

Swinnerton Family History

The Journal of the Swinnerton Society



ISSN 0508 6755

VOLUME SIX

NUMBER THREE

JUNE 1985

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.

PATRON

The Rt.Hon.Lord Stafford
Swynnerton Park
Staffs.

PRESIDENT

Sir Roger Swynnerton CMG.OBE.MC.

VICE-PRESIDENTS

Sir Peter Swinnerton Dyer FRS.
H.Norman Swinnerton ASc.(USA)
Lord Thomas of Swynnerton

COUNCIL

J.W.Swinnerton MBE.TD.B.Sc.(Econ)
The Rev.Edward Swinnerton
Col.J.C.A.Swinnerton OBE
L.W.Swinnerton
J.E.Swinnerton(PRO)
Mrs.Diana Cunningham

SECRETARY & EDITOR

Lt.Col.I.S.Swinnerton TD.DL.JP.FSG.
Owls Barn, Bridgnorth Road, Stourton,
nr.Stourbridge, W.Mids.

Subscription £3.50 per annum

Students & Senior Citizens £2.00
(U.K.only)

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

The idea of postponing the Gathering until 1986 so that we can have a very special commemoration of 900 years of our name has met with general approval and it promises to be a very good party!

I have already started to make plans - as I am sure you will appreciate, a tremendous amount of work goes into organising these Gatherings and, in particular, into preparing all the material for the exhibition.

Over the next year, it will take a great deal of my spare (!) time to get all the trees brought up to date so that you can all see just where you fit in and even longer to type them up so that they are easily read.

I am a very slow typist and could do with some help. Do we have a member who has access to a modern electric typewriter with a 15 point Micron typeface who could help? Alternatively, do we have a member not too far from here who would be prepared to borrow this machine and assist?

With the sad loss of Ken Armitstead, who took over the job from Jack Swinnerton who was forced to give up on account of ill health, the Society is now without a photographer. We have lots of photographs sent in for copying for our records. In many cases they are old and perhaps sepia or faded or are of groups from which we need individuals extracting. Do we have a volunteer in the Society for this most important job? Obviously, he or she will need to have a dark room, enlarger etc. We do have money available to help with the costs.

We also need the help of a solicitor. For some time we have been trying to achieve charitable status so that we can benefit from the tax refund on covenanted subscriptions etc but have not made much progress due mainly to lack of time on my part to pursue the matter with the Charity Commissioners. Do we have a solicitor in the family who would help?

At Christmas, I sent you all a card with the Society's badge on, which could be cut out and fixed to your car windscreen in a transparent tax disc holder. It has been pointed out to me that overseas members will not be able to obtain these transparent holders that we use in this country to hold our Road Fund Licenses (Tax Discs). If you would like one, I can send you one for 2 Dollars.

Both my daughters have cut out the badges, coloured in the horseshoe and fixed them in their cars and they look very nice. If you would like some extra ones for your family, I still have some left and will be happy to send them for a stamp.

This issue includes a photographic supplement as promised. If you have photographs that you would like included please let me have them. By printing them, we are creating yet another archive for our descendants to come - remember, they will be just as curious to know what we looked like as we are about our ancestors!

MONEY MATTERS

Despite the notice on the annual subscription renewal form and in the Journal asking members to pay with dollar notes, many are still cheques in their own currency. Sadly, this means that your kind efforts to support the Society and its work are being wasted because of the heavy charges made by our banks for converting foreign cheques.

Here are some examples:-

A cheque for US.\$25	converted at 1.3375 = £18.69
	Less Bank charge 5.00
	<hr/> 13.69

A cheque for Can.\$ 105	converted at 1.815 = £57.85
	Less Bank charge 5.00
	<hr/> 52.85

Cheque for US.\$10	converted at 1.2125 = £8.25
	Less Bank charge 5.00
	<hr/> 3.25

(which is less than the subscription)

In every case the charge for cashing dollar bills would only have been 50 pence!

If you do not like sending notes by post, there are two alternatives.

An INTERNATIONAL MONEY ORDER is converted to Sterling in your country so we receive the NET amount you wish to pay here

or

Do we have a member in America/Canada and Australia/New Zealand who would be prepared to act as Treasurer for us there and receive all the subs for their country and send us one cheque for the lot. Other societies do this - any volunteers for next year?

Finally, may I repeat a request I have made on several occasions for contributions to this Journal. Far too much of it is still being written by me, it should be much more widely based so that we can read what you think of your Society and its Journal, details of the history of your branch, lives, occupations etc.

So, please can I have some contributions- articles, letters for publication, newspaper extracts, photographs and so on.

See what you can do.

TEAN AND THE PHILIPS FAMILY

After the Norman Conquest the manor of Tean became part of the Barony of Stafford. Robert, the first baron, enfeoffed one Gilbert (thought to have been his cousin) with three of his manors in Staffordshire. They were Tean, Hopton and Salt, the latter two being near Stafford. Throughout Norman times these manors were held by Gilbert's family, but his grandson, Robert, had no son, his only child being a daughter known as Alice de Hopton. As a result of Alice's marriage to Robert de Bec the manors passed after her death (towards the end of King John's reign) to her and Robert's son, also called Robert de Bec.

Once more the third generation failed to produce a son, and on this occasion the only daughter, Lettice by name, married the lord of the neighbouring manor of Draycott. She and Richard de Draycott had three sons, the eldest of whom succeeded to the manor of Draycott and the second of whom was enfeoffed with Tean. Probably because the manor had come to him through his mother, this second son, Robert, assumed her maiden name and styled himself "de Bec".

Robert's son Nicholas de Beek (for his name had come to be spelt thus) was an important knight of the county. Born in 1320, he became Commissioner of the Peace and was appointed Sheriff of Staffordshire and Salop in 1368. In 1363 and 1365 he represented Staffordshire in Parliament. Sir Nicholas de Beek left no son, and his daughter Elizabeth married Sir Robert de Swynnerton. Sir Robert was also MP for Staffordshire, but his career was chiefly notable as a military one. He met his death in 1386 (aged 51) while serving in John of Gaunt's Spanish Expedition, whereupon his daughter Matilda entered the manor of Tean as heiress.

The unfortunate Matilda seems to have been relentlessly persecuted by her mother's cousin, John de Ipstones, who began by suing her for land at Blythwood on the grounds that she was illegitimate. The poor child was

abducted her away from de Peshale's home at Chetwynd and forced her to sign away her estates to him, and to contract a marriage with his son, Sir William. William did not live very long and Matilda married her third husband, Sir John Savage. For the next hundred years the history of the manor is intensely complicated...

* * * * *

FROM 'PRIVATE EYE' No.602 25 Jan 1985



SPORTING LIFE

JUBILANT at having his three-year-old colt Kala Dancer head the Free Handicap and the ante-post lists for the 1985 2,000 Guineas, Newmarket trainer Ben "What's a mortgage?" Hanbury has installed every known security device at his stables on the order of the owner Ravi Tikkoo, the Turf's most hated figure, to ensure the safety and continued well-being of the colt, bought for a bargain basement 11,000 guineas and now worth £3 million.

Hanbury, 37, would be better served setting up similar devices on the boudoir of his fun-loving wife 'Chunky', the former Moira Milborne-Swinnerton-Pilkington, sister of shipping heir baronet Sir Tommy. In order to boost business, new owners receive a nomination to Chunky in direct proportion to the number of horses they send to be trained by the young wizard.

The repellent Tikkoo, who has two dusky sons by his ex-wife Mukrah, has obligingly sent 18 colts and fillies to the Hanbury yard and negotiations of a Ugandan nature with Chunky are expected to continue long after the normal breeding season.

PS: At The Stable Lads Welfare Trust Charity Dinner at Grosvenor House last November, a nomination to Chunky failed to reach its reserve, despite valiant efforts of auctioneer Peter O'Sullivan.

* □ *

NEWS FROM SWYNNERTON

I was invited to open St.Mary's Summer Fayre on June 15th and my wife was asked to judge the children's Fancy Dress Competition - a hazardous task! We had a lovely day, for once the weather was kind and the sun shone all day. About 300 people attended and everyone worked very hard to make it a success. It was - at the end of the day the magnificent sum of £1335 was raised for the Restoration Fund.

A drop in the ocean when we learn that the cost of repairing and restoring the stonework will be £30,000 but every little helps.

I was able to see the latest progress on the church, the chancel walls have now all been cleaned and re-painted and they now look very clean and light. In 'our' hall, great progress has also been made and it has been re-wired and a new false ceiling put into the main room. Work is also proceeding on the new toilets and it is hoped that these will be connected to the drains before too long.

I learned some disturbing news, the County Council are proposing to create a waste disposal site some 30 feet high and about 1100 yards from the centre of the village which will despoil 125 acres of countryside and , it is estimated, cause harassment to the villagers for 25 years.

An action group has been formed to fight this and to try and get planning permission (given to itself by Staffordshire County Council!) reversed.

Every resident in the village and its surrounds, which include Yarnfield, Cold Meece, Cotes and even as far as Eccleshall is involved and they looking for support from friends of the village in any possible way. If you would like to join in the protest, please write to Mr D.S.Robinson, The Old Rectory Mews, Swynnerton, Stone Staffs.

SOME BETLEY SWINNERTONS



Brothers Daniel(DS.8) and Samuel(SS.32)
outside Samuel's house at Barthomley



Back view of Glebe Hall Farm House
Home of Samuel on previous page



Jessie ('Kitty') and Millie, daughters of Samuel



Sgt. Major William Henry Swinnerton
(WS.139)

1st. Bantam Battalion, 15th Cheshire Regiment
at Birkenhead

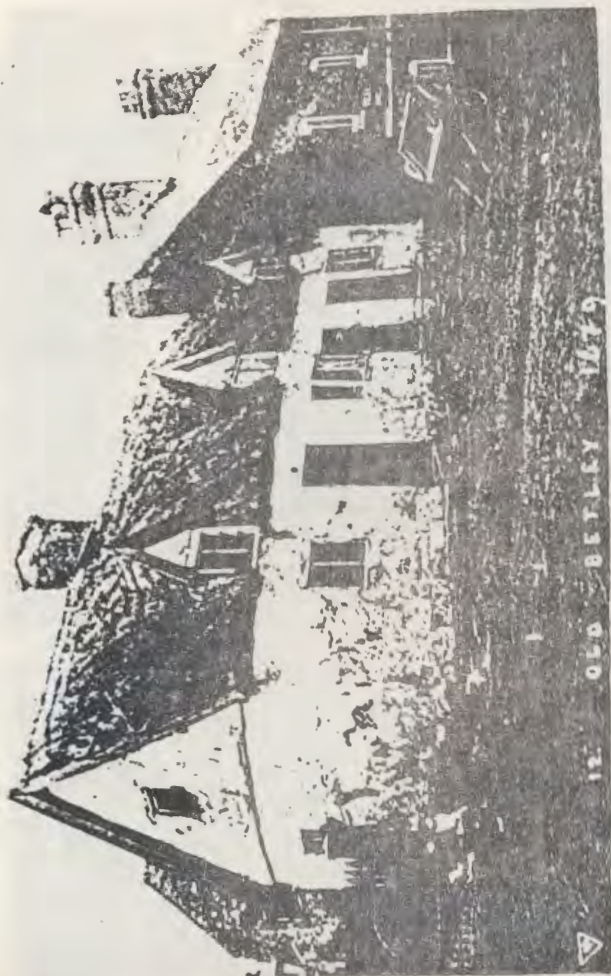


Samuel's second wife, Jessie (nee Cadman)
with Kittie.

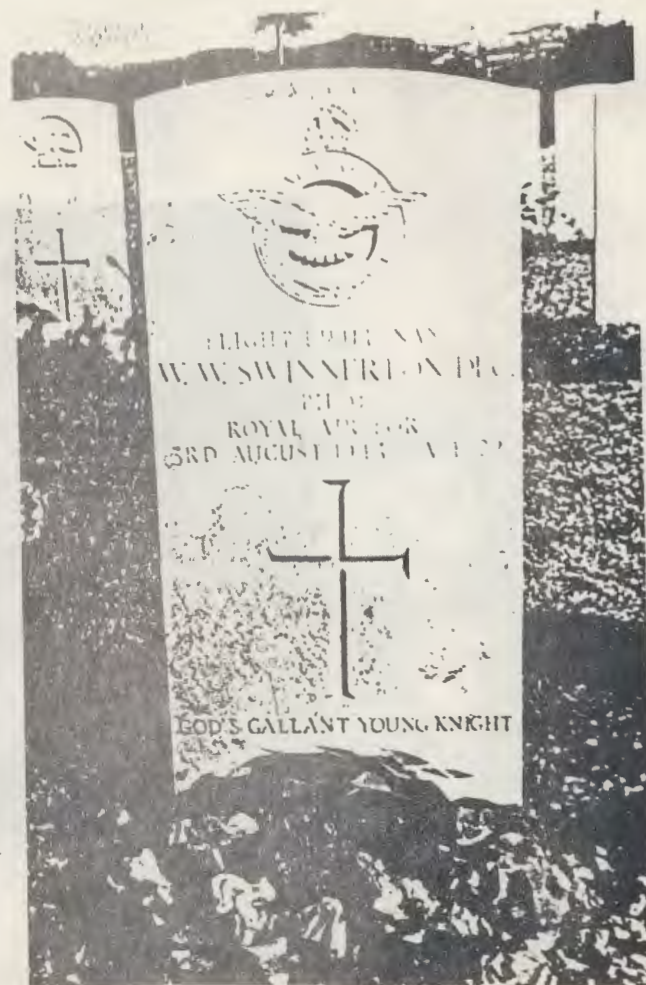


William
(Will)
Swinerton
(WS.119)





Mary Swinnerton, a sister of the Sgt. Major married Duncan McKellar in Canada



Flt. Lt. William Walter Swinnerton DFC. (WS.26) and his grave in Sicily

THE FAMILY'S FIRST NORTH AMERICAN GATHERING.



The two pictures were taken at the Gathering which was held in Danvers, Massachusetts on 28th July 1984. I am sorry we have been so long reporting this historic event but the details of what took place trickled in from various sources over a long period.

The event was organised by our Honorary Member Bill Swinarton of Canada and 60 people attended. As I could not attend, I cannot give a first-hand account and so I will reproduce Bill's Invitation Letter, some newspaper cuttings and extracts from his last letter to me from which you will see he reinforces my comments on just how much organisation is needed. Our congratulations to him on what was obviously a great success and all our thanks for all his efforts.

* * * * *

July 8, 1984.

Thank you for your response to the Gathering at Danvers. On July 28th you will be part of a history-making occasion, the first-ever Gathering of American-Canadian descendants and/or spouses, and friends, of many Swinnerton branches.

As of this date four distinct branches will be represented: THE EARLY AMERICAN; THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE; THE SHUT LANE; and THE IRISH-CANADIAN(1). You will learn more about these during the Gathering.

Danvers was chosen to host the event because the town, once known as Salem Village, has 350 years of continuous family history associated with it. Descendants of the Early American branch will find great interest in the town and its history. The other families will have the opportunity to look around the town, and nearby area, and locate some of the historic landmarks telling of the Early American branch. If you have time be sure to see: the gravesites of Doctor John Swinnerton, "early physician of Danvers", and his wife, Hannah, at the Charter Street Cemetery in Salem; the name of Job Swinerton, "a founder of Salem Village", on a plaque at the Danvers Historical Society on Page Street; the names of Job Swinnerton and his wife, Esther, on the memorial at the Nurse Cemetery.

During the Gathering we will dedicate one more memorial to the Early American family, and commemorate our visit of July 28th. On Garden Street, near the corner of Andover Street (Rt.114), there is a small 'abandoned' cemetery, officially named the Garden Street Cemetery, historically known as the Swinnerton Graveyard. Probably the number buried there is unknown but, for certain, the only markers to be seen are six Swinnertons.



Permission has been received from the Town of Danvers to erect an historical marker on the site and future passers-by will know it to be the SWINNERTON BURYING GROUND. A cast aluminum plaque with necessary mounting equipment has been arranged for, from a recommended firm in Erie, Pa., and we are assured that it should be delivered a few days ahead of the Gathering. Mr. Daniel J. Toomey, Danvers Town Clerk, has kindly arranged the necessary permission and the Town will erect it for us.

The Memorial is to all buried on those grounds and will tell that it was dedicated by the descendants of the many U.S.A.-Canadian branches who gathered at Danvers on July 28, 1984. During our meeting you will be asked to sign a special book to be left with the Danvers Archival Center.

The Gathering will begin at 10:00 A.M. at the First Church of Danvers, 41 Centre Street. Arrive when you can. It will not be a catered affair, so bring your own 'picnic' lunch. The town is served by many stores and restaurants for those who can't bring a lunch from home.

Some short time after lunch we will 'dedicate' the memorial at the Swinnerton Burying Ground. It is your Gathering, your recommendations are sought, but possibly we might visit the Nurse Cemetery to view that Memorial before returning to the Church for light refreshment. Many of you probably don't know the significance of the memorial at the Nurse Cemetery. In the 1690's, during the witchcraft craze, Rebecca Nurse was hung as a witch. During her trial several neighbours signed a petition to her blameless character, but to no avail. Job Jr. and Esther Swinnerton were two of the signers and for that reason their names are engraved on the Memorial.

There appears to be only one major cost, that of the memorial plaque at the Swinnerton Burying Ground. Time did not allow consultation with you and so your approval is sought by way of a donation, at the Gathering, of a maximum of \$6.00 per person attending, excluding young children.

The Swinartons expect to be headquartered at the Victorian Motor Inn, 233 Andover Street (Rt. 114), Peabody, from Thursday, July 28th until Sunday, the 29th. As well, it is expected that a few more descendants will be there. If you get into town early, look us up.

* * * * *

EXTRACTS FROM BILL'S LETTER:-

I did worry about the success of our North American Gathering, for some time it did appear that not too many would be interested. Sorry, but this preyed on my mind to the point that I wondered how I managed to get myself boxed in. I sent out about 170 invitations and some of the first to come back were regrets, what did I dig myself into I worried. But, then came the positive responses. So in the end we had about 60 in attendance, a great bunch.

Anyway, although I had promised a rather simple Gathering I knew that we had to mark it with some extra special event. Therefore, the plaque that now stands in the little cemetery in Danvers. Something else for me to fret about I am afraid. Had to contact (telephone that is) Richard Trask, the Archivist in Danvers, and he sent some information about a possible supplier. Had to contact (telephone eventually) the Town of Danvers for permission to erect the sign, and solicit their help in installing it. And, they did a great job of it I must say. Considering the total cost (over \$500. Can. \$) I had to worry about that. Dear Anne, what a great sport she is allowing me to shell out that much. But a dead-line for manufacturing and shipping it was looming over me. Your in the business, so you know what I mean. Had to take a few days off work, drove to Erie, Pa., got the order in (about 200 miles from here to Erie by the way). Rose Nardo, the lady I had all my business with, was extremely kind, and was able to rush it all, to the point that the Memorial arrived well in advance of the big day, and the Town had it installed without problem. Of course, I continued to worry and distress myself until I saw, first-hand, that it was in fact right there, where it should be. That's the first thing we did when we arrived in Danvers, made a Bee-line to the little cemetery. It looked great. Not knowing just how long the pole should be, I threw away caution and ordered 8 feet, figuring that they could lop off what wasn't necessary. But the erectors used just about every inch, so it stands like a beacon now and nobody will miss the fact that it is now the "Swinnerton Burying Ground" for certain.

What can I say about the Gathering itself? It was a grand chance to once again renew some of my acquaintanceships, and meet some who I have corresponded with, and others I knew about. The Swinnertons of Danvers had really come up with a splendid place to hold the event. I took along many pieces of my collection, papers, books, maps, dishes, you name it. As best I could, I tried to give everybody an idea of their early history, in our two countries, four distinct branches were represented. You should have that information from some pieces I sent you earlier.

Another thing I did on arrival was to search out the shop that sold flags of all sizes. Bought one of those little plastic thingamajigs that hold flags. So in the midst of the display of Family memorabilia stood the flags of Canada and the United States, side-by-side. Would have liked to have had the Union Jack also, but nobody from your side came,



— TUESDAY, JULY 31, 1984

Swinnerton reunion

DANVERS — The first gathering of the four North American branches of the Swinnerton family took place last weekend in Danvers. Seventy members of the family, whose descendants have lived in Danvers since the early 1630s, gathered at the First Church of Danvers for a meeting.

The family, which originated in England, has branches in Canada, New Jersey and Ohio. The last such gathering took place in Swinnerton, England, last year. There is a biannual gathering in England of all branches, but Saturday's gathering was the first one held in the United States for the North American branches.

Following a luncheon, the family went to the Garden Street Cemetery where they examined a plaque that the town erected for them honoring the generations of Swinnertons that lie buried there. The Swinnertons also visited the Rebecca Nurse homestead cemetery, where other family members are buried.

Swinnerton family reunion

DANVERS — Danvers has been chosen as the gathering place for the Swinnerton reunion because of the 350 continuous years of family association with the town. Last year's reunion was held in the town of Swinnerton, England.

There will be four branches of Swinnertons represented at the July 28 reunion: the Early American; the Gloucestershire; the Shut Lane; and the Irish-Canadian.

First Church, 41 Centre St., was chosen as the meeting place because the church was established by members of the Swinnerton family and others from that part of town now known as the Highlands.

After a picnic lunch, there will be a dedication of the Swinnerton Burying Ground on Garden Street with a plaque placed in honor of all who are buried there. Next, there will be a visit to view the

Danvers has been chosen as the gathering place for the annual Swinnerton Family Reunion because of 350 continuous years of family association with the town.

The reunion will be held here July 28 with four branches of Swinnertons represented — the Early American, the Gloucestershire, the Shurlane and the Irish-Canadian.

The First Church Congregational on Centre Street has been selected for the meeting place because it was established by early members of the family and others from the area known as Salem Village.

After a picnic lunch, there will be a dedication of the Swinnerton Burying Ground on Garden Street. A plaque will be erected in honor of all the Swinnertons buried there.

Next will be a visit to the Rebecca Nurse Memorial off Pine Street where the names of Job and Esther Swinnerton are inscribed. At the height of the witchcraft hysteria in 1692, the couple signed a petition attesting to Rebecca Nurse's blameless character.

Last year's reunion was held in Swinnerton, England.

DANVERS HERALD 19 JULY 1984

Rebecca Nurse Memorial off Pine Street. There are listed the names of Job Jr., and Esther Swinnerton who signed a petition attesting to Rebecca's blameless character during the height of the witchcraft hysteria in 1692.

William Swinnerton of Scarborough, Ontario, Canada, is in charge of the gathering

SALEM EVENING NEWS 18 JULY 1984

FAMILY NOTES

We were very sorry to hear of the sudden death of our member FRANK CECIL SWINNERTON on the 4th June at his home at Wolstanton. Frank had been a member of our Society since its inception and attended all the Gatherings. Our sincere sympathy goes to his son Brian and family.

We also send our sympathy to our member Mrs Nora Scott (nee Swinnerton) whose husband died very suddenly on the 17th of June.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

David Swinnerton to [redacted] where he and his family will be for the next 3 years. (Having served there, I envy him - a lovely island and more peaceful now than when we knew it.)

Donovan Swinnerton to [redacted]

H.J. Swinnerton to [redacted] (I am sure our overseas visitors to last year's Gathering will be sorry to hear this after their delightful visit to John's lakeside home.)

Mrs. N.M. Scott to [redacted]

ADDITIONS TO THE DIRECTORY

Please add the following with my apologies for the omissions;-

Mrs. Margaret P. Swinnerton-Gennaro, [redacted]

Captain Ronald H. Swinnerton USN, [redacted]

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome:-

R. WARREN SWINERTON, [redacted]
[redacted] who is the son of our member Mrs Ruth E. Swinerton of Kingston USA

EDGAR SWINNERTON of [redacted]
[redacted] (re-joined after a visit by our PRO Joe Swinnerton) who is a descendant of the Betley Branch.

Mr. J. W. Hignett of [redacted]
[redacted] who is the son of our late member Mrs Lily Hignett and also a descendant of the Betley Branch

Mr Roy Talbot of [redacted]
[redacted] who is a descendant of MARGARET SWINNERTON who married Stephen Talbott at Adbaston in 1835 (see this Journal Vol 3 p. 35 October 1978)

Mrs Prudence Buckle of [redacted]
[redacted] who is our first member to have a descent from the Oswestry Branch.

* * * * *

My apologies for the lateness of this Journal due to my not having discovered the secret of how to get 36 hours into 24. Starting a new career, as I did on the 1st of January this year, has naturally given me a lot of extra work and I also have to confess that, as I get older, I no longer seem to have the energy to go on late into the evening after a day's work as I used to! I think I shall have to take a leaf out of another organisation's book who date their Journal by the seasons (Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter) instead of March, June, September and December - it does give much more latitude!

PUBLICATIONS OF THE SWINNERTON SOCIETY

Swinnerton Family History
(The Journal of the Society)

Vol.1 1974-75 (Indexed) (10 issues in Binder)
Inc.postage - U.K. £2.50, airmail USA/CANADA \$8, AUSTRALIA/NZ £3.80

Vol.2 1975-77 (Indexed) (10 issues in Binder)
Inc.postage - U.K. £2.50, airmail USA/CANADA \$8 AUSTRALIA/NZ £3.80

Vol.3 1977-79 (Indexed) (10 issues in Binder)
Inc.postage - U.K. £2.50 airmail USA/CANADA \$10 AUSTRALIA/NZ £4.60

Swynnerton & the Swynnertons (1971)
by the Rev.B.T.Swinnerton

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

Swinnerton Family Trees Vol.1 (1974)

Inc.postage - U.K. £0.75, airmail USA/CANADA \$4, AUSTRALIA/NZ £1.50

Reprints of the works by the Rev.Charles Swynnerton

No.1 Two Early Staffordshire Charters (1979)
Inc.postage - U.K. £1.00, airmail USA/CANADA \$3, AUSTRALIA/NZ £1.35

No.2 Two Ancient Petitions from the Public Record Office (1979)
Inc.postage - U.K. £1.00, airmail USA/CANADA \$3, AUSTRALIA/NZ £1.30

No.3 Introduction to "A History of the Family of Swynnerton" (1979)
Inc.postage - U.K. £1.00, airmail USA/CANADA \$3, AUSTRALIA/NZ £1.45

**** Please send Dollar Notes (USA/CANADA) wherever possible - we can lose as much as 55p in changing a \$ cheque.