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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

Many of you will read this at our special Domesday Gathering at Swynnerton on the 6th of September. I know that for some it will be their first visit to the village and I have therefore included a brief guide to point out some of the most interesting features.

I have also included a reprint of the Reverend Charles Swynnerton's paper on the early Swinnertons. It is a very well-written and argued article which has stood the test of time and I believe his conclusions come as near to the correct answer as we shall ever get.

This Journal is not quite as thick as usual - time ran out! I had forgotten, not having done it for 3 years, just how long it took to prepare for a Gathering, several weeks of very hard work in fact, so you will have to forgive me.

I was invited (as President of the Federation of Family History Societies) to another One-Name Family Gathering a few days ago. There were about 30 people there and it was held in a private house! To some extent, we are the victims of our own success.

At the last count, there will be 214 people at ours including 35 children under 15. This last is most encouraging - let us hope that amongst them are those who are going to carry our work into the future.

In the meantime, we are always on the lookout for help. There is always some work for the Society that you can do in your own home. If you feel you would like to help, please let us know.

THE FIRST TWO GENERATIONS OF THE SWYNNERTONS OF CO. STAFFORD.

(1086-1122.)

Domesday Book tells us that in 1086 two adjoining fees of Robert de Stafford in North Staffordshire, namely, Standon and Swynnerton, were held by two tenants named *Brien* (Brian) and *Aslen* (Alan).

It further tells us that these same two tenants held also adjoining portions of the manor of Rauceby in Lincolnshire, under the same overlord, Robert de Stafford.

The names of these tenants, Brian and Alan (or Aelen) both suggest descent from a family hailing from Brittany.

Robert de Stafford I. died in 1088, in the cowl of a monk, at Kenilworth Abbey. None of his extant charters in the Kenilworth Cartulary are witnessed by either of these two tenants. The charters of his immediate successors are, however, generally witnessed by *their* successors, and invariably their names occur close together in the test clause, fitz-Brian first, and fitz-Alan ("Aelen") next in order, which is evidence that in 1086, the date of the Domesday Survey, these two tenants had been only newly enfeoffed,¹ and that they were probably brothers.

Let us put this evidence succinctly thus :—

1. They were ~~probably~~ both from Brittany.
2. They were both apparently newly enfeoffed in 1086.
3. Their Staffordshire fees, Standon and Swynnerton adjoined.
4. They also held adjoining lands in the same manor in Lincolnshire.

¹ North Staffordshire was only finally conquered about 1072, after which, for some years, the country must have lain waste.

5. Their manors in both counties were held under the same overlord, Robert de Stafford I., who died 1088.
6. Their sons are generally associated in the witness-clauses of various charters of Robert de Stafford's successors.

If brothers, Brian must have been the elder of the two, because :—

1. Robert de Stafford I., enfeoffed him in seven manors, but Alan only in two.
2. Fitz-Brian always precedes Fitz-Aelen in the attestation clauses of the Stafford charters of the next generation.

Beyond this statement, namely, that Alan de Swynnerton was probably a brother of Brian de Standon (1086), it would not be safe to go; nor do we know whose sons they were. From the fact, however, that their names, or rather those of their immediate descendants, frequently appear in the charters of the de Staffords in the Kenilworth Cartulary, coupled with the further fact that Brian named one of his sons Ralf as if in honour of Ralf de Toesny, his overlord's famous brother, and that Aelen, or Alan, named one of his sons Robert as if in honour of his overlord, Robert de Toesney de Stafford, General the Hon. G. Wrottesley and the late the Hon. and Rev. Canon Bridgeman were both led to infer that the Standons and the Swynnertons were related to their chief lord Robert de Stafford; but in what way related, history, so far, has not revealed.

In tracing the successive generations of a family it is often of the utmost importance to bear in mind that the eldest son and heir receives his baptismal name in accordance with a fixed rule which seldom deviates. This rule, as in the case of the Standons, sometimes demanded that the heir should carry his grandfather's name. Usually, however, he bore the baptismal name of his father. "They called him Zacharias after the name of his father." Among the *senior* branches of the Swynnerton family this latter rule was observed most strictly and consistently. Only on the death of the heir without issue, or on failure of any issue at all, there came in the new name, and whenever that happened the new name started a new series of names for eldest sons in strict accordance with the same law. How came it to

pass then that Aelen, or Alan, de Swynnerton, the founder of the Staffordshire Swynnertons, was succeeded by a succession of five *Roberts* in the ensuing five generations? Of course there must be an Alan missing, a second Alan, who, dying without issue, possibly *in vitâ patris*, was succeeded by a brother and heir named Robert.

It is the object of this article, by evidence only just short of demonstration, to restore the missing Alan, or Aelen, to the pedigree.

With regard to the first Alan, to him of the Domesday Survey, it is not at all improbable that as he advanced in life, his eldest son Alan having predeceased him, he put his second son Robert in seisin at Swynnerton, reserving to himself an annuity from his estates in accordance with a practice common enough in those days, and if so, then he will be identical with "Alanus" who, with some other surviving Domesday tenants, witnesses a charter of Ernaldus filius Vitalis in the Stone Cartulary bearing date 1136.¹ It is a Hilderston charter, Hilderston is quite near Swynnerton, and all the lay witnesses are local magnates, those still surviving from Domesday being, besides "Alanus," Ulviet, the lord of Maer (Uviet, or Huviet, probably brother to Ormus), Ormus the thane of Darlaston, Siwardus tenant (probably) at Longton (see "Deed of Alina de Darlaston, *Hist. MSS. Commission*, 10th Report, Part IV, 1885), and Goderrick of Stoke near Stone. (*Staff. Coll.*, VI, Part I, pp. 22-23.)

II.

It seems very probable then, that the son and heir of Alan de Swynnerton of Domesday (1086) must have been another Alan. But do we hear of any such Alan living in or near Swynnerton and capable of fulfilling the necessary conditions of the case? Decidedly yes.

Adjoining Swynnerton lay the great parish of Stone, famous for its Priory founded at the instance of Henry I.'s powerful finance minister, Geoffrey de Clinton, the great parish church of which was also the mother church of the church of Swynnerton.

¹ *Staff. Coll.*, VI, Part I, p. 23. Vitalis was himself Domesday tenant of Hilderston under Robert de Stafford.

The actual founder of the Priory was Enisan de Walton, and Walton was a manor in the said parish of Stone. Enisan de Walton had a son and heir, Ernald. But he had also a daughter named Eylina, and Eylina de Walton had married one Alan, who was almost certainly Alan fitz-Alan of Swynnerton. Considerably before the year 1130, however, Eylina and her husband had parted with those lands in the manor of Walton which her father had conferred on her in frank marriage, for they gave them, or sold them, to the Church and Canons of Stone. There are four extant charters which record this gift and which have been printed in original and in full in the second volume of the William Salt (Staffordshire) Archaeological Society. For the purposes of this enquiry I make use of these four charters as follows:—

CHARTER I.—In a charter of Enisan de Walton and Ernald his son and heir, concerning additional lands which they had been induced to part with and in which Elina's gift or sale is confirmed, dated *c.* 1130, the transaction is thus referred to:—"And in my manor of Walton we concede to the Canons of the aforesaid church, likewise in alms, and with the same liberty, all the land, with the men, and its appurtenances, which Alan my son-in-law, and my daughter his wife, sold to them, namely, one *wara* and two cotlands, with demesne, and the meadow-land (*pratum*), which Enisan had given in marriage to his daughter aforesaid."¹

CHARTER II.—In the confirmation of the suzerain, Nicholas de Stafford, *c.* 1130, the donation is thus referred to:—"We concede also in alms and in similar liberty in Waleton manor all the land which Alan, the son-in-law of Enisan, and his wife, the daughter of the same Enisan, sold to the aforesaid Geoffrey (de Clinton) similarly for the work of the aforesaid Church, namely, one *wara* and two cotlands with demesne, and the meadow-land, which Enisan had given in marriage to his daughter aforesaid."²

CHARTER III.—In Ernald de Walton's acknowledgment of these gifts, dated *c.* 1135-1140, we have:—"And

¹ *Staff. Coll.*, II, 201.

² *Ibid.*, 204.

in Walaton (my father) conceded to the same Canons in alms the whole land with the men, and its appurtenances, which Alan, my brother-in-law, and his wife, my sister, sold to them, namely, one *wara* and two cotlands, with the demesne and the *pratum*, which he had given to her as patrimony, the half also of the whole wood which pertains to Walaton."¹

CHARTER IV.—In another confirmation made by Robert de Stafford, the suzerain, much later in the century, we read:—"Ivo de Waleton and Robert his heir have conceded and confirmed all the donations and sales which their predecessors, namely, Ernald, and Enisan, and Eylina, daughter of the said Enisan, made to the Church and Canons of Stone."²

The name "Aslen" occurs under various forms. It is Aslen, Elen, Ehelen, Esluen, Aelen; but, as Eyton points out, it is also Alan; as in Robert de Stafford's charter of c. 1160, where *Robertus filius Alani* is Robert de Swynnerton.³ Nor is this the only instance. In a deed of Alice, Lady of Hopton, co. Stafford, which passed between 1184 and 1190, this same Robert de Swynnerton again meets us as Robert fitz-Alan (*Robertus filius Alani*).⁴

Thus comparison and analogy show that the Domesday "A(s)len" de Swynnerton's eldest son and heir must have been named Aslen too. Documentary evidence proves that any such eldest son and heir must have died without issue before 1130.⁵

Enisan de Walton had a son-in-law named "Alan," and the evidence of Charter I goes to prove that he was dead before 1130, because his name does not appear therein, in the character of either principal or witness, nor yet his wife's.

Again, the boundary of the manor of Walton "runs with"—is co-terminous with—that of the manor of Swynnerton, and for the heir of Swynnerton to marry a daughter of the lord of

¹ *Staff. Coll.*, II, 206.

² *Ibid.*, Vol. VI, Part I, 16. Eyline would appear to be the feminine of Eylin, Elen, Esluen, Aslen, or Alan.

³ *Ibid.*, Vol. II, p. 261.

⁴ *Ibid.*, Vol. III, p. 229.

⁵ *Ibid.*, Vol. VII, Part II, p. 2.

Walton, was likely enough. If, therefore, the Domesday "A(s)len" de Swynnerton had a son A(s)len, he, no doubt, was identical with Enisan de Walton's son-in-law "Alan."

That Alan of the four Charters above quoted died without issue by his wife Eylina may be safely assumed, because the fact that her father Enisan, and his heir Ernald, to whom her land should have reverted, and *their* direct descendants (not *hers*), confirmed her gift, shows it. Nay, the very circumstance of her parting with her *patrimony* to the monks of Stone at all, proves it. Women have always been far more pious than men, and it was not at all uncommon for childless women, owning property in their own right, to alienate it to religion before they died. Thus Petronilla, daughter and coheir of Alina de Darlaston and wife of Robert de Sugnall, co. Stafford, in the time of Richard I. and King John, having no children by her husband, gave lands of her own inheritance to the monks of Stone.¹ Thus, too, Margery de Caldwall, the childless first wife of John de Swynnerton of Hilton (II), gave her maternal inheritance to the monks of Trentham (1345).² These women left their lands to the monks because they had no issue. In like manner, and for the same reason, Eylina de Walton must have left hers to the monks of Stone.

On the other hand, we do not find that any lord of Swynnerton confirmed the gift of Eylina. It was not necessary; it would have been surprising if they had, seeing that the land in question was in no sense of their inheritance, nor could be, as Eylina left no children.

To sum up, then, we conclude that Alan, the Norman tenant of Swynnerton, in 1086, had an elder son and heir, Alan or Aelen fitz-Alan, who married Eylina de Walton; that this son, Aelen fitz-Aelen, died without issue by her, and was represented at Swynnerton and Ranceby by a younger brother, "Robert fitz-Aelen," whom we find in possession as early as 1122.³ Hence Robert, not Aelen or Alan, became the accepted Christian name for the head of the family, and thus we get a succession of

¹ Stone Cartulary, *Staff. Coll.*, VI, Part I, pp. 1-20.

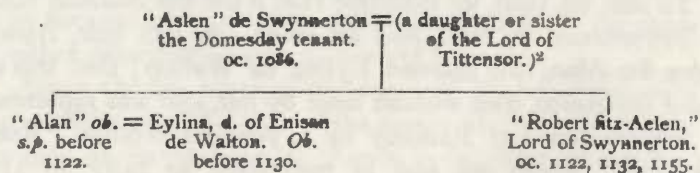
² Original deed at Trentham.

³ *Staff. Coll.*, II.

no fewer than five Roberts as lords of Swynnerton between the years 1122 and 1245.¹

If I add a word more, it is by way of conjecture, as to the death of Alan and Eylina. The clause concerning them in Charter I, which Eyton dates *c.* 1130, points unmistakably to a transaction which was long past and over. It shows more. It proves that Alan and Eylina had been dead for some time. They must have been cut off comparatively early in life, since, as we have seen, Robert fitz-Alan was in possession of Swynnerton so far back as 1122-5. By that time Stone Priory had been brought into subjection to Kenilworth Abbey by Geoffrey de Clinton, and the foundation of Stone Priory itself, therefore, must be ascribed to a date earlier still. Were Alan and Eylina numbered among the victims of the *Blanche Nef*, in the fatal year 1120, when Prince William and his sister the Countess of Perche, with four hundred and seventy of their companions, perished among the hidden rocks of the Race of Alderney? Beyond the approximate coincidence of dates, and the fact that several of their collateral descendants were of the household and retinue of Plantagenet kings and princes in subsequent times, there is not a tittle of evidence to believe so. It may or may not have been. We might have known more, but for the meagre survival of evidences of that dark period when Stephen's Flemish mercenaries swept over England with fire and sword, arresting all progress, and when public records of priceless value must have been lost beyond recall.

PEDIGREE.



¹ See Canon Bridgeman's "History of the Swynnertons," *Staff. Coll.*, VII, Part II.

² Tittensor adjoining Swynnerton. In 1086, and ever after, Beech was a hamlet in Swynnerton. Beech, however, formed no part of the fee of Swynnerton, it being shown by an inquisition *ad quod damnum* of 2 Edw. III. that it formed a portion of the fief of Tittensor. It had, therefore, probably been acquired by Alan de Swynnerton (I) in marriage. (*Staff. Coll.*, VII, Part II, p. 1.)

Emphasis is added by another fact, namely, that, as Mr. Round has pointed out, Enisan is a Breton name, and that Enisan de Walton, like Brien de Standon and Aelen de Swynnerton, must have been also of Breton descent.

Also in a Chell deed, published in *Staff. Coll.* last year (1911), Robert, lord of Swynnerton and of Great Chell, appears as ROBERTUS DE SYNNERTONA. Date *c.* 1230. (*Add. Ch.* 53,580, *B.M.*)

NOTE.—In *Staff. Coll.*, I, 149, the name "Robert fitz Aelen" as taken from the *Liber Niger* (1166) is given as *Robertus filius Aelem*, and from the *Liber Rubeus* as *Robertus filius Aleur*. There is an error in both instances, and it is probably that of the scribes who copied out the original returns. Not *Robertus filius Aelem* and not *Robertus filius Aleur* is the true reading, but *Robertus filius Aeleni*. (Genitive case.)

Charles Swynnerton

SOME NOTABLE SWINNERTONS

ALAN (Aslen) — Listed as the tenant of the Manor of Swynnerton in the Domesday Book 1086

SIR ROGER de SWYNNERTON — occurs in the records in 1278 died about 1298. Lord of the Manor of Swynnerton 1286. Knighted (the first of the family to be so) 1290.

SIR ROGER de SWYNNERTON (II) — occurs first in 1280 Knight of the Shire. Summoned to Parliament as a Baron 1337. Soldiered in the King's Wars in Aquitaine and Scotland. Constable of the Tower of London.

THOMAS SWINNERTON — Doctor of Philosophy. Author of many anti - papist books using the alias of John Roberts, forced to flee to Holland. where he died in 1554.

SIR JOHN SWINNERTON — Sherriff of London 1602, Lord Mayor of London 1612. Sole supplier of wines to Queen Elizabeth I from which he made his fortune. Built Stanway Hall and Church in Essex.

WILLIAM SWINNERTON of Butterson — Barrister at Law, Vice- Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, Recorder of Stafford. and Newcastle. Died 1790.

THOMAS SWINNERTON of Butterson — son of above. Barrister at Law, Recorder of Stafford. High Sheriff of Staffordshire 1795.

A WALK ROUND SWYNNERTON VILLAGE

First there is, of course, 'our' church and I cannot do better than repeat the description given by Hazel Jones in her Introduction to 'Swynnerton and the Swinnertons'.

Sir John de Swynnerton, Lord of Swynnerton undertook the rebuilding of the Church of St. Mary as a thank-offering for his safe return from a Crusade and thus became its second founder. Although parts of the 11th century wall and tower remain, most of the church today is in the Early English style of Gothic architecture and stands as it was built by Sir John in the 13th century.

The square Norman tower is at the western end of the building. It has triangular headed belfry windows and protruding beakheads. A more recent touch has been the addition of a clock on the north and south walls of the tower, which strikes the hour.

In the belfry are bells which for centuries have called the villagers to worship and announced births, marriages and deaths. The records show that there were originally four bells. In 1812 they were re-cast and the present peal of six re-hung, through the generosity of the Fitzherbert family.

At the base of the original bell tower is a doorway leading into the nave of the church. This is a perfect example of the best Norman craftsmanship. Around the arch of the door are carved sixteen wolves' heads, each having two sharp ears pointing upwards and a sharp nose pointing downwards.

Stepping into the nave, one is impressed by the dignity and elegance of the Church. A deep red carpet reaches from the doorway up the aisle to the altar rail, matching the red curtains in the organ and choir stalls. Beautiful oak carving may be seen everywhere; in the furnishings, chairs and tables, the altar, reredos, communion rail and stalls while at the chancel arch a lovely oak screen exemplifies the fine craftsmanship of the Tudor period. An unusual feature of the church is the leper window between the chancel screen and the priest's door, through which the unfortunate victims of that dread disease could observe the service. The soft light filtering through the memorial windows in the chancel and transepts produces contrasts of light and shade in a richness of effect. Today it is difficult to realize that the nave, chancel and south aisle were built by John de Swynnerton over seven hundred years ago and even then he was rebuilding what was to him the "old" church, used by Alan, the First Lord of Swynnerton and his sons, in the eleventh century.

Look out, also, for the brass plate on the Organ commemorating its restoration by the Society some years ago, the newly restored woodwork of the Organ paid for by Bob Cunningham, the new carved oak shelf behind the altar on which the Cross stands donated by Mrs Cunningham in memory of her father and the rather 'tatty' inside doors of which you will hear more!

Look for the Kneelers, emblazoned with the Society Badge, made by members and friends of the Society (would you like to do one?).

Next door is the Church Hall, purchased by the Society some years ago and given to the Church look for the brass plate above the door saying so.

Can you find the Chestnut Tree and the Old Smithy which is reputed to be the setting for Longfellow's famous poem 'Under the spreading chestnut tree!

Then there is the 'other' church, the Roman Catholic Chapel opposite St. Mary's which is the private chapel of the Fitzherbert family and which Lord Stafford has kindly said may be open for you to see during the Gathering.

Finally, there is Swynnerton Park, usually called Swynnerton Hall, the home of the Lords Stafford. This is NOT the house in which the Swynners lived, that one called Swynnerton Castle, was knocked down by Oliver Cromwell. This one is Carolinian and was built after the Civil War. The best view is from the Eccleshall Road where there is also a signpost to the village which many of our visitors like to be photographed by.

Please note: Swynnerton Hall is A PRIVATE HOME and is NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

No doubt after your tour many of you will end up in the Fitzherbert Arms, the village pub, where you will find many old pictures and maps of the village as well as a warm welcome!

ENJOY YOUR VISIT

Family tales of the '45'

SIR, — Congratulations to you on the many local history articles I have enjoyed reading in the *Sentinel* in 1985. I especially enjoyed "The Battle of New-castle" article published recently obviously well researched by writer Alan Goodwin.

A great deal of Mr. Goodwin's text was new to me. I am sure many readers, like me, never realised that the "flashpoint" for 1745 might have been here in North Staffordshire. Most historians regarded Derby and Lichfield as the focal points for the two armies of that time.

My family have a tradition that the Scots stole their horses when on

their way to the battle of Worcester in 1651 and again on their way south in 1745.

The family farm at that time was in the vicinity of Barthomley. What Mr. Goodwin writes appears to strengthen the truth in the old tale.

Another story told by the Swynners of Butterson and Whitmore was that Squire Mainwaring of Whitmore killed a gang of marauding Scottish horsemen in 1745.

Finally, one more story to add to Mr. Goodwin's fascinating account of the followers of Bonnie Prince Charlie in Leek. A local magistrate named Murhall had a stray Highland drummer-boy flayed and his skin tanned for a drumhead.

With regard to the Scots incursion of 1651, they stole the Barthomley horses on their way south for the Worcester fight.

After their defeat there they retired by the same route and got set upon in Sandbach. The Swynners were there for the market and participated in laying into the "Scottish robbers."

I was never told if they recovered their stolen horses, but I do know that the place in Sandbach where the fugitive Scots were set upon is the present market site and still called "Scots' Common."

I wonder if there are any other tales of those olden days worth hearing about from other local folk?

Perhaps Mr. Goodwin will then write another story of the "45" for us to enjoy.

Thank you again for the nightly pleasure of reading the *Sentinel* and not least for the local history articles.

Thomas Swynnerton
Hales Farm,
Market Drayton.

10.—THE "FORTY-NINE" OFFICERS.

INROLMENTS of the Adjudications* in favour of the (A.D.) 1649 Officers† (formerly denominated "THE '49 Lots"): Preserved in the Office of the Chief Remembrancer of the Exchequer, Dublin.—See *Records of Ireland*, Marked "1821-1825." pp. 610-637.

* *Adjudications*: These Adjudications refer to the Arrears of the Commissioned Officers who served Charles II., or Charles I., in the Wars of Ireland, before the 5th day of June, 1649.

The *Index Locorum* to those Inrolments is given at pp. 638-647 of the "Records of Ireland," above mentioned.

† *Officers*: The Irish origin of many of those Officers can be seen in the Third Edition of our "IRISH PEDIGREES."

Swynerton, Thomas
Swynerton, Thomas

From: Major (Retd) H A Rowe



COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT:
LIEUTENANT GENERAL SIR DEER BOORMAN, KCB

Regimental Secretary:

Assistant Secretary:
CAPTAIN N. J. HITCHINGS

Ref RHQ 121/1

Colonel J C A Swynnerton OBE
Leaze House
Barns Lane
Burford
Oxon OX8 4NE

Dear Jerry,

Your enquiry regarding 491598 Pte J W Swynnerton, S Staffords, refers.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission have confirmed that 491598 Pte Jack William Swynnerton died on 19 July 1944 while serving with 1/6th South Staffords who were part of 177 Brigade, 59 Division. On that date the battalion carried out an attack in conjunction with 5 South Staffords on a place called NOYERS. This was preparatory to the advance through VILLERS BOCAGE to the River ORNE.

He is buried in Plot 3, Row C, Grave 16 in Fontenay-le-Pesnel War Cemetery. Their records show he was the son of Henry William and Annie Louisa Swynnerton of Billesley, Birmingham.

Enclosed is a leaflet entitled Normandy June-August 1944 which I hope you will find of interest.

Regimental Headquarters
The Staffordshire Regiment
(The Prince of Wales)
Whittington Barracks
Lichfield, Staffordshire
WS14 9PY
Telephone:
Lichfield Military }
STD Code 0543 } Ex.
Civil Network: }
Whittington 433333 }

1/3 March 1986

*Yours
Aye*

Henry.

MEET THE SWINNERTONS

BORN on October 19, 1813, in Liverpool, Charles Swinnerton travelled to London as a teenager with a view to eventually proceeding to Rome to improve himself as a sculptor. Instead, fate was to direct him across the Irish Sea to the Isle of Man where he was to work initially dressing stone during the erection of King William's College (1830-33).

He took lodgings in Castletown, where the College was being built, here he met Mary Callister who kept a small school near the country hamlet of St Marks. They married on August 13, 1834, in St Mary's Church, Castletown, but subsequently moved to Douglas where he took up employment with a firm of builders' merchants who engaged him as a monumental mason. By 1843 he had entered into partnership with Daniel Creer, a fellow stonecutter, and in addition to having a successful monumental masons' business they also engaged in some speculative house building.

Charles was a man of many parts; he was the maker of the first steam engine ever produced in the Isle of Man; this drew crowds of country people to his house near St Barnabas' Church on Saturdays after market. He took a great interest in things antiquarian and due to his initiative several runic crosses and other historic objects



Charles Swinnerton with four of his sons; back row, Mark, Robert; front row, Frederick, Joseph.

were collected for the local museum in Castle Rushen.

Charles had six sons and a daughter. Yet despite the fact that their father had well and truly put down his roots in the Isle of Man not one of them was to stay on these shores.

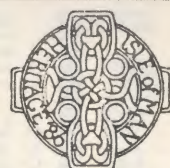
Mark, the eldest, emigrated to Australia and from there moved to the United States where he died in 1906. Charles entered the Church

and eventually died in Gloucester at the age of 85. Robert became a jeweller and watchmaker in Douglas then sold his business and eventually died in Los Angeles in 1903. Godfrey died in Nagasaki in 1891 whilst Frederick, an artist, died in Bombay in 1918. Their daughter Catherine died in Ashton-on-Mersey in 1920 whilst perhaps the most famous of their children, Joseph William, died on a return visit to the Island in 1910.

Joseph, in fact, managed to achieve what his father had always held as an ambition for himself. After school he entered his father's business but then, at the age of 20, was sent to study art at Edinburgh University. His success there resulted in him attending the Academy of St Luke in Rome where he won the Pope Pius IX Gold and Silver Medals in sculpture. He became a member of the British Academy and set up his own studio in Rome.

Rome was to be his home for many years but periodically he would return to visit his parents and it was on one of these visits that he died in his father's retirement home The Studio at Gansey.

Fortunately some of his work has survived on the Island, mainly in the form of busts of local people. An opportunity is now being given, courtesy of the Isle of Man Victorian Society, for the Manx public to view some of the works of Joseph Swinnerton. An exhibition has been arranged with the co-operation of the present owner of The Studio and this is to be held on Saturday, June 7 and Sunday, June 8. The exhibition is open from 10 am to 5 pm and admission is free. There will be a collection box however for the establishment of an architectural heritage trust on the Island.



heritage

THE MONTHLY REVIEW OF THE MANX HERITAGE FOUNDATION

No. 4.

FAMILY NOTES

As a result of our PRO, Joe Swinnerton's efforts to publicise the Gathering we have gained another little crop of new members and a number of members of the family are attending the Gathering who are not yet members of the Society but we hope they will like what they see and join us.

The new members who have joined are:-

Mr John Gerald Swinnerton of [REDACTED]

Mrs Lucy Swinnerton of [REDACTED]

Mr Melvyn John Swinnerton of [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] who is a member of the Shut Lane Branch.

Mr Paul Maurice Swinnerton of [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] who is the son of our member T.H.Swinnerton of the Betley Branch.

Mr Gordon James Swinnerton of [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] who is a member of the Bury Branch.

Two belated bits of information that only just have filtered through the system! Two more of Roy Swinnerton's daughters have married - both to cyclists! Frances married Tony Mayer and Catherine, Martin Earley. Our congratulations to them both.

Fastetch

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