

# ***Swinnerton Family History***

**The Journal of the Swinnerton Society**



**ISSN 0508 6755**

**VOLUME SIX**

**NUMBER TEN**

**MARCH 1987**

# The Swinnerton Society

A non-profit making organisation devoted to the research and publication of Swinnerton Family Records and the welfare of St.Mary's Church, Swynnerton.

Registered as a Charity No.518184

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Subscription £3.50 per Annum

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## FROM THE EDITOR

This is the last issue of the current volume of our family journal and I shall try and catch up with all the family notes and news and the results of our latest research which had to be held over because the accounts and minutes of the Annual General Meeting and story of the Gathering took up the whole of the last issue.

First, though, I have to apologise to all those of you who had your subscriptions and donations returned by the Post Office. In typing up the forms, I inadvertently crossed our Treasurer's house number with his Post Code and put 11 Bents Road, Sheffield S30 instead of 30 Bents Road, Sheffield S11. If you have not yet sent it off again, please do so, because of my error subscriptions have been very slow to come in and we are running short of money!

I have continued to receive a selection of newspaper cuttings about various members of the family but they are nearly all from one source and one paper. I am quite sure we do not all read the same newspaper so please do keep your eyes on your local paper and particularly on the 'hatched, matched and despatched' columns.

I have continued to receive letters from members saying how much they enjoyed the Gathering last year and am very pleased that everyone enjoyed it so much. It is impossible for me to reply to everyone individually so please my thanks for all the nice things you said.

We now have a Society computer and I am busy setting it up to receive all the records we have accumulated over the years. It is an Amstrad 1512 which is fully IBM compatible so if anyone has a compatible machine and would like to help with the work I would be very glad to hear from them.



St. Peter's Parish Church, Redcar Yorks

14 Nov 1942 Thomas Albert SWINNERTON aged 37, H.M. Forces  
and Evelyn Ward aged 30. widow married.

A war-time wedding obviously, Thomas gave his address  
as 13 Railway Road, Shrewsbury and his father as  
WILLIAM HENRY SWINNERTON, fishmonger.

I cannot identify him at the moment - can anyone?  
(ex Mr Alex Sampson)

\* \* \* \*

DENNIS SWINNERTON of Herne Bay fought in the famous  
International Brigade in the Spanish Civil War. He  
apparently wrote to 'Points of View', the Television  
Programme on Saturday 12 January 1987 in answer to  
the documentary programme 'Spirit of the Alcazar'.  
Unfortunately, I did not see either programme and  
cannot identify Dennis on the family tree. Please  
write to me if you can.  
(ex Eunice Wilson)

\* \* \* \*

RETURN OF OWNERS OF LAND IN IRELAND Dublin 1876

Joseph Swinerton of Rouskey, Upper, Moneymore, Co.  
Tyrone; 47 acres 2 rods 10 poles, value £41.10s.

\* \* \* \*

LANCASHIRE by Arthur Mee (King's England series) 1936

p.188 "In Heaton Park is an elegant Hall in an old  
English garden..... There is also here a sculpture  
of Love's Chalice by W.J.SWYNNERTON"

(ex Mrs Pauline Litton who says she is not sure whether  
this meant it was in the Hall or the Gardens but she will  
investigate unless we already know all about it. We dont!)

Lastly, it is worthy of note that the *Macclesfield Courier and Herald*, our leading local newspaper, first saw the light of day in the Market Place. In the year 1811 Jonathan Wilson commenced publishing the *Macclesfield Courier*, which was the first local newspaper. Its title was *The Macclesfield Courier and Stockport Express or General Advertiser*, and it also intimated that it was "for the Counties of Lancaster, York, Derby, Stafford, and Salop." Its motto was a good one and well chosen: "Be just and fear not. Let all the ends thou aimest at be thy country's." It consisted of four pages, each of five columns, and its price was 6½d.

In 1821 Mr. Jonathan Wilson died at the comparatively early age of 37, and his closing days were darkened by adversity. After his death the *Courier* passed through some vicissitudes, and the paper had no fewer than five proprietors in six years, but in 1827 a new and more successful era commenced in its history. Mr. James Swinnerton, who was born at Newcastle in the Potteries, came to Macclesfield when quite a young man, and purchased the bookselling business from Mr. Jonathan Wilson, which was carried on in the premises now occupied by Mr. G. J. Goodwin, printer and stationer. In 1825 Mr. Swinnerton commenced a newspaper called the *Macclesfield Herald*, which was amalgamated with the *Courier* in 1828, and the new publication was entitled the *Macclesfield Courier and Herald*. Mr. Swinnerton was highly respected in the town and in journalistic circles all over the country, and the *Courier and Herald* deservedly acquired that high reputation for accuracy, respectability, and literary excellence which it has maintained to the present day. Its owner now is Mr. Robert Brown, who was born in Dundee, and in 1871 was appointed by Mr. Swinnerton on the Reporting Staff. Mr. Brown has been its Editor since 1885, and became sole Proprietor in August, 1915.

(ex Mr E.J.G.Balley of the Guild of One-Name Studies)



A few days ago was married at Norton, Staffordshire, Mr James SWINNERTON to Mrs Ann Day of Penkhull. What is very singular, though only in the 17th year of her age, he is her second husband.

(ex Mr Bill Taylor who said that he 'was aware through his membership of the BMSGH and Guild of One-Name Studies of a small proportion of my genealogical interests')

The event must have created something of a stir to have been reported in a York newspaper. The actual entry in the parish register of Norton in the Moors (St.Bartholomew's) gives the date ad 25 Dec 1790 and says James Swinnerton and NANCY Day and makes no mention of her being a widow. The witnesses to the marriage were Mary Steel and Benjamin Singleton. William Steel witnessed a lot of marriages so I feel he was probably the Verger, perhaps Mary was his wife standing in for him. At present, I do not know who James was.

\* \* \* \* \*

Holy Trinity Church, Parish of St.Andrew's, Plymouth

Born 30 Aug 1856, Baptised 15 Nov 1876  
ALFRED JOHN, son of John & Elerner(sic) SWINNERTON.  
of the Emigrant Depot. Occupation a Dye Moulder.

(ex Mrs Ann Chiswell who says "I should think the address which is near the Mayflower Memorial on Plymouth Barbican where people waited for their ships, and the occupation belong to Alfred rather than his father.)

In fact, the address is of both of them as these are John (JS.249) and Alfred John (AS.38) of the Shropshire family who emigrated to Australia (see the tree in this Journal, Volume 5, No.8 March 1984.) I think the occupation should be DIE Moulder, an engineering occupation as Alfred became an engineer and later made motor cars-see the same Journal.

Since typing up the above, I have heard from member D.K. Swinnerton of Middlesbrough who says:-  
'You dont often hear much of sporting Swinnertons, I can only bring to mind the cycling Swinnertons, so you might be interested to know that my father and grandfather were both professional footballers. My grandfather (AS.130) played for Wrexhan prior to the first World War and my father (KS.32) was an amateur with Wrexham prior to signing professional forms with Manchester City in 1936. He had just established himself as Centre Foeward in the 1st team playing with the likes of the great Frank Swift when the 2nd Wotld War began. Except for the occasional guest appearance for different teams, and playing in the Battalion team with Joe Mercer, Matt Busby and the Corinthian and England Amateur Centre Half, the war effectively killed off any ambitions he had and so after a short spell with Torquay United after the war, he hung up his my boots.

As for myself, I never got any further than playing for Middlesbrough's 3rd team under the leadership of George Hardwick, the Middlesbrough, England and Great Britain full back and Captain. It was a very good team of 18yr olds, seven of whom went on to be professionals the most notable being Don Masson, M'bro, Notts County and Scotland and Cyril Knowles, M'bro, Spurs and England.'

FROM CHESHIRE RECORD OFFICE

Ref.DCH/G 25 Sep 8 Edw.1 (1280) G.4

BARROW. The King to Roger de S(wynnerton)  
Grant of the Manor of Littlebarwe.

(ex Mrs Shirley

\* \* \* \* \*

CORRECTION

SFH.Vol6 No.6 p.117. The town given as NOIRA should be MOIRA. My thanks to Mrs Helen Woods for pointing out my mistype.



## A QUAINCRAFTSMAN

One of the Odd Callings which are Practised  
in the Busy Streets of New York.

Up five flights of stairs of an old building in one of the downtown streets of this city is the studio of an heraldic painter—one of that class of specialists to whom only the metropolis can give adequate support and encouragement. For forty years, day in and day out, he has been mewed up in his little dingy room, until his hair and beard have become white and his face wrinkled and shrivelled with care and confinement.

To enter his workshop is to pass at once into the atmosphere of the Middle Ages; the painter is himself a relic of mediæval times and reminds one vividly of the days when his guild was flourishing and honorable, patronized by powerful kings and knights, and looked upon with respect and awe by the lower classes. The artist toils in the midst of the emblems and trophies of his peculiar art. On his walls are ancient portraits in mats and gilded frames; family arms emblazoned in the brightest colors and with every imaginable device, the helmet, lambrequin, wreath, mantlings, the shield, supporters, crest, motto and all the quaint significations of heraldry. In an inner room is the artist's library, composed exclusively of volumes used in his calling—genealogical dictionaries, the "Cyclopædia of Heraldry," a huge tome filled with quaint woodcuts and a vast amount of musty lore, family histories, charts and biographical dictionaries. On the floor are a number of portfolios containing the portraits, views, historical engravings, monuments and so forth, 50,000 in number, used by the artist in illustrating family history.

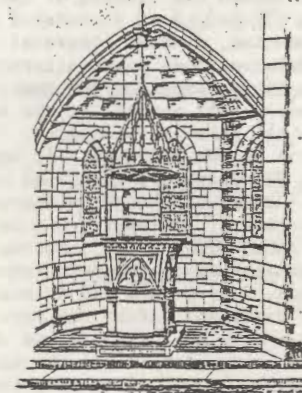
It seems at first sight as if in republican America an artist of this description would receive but meagre patronage. He does not, however, confine himself solely to the emblazoning of family coats of arms. He has resident agents in London, Edinburgh and Dublin, and correspondents in every large European city, and is much employed by the legal fraternity in procuring copies of foreign wills and deeds, and extracts from parish records. In addition he engraves arms for book plates, for libraries, and upon stone, for seals, rings, studs and key stones, and paints them on stained glass for hall and library windows, on silk for banners and in oil for consular purposes. He also prepares genealogical trees and charts. His is by no means a useless art, and as an obscure worker in a curious field his life stands in strange contrast with that of his neighbors.

November 1986 Price 10p

## St. Mary's Magazine

News and Views of St. Mary-without-the-Walls

Handbridge, Chester



## Parish Personality

Mr Leonard Swinnerton provided an absolute mine of anecdotes and childhood memories that I find it hard to know where to start. His eyes sparkled and his face lit up as he recalled each one. It is hard to imagine "our" Mr Swinnerton running barefoot through the streets of London in order to save his boots for school. He feels that that exercise provided him with very healthy feet, enabling him to enjoy plenty of walking even now! I heard of escapades with Police of "scrumped" apples. Efforts to earn an honest penny of two. In fact he was quite a lad.

Leonard was born in Stepney Green London, moving soon to Tower Bridge Road; - which afforded him a first class view of the threatening Zeppelins of the First World War. These proved to be very nerve-racking for Len's mother, so, with father away in the Army, the family moved in with Grandmother in Shotton, until finding their own accommodation in Chester. In 1936 Len married a Boughton girl, Elsie. They had a son, Colin, now married to Pat, with two sons Neil and Paul; and a daughter Jean married to Graham, with daughters Heather and Jennifer. The family were originally all involved in St Mary's Church; Elsie in the Mothers' Union and Fellowship, Len and son in the Choir, and Jean as a Sunday School Teacher.

Len has been involved with St Mary's for about 50 years. In the early days that involved walking from Boughton Heath on a Sunday. He belonged to the Church Choir for 37 years and proudly showed me his Certificate and Medal, presented by our present Rector on his retirement from the Choir in 1983. Len now serves as a Sidesman. Singing is Len's great love and hobby and it has opened many gateways to interesting events and people including appearing on television in "Songs of Praise" from the Cathedral. He was a participant in Chester Male Voice Choir and the Chester Grosvenor Singers, and continues to be active in the Chester Glee Club.

NEW YORK POST  
23 Jan 1880

Describing  
JAMES SWINNERTON  
of the  
Glos/USA Branch.



He worked at Brookhirst for 35 years (an electrical switchgear firm). He was considered to be in reserved occupation during the Second World War, much to his disappointment as he wanted to join the Navy. However, he had to make do with night time fire duty in the A.F.S. instead. When the factory moved its workforce to Bedford Len joined the County Licensing Department, eventually taking late retirement to join his outside interests.

Elsie did not live to enjoy his retirement with him, having died suddenly in 1971.

Whilst talking about the family, Len produced some fascinating material for me to see, a wealth of information, magazines and charts, including the Swinnerton Family Tree. In September of this year he attended the reunion of the Swinnerton Association, a society formed for the furthering of friendship and the promotion and welfare of St Mary's Church, Swynnerton, Staffs. Several replacements and restorations have been undertaken. Reunions take place alternate years but this year was the 900th anniversary of the first record of the family name appearing in the Domesday Book in 1086. 220 people, all members of the Swinnerton family, attended the service, travelling from all parts of the world. The Right Honourable Lord Stafford Swynnerton Park is Patron of the Society. Sir Roger Swinnerton is the President of the Society, Colonel Swinnerton is the Chief Genealogist and is responsible for much of the research. Reverend Edward Swinnerton from Blackpool led the service, his daughter being organist. Colonel J C A Swinnerton OBE, read the Lesson. The Bishop of Stafford, John Waller - not a Swinnerton - was there to dedicate a Memorial Tablet in commemoration of the Swinnertons who died in the War. The Service was preceded by lunch, a very warm and friendly affair with lots of news exchanged between distant families. After the service a cup of tea and biscuits, Colonel Ian Swinnerton gave a talk on "Domesday and the Family, from then 'til now". As well as Swinnerton ties being worn by all the male members, there is a bi-monthly issue of the magazine, which apart from updating news and whereabouts of the family members, or additions, contains articles of interest on such topics as Heraldry, Coats of Arms, etc.

we ended by talking about the value of family life. Len feels particularly blessed by his relationship with his children, who are very caring and keep in close contact. His four grandchildren are, obviously, a great joy to him. He wishes more families could stay close, not separated by distance or pressure of life. Just as I was leaving he remembered a tape that he had recorded for the Archaeological Society about life in Chester in the 1920s and 30s for use in schools, and it is full of fun and childhood experiences. My family and I have enjoyed it tremendously it is well worth hearing.

From a conversation with Beryl Walter

## KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN

"....ancestors do turn queer at times". Bernard Clark in "The Young Visitors" by David Ashford, Chatto & Windus. First published 1919.

*By the way, if you don't know this little gem, written by a 9-year-old in Victorian times, complete with original spelling, it is a "must". Frank Swinnerton approved it, and the tongue-in-cheek preface is by Peter Pan's J.M. Barrie. It doesn't take much reading, but there are several smiles on each of its 64 small pages.*

From 'The Greenwood Tree' - the Journal of the Somerset and Dorset Family History Society - ex Mrs Pauline Saul.

# TOTTENHAM EDMONTON & ENFIELD HISTORICAL NOTE BOOK

With some incidental notices of Harringay (or Hornsey)

by

WILLIAM JAMES ROE

THE PERCY PRESS,  
806, HIGH ROAD, TOTTENHAM, N.17.  
1952

## SIR JOHN SWINNERTON

When examining the records of Tottenham one is impressed by the number of influential people who have lived here in the past. We have mentioned John Gedeney and Abraham Reynardson, wealthy men both, and Lord Mayors of London. We have now to add another to the list; one who has been unknown to, or neglected by, our historians.

In the list of assessments imposed by the Parliament in 1644 (q.v.) figured the name of Lady Thomasine Swinnerton. She was the widow of Sir John Swinnerton who died in 1616, after serving as Sheriff in 1602 and Mayor in 1612. He was also an M.P. in 1601.

Like other civic dignitaries before him, notably Dick Whittington, his early life was adventurous. He travelled much on the Continent, particularly in Spain, and mastered the intricacies of the Spanish wine trade; with the result that on his return to England, by dint of his knowledge and perhaps a little diplomacy, he acquired sole control of the wine licence office. He became what was known later as Purveyor by appointment of Wine to Queen Elizabeth I.<sup>47</sup>

He was Sheriff at the time of James I's accession, and in great state met the King on his first coming to London at Waltham Cross on May 7th, 1603. This agrees with All Hallows' register except that the meeting with the King is there given as occurring at Stamford Hill. Swinnerton was knighted in the July following.

Afterwards in 1607 he entertained the King and Queen at a cost of £1,000. According to the Guildhall records the pageant for this feast was written by T. Dekker the dramatist, and for it Dr. John Bull wrote the music which has since become our national anthem



associated with "God save the Queen." Some people will not perhaps agree that the Guildhall records are exact in this respect. Where Sir John lived in Tottenham is a matter of doubt. Some land near the present Park station belonged to him, but no suitable house is shown on the map of 1619. Crows Nest farm, if it existed then, was too small.

Lady Thomasine died in 1650. Her grand-daughter, also named Thomasine, married Sir William Dyer, Bart., of Tottenham (of whom Tottenham's historians are quite silent), and received a dower of £30,000. So Sir John made plenty of money from wine.<sup>48</sup>

But not everyone was satisfied as to the manner in which the money was made, notably the King himself, who complained in spite of the feast given to him. The trouble appears to have been over the French or Gascon wines, which had been added to the Spanish trade. Sir John wrote in 1613 to the Lord Chancellor to the effect that his licence for the farming of French wines had been taken away from him by "violent greatness," and that he had petitioned the King for its restoration. He asked the Chancellor to further his application, and assured him that the charges against him were baseless.

His letter does not appear to have had much effect, for there is an almost immediate letter from the King under his signet to the Chancellor—"remembering you have been by us employed in this affair...and you have added an increase of revenue unto our Crowne;" and goes on to say: "the offer (of two competitors of Sir John) seems to be equal if not better than his," and if the Chancellor is satisfied of this to give them the grant.<sup>49</sup>

So Sir John lost the licence to import French wines. The frauds committed upon the Crown by the farming of the Customs are well known, and not only as regards wines.

(ex Mr R.A.Swynnerton)

\* \* \* \* \*

AN ACCOUNT OF THE CHURCH AND PARISH OF ST.GILES WITHOUT  
CRIPPLEGATE, LONDON. 1888

Baddeley

p.154.

March 1672 - All writings in the Parish Chest and all writings in MR SWINNERTON'S hand to be compared with the Registers. Mr S. has made and when found correct all to be locked up in the Chest in the Quest House, and the four Churchwardens to keep each of them a key.

(ex Mr Brian Christmas)

I have no idea at present what this is all about.

LETTERS

18 December 1986

Lt Col I S Swinnerton

Dear Col Swinnerton,

During your recent classes at Wolverhampton and Kingswinford on tracing ancestors which you will recall I attended, I several times had a niggling half-memory that I had encountered the name Swinnerton before but memory refused to oblige. When you mentioned Harold Swinnerton, the explosives expert, I thought that must be it, as at one time he and I were both working at GKN Research Laboratories, Wolverhampton, and I knew him quite well then.

However, in the odd way that memory operates, it suddenly struck me a few days ago that it was something else besides the mention of Harold. Not very much really, but for what it's worth, I thought I would mention it.

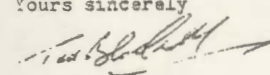
As part of my initial electrical engineering training I did a year on electrical installation theory, the 'wiremens course' in college parlance, at the conclusion of which I was awarded a prize of several technical books. The prize was in the name of the benefactor, a Mr Swinnerton, who was a local consulting electrical engineer, and was also involved in business as well as lecturing part-time in electrical engineering. To prompt my memory further I have looked at Wolverhampton Red Books of the period and can say with reasonable certainty that he was a partner in the firm Coley & Swinnerton, electrical engineers, with premises in St. John's Square or round the corner in Bond Street, Wolverhampton. To get a possible reminder of his initials, I looked in the residential section of the Red Book where there is one and only one Swinnerton, namely, J R Swinnerton, 203 Tattenhall Road, Wolverhampton (1940-41 Red Book), which is probably him but I can't be certain. I see from the telephone directory that Coley & Swinnerton Ltd are still listed, but at 82 Chapel Ash, Wolverhampton (December 1985 issue).

I remember Mr Swinnerton as a rather bluff blunt Scot, middle aged in 1940, and something of a disciplinarian in handling his class. What I particularly remember is him telling the class how he narrowly escaped being killed due to a fault arising on an electric motor which caused it to over-speed until it exploded, one of the commutator bars - a hefty lump of copper - missing his head by a whisker. He had had this piece of industrial shrapnel mounted on a polished board to hang over his mantel piece.

After searching I found one of the 'prize' books and having noted your interest in collecting instances of the name have made a photocopy of the book-plate which I enclose, which may be of interest.

Best wishes for Christmas.

Yours sincerely

  
Edward Blackwell.

(This was John Russell Swinnerton  
the father of our member Tom  
Swinnerton of South Africa.)



Wolverhampton & Staffordshire  
Technical College  
1940-41 SESSION

SWINNERTON  
PRIZE

awarded to  
EDWARD BLACKWELL  
for Proficiency in  
THE FIRST YEAR WIREMEN'S  
COURSE.

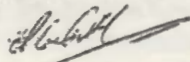
Dear Col Swinnerton,

Thank you for your letter of 28 December last in reply to mine on the Swinnerton Prize, which is most interesting, and I am pleased to learn that a fragment of my mundane history has helped make a connexion with John Russell Swinnerton.

I also found the article by Tom Swinnerton of particular interest, as not only did I follow Tom in the same profession, but it seems he was earlier at the same school. He also mentions having trained in Bushbury, which is almost certain to have been at the Electric Construction Company (the ECC), and this is of interest because my father, before he set up in business on his own account, worked there for a time, and I have photographs of him circa 1912 inside the works there. So in addition to the fascinating Kiplingesque exploits, Tom's article has proved of much interest in other ways, and I much appreciate your sending it. Many thanks indeed.

With best wishes for 1987

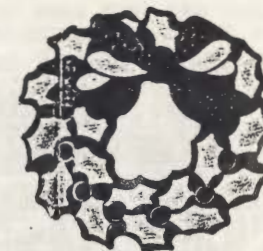
Yours sincerely



Edward Blackwell

Our Very Best Wishes~  
for the Holiday Season  
And for the Year to Come!

The Swinnertons



December, 1900

Dear Father,

Once more it is that time of year. An unusually cold November, complete with snow at least twice, has alerted us and the warmth of our family get-together at Alice's on Thanksgiving Day in Center Harbor has got us in the mood for the Christmas season and our "annual report".

Last winter passed quietly with little news to comment on. In May we went to Exeter for the yearly meeting of the New Hampshire Baptists. That took a couple of days and a night in a motel at the seashore near Hampton Beach. It was followed by the academic season, starting with the spring reunion of the old-timers at New Hampton School. Carl was the lone member of the class of '16 who attended.

Next came commencement at Pomfret School and meetings with other emeriti and former students. Unfortunately, Russ Stringer couldn't make it and we had only time for a short visit and lunch at his house. A few days later there was commencement at Harvard. We enjoyed the Spread for the older graduates, but it started raining as the alumni procession was forming and was pouring by the time it reached the outdoor theater for the after-noon program. So we drove out to Waltham and visited with Forrest Cobb.

The following week we motored out through Canada to the graduation of Ruth's grand-niece Mary from Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin and joined some twenty-two members of the Sawyer clan for the occasion. Afterward we spent a week with George (Ruth's brother) and Ruth (his wife) at Wisconsin Rapids and came home on the through-ways after bypassing Chicago.

At home we went into the birthday season. Ruth's and John's were only two days apart, so we had one celebration dinner here. We had to wait until late in October for Barbara, and Carl - just to be different - had his in England.

Early in the summer we got word that the Swinnerton Society, with members all over the world, was having a special gathering on September 6 in the little village of Swynnerton to observe



the 900th anniversary of the Domesday Book - which first publicized the name of the village and of the family. This seemed too good to miss, particularly as it gave us a chance to look up the Goodale (Carl's mother's) and the Sawyer (Ruth's) ancestors who - like the Swinnertons - had left England in the 1630's.

So we bought the plane tickets to leave Boston on August 25 and return on October 6. But during August Carl's left knee began to swell in a way that threatened the entire trip. However, after Dr. Ohler removed several ounces of fluid and prescribed some exercises, it was enough better to let us go - though at a much reduced pace.

We left as scheduled, spent a day or two in London and then went on to Cambridge, our chosen base of operations. There we rested further and bought coach tickets to Hanley - about ten miles from Swynnerton. We went there on September 5, only to learn that bus service to Swynnerton had been discontinued and that we should finish our journey by taxi - which we did.

The next morning, the Society had its business meeting at the village hall, with a display of family trees on all available wall space and the largest turnout of any gathering so far. After lunch came a family service which crowded the village church, then a talk in the Hall about "Domesday and the Family from then to now" followed by the close of the formal session at five o'clock.

Sunday morning we attended service in the village church before joining other "foreigners" from Australia, Canada and the States in cars for a tour of the countryside under the guidance of Frank Swinnerton, who had grown up there. He showed us what the Swinnertons had been doing in the past 900 years in farms, woodlands, churches and villages. It was really impressive.

After a night's rest we took the newly resurrected once-a-day bus to Hanley and went on to Cambridge. On the following Saturday we set out for Dennington, where the Goodales came from. The ticket sellers in Cambridge had never heard of it, so we went on to Ipswich. There we learned that Dennington had no bus service over the week end, but that we could go to Framlingham, the next town to it, and take a taxi the rest of the way. We spent the night in Framlingham. In the morning a taxi took us the three miles to Dennington, an attractive village of some twenty odd houses. The church was almost a cathedral in size, and the carvings in it are remarkable, but we could not join in a service there for the priest was preaching in another part of the parish on that Sunday. However, Mr. Robert Wardley, a resident and historian of the town showed us and told us about the church and supplied much information about ancestral families.

After lunch at the Queen's Head and further wanderings about the village we returned to Framlingham and eventually Ipswich and Cambridge.

At the end of the week we went to Lincoln, in Lincolnshire, the home of the Sawyers, and at the County Records Office Ruth found a wealth of information, including some that she could use. The cathedral was nearby and we enjoyed looking it over and having a repast in its lunch room.

After returning to Cambridge we went down to Winchester for a very pleasant week with Marian Shuttleworth, which included a visit to Lord Mountbatten's former residence and our first glimpse of an expanse of purple heather blossoms in the New Forest. It also included Carl's birthday. Then came an enjoyable visit with Sam and May Amey and May's mother, Elsie Umpleby, in Thornbury near Bristol, followed by a week in Penzance - with trips to Mousehole, St. Ives, Land's End and one of the Cornwall tin mines. We went back to London by way of Bath and a button collection there. Because of the fog, we did not see too much of the city. In London Ruth got in contact with a dealer whom she had heard of and we joined her at the Autumn Meeting of the British Button Society.

We were especially pleased that Olivia Swinnerton came from Cranleigh to see us while we were in London. We had hoped to see her at the Gathering, and after that we couldn't seem to shape our schedule to include more time with her. For by then, October 6 and our return to Boston were close upon us.

The flight home was safe and uneventful. Since then we have spent much of our time in catching up with things that we had missed while out of town. There have been the usual comings and goings but - again - not much news.

So, having pretty well filled our three pages, we will sign off for 1986 and rest up to continue in 1987. We hope that the past year has gone well with you, and we look forward to your Christmas messages.

As ever,

*Carl and Ruth*

*Dear Iain and Angela,*

*It was so good to see you at Swynnerton, and we are happy that the Gathering went off so well - and that I received the birthday present of a Swinnerton tie.*

*Thanks Iain for getting me reservation at the Fitzherbert Arms. We were quite comfortable there, and it gave me the chance to go on Frank Swinnerton's tour the next day. That was a very enjoyable occasion.*

*Best wishes,*

*Carl & Ruth*



6 October 1986

*Dear Sam & all family members*

I was so sorry that I was unable to attend the very special family gathering which took place last month. A change of posting from Ethiopia to Indonesia earlier in the year made it impossible for us to be in Europe at the time of the gathering - but, I thought of you all very much on the 6th.

Last time I wrote we were still living in Ethiopia, but in February of this year we transferred to Indonesia. My husband is Representative of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization to the Government of Indonesia, as he was to the governments of Ethiopia and the Philippines before that. It was very painful and difficult to say good-bye to Ethiopia where we had lived for 4½ years. They were good years in spite of the famine and the appalling poverty of the people. Ethiopia is a most beautiful country and Ethiopians lovely people. To see fellow humans suffering from and dying of hunger in their thousands is something we never ever wish to experience again. Disgracefully famine is endemic in some areas of Africa and will be far a considerable time to come, what is being allowed to happen in southern Sudan should arouse the wrath of all peoples.

In March we arrived in Indonesia. It has taken me at least some time to adjust to being back in the tropics again, Jakarta not only being hot but very humid. Indonesia is a vast country 13,000 or more islands (not all inhabited) make up the archipelago. There are so many different cultures and peoples - from Irian Jaya to Sumatra, Sulawesi to Bali, and of course the island of Java on which Jakarta is situated. Of a population of 165 million 70% live on Java on 7% of the land of the archipelago. No wonder we feel hemmed in at times after the vast open spaces of Ethiopia. We have FAO experts stationed throughout the country so we hope very much that during the three years we shall be here to travel extensively.

Our next trip is in November - back to Europe to spend Christmas with our children in Denmark. My husband is Danish.

For part of November we shall be in England staying with my parents whom I'm sure many of you met on the 6th - Alec & Dorothea Swinnerton of the Betley Branch. I hope very much that on this trip I shall be able to show to my husband the village of Swinnerton which he has yet to visit.

If any family member should find themselves in Indonesia we should be delighted to see you.

May I end by wishing you all a peaceful and blessed Christmas and by sending you our very best wishes for 1987.

*Sincerely  
Valerie*

## RESEARCH REPORT

### SWINNERTONS OF OSWESTRY

The four volumes of the Parish Registers to 1812 (printed by Shropshire PRS) were re-checked.

The following comments are relevant to the Report in SFH Vol.6 No.4 :  
CMB are covered by twelve volumes of Registers

#### Volume 1 1558-1669

'This first volume is made up of several books which have been transcribed and bound together e.g. Sir Hugh Gough's Register 1558-1569, Sir William Muckleston's Register 1578-1592, continued in the same handwriting to 1614 ...'

Note that several of the early pages are illegible and that the book actually contains entries for the periods 1558-1609; 1612-1640; 1653-1668. Between 1640 and 1661 there are very few entries (apart from marriages after 1654) - particularly between July 28 1640 and December 4 1653 only a few irregular entries survive, mostly for one family and inserted at one time.

The early part of this volume contains mostly Welsh names in the patronymic form, with very few surnames as such. The incidence of 'proper' surnames increases by the early 1600s but is by no means universal even by 1640 when the Register 'breaks' for the Civil War etc.

#### Volume 2 CM 1669-1727 & B 1669-1678

#### Volume 3 B 1678-1750

#### Volumes 4 & 5 C 1727-1779 & M 1727-1754

#### Volume 6 C 1780-1812

#### Volumes 7 & 8 B 1751-1812

#### Volumes 9 to 12 M 1755-1812 & CB for House of Industry 1783-1789 (entries for Paupers)

A thorough check of the printed Registers was made for the periods 1614 to 1640 and 1727-1750. From this it appears both that the transcription is a thorough one, being done line by line and printed in full, and that the Index is accurate. There appear to be a number of minor transcription errors but, as there appear to be no possible misreadings of Swinnerton for any other surname, for the remainder of the volumes, only the entries extracted from the Index were checked.

There are a number of spelling variations between the printed PR and the typed Parish Register Extracts but a check of the original PR should eliminate the discrepancies. Some confusion is also caused because the PREs do not take account of the Old Style calendar and double-dating necessary for the period from 1 Jan.-24 Mar. up to 1751; some entries are therefore typed out of order.



## FAMILY NOTES

Our congratulations to KATIE SWINNERTON, the youngest daughter of Leslie and Catherine of Beaconsfield. Katie, who is 20, recently won her Gold Award in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme and, with her mother, attended St. James's Palace to receive her badge on the 27th November 1986. The actual presentation was made by the Lord-Lieutenant of Oxfordshire.

Katie took her Award as a member of the Junior Red Cross Society in Beaconsfield. She was a member for over 10 years and is now in her first year as a Student Nurse at Kingston Hospital, Surrey.

(Editor's Note: How many other 'Golds' do we have in the family? My own daughter, Kirsty Jane, received hers in 1982 - let me know if you have any in your family.)

Lucy Budd is 5 years old and the twin sister of Joanna, the granddaughters of Leslie and Catherine. The twins attend the Elfin School in Stratford-on-Avon. On arriving at school one morning last November, they were all surprised to hear that Lucy had been chosen by ballot to present a bouquet to the Queen that very same day.

Lucy made her presentation with a little curtsy and the Queen chatted to her for a few moments. When asked afterwards what she had said, Lucy could not remember but did say that the Queen had very nice shiny black shoes!

\* \* \* \*

We were sorry to hear of the death of RONALD SWINNERTON, a former member of the Society on the 16 January 1986. Ronald had been one of our Auditors for a number of years and had attended the Gatherings in the early years.

\* \* \* \*

Congratulations to Mark and Veronica Swinnerton on the birth of a bouncing (grandfather Roy's words!) baby boy on the 10th September 1986. He is to be called FRANCIS

and Roy says it looks as though the Stoke Branch are out to rival the Betley Branch!

\* \* \* \*

WELCOME BACK to Mr W.G.(Bill) SWINNERTON of Fenwick, Kilmarnock who has rejoined the Society and has also brought in his son PETER. Bill is the brother of the late Harold Swinnerton who many of you will remember giving a talk at a Gathering about 'blowing them up and knocking them down' (he was an explosives engineer). Bill and Peter are members of the Adbaston family.

\* \* \* \*

The beautiful Swinnerton Kneeler for our church which I displayed at the Gathering (see photograph on page 164 of the last Journal) was made by Mrs Edwin Oldham of Del Mar, California, USA., a friend of Fred & Betty Swinnerton of Chicago who attended our 1983 Gathering with them. Several ladies at our Gathering last year asked for a pattern and I hope I remembered to send them all. If not, please write to me. We do need a lot more so are there any more volunteers?

\* \* \* \*

Congratulations to our Council Member Mrs Vicky Leighton and her husband Robert on the birth of a daughter Emily Victoria on the 21st Dec 1986, a sister for Benjamin. What a lovely Christmas present!

\* \* \*

Congratulations to our member Mr David Raymond Swinnerton on being elected Captain of the Birchwood Golf Club which is near Warrington. Another sport to add to our list which now includes Hockey, Fencing, Tennis, Weight lifting and, of course, Cycling. Any more?

\* \* \* \*

Welcome to another new member, Mr JOHN RICHARD Swinnerton of 1587 Poppy Way, Cupertino, California 95014 USA. Richard is a cousin of our member Dick Simmermacher and a member of the Shut Lane Branch.



Congratulations to Kristyan Swinnerton (KS.49), son of our member D.K.S. Swinnerton on his Honours Degree in Mathematical Sciences from the Teeside Polytechnic. He has now moved to York and is working in the computer department of Rowntree Mackintosh.

\* \* \*

CONGRATULATIONS to our Vice-President, Sir Peter Swinnerton Dyer on his award of the KBE in the New Year Honours List.

#### CULLED FROM THE NEWSPAPERS

The engagements of:-

Mr J. Swinnerton eldest son of Mr and Mrs B.A. Swinnerton from the Isle of Wight and Miss Heather J. Tyler.  
(This is Joseph Anson of the Adbaston Branch and son of a former member Brian Anson Swinnerton)

\* \* \*

Neal, second son of Mr and Mrs D.C. Penn and Anna, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs O.J. Swinnerton, both of Reading.  
(This family is unknown to me.)

\* \* \*

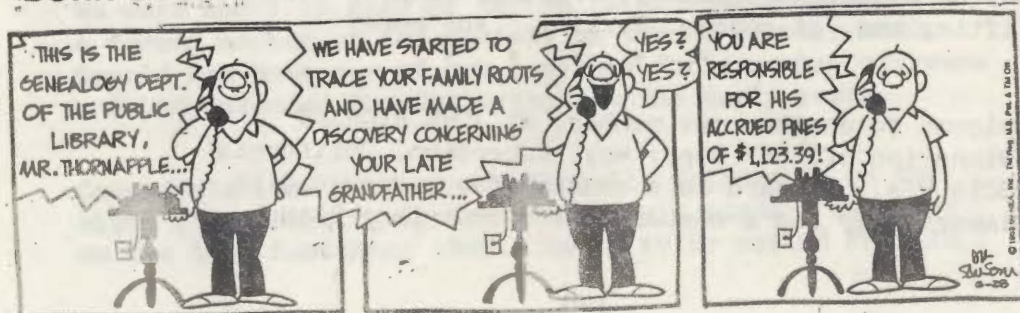
ROYAL NAVAL ENTRIES      The Times 16 Jan 1987

Naval College Entry.  
Midshipman (medium-career commission) Pilot.  
N.J. Swinnerton Singapore.

\* \* \*

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(ex Bill Swinarton)



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