

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.

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From the Editor's desk

In accordance with the wishes of the members at the AGM, the first project - research into the origins of the Oswestry family - has been put in hand and I have commissioned two very experienced researchers to work on it. Having supplied them with all the information we had, they have now started a very thorough check on that before proceeding any further. One problem has already been solved and we hope more will as they go along.

I asked you to let me know what you were doing so that we can include in this journal details of present-day Swinnertons as well as those in the past and the first contribution has come from our member Mrs Valerie Dall (nee Swinnerton) of the Betley Branch and what a contribution it is. None of us can have failed to be moved by the accounts we have heard and seen of the plight of the starving people of Ethiopia and how proud we are to know that a member of our family has been there in the thick of it, striving to alleviate the hunger and misery.

Valerie has promised to let me have an article about it for a future issue.

Come along the rest of you - what have you been doing?

I hope this will reach you in time for Christmas and with it comes my very best wishes for that essentially family time and the hope that you will have your loved ones around you and that you will have a peaceful and happy time.

My best wishes, too, for the New Year and I hope that I shall see many of you in 1986 at Swynnerton.

THE SWINNERTONS OF OSWESTRY -- a first report by PML.

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.

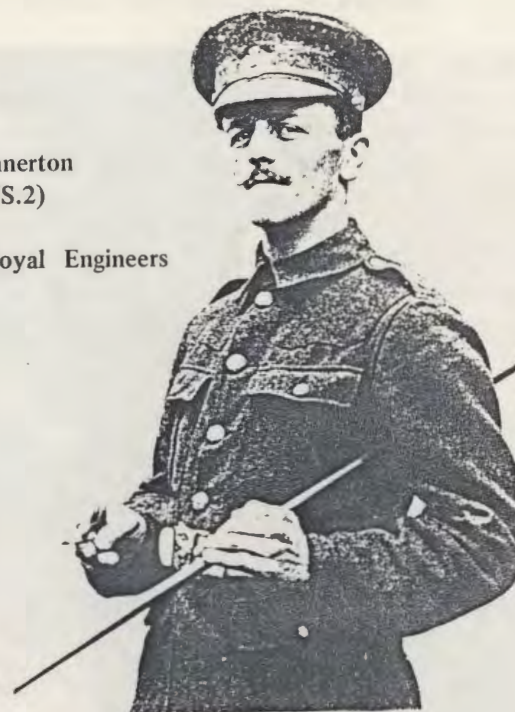
There are a number of spelling variations between the printed PR and the typed Parish Register Extracts but a check of the original PR should eliminate the discrepancies. Some confusion is also caused because the PREs do not take account of the Old Style calendar and double-dating necessary for the period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

Noel William Swinnerton

1889 - 1965 (NS.2)

Betley Branch

Served W.W.I - Royal Engineers



Sgts Mess - Cheshire Regiment circa 1900
Sgt Major Swinnerton centre of middle row.



Hannah Swinnerton (nee Bayley)
 wife of Henry Swinnerton (HS.22)
 Bricklayer of Betley

grandmother of member Mrs Betty Greenhalgh

THE SWINNERTONS of OSWESTRY – Part II

Continuing the story of the Lord Mayor and his family, we have quite clearly established that there was definitely a link with Oswestry but cannot yet identify John, the father of the Lord Mayor, with any particular entry in the Parish Register.

John, the son, who became Sir John the Lord Mayor, was buried according to the Rev Charles Swynnerton at St.Mary Aldermanbury:-

"16 Dec 1610 Sir John Swinnerton Knt & Alderman
 - a worthy Magistrate"

He had been married in the same church some 30 years previously as the Register shows:-

"1 Apr 1586 Mr John Swynerton junior and Thomasyn
 Buckfold"

the allegation for the marriage license was issued by the Bishop of London, the only additional information given being that she was the daughter of Richard Buckfold, a girdler, late of the City of London, deceased and that she was a spinster.

Sadly, as in the case of his father, neither the license nor the marriage or burial entries give any ages so we have no idea when Sir John was born except that it was, presumably, after his parent's marriage in 1563.

The entries in the registers of St Mary's show how John went up in the world!

| | | | |
|---------|--------|-----|---|
| 1586 | Apr 1 | MAR | Mr Jhon Swynnerton junior & Thomasyn Buckfold |
| 1588 | Nov 7 | BAP | John son Mr John Swynnerton jnr. merchant. |
| 1589/90 | Feb 1 | BAP | Mary, d. Mr Jhon Swynnerton jnr. |
| 1591 | Nov 21 | BAP | Henry, s. Mr John Swynnerton jnr. merchant. |
| 1594 | Nov 13 | BAP | Richard Swinnerton, s. Mr John Swynnerton. jnr. then farmer of the Impost. |
| 1596/7 | Feb 5 | BAP | Sisseley, dau. Mr John Swynnerton jnr. then Farmer of the Impost for wyne to hir maiesty. |
| 1602 | Sep 21 | BAP | Robert. sonne of the right worshipful Mr Jhon Swynnerton, Jun. then on the Shreefes of this honorable Cyttie of London. On of his godfathers the right Honorable Sr. Robert Lee. Lord Maior of London. |
| 1604 | Jun 4 | BAP | Anne dau. Sr. John Swynnerton Knight & Alderman of London. |

Obviously, both Johns - father and son - would have had brothers and sisters - an only child would have been almost unheard of in those days, but none were recorded by the Rev.Charles.

Were Sir John and/or any siblings born in Oswestry or in London? The latter seems much more likely as the marriage was there and it would appear that John senior had settled there by then. But when did he move to London? These are questions that we cannot yet answer. A possible solution might be found if we knew John senior's occupation. Although described in his will as 'citizen & Merchant Taylor of London', had he always been so or did he start out as something else?

Most of the Oswestry family subsequent to him were Blacksmiths. However in the parish of St Dionis Backchurch, London we find a John Swenerton having sons John(2), Thomas and Richard (all names given by the Lord Mayor to his sons) from 1563

87
to 1582. However, there is also a John Swynnerton, buried in 1595/6 which only adds to the confusion. There is also a John Swinnerton, grocer of Poplar who had children baptised between 1608 and 1613.

Until more research has been done, these questions will remain unanswered and indeed, we have to face up to the fact that we may never know.

Now let us take a look at the Heraldic evidence. Robert Swinnerton, the 4th son of the Lord Mayor, entered his arms and pedigree at the Herald's Visitation of Essex in 1633. The arms which he gave and which were accepted by the Herald, were as shown:-



Now these are an amalgamation of the original arms of the ancient family of Swynnerton of Swynnerton and those of the senior branch - Swynnerton of Hilton. This implies that he (and thus his father the Lord Mayor and his grandfather John of Oswestry) was descended from a marriage between members of both branches.



Swynnerton of Swynnerton



Swynnerton of Hilton

Now the only such marriage that took place was that between HUMPHREY SWYNNERTON of Swynnerton who died before 1464, and ANNE SWYNNERTON of Hilton, the senior co-heiress of the Hilton family.

They had 4 sons. The eldest's line eventually died out in 1616 with the death of ELIZABETH SWYNNERTON who had married William FitzHerbert, the collateral ancestor of our Patron, Lord Stafford to whose family the Swynnerton estates were thus conveyed.

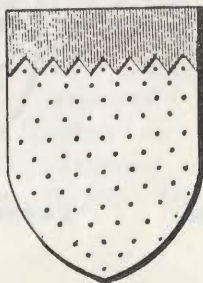
The 2nd and 3rd sons, JOHN and WILLIAM, had no known issue but the 4th son, ROGER, had two sons, THOMAS the famous preacher who was unmarried and ROBERT whose two sons THOMAS and HENRY were known to be living in London around 1573.

If you look at the tree in the last issue, you will see that these were all the same names that Sir John gave to his sons.

ROGER also 3 named daughters and is said to have had 20 OTHER CHILDREN!!!

If the Heraldic evidence is correct, then the Lord Mayor can only have been descended from one of these. Shall we ever be able to prove it?

Sir John used the plain cross flory of the ancient family according to the Rev Charles who says they were recorded by Robson in 1602. The curious thing is, however, that when he was Knighted in 1612, he applied for and was granted a totally new coat of arms by King James. These were 'or (gold), a chief indented gules (red) - totally unlike any other Swynnerton arms which had always had the flory cross as their principal component.



New Arms of The Lord Mayor

Sir John Swynnerton

Why I wonder?

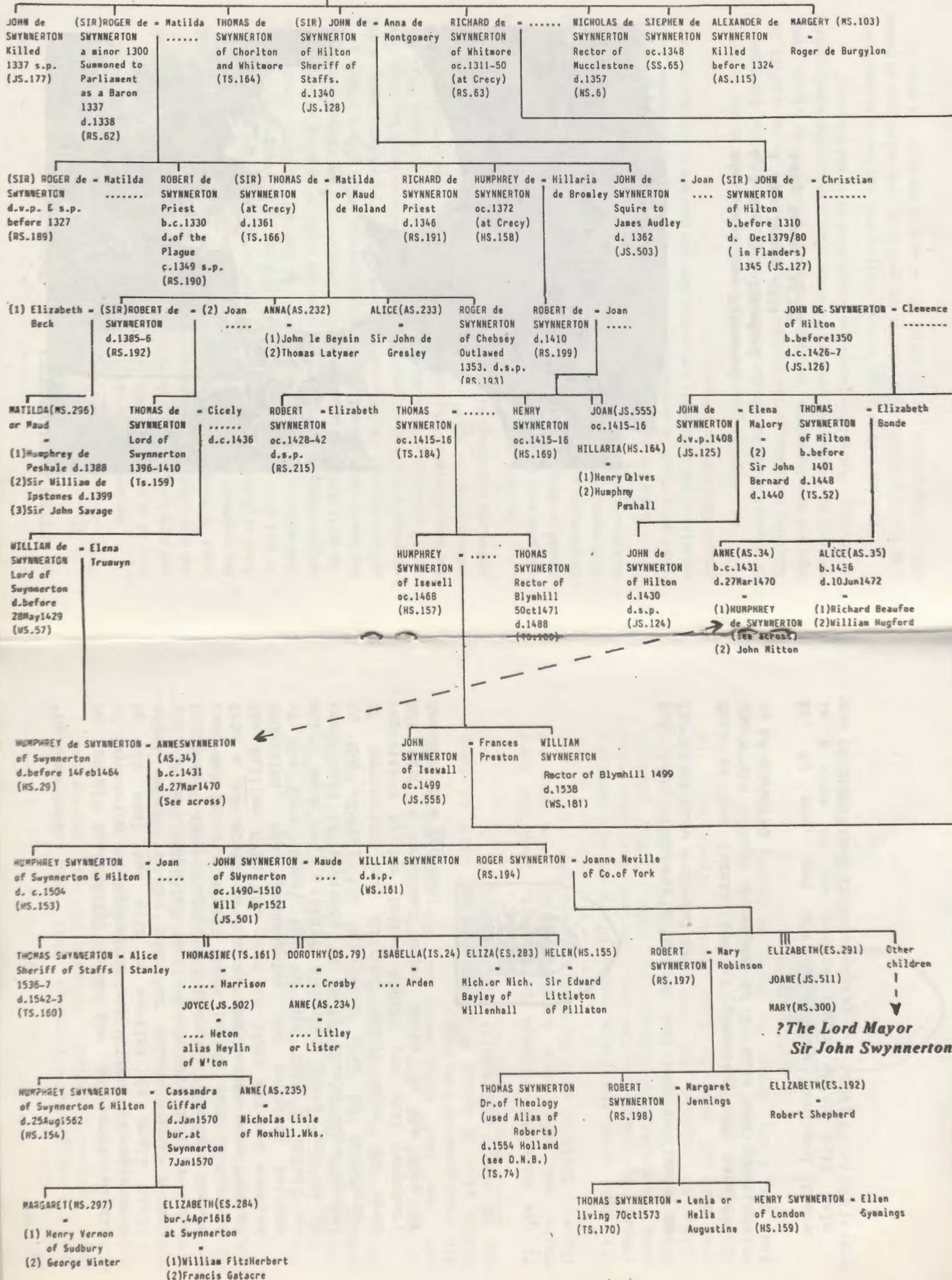
He also, apparently, used the quartered shield of Swynnerton of Swynnerton and Hilton (as registered by his son) but with a martlet (a small bird) added which is the mark of descent from a 4th son which supports the contention that he was descended from Roger. However, another Herald recorded it as a MULLET which is the mark of descent from a 3rd son!! To confuse the matter even further Sir William DYER who died in 1680 and had married THOMASINE, the granddaughter and eventual heiress of the Lord Mayor, had on his tomb a shield on which were 'or, a chief indented gules' and on an escutcheon of pretence (a small shield superimposed in the centre) the quartered arms of Swynnerton of Swynnerton and Hilton, which were the arms registered by her father ROBERT you will remember, BUT with a crescent added which is the mark of descent of a 2nd son!



But John, Humphrey's second son had no issue as far as we know - or did he?

This is the fascination of genealogy and heraldry there are always surmises to be made and questions to be answered .

If, by now, you are thoroughly confused there is a tree on the centre pages which will help you to understand it more easily - I hope.





Ada Johnson (nee Swinnerton)
 b. 2 May 1879 Birkenhead
 d. New Zealand 1974
 Betley Branch (AS.77)

Christmas 1985

Dear *Sau's family*

Another year is rapidly drawing to a close. 1985 has influenced so many of us profoundly. When we wrote our Christmas 1984 letter, the world had just become aware of the most horrifying tragedy taking place in Ethiopia and many other African countries. The picture of people dying of hunger is burnt on the minds of all of us. At the time we wrote to you last year, help was beginning to trickle into Ethiopia and as we moved into 1985 it became a flood of food, medicines and trained relief workers. The "Mercy Flights" were in full swing and the skies of Ethiopia vibrated to the sound of Hercules, Andronovs and all kinds of helicopters - as they still do today. The food and medicines have reached the remotest areas and slowly as we moved through 1985 the daily death-rate begun to slow down, especially in the relief camps. It has been a year of great international cooperation in the effort to save million of lives. When one looks back over 1985, so many images, memories and experiences jostle in our minds. But there is one image which has impressed itself so deeply - the innate dignity and courage of the Ethiopian people in the face of unbelievable suffering and grieving. Also the compassion and dedication of the relief workers who work and live in the most difficult situations will always be remembered.

The rains were better in 1985 but far under the "normal". Lack of seeds and oxen were other constraints. In 1986 more than 1 million tons will be needed in food-aid from abroad. Dare we hope the international community will continue the great achievements of 1985? At the same time it is most important that support for agricultural rehabilitation and development is forthcoming. Otherwise the disaster will repeat itself with increasing frequency.

As for the Dalls - we are well. We have now been in Ethiopia for four years and a change of duty station is imminent. A change will mean new experiences and challenges, but we will both say good-bye to Ethiopia and our friends here with heavy hearts.

We travelled a good deal during the year. In January we went to Europe in connection with an official mission to Rome, Copenhagen, Oslo, Stockholm and Helsinki, undertaken by Hans to raise funds for Ethiopia. In spite of all the snow and freezing weather, we enjoyed being with our family and friends. Hans returned to Addis on the last day of January after a special FAO donors meeting on Ethiopia. Val went to England and stayed there until mid-February.

Hans was back in Europe in March visiting Rome and Geneva in connection with the UN conference on Africa. It was good to be with old friends in Geneva after a long absence. At the end of July we went on homeleave - 4 weeks in

Denmark and then on to England where Hans stayed 1 week, and Val 3. After 1 week back in Addis, Hans went to Rome for a meeting of all FAO Representatives. We caught the same flight back, Val from London, Hans from Rome.

Susan and Ditlev are well and busy. They have spent much of the year on the Faroe Islands on an archaeological expedition with exciting results. They should be back in Copenhagen about this time. Fortunately Susan was able to join us for 10 days in Hornback in August. Christian was also with us much of the time. He is still not quite decided about his future and has tried different jobs. He spends a good part of the time in Aalborg where he has a very nice girl friend, Karini.

In spite of a very wet summer after a hard winter, Val's parents are well and very active.

Val herself is still entering tennis tournaments - in November she played simultaneously in 3! She is not making it quite as frequently to the finals, but she still enjoys it. On November 23 she walked 21 kms in a sponsored walk to raise money for physically handicapped children. She continues to be very busy with welfare work and has been flying with the Royal Air Force many times to the North to distribute relief goods and discuss and inspect rehabilitation projects.

For the FAOR office, 1985 has again been a very busy year. In view of the emergency and the increase in the agricultural rehabilitation programme, the international staff has been growing. By coincidence we are now 3 Danes out of 5 professional officers in the FAOR office. All together we are some sixty expatriate FAO staff in Ethiopia. A highlight was the third visit by the Director-General, Dr. Edouard Saouma in 2 years in July in connection with the summit meeting of the Organization of African Unity. To organize a smooth and meaningful programme for the Director-General and his entourage when there are some twenty Heads of State, dozens of Prime Ministers and all the VIPS from other UN agencies in Addis at the same time is quite a challenge. The Director-General was most kind, but it was nice to go on leave the following week.

As 1985 draws to a close our thoughts turn even more to you our family and friends. We hope that 1985 has been a good year for you. We wish you all peace and happiness at Christmastime and our very best wishes for 1986 which we hope will see an end to famine in Africa and more positive moves towards peace in the world.

Valerie
Val

Hans
Hans

Hope very much to be with you all on the 6th Sept. 86.



Matthew Swinnerton (MS.122)
1899 - 1900
Yorkshire Branch
and family of wife Beatrice,
and Violet, Elizabeth, Joseph
and Walter Clifford

THE FAMILY GATHERING 1986

As announced in the September Journal, the date for this will be Saturday September 6th at Swynnerton, near Stone, Staffordshire, when we shall celebrate the 900th year since our family name first appeared on record in William the Conqueror's DOMESDAY BOOK.

Have you made a note in your diary - IF NOT, DO IT NOW.

OVERSEAS MEMBERS CONTACT YOUR TRAVEL AGENT.

We have already received two offers of accommodation for overseas members visiting the 'Old Mother Country', as noted in the last issue. Any other member who can extend hospitality and accommodation for a few days around the time of the Gathering, please send details to J. E. (Joe) Swinnerton at 2, Greaves Avenue, Walsall, WS5 3QE.

The details of the Handcrafted Staffordshire Crystal Cut Glass Commemorative Pieces which will be produced to mark the occasion is enclosed with this December Journal, together with an Order Form.

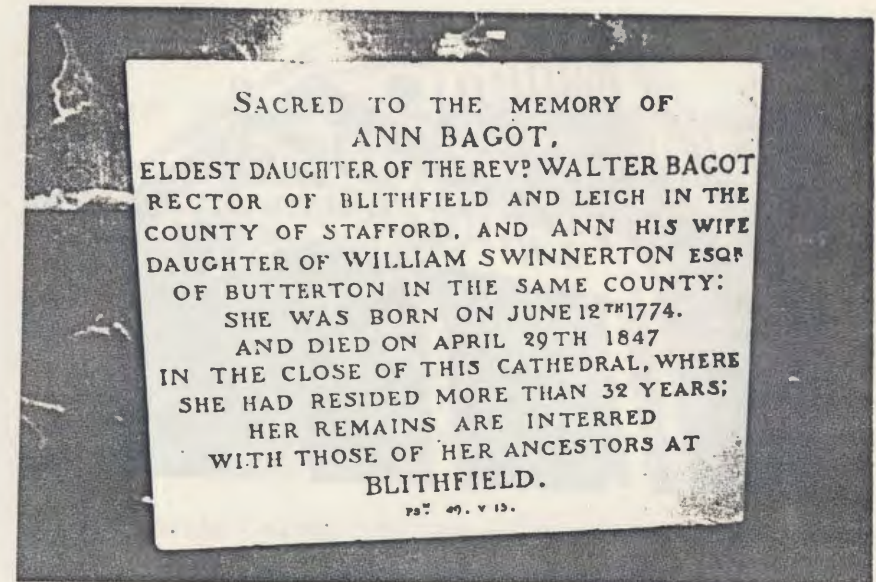
ORDER NOW please, for each piece has to be made and engraved individually.

Some people say that Procrastination is one of the Swinnerton characteristics. DON'T LET IT GET YOU! It is only 8 months to next September - so DO IT NOW!

All those attending the Gathering will be presented with a special pictorial Certificate to honour and record the occasion. What an heirloom this will be for your descendants in a hundred years time.

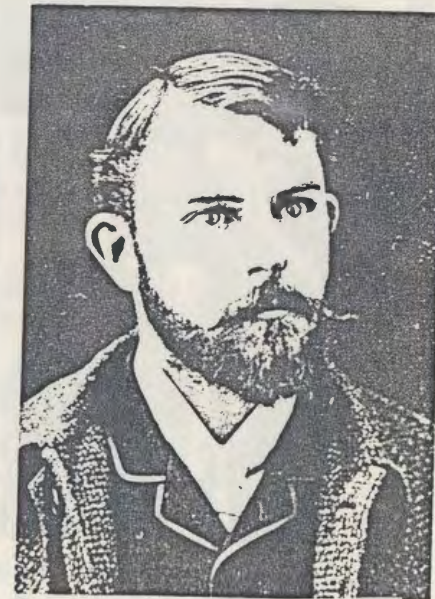
See you there!

JES.



SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF
ANN BAGOT,
ELDEST DAUGHTER OF THE REV. WALTER BAGOT
RECTOR OF BLITHFIELD AND LEIGH IN THE
COUNTY OF STAFFORD, AND ANN HIS WIFE
DAUGHTER OF WILLIAM SWINNERTON ESQ.
OF BUTTERTON IN THE SAME COUNTY:
SHE WAS BORN ON JUNE 12TH 1774.
AND DIED ON APRIL 29TH 1847
IN THE CLOSE OF THIS CATHEDRAL, WHERE
SHE HAD RESIDED MORE THAN 32 YEARS;
HER REMAINS ARE INTERRED
WITH THOSE OF HER ANCESTORS AT
BLITHFIELD.

757 49. v 13.



Frederick Swynnerton (FS.8)
1858 - 1918 Betley Branch
Artist



Swinnerton Street in New York



The Wrexham Branch at the 1981 Gathering.
Albert Ernest Swinnerton (AS.131) with his
sisters Mrs Wood, Mrs Houghton and Mrs
Stocks.

We were delighted to hear of the marriage of our member MARIE SWINNERTON on the 31st August to Paul Grimshaw and our congratulations go to them both. Marie's new address is [REDACTED]

We were very sorry to learn of the tragic death of Francis, the son of our member John Swinnerton of Eccleshall. Francis was only 23 and I well remember him attending our first gathering with his parents. Our sincere sympathy goes to John and Joan.

I am sorry, also, to have to report the death of our member Mrs EUNICE KING on the 9th of November. Eunice was the sister of our members Roy and Douglas (of the cycling family) and we also send them our sympathy.

We are very pleased to welcome back Mr GEOFFREY JOHN SWINNERTON who was a member some years ago and has now re-joined. His interest was re-awakened, he tells me, when he and his wife visited Swynnerton in July. Geoffrey is a member of the Adbaston Branch and first cousin to our members Leslie, Derrick, Peter and Richard. Incidentally, these hold the record for the Society - four brothers all members.

We also welcome the following new members:-
Mrs MARETTA LOUISE JERRETT (nee Swinnerton) of [REDACTED] (and I think that is also a record - for the longest address!) Marettia is a daughter of our member Frank Arthur Swinnerton of the Isle of Man and sister to member Mrs Annabel Wade.

Miss JESSAMINE MARGARET SWENARTON of [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]. Miss Jessie is a cousin to our member Mrs Helen Woods.

Mrs JOAN GWENDOLYN SWYNNERTON of [redacted]
[redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]
is continuing the membership of her late husband,
Derek Charles Swynnerton.

Mr GRANT WALKER MENZIES of [redacted] [redacted]
[redacted] [redacted] [redacted] Mr Menzies is descende
from HELENA or ELENA SWYNNERTON who married Humphrey
Pershall in the mid-15th century.

* * * * *

FINALLY - A CAUTIONARY TALE

A well-known American genealogist has recently
suffered a disastrous fire which completely consumed
the premises where her genealogical records,
photographs and books as well as family heirlooms
were stored.

The lesson, she says, that she would like us
all to learn from her experience, is that MORE
THAN ONE COPY OF ONE'S RECORDS SHOULD EXIST,
IN VARIOUS LOCATIONS AND THAT SHARING INFORMATION
AND PHOTOGRAPHS IS THE BEST INSURANCE AGAINST
SUCH A LOSS.

* * * * *

Christmas Greetings



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