbert Records.

<sup>p</sup> Cal. Rob. Pat. p. 290 (Stafford).



years of age in 1470, she must have married not later than 1452, when she was seventeen or eighteen years old. Her first husband was her distant cousin Humphrey Swynnerton, of Swynnerton, Esquire.<sup>b</sup> Her second was John Mytton, of Halston,<sup>c</sup> who is said to have been steward of Cannock after his wife's death, and to have left his step-son, Humphrey Swynnerton, his heir.<sup>d</sup> Anne died on 25th March, 10 Edw. IV., 1470.<sup>e</sup>

Anne's younger sister, Alice, was born in 1435-6. She was married at the age of seventeen, to Richard Beaufoe, of Barsford (l), co. Oxford,<sup>f</sup> her share in her father's lands being the Forest of Cannock,<sup>g</sup> and the manor of Whelton.<sup>h</sup> The Vernon pedigree, from a certain note which appears on the back of her elder sister's Inquisitio p. m., presumes that she died without issue. But other authorities state that she had by her first husband a son Humphrey Beaufoe, who was eighteen years old on the death of his mother in 12 Edw. IV., 1472, and who died in 1 Hen. VII., 1485, aged thirty-one, seized of the manor of Whelton and other lands, as well as of the Forestership of Cannock.<sup>i</sup> The discrepancy might easily be cleared up by a little research. Alice, however, according to Baker, had a second husband, a William Hugford. She died at the age of thirty-seven, about two years after the death of her sister; and with her ended the long, and for a time, at least, the somewhat illustrious line of Swynnerton of Hilton.<sup>j</sup>

The arms of this family have been already spoken of. Their crest, motto, badge, and livery colours have not yet been made out with any certainty. The muniment chests of the Vernons of Hilton, and of the Beaufoes of Oxfordshire, or of their representatives, probably contain a mass of interesting information regarding this family and the honours which pertained to it.

<sup>b</sup> Harl. MSS. MSS. in Coll. of Arms, and other Collections.

<sup>c</sup> Ibid.

<sup>d</sup> The Vernon papers at Hilton.

<sup>e</sup> For further details see a previous paper.

<sup>f</sup> Harl. and other MSS., Baker and others.

<sup>g</sup> This statement differs from the Vernon account, but is supported by Harl. MSS. and MSS. at Queen's Coll. Oxford.

<sup>h</sup> V. Baker's "Northants." <sup>i</sup> Ibid, and Harl. MSS. (Heralds' Visitation.) <sup>j</sup> Ibid.

#### LIST of FREEMEN of MASSACHUSETTS 1630-91

(Lucius R. Page. General Publishing Co., Baltimore 1978)

p.17 Job SWINNERTON 6 Sept. 1639 CR.Vol1 p.254

p.36 Sergt. Job SWINATON Salem Village 18 Apr 1690  
Inter., VolIII pp.12-14

Library of the Society of Genealogists - ex Mrs. Reson

#### FAMILY NOTES

We welcome 5 new members this quarter, one from the USA. and four sisters who have joined simultaneously from this country which is something of a record.

They are:-

Mr. Ludlow Elliman of [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] who is a very experienced genealogist and whose Swinnerton descent is from ALICE de SWYNNERTON (d.circa 1350), daughter of Sir Thomas de Swynnerton and Maud de Holand who married Sir John de Gresley of Drakelow.

The sisters are:-

Mrs. Catherine Gaughan, [redacted]  
[redacted] : Mrs. Patricia Turner, [redacted]  
[redacted] : Mrs. Margaret Grogan,  
[redacted] and Mrs. Ellen Maureen  
Munro, [redacted]

They are the step-daughters of the late JOHN MICHAEL SWINNERTON (JS.541) of Leeds (1914-1980). He was descended from SAMUEL SWINNERTON, a Carrier who was born about 1800.

We regret to have to record the death of our member Mrs. A.E. Emery of Newcastle under Lyme on the 13th. March aged 80. She was the sister of our member Mr. F.C. Swinnerton of Wolstanton and we send our sympathy to her family.

We also learn from Bill Swinarton that our member Mrs. Gretchen Parshall Swinnerton passed away at her home in California on the 9th. April. Mrs. Swinnerton had not been a member for long but had supplied Bill with a lot of very useful information for which we shall always be very grateful.



GOOD NEWS from the Church Hall Fund. Thanks to donations from the Rev. Edward Swinnerton, John S.Swinerton Mrs.Wood, Mrs.Barnes, T.F.Swynnerton, P.Swinerton (Irlam), L.Swinerton, Mrs.Barrett, Mrs.Houghton, Miss L.E.Swinerton, R.P.Swinerton, A.J.Swinerton, Mr.& Mrs.W.E.Swinerton, F.W.H.Swinerton, B.Swinerton (Liverpool), D.F.Swinerton and Mrs.Stocks the deficit has now been reduced to £23.05 and hopefully we shall soon clear that.

Sadly I have to tell you of the death of Mr. CYRIL SWINNERTON of Blackpool. Mr. Swinnerton was a member of the Potteries Branch of the family and had been a loyal supporter and attender at Gatherings. We send our sympathy to his family and are glad that the great interest he always showed is being carried on by his grand-daughters Caroline and Marie who are both now members.

Two belated events to record which have slipped past my net over the last year whilst I have been so occupied are the death of WILLIAM LINDSAY SWINNERTON of the Irish Branch on the 27th Dec. 1981, the brother of our member Mrs. Helen Woods and the birth of a new twig on the Australian Tree - MICHAEL JAMES SWINNERTON born on the 24 February 1982, a nephew for our member Dennis Swinnerton.

CONGRATULATIONS to Mike and Linda Swinnerton of the USA on the birth of a daughter, VICTORIA LINDA on the 1st March 1983 (another grand-daughter for our Chairman. He, incidentally, has asked me to point out that he does still share the same roof with his wife! My apologies - I inadvertently typed Mrs.Pat Swinnerton's address as No.34 in the last issue instead of No.29.

#### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Mrs.V.K.Leighton to:-

### 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)  
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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 Swynntons (1971)  
by the Rev.B.T.Swinerton  
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)  
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