# Swinnerton Family History

The Journal of the Swinnerton Society



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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 St.Mary's Church, Swynnerton.

Registered as a Charity No.518184

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# FROM THE EDITOR

Many members have written to say how sorry they were that they were not able to attend the Gathering and that they were looking forward to reading all about and so most of this issue is taken up with it. Usually. I ask someone to write their impressions of the day but in the rush this year I am afraid I forgot to do this and so the account will be my own. I have to confess that so many came and there was so much going on that some of my impressions were rather confused!

Here I must make an apology. I try on these occasions to get around and speak to everyone but when reading through the list of attenders afterwards, I realised that there were, in fact, quite a few who I had not personally spoken to. I do hope they will forgive me, it was not intentional - there was simply so much that I had to do.

So - the day started with reception in the village hall where everyone came to sign in at the table manned by my wife Angela ably assisted by two of our council member's wives. Cathy and Pat Swinnerton. Here the necessary fees were paid and the programme for the day given out with a copy of the current Journal for members. Each attender was also given his or her special certificate to mark their attendance on this historic occasion, these were most attractive and were obviously highly prized. The reproduction overleaf does not really do them justice, they were most attractively produced in black and gold on a grey art paper with the seal in red and gold. The background, which does not really show up on the illustration was in white printing and was a facsimile of the actual entry for 'Sulvertone' (Swynnerton') in the Domesday Book.

Checking the lists afterwards, I fear that due to the large crowd involved - at one time the queue stretched all the way down the hall and doubled back - not everyone got booked in, at least I could not get the figures to balance!

It was all a bit chaotic but everyone was very patient and stood around quite happily drinking coffee and talking to their neighbours. I dont know how the three ladies coped but they did and we are very grateful to them.

Due to the large numbers involved, at the suggestion of the Rector, we held our AGM in the church thus leaving the village hall free for the caterers to prepare lunch which was actually served in a large marquee we had had erected at the side of the hall.

So - the next move was to the church while all the under 14s went to the church hall for their own entertainment under the supervision of the Rector's wife. Here there was all sort of things for them to do - jigsaws, painting, toys and a video. I am awestruck at the thought of anyone voluntarily taking charge of 40 small children but Gina just took it in her stride!

Even the church was not big enough for us and we had to ask some members to carry their own chairs across as the pews would not seat us all. However, we all got in even the choir stalls were put to use - and we had a very good meeting which was a little less formal than usual and produced some good ideas. At least, being in the church, it gave me a chance to climb up and welcome everybody from the pulpit - I had not done that since our first gathering in 1975!

A full account of the meeting is in the minutes at the end of this journal.

After that, it was time to collect the children and go to the marquee for lunch, not a few calling in at the Fitz-Herbert Arms on the way.

After lunch, it was back to church for our traditional non-denominational service conducted, as usual, by the Rector and our own Reverend Edward Swinnerton with his daughter Paula playing the organ beautifully as always.

This year we were honoured by the presence of the Rt.Rev. John Waller, Bishop of Stafford who had so kindly agreed to come and dedicate our War Memorial which he duly did during the service in a simple but impressive ceremony. Unfortunately, I do not yet have a picture of the memorial but I hope someone has taken one and will send it to me so that I can put it in the next journal. It is a brass- coloured plate with a list of all the Swinnertons from the UK who gave lives in the two world wars headed by our badge in front of 4 crossed Union Flags. It was made by our member Alan Swinnerton and the whole is mounted on a polished wood base kindly given by our member Richard Swinnerton. Eventually, when our researches are complete, we hope to add another with the names of those from overseas.

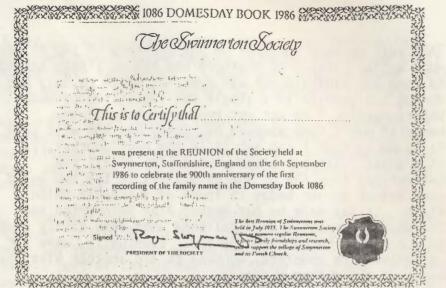
The church service always pleases me enormously -looking around, I could see Church of England, Methodist, Baptist, Catholic, Mormon and Congregational members and there were probably others, all worshipping together quite happily. Why cant they be like us in Ireland, India, Cyprus and the Middle East?

After the service we all adjourned to the churchyard outside where various members were interviewed by the Press and local radio and the enormous photograph on the centre page was finally taken after a great many exhortations from the top of the tower to move in, look happy, smile etc!

Then, back to the village hall for a cup of tea and a talk by myself with slides on the Domesday Book, the Society and the History of the Society.

All day there was an exhibition of all sorts of family 'bits & pieces' in the vestry and a display of all the trees of the various branches all round the walls of the village hall which kept many members occupied trying to find themselves!

All in all a memorable day.



# The special attendance certificate



A sketch of the War Memorial

# Swinnerton 'clan' trace family roofs

THE SWINNERTON clan—more than 240 of them from many parts of the world—made a friendly invasion of their "home" village of Swynnerton, near Stone on Saturday.

They came from The Shetlands, Canada, American, Australia, New Zealand and South

Note the 'Roofs' we

are tracing and the

wrong President!

Much interesting material

this issue so that a proper

has had to be left out of

account could be given

contributors but it will

all be in the March Issue.

of the Gathering.

My apologies to the

Africa as well as many parts of England for the giant family reunion in the pictures que North Staffordshire village.

The get-together was arranged by the Swinnerton Society to mark the 900th anniversary of the first recording of the family name in the Domesday Book of 1086.

family name in the Domesday Book of 1086.

Besides research into the family history, one of the main objects of the society is to help the village church of St. Mary's.

Over the last decade members of the society have donated money to help repair and renovate the church organ and to buy the church hall from the Church Commis-

sioners.

President of the society, geneologist Lieutenant Colonel Ian Swinnerton, welcomed the 246 attending the family gathering in parish church. Young and old alike were there from a babe in arms to grandparents in their eighties.

# Reunited

The colonel reported on the progress being made with research into the various branches of the family.

This was followed by a family service jointly conducted by the Rev. Edward Swinnerton from Hambleton, near Blackpool, and the Rev. Gerald Gardiner, Vicar of Swynnerton.

After lunch at the village hall a slide illustrated talk on geneology was given by Colonel Swinnerton.

There was also an opportunity to socialise, be reunited with relatives—some after an absence of many years—take a stroll round the village and view an exhibition of Swinnerton family heirlooms, old photographs, pictures, paintings and documents.

"This is our sixth reunion and more people have

"This is our sixth reunion and more people have attended than ever before," said the chairman, Colonel Jeremy Swynnerton.

"There are at least 60 more here than attended our last reunion in the village three years ago, which is excellent," he said.
"Our next reunion will be

in three years time which will mark the 15th your of the founding of the society," said Colonel Swynnerton.

# The clan comes back home

SWINNERTONS from all over the British Isles and overseas will be gathering at Swynnerton (where else?) this weekend to celebrate the 900th anniversary of the first recording of the family name in the Domesday Book.

More than 250 descendants of the original Swinnerton ancestor will converge on the tiny village to renew friendthips and meet brothers. sisters, uncles, aunts, cousins and other related members of the family.

Many will be making the journey from America. Canada, Australia, Hong Kong and the Middle East undeterred by the threat of terrorist bombs as the family motto is 'Advance and Shoot Well'

This will be the 12th gathering of the clans and following the annual meeting of The Swinnerton Society (what else?) there will be a family service in the village church on Saturday, conducted by the Rev Edward Swinnerton, a member of the Council of the Society.

A plaque will be unveiled by the Bishop of Stafford, in memory of the members of the Swinnerton family who gave their lives during the last two world wars

# Going by the book

THE Swinnerton family staged a special reunion at the weekend—to celebrate the 900th anniversary of their entry in the Norman Domesday Book. The party, attended by 240 people, was held at their home village of Swynnerton, North Staffordshire.

Daily Mail, Monday, September 8, 1986

# Don't I know you from somewhere?

# SWYNNERTON

THE Swynnertons were back where they started yesterday . . . in the tiny village which bears their name.

Nine hundred years ago their ancestors Aslam and Bryan Swynnerton, chief tenants of Swynnerton. Staffordshire, were mentioned In the Domesday Book.

At the weekend, 194 of their namesakes gathered there for their fifth reunion, the biggest so far.

· They came from Australia and from across the Atlantic, from as far away as indonesia -modern Swynnertons who Included businessmen, lawvers and factory workers, all members of the ten-year-old Worldwide Society of Swynnertons.

They pored over the family tree that has spread around all four walls of the village hall. They gazed at the thatched oottages and strolled along the village's single winding street.

Fred — the only Swynner-ton in Illinois; I've checked photographed his wife Betty alongside the village road-

'Every American dreams of tracing his family roots, he said. 'It's exactly how I imagined it would be.



Arrival - Mrs Zoe Watts being greeted by the receptionists, Mesdames Angela, Cathy and Pat Swinnerton.



Leslie Swinnerton at the receipt of custom taking donations for the new church doors.



Our PRO, Joe Swinnerton, busy selling the commemorative glassware.



Diana Cunningham supervising the bookstall.



key rings, badges and special 'Swinnerton' wall clocks.



Alan Swinnerton at his stall of engravings of the church, The Secretary looking as though he is wondering what on earth he started! (Note the Society's new banner specially made for the occasion.



Carrying extra chairs into the church for the AGM.



The AGM - from L. to R., the Treasurer, President, Chairman and Secretary.



Part of the crowd in the village hall.



Our Vice-President (USA) Norman Swinnerton finding himself on the Tree.



Fred Swinnerton of Chicago said this was the best picture of the Secretary he has ever taken! (He is showing a kneeler just arrived from the USA, now 'Stuffed' and in use in the church.



The Reverend Gerald Gardiner, Rector of Swynnerton.



The oldest attender, Carl Swinnerton from America, by his portion of the Tree.



The Chairman being interviewed by the Press and Local Radio.



Lunch in the marquee.



The children at play in the church hall.



Bill and Grace Swinnerton and John and Eunice Byfield The intrepid cameraman from the Daily Mail on top of from Australia talking to the Press.



the church tower.





The senior member of the family today, Bill Swinnerton from Australia, with his wife.



The Liverpool contingent who arrived in their own coach!



Fred and Betty Swinnerton from the USA.



Retiring Council members John Swinnerton and Diana Cunningham.



The UK representatives of the Wrexham Branch.



Relaxing afterwards in the Fitzherbert Arms.



The Bishop of Stafford who dedicated the War Memorial for us.



Some of the Liverpool party led by Geoffrey Swinnerton in the foreground.



The Parish's own welcome to us.



An unusual view of the church.



Frank Swinnerton from the Isle of Man who organised the tour for the overseas members on Sunday with his daughter and grand-daughter.



The church hall where the children were and which we gave to the church some years ago.

# Swinnertons set to return 'home'

AN historical, giant family gathering will bring people from many parts of the world to their "home" village of Swynnerton on Saturday.

The get-together is being arranged by the Swinnerton Society to mark the 900th anniversary of the first recording of the family name in the Domesday Book of 1086.

More than 250 descendants of the original Swinnerton ancestors will arrive at the North Staffordshire village to renew friendships and meet their brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, cousins and other family relations.

Many will be making the journey from America, Canada, Australia, Hong Kong and the Middle East.

Besides research into the family history, one of the main objects of the society is to help the village church of St. Mary's.

In the last 10 years the society have helped to repair and renovate the funds to buy the church Aslen, came to England hall from the Church with William the Con-Commissioners.

The original founder of who are one of the oldest

church organ, and provided Staffordshire families, queror and held land at Swynnerton under Robert, the first Earl of Stafford.

# Family together after 900 years

The village of Swynnerton in Stafmore than 250 descendants of the family.

They all have family roots in the village near Stone, Staffordshire, going back to mediaeval times.

They were celebrating the 900th anniversary of the family's first mention in the Domesday Book of 1086.

They travelled from as far as Australia, South Africa, America and Canada and finished up under an old chestnut tree near the village smithy where Longfellow is fordshire returned to reputed to have written his normal today — after famous poem "Under the a 48 hour visit by spreading chestnut tree stands."

The Swinnerton Society ancient Swinnerton was formed by Colonel Ian Swinnerton 12 years ago and started off with just four members.

Colonel Swinnerton said today: "Since then it has gone from strength to strength and we laid on a special tour for the visitors of places of historical interest

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Swynnerton on 6th Sept. 1986 at 11.45am.

The Secretary opened the meeting by welcoming 95 members of the Society who, with their relatives and our quests added up to a grand total of 245 attending the Gathering - the largest attendance ever recorded.

He gave a special welcome to the overseas visitors who came from the USA. Australia and South Africa and to our guests, the Rt.Reverend John Waller, Bishop of Stafford: Mrs Clare Abernethy and her daughter who had come all the way from the Shetland Isles -though not a Swinnerton, she had been a generous donor to our Church funds as her ancestors came from Swynnerton: Mr Alan Reed. Mrs Pauline Saul & Mrs Pauline Litton, all officers of the Federation of Family History Societies and who had all helped us with research over the years. and the Reverend Gerald Gardiner , Rector of Swynnerton and Mrs Gardiner.

He made special mention of Steven Swinnerton and his family who had come all the way from Dunfermline in Fife and Geoffrey Swinnerton who had brought a party of 15 from Liverpool in their own bus!

The President then took the chair and formally opened the meeting. He endorsed the Secretary's welcome and introduced the members of the Council to the meeting. He gave a short resume of the history and aims of the society and paid special to the Secretary who had founded the society.

He asked that a special vote thanks be recorded to the Reverend and Mrs Gerald Gardiner for their help, support and enthusiasm. They had played a large part in making the administrative arrangements and setting up the hall and were, even now, looking after 40 of our children in the Church Hall. This was agreed.

APOLOGIES. had been received from Mr Timothy Swinnerton, Miss C.A. Swinnerton, Ludlow Elliman, Mrs Diana Martin, Mrs Lucy Swinnerton, Mrs Hall, Miss Lucy Swinnerton, Mr & Mrs George Swinnerton, Mr James Swinnerton, Mr Robert Yerburgh, Mr Richard Simmermacher, Mr & Mrs D.K. Swinnerton and Mrs Helen Swinnerton.

The minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held on the 21st Sept. 1985, which had been printed in the September 1985 Journal. were approved and signed.

MATTERS ARISING. There were none

FINANCIAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS for the year ending 30th June 1986. The Treasurer went through the accounts which he said were very pleasing, the net result being an excess of Income over Expenditure. This was a big improvement on the previous year. due to generous donations by members over and above their subscriptions. The adoption of the accounts and thanks was proposed by Mr Michael Swinnerton and seconded by Mr Fred Swinnerton and agreed.

# CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

The Chairman began by adding his own welcome to everyone and said it was his job to see that all those people who had worked so hard not only for the Gathering but for the Society in general were thanked properly for their efforts. He mentioned in particular Mrs Marjorie Nightingale from Australia who was present for the first time, she distributed the Journals for us in Australia at her own expense; Leslie and Alan Swinnerton for designing and producing the beautiful memorial plaque which would be dedicated later and Leslie also for his work with John Swinnerton on the special Domesday Certificate: Joe Swinnerton for the provision and distribution of the commemorative glassware: Mrs Vicky Leighton for all the indexing work on the Trees and David Brock for typing the Trees: and finally, of course, the Secretary for organising 'simply everything'.

He then said that the Society's second aim was to support St.

Mary's Church and pointed to what he called 'the shabby red baizecovered doors at the back of the church. These were in very bad
condition and badly needed replacing but, withh all the money
needed for the external stonework, the parish simply could not
afford. it. He proposed that the Society should take this on as a
project as we had done with the Organ and the Church Hall, the cost
would be £1200 which represented about £5 per member and he was
launching an appeal now. It was proposed by Mr Michael Swinnerton
and seconded by Mrs Zoe Watts that we should take this on and all
agreed, the Appeal to be opened after lunch.

### SECRETARY'S REPORT:

There were now 224 members on the roll a far cry from the 4 founder members of 12 years ago!

He said that our records, after a concentrated effort over the last few months, were now in a better state than they had ever been and that there were now 3 copies of most of the primary source records, each one being in the keeping of a different member for safety. Research was going on continually and when new information came to light which materially added to a particular tree, members of that branch were informed.

Our membership list was now held on computer and many of our other records had been brought to a state where they were ready to be computerised when the society obtained a suitable machine. This would be a great step forward and would make the searching, updating and maintenance of our archives much easier.

He appealed for members to keep looking out for references to the family in their local records, newspapers etc and to keep the information on their own immediate family up to date in our archives He asked members to donate copies of photographs taken that day for the records and asked for any duplicates of previous gatherings as we had none at all of the 1977 get-together, only 2 of 1979 and 1 of 1977.

He drew member's attention to the exhibition of family records and memoribilia in the vestry as well as all the trees in the village hall and asked to be notified of any errors found on these.

# PRO's REPORT.

The PRO said that he had circulated all the former members of the Society and the other Swinnertons in the Telephone Directories to ensure as good a turnout as possible today and that several new members had joined as a result. There were several present who had not joined the Society but he hoped they would at the end of the day. He reported that about £1000 worth of glassware had been sold but that orders could still be placed for delivery by post. There was to be a raffle during the day with good prizes and an auction of some Swinnerton plates, all proceeds going to the new appeal fund.

# ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

There were 2 vacancies on Council due to the retirement of Mr John Swinnerton, a founder-member and our first chairman and Mrs Diana Cunningham who was returning to live in the USA. Mrs Vicky Leighton and Mr David Brock, both younger members and already workers for the Society had been nominated in their place.

The remaining officers were all willing to stand for re-election and so the following were proposed by Mr Michael Swinnerton.

Chairman: Colonel Jeremy Swinnerton Treasurer: Mr J.R.Swynnerton
Secretary: Lt.Col Iain Swinnerton PRO: Mr Joe Swinnerton
Council: The Rev Edward Swinnerton, Mr Leslie Swinnerton, Mrs
Vicky Leighton & Mr David Brock. Auditors: Messrs R.P. & P.A.Swinnerton.

These were seconded by Mrs Eunice Byfield and agreed unanimously.

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION:

To enable the Society to achieve charitable status, the following amendments to the Constitution were proposed by the Secretary.

- a. Clause 1. The words "(hereinafter called the Society)" to be added at the end of the clause.
- b. Clause 2(b) To be amended to read 'To assist and make grants towards the upkeep and maintenance of St.Mary's Church, Swynnerton in any manner that may be thought fit.'
- c. Clause 3. To be amended to read: 'Membership shall be open to all persons interested in furthering the purposes of the Society. The Council shall have the right for good and sufficient reason, to terminate the membership of any person: Provided that the person shall have the right to attend

and to be heard by the Council before the decision is made.'

d Clause 8. To be deleted in its entirety and the following model dissolution clause inserted:

The Society may be dissolved by a resolution passed by not less than 2/3rds of those members present with voting rights at either an Annual or Special General Meeting of which 21 days prior notice has been given in writing. Such a resolution may give instructions for the disposal of any remaining assets held by the Society after all debts and liabilities have been paid; the balance left to be transferred to some other charitable institution or institutions having objects similar to those of the Society'.

In addition to the above, Council recommend the following changes to help in the administration of the Society now that it has become much larger.

- a. Clause 4.Administration. 2nd line. Delete all after 'and' & substitute 'Not more than 8 members, a quorum to consist of 5 present at a meeting.'
- b. Clause 5. Meetings. Para.a. 2nd line. Delete 'Three' and substitute 'Six'.

The proposals were seconded by Mr Leslie Swinnerton and passed unanimously.

# DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

It was agreed that the next Annual General Meeting should be held on Saturday 12th September 1987.

The Secretary suggested that the next Gathering should be 3 years hence in 1989 which would coincide with the 15th Anniversary of the founding of the Society. He felt that 3 years was a more suitable interval between full scale Gatherings with the enormous amount of preparation involved and would also help overseas members to plan well ahead and budget for the cost of getting there. This was agreed and it was formally proposed by Mr Ernest Byfield and seconded by Mr Bill Swinnerton that the next Gathering should be held in September 1989. The motion was carried.

# ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

The President asked for comments on the Aims of the Society and its general progress. The resulting discussion showed that members were generally satisfied with the way things were going and a request was made that the Society should remain a simple family affair.

### THE JOURNAL AND ITS CONTENTS:

The President appealed to members to let the Secretary know of their activities, achievements, births, marriages etc so that it remained a 'family' journal balancing modern hapeenings with those of the past and reminded them that they could advertise their businesses etc in it for a small fee.

Kneelers - more were needed and patterns and advice were available for those who needed help.

# VOTE OF THANKS:

Mr Bill Swinnerton from Australia a vote thanks to allthe officers of the Society for all their work and, in particular, the Secretary who had started it all and who was still the main inspiration.

The meeting closed at 1.00pm.

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THE SWINNERTON SOCIETY

### Income and Expenditure Account for the year ending 30 June 1986

1985	INCOME	1986	1985	EXPENDITURE	1986
3	referring the property of the second		-		
532,00	Subscriptions	664.01		Subscriptions to Federation of Family History Societies and	
22,00	Sale of books	47.25	25,00	Guild of One Name Studies	25.00
42.70	Sale of binders	69.00	7,50	International Directory entry	9.75
13.00	Sale of stick pins	17.00	60.65	Research	387,01
229.00	Sale of ties	172,78	65.00	Database programmes for Swinnerton Society records	
84.50	Donations to Church Hall	51.03	05.00	Society records	
04.20	DONACIONA CO GNOTON NO.		329.04	Printing of Journal and Directory	396.61
131.75	Donations to General Fund	87.94			
			185,36	Postage, Photocopying and Stationer	y 443.75
237.00	Donations to Research Fund	344.58	6.76	Kanalana dan Chunah	5.75
68,20	Building Society interest	71.78	5.75	Kneelers for Church	3.73
00,20	Bullding Society Interest	71.70	310.00	Ties	-
1360.15		1525.37			
			105.51	Binders	-
	Movement in stocks of ties, tie			a the same of the	137,50
•	pins and pendants	97.50	137,50	Depreciation of typewriter	137.50
	Excess of expenditure over		260,00	Donation to Church Hall	-
131,16	income		1491,31		1405.35
-		-	-	Excess of Income over Expenditure	217,52
£1491.31		£1622,87	£1491.31		£1622,87
Balance Sheet at 30 June 1986					
1985		1986	1 1985		1986
£		£	£		٤
	Excess of income over expenditure:			Fixed asset - typewriter	
1247.66	At 1st July 1985	1116.50	550,00	Cost	550.00
		017.00		to a second second second second second	(550,00)
(131.16)		1334.02	137,50	Less: accumulated depreciation Net book value at 30 June 1986	220,001
1116.50	At 30 June 1986	1334.02	137.30	Net book value at 30 date 1300	
128,75	Creditors	124.70	-	Stocks of ties, tie pins and pendan	ts 97.50
			-	Debtors	28,50
			1054.98	Building Society deposit account	1126.76
			50.80	Balance at bank	202.07
			20,00	DULLUTTO GC DUTT	
		-	1,97	Cash on hand	3,89
£1245.25		£1458.72	£1245,25		£1458.72
			1		

### Report of the Auditors

We have examined the above Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet and find them to be in accordance with the records and outpers submitted.

R P Swinnerton /- Auditor

P A Swinnerton - Auditor

la comp

# PUBLICATIONS OF THE SWINNERTON SOCIETY

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(The Journal of the Society)

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