

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 St.Mary's Church, Swynnerton.

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FROM THE EDITOR

This is the 61st issue of our newsletter and the start of the 7th Volume and yet it does not seem very long since I decided to take the plunge and circularise the family I knew of with what I thought of as a circular letter. That was 13 years ago and I had no idea it would develop into a 20 page Journal going out to 220 members in 8 countries. What progress we have made.

In this issue I am starting a new series - 'Letters from the Past'. The first two are from a collection in the possession of our member Stephen C.Saunders of the USA and are to his grandfather Mark Swinnerton (1840-1906), his grandmother Sarah and his mother Mary (who married Stephen Saunders Snr) from Mark's father, Charles and his brothers Frederick and Charles (the Rev.Charles - the first historian of the family.)

If you have any interesting old letters preserved in your family and which you think would be of interest, I would be delighted to publish them. Letters from the Boer War and the two World Wars would be of particular interest.

At the same time, I enclose the first extract from Mark's Diary which he kept during his travels around the world in the 1860s. Again, if you have old diaries of a similar nature we would be delighted to publish them - they will be of tremendous interest to our descendants.

I write this on Election Night as I wait with some trepidation for the results. Will we go forward or are we in for yet more recession? The advertisements say we are a Great Country again. Are we - there is not much evidence for it in the Midlands, the traditional base of our family.

Let us hope we will be.

Have a happy Summer.



In endeavouring to write a journal that must extend over a number of years I find I have not the necessary material at hand to do it justice and, if I had, it is doubtful whether I could then. My Australian Journal, at least a great and I may say the most interesting portion to me, I lost. About two years after my arrival in Australia the good ship "Montmorency", the same I came to the country in, arrived in Moreton Bay. Situated in Queensland, Australia. I being in that section of country at the time, and desirous to see the Old Ship I had made my maiden trip in, took advantage of an opportunity that offered to go down and as I had to remain aboard all night I took my Journal out of my pocket to add a few more items while lying in my berth; after which I placed it under my pillow. Arising in a hurry next morning to get back to Brisbane. I forgot it and I suppose it took a trip back to Old England in charge of some sailor boy. But as I wrote constantly home to my Father and Mother giving them a detailed account of my Travels the probability is, when I return home, I may be able to replace it.

From early youth I had a great desire to travel in foreign countries accordingly when I had learned my trade I left Douglas, Isle of Man, June 28th, 1860 on board of one of the Douglas Steam Ship Company's splendid steamers for Liverpool where I arrived all safe. Well do I remember the morning I left home.

I was young, inexperienced in the ways of the world, tearing myself away from all I held dear on earth, breaking old ties, severing old friendships so to speak, in pursuit of the Ignis fatuus "Gold". I had, at that time, an idea that money was easily obtained in a foreign country. To be in Australia or California was equivalent to being rich, but - not-so I have seen about - the same proportion of hard working poor in one country as another. Men deserving, straining every nerve in the endeavour but to no avail - on the other hand there are a great many who make riches by scarcely any exertion of their own. Men whom you would imagine riches are forced upon. I have seen those of scarcely ordinary intelligence who would be forced into the wealthy current by combinations of circumstances; but then there are those and they are in the majority...men who are able to comprehend and take advantage of opportunities, have the faculty of seeing results far ahead, persevering, energetic men of tact. The first class are mere machines, the latter stands in the position of engineers. Men who have the adaptability to seize opportunities and apply them to their own benefit. Yet, I believe, that the adaptability in a great measure can be acquired if a man has the moral courage to attempt. And I also believe that it is within the reach of every man to make a comfortable provision if he will, but he must make no risky speculations. For a man that does, and I have met them, would be worth thousands one day and not a cent the next and vice versa.

I left home light in purse. Looking back at it now I might say remarkably light, my only cash being a five pound note given to me by my father the morning I left home. I would not now take the same trip and chances on the same amount.

I remained in Liverpool but a short time, stopping at my Uncle Williams house, who bye the bye was a sterling man, whilst there my mother followed to give a last good bye to her boy accompanied by one of my brothers. I left Birkenhead at 8 o'clock train Saturday morning 30th of June for Plymouth. I passed through Chester, Birmingham, Bristol, etc. and arrived there at 6 o'clock Sunday morning 1st July, having been delayed five hours at Bristol. Any of those places I can't tell much about as I only got a passing glimpse. I remained in Plymouth 'till the 2nd of July when I went on board the ship Montmorency bound for Moreton Bay, Queensland, Australia. There were a great many passengers, English and Scotch principally, and from among whom I made some very agreeable acquaintances. I got myself as comfortably located as the accommodations in the ship would allow. Not being troubled with seasickness I got along splendidly. We weighed anchor at 11:30 on the morning of the 7th of July and were towed out of Plymouth Sound by a Tugboat. We gave a man of war three cheers which they returned and we

stood to sea with a good breeze. Our Captain was a West of England Gentleman, a thorough seaman and a kind accommodating man, in fact Captain Bridges was well liked and respected by all on board. Our Chief Mate Mr. Mitchell was also a good fellow, a thorough seaman, but more daring in the sailing of the ship than the Captain. Our second mate we did not see much of as he was taking the trip more in the hopes of wooing back health than anything else. The third mate who acted as purser was the Captain's son, a good fellow in his way. There was a good crew of seamen and everything went as merry as a marriage bell.

JULY 8th, 1860

Sailing under a good 10 knot breeze and some of my fellow passengers getting on bad terms with their stomachs. Sailors putting the ship in order, stowing away cable, etc.

JULY 9th, 1860

Sailing very slowly. Passengers all seemed to have a great inclination to look over the side of the vessel and through the scuppers. I imagine seasickness must be very unpleasant judging from the exertions some of them were making to get rid of their breakfast. Today skirting the Bay of Biscay, O.I. with its continuous roll.

10th

Jogging along a little better, passengers beginning to get their sea legs on.

11th

Almost becalmed. Eleven ships in sight and about in the latitude of Lisbon. A good many flying fish around the vessel.

JULY 12th, 13th, 14th

Nothing of importance, sailing pretty well. My principal companion is a young Scotch man named McIntosh, a mischievous young rascal. He sleeps in a hammock under me and sometimes I find myself flying out of my own onto the top of some of my shipmates and then there is a row. It is not very pleasant for me to be awakened in such an unceremonious manner and not very pleasant for my shipmates to have a man falling on them when asleep, it's worse than having the nightmare. Sometimes he lets go the head ropes of my hammock and I find myself describing an inverted perpendicular. During the day we go up to the foretop and play checkers. There are some queer characters aboard. There is one, a mason, a young married man named John Honeychurch. A comical genius, sings songs and tells queer stories without end. He worked himself into a position as second purser and his wife as hospital nurse. The ship's carpenter is a regular old salt. I have become very intimate with him. I dressed his grindstone. He sits and delights to tell wonderful sea tales to some of us greeneyes. Our Doctor is not very well liked among the passengers. He is not very obliging. There were two brothers on

board, one of whom was sick. The doctor was asked repeatedly one night to come down and see him, but he found the company of a young lady too attractive to attend to his duty. Whereupon his brother went and brought him by a series of well directed cuffs, for which he had to suffer imprisonment for a time but it did the Doctor good.

JULY 15, 1860

Sunday. A nice pleasant day. Dressed in our best and attended divine service on the poop. Captain presiding. Very solemn. Singing sounded splendid.

JULY 16th

Going along splendidly, passed the Maderia Islands today but did not see them. Passengers all well.

17th

Making good headway. Passed the Canary Islands today. Not in sight. Flying fish by the myriad.

18th

Blowing pretty hard-a few of the girls showing their agility by slipping and falling and spilling their Sergoo. Lat. 22-40. Spoke a Danish schooner bound for Penang, East Indies. Partial Eclipse of the sun 1:30 P.M.

19th

Doing well. More ships in sight.

20th

Fine morning and going beautifully. It is dark at 7 p.m.

21st

In the trade winds. So that we may expect to make good progress now for some time. Nothing of much importance occurring. Getting monotonous.

22nd

Found a flying fish on deck this morning. The lights on the ship attract them. They are about the size of a small herring. They fly generally low and not far. Very calm toward night. Passed a schooner homeward bound. This being Sunday divine service on deck.

MEETING OF CLERKENWELL LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

3 Jul 1894.

The Librarian reported that he had engaged as an assistant on probation for 2 months at a weekly wage of 8/-, PHILIP SWINNERTON, Farringdon aged 14. Action approved.

24 Sep 1894.

The librarian, having that PHILIP SWINNERTON, temporary assistant, had resigned on account of ill health

24 Sep 1894

The Librarian having reported that PHILIP SWINNERTON, temporary assistant, had resigned on account of ill health, and that he had appointed in Swinnerton's place, on probation for two months, Ernest Charles of Myddleton St., the Commissioners resolved to approve this action. (ex Mr R.A.Swynnerton)

This was Phillipe, the brother of the author Frank Swinnerton, later to become a famous cartoonist - see this Journal, Vol 1 No.5 November 1974.

* * * * *

RETURN OF OWNERS OF LAND 1873

Swinnerton, J. Trs.of, Stafford. 148 Acres, 3 Rods, 34 Poles. Gross estimated Rental £228.6s.

(ex Mrs Muriel Reson)

Literary discovery

SIR—J. M. Barrie did not discover "The Young Visitors", as your television critic Peter Knight avers. Nine-year-old Daisy Ashford's book was discovered by the young Frank Swinnerton while working for Chatto & Windus and he talked Barrie into writing an introduction. The book then sold 330,000 hardback copies.

Swinnerton just then was also enjoying the phenomenal sales of his own first successful novel "Nocturne".

HELEN CATHCART
London, W1

(spotted by Mrs Pauline Litton
in the Daily Telegraph
on 29 Dec 1986.)

WORKS BY IVAN PANIN

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* This booklet can also be supplied in German and Spanish at the same price.

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T. W. COOKE,
13, New Road, North Walsham, Norfolk, England.

The Wonderful Numberer

"He counteth the number of the Stars" . . . Behold, Who hath created these things that bringeth out their host by number". . . The very hairs of your head are all numbered (Matt. 10, 30). "THE SCRIPTURE CANNOT BE BROKEN" (John 10).

Here is an illustration of this by Ivan Panin, in both the Old Testament in HEBREW and in the New Testament in GREEK, and nowhere else (not in Septuagint, not in Apocrypha). It interlocks paragraph with paragraph, book with book; and the Old Testament with the New Testament. It separates the Bible for all time from all literature in existence.

The Bible begins: "IN THE BEGINNING GOD CREATED THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH." The number of words in this verse, in the original Hebrew in which language the Old Testament is written is seven. These seven words have 28 letters of 4 words. And these 28 letters are thus divided: the first three words — containing the subject and predicate of the sentence, in the beginning God created — have 14 letters, or 2 sevens; the last four words — containing the object of the sentence: the heavens and the earth — have also 14 letters. While the last four words, consisting of two objects are in their turn subdivided thus: the fourth and fifth words — containing one object, "the heavens" — have seven letters; the sixth and seventh words — containing the second object, "and the earth" — have also seven. In relation to the importance of the words themselves the 28 letters are thus divided: the three leading words God, the subject, heaven, earth the two objects, have 14 letters, or 2 sevens; the other four words have also 14.

The Hebrews used no separate signs for numerals, corresponding to our Arabic figures 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, etc. Instead, they made use of the letters of their alphabet: so that the first letter of the Hebrew alphabet stands for 1, the second for 2, the third for 3, etc. And the same is true of the Greek, in which language the New Testament is written. Each letter in these two languages has thus its numeric value; and each word in these languages stands not only for its thought, but also for a number: the number being in every case the sum of the numeric values of the letters making up the word.

The numeric value of the first, middle and last letters of this sentence is 133, or 19 sevens, while the numeric value of the first and last letters of all the seven words in this verse is 1393, or 199 sevens. And this number is in its turn thus divided by sevens: the first and last letters of the first and last words have 497, or 71 sevens; the 22 middle letters between the first and the last, have 896 or 72x2x2x2x2x2. This number is not only a multiple of seven, but also of two taken as a factor seven times. The three important nouns, God, heaven, earth, have 14 letters, or 2 sevens. Now their numeric value is 777, or 111 sevens. And the one verb in this sentence, created, has 203, or 29 sevens. In this verse of seven words there are some repetitions. The untranslatable particle ETH occurs here twice, and the article THE also occurs twice. The numeric value of these repetitions is 406, or 58 sevens. This does not begin to exhaust the numerics in this verse.

This curiosity was sent to me some years ago and I regret that I failed to make a note of who sent it. The whole thing is a mystery — what were these works and who was W.T.Swinnerton?

From Frederick (aged 12) to Mark

60 Port Street,
August 14 1870
Douglas,
Isle of Man

Dear Mark,

I hope that you are well at present. Father took ill on Sunday last, but is now much better. He got ill with eating plumbs. Godfrey is gone to Shrewsbury yesterday for he has got a situation there. I am going to a Mr (?) Gluckacres School, but now I have got a sore foot. Are you ever thinking of coming home. Would you mind trying to collect for me a few foreign stamps. Have you got any more curiosities, write and tell us if you have. Joseph has won two medals, a first class one and a second class medal. Father is just now facing me writing a letter to Joseph. Mother is sitting on my left reading the Daily Courier. We are in the Drawing Room. I was fishing down on the jetty and caught a good many fish. I remain your affectionate brother.

Frederick Swinnerton

PS. Please excuse my bad writing.

To Mark from his father Charles

Isle of Man
Douglas
17th April 187. (??)

Dear Mark and Sade,

Just got your letter and photos for which I am obliged. I have pasted Sade's into my Album along with the rest of my gaughters and I am sure she will bare comparison with any one of them. The baby Mary is the first in my Album. I write this in haste as I find from your letter that you have not received my last wrote three weeks ago - in which I begged you to come home at once on its receipt and take the business. I can see but what you would do very well more especially (as I stated in my letter) you entered into the grate and stone with marble (? chimney) to match the grates or rather the grates to match the (? chimney). In a very short time you would find the stone business a secondary matter. There is an excellent show room with everything necessary to carry on a good business.

I am very sorry that you had left before you got my last letter. However on the receipt of this pack up your things and come home and I dont think you will ever rue it. And under any circumstances if it did not come up to your expectations you could only go back again. But there is no fear whatever in my mind.

Little Mary is a little beauty. By the bye you fellows will be making me appear very old if you continue to augment the number of Grandchildren at this rate. There are now no less than nine of them 6 girls and 3 boys. It should have been the other way about I think.

Dear Sade give my very kind regards to your parents and tell them not to entertain any fears for your future welfare if you both decide to come here as you shall not want.

Write me on receipt of this. I shall be leaving in about a weeks time for Rome and may not be back before the end of July or the beginning of August. I shall write to you from Rome all being well. We are all well here with the exception of Charles who is now in Manchester and has undergone a surgical operation there but is getting well I am glad to learn.

I must now conclude with my best love and with love from Robert and Olivia. Believe me Your Affectionate Father

Chas Swinnerton

PS. Godfrey sailed from Liverpool on Tuesday last for Melbourne in the "Fiji", a large ship, as third Officer.

To Mark from his brother Charles

Nowshera,
Punjab,
India
Dec. 27 **

My dear Mark

Delighted to hear of your arrival home at last. What a time you have been away, and how changed the whole place must have seemed to you! I am so glad you have taken over from father and hope you will prosper. I hope the wife (I do not think you told me her name) and little Mary Swinnerton are quite well. I am still shaky in the right lung which has been much worse in the last few months, and which this climate does not help to mend. It is miserably cold here - not a dry bracing cold which would do me good, but a raw searching damp relaxing cold like Edinburgh in November under fog and East wind. The sun hardly ever appears and we are quitesurrounded by snow covered mountains. In the summer on the other hand the heat is the most terrific in India, being 106° under the punkahs in the bungalow night and day. If I could only shake off my lung complaint I should get well enough, but that sort of thing generally fastens with a tight grip, and I have been very unfortunate in getting worse instead of better. A wretched Army doctor in Sandgate did me great and cruel injury by most culpable neglect. I could never have imagined that there are so many brutes in the medical profession.

Within ten miles are the Afreedees, mountain tribes with whom we are now fighting for raiding. They came down here last year and killed half a dozen policemen. This is a purely military camp in a plain - nothing but soldiers, Europeans and Natives and their wives and followers. There is a nice little Church and the officers are all very friendly. One of the officers of the Rifle Brigade is a Fitzherbert and we get on very well; but I am wretchedly miserable, catching fresh cold every time I happen to be out after sunset. Such a fate!

Goodbye, and with best love to you all at home and best wishes and hoping all are well.

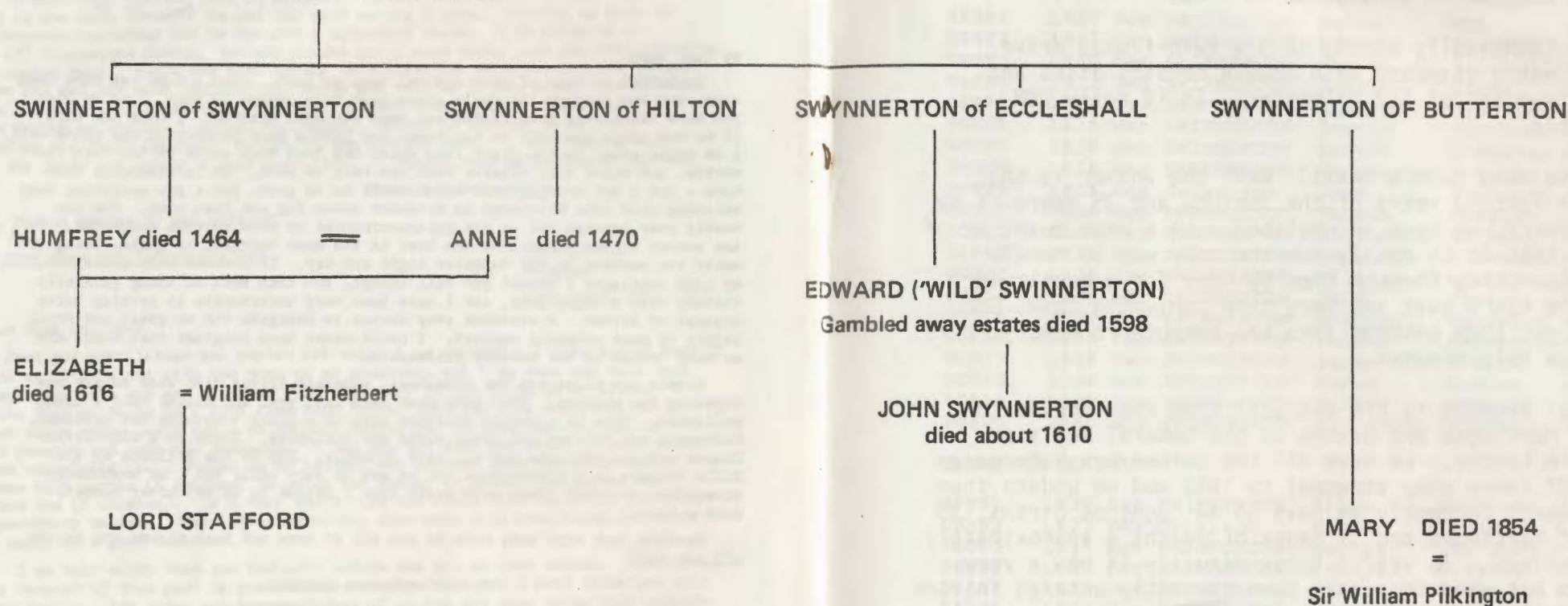
Yr. affectionate brother

Charles.

** No year is given with the date - probably 1877 in view of references to Mark taking over from his father, . to little Mary Swinnerton, and to his operation in Manchester referred to in his father's letter of 17th April 187(??). The Rev. Charles transferred to India from Ceylon in 1877. Oddly, he makes no reference to his own wife - if this letter was written in 1877, his wife was in Folkestone having just produced their son that December.

ALAN

The Domesday Book Tenant of SWYNNERTON



Many of those attending the Gathering last year expressed interest in this chart showing the origins of the various branches of the family which I showed as a slide during my lecture.

It shows how the two senior branches were reunited in the late 1400s only to die out in the male line in the early 1600s.

The next senior branch also died out at about the same time although the Rev. Charles Swynnerton was convinced for a long time that there were survivors but I have not yet found any.

The last branch lasted a lot longer but eventually died out in the male line in the 1850s and the representatives today are the Milborne-Swinnerton-Pilkingtons who, I am sorry to say, have never replied to any of our letters.

So you will no doubt ask, if the four branches all died out - where do we come from?

The answer is, of course, from younger sons of cadet branches and I will try and explain how in future issues.

COMPUTERISATION OF OUR RECORDS.

As has been announced, the Society now possesses its own computer - an Amstrad 1512 PC.

For the technically minded this a twin-floppy drive machine using standard 5¼in double density disks and with a 'memory' of 512 Kilobytes. It is fully IBM compatible.

Why do we need such a beast? Well the answer is that over the last 13 years of the Society and 35 years of my own research, we have accumulated such a vast quantity of records that it is really now the only way to handle them. Searching through them by hand for a particular record is now a vast and very time consuming task. Once we have got them entered into the computer's memory, this will take only minutes.

A typical example is the extracts from the Indexes to Births, Marriages and Deaths at the General Register Office in London. We have all the Swinnerton References from 1837 (when they started) to 1985 and we update them every year. Currently we have 58 A4 pages of Births, 33 pages of Marriages and 37 pages of Deaths - approximately 6500 entries! To search these manually is now a very long job but when they have been correctly entered in, one will be able to instruct the computer to search not only for a particular christian name but also for the name in a particular area and between certain dates.

I have been experimenting with various methods of entry (programmes) and illustrated opposite are 2 of them which have proved to be very satisfactory. Now all I need is the time to do the entering! Any volunteers to help would be very welcome.

There are many other records we have which would be eminently suitable for computerisation and in time we hope to do them all.

SWINNERTON MARRIAGES Extracted from the indexes at the General Register Office, St.Catherine's House, London.

00001	1837	Sep	SWINNERTON	Sarah	NUL	U
00002	1837	Sep	SWINNERTON	Sarah	Nun'ton	U
00003	1837	Dec	SWINNERTON	Daniel	Foleshil	U
00004	1837	Dec	SWINNERTON	Edward	Stone	ES.309
00005	1837	Dec	SWINNERTON	William	MktD'ton	WS.56
00006	1838	Mar	SWINNERTON	George	Shr'bury	GS.6
00007	1838	Mar	SWINNERTON	Hannah	M'chster	U
00008	1838	Mar	SWINNERTON	Humphrey	B'north	HS.151
00009	1838	Sep	SWINNERTON	John	N'portSh	U
00010	1838	Sep	SWINNERTON	Thomas	Madeley	U
00011	1838	Dec	SWINNERTON	Elizabeth	Sh'bury	U
00012	1838	Dec	SWINNERTON	Mary Ann	M'lebone	U
00013	1838	Dec	SWINNERTON	William	L'pool	WS.27
00014	1839	Mar	SWINNERTON	John	Shifnal	U
00015	1839	Mar	SWINNERTON	William	Nantwich	WS.24
00016	1839	Sep	SWINNERTON	Thomas	Foleshil	TS.65
00017	1839	Dec	SWINNERTON	James	W'Brom	JS.183
00018	1840	Mar	SWINNERTON	Sarah	Dudley	U
00019	1840	Jun	SWINNERTON	Sarah	Madeley	U
00020	1840	Sep	SWINNERTON	Elizabeth	Wrexham	U

SWINNERTON DEATHS.

00001	1837	Sep	SWINNERTON	Ellen	Wrexham	U
00002	1837	Sep	SWINNERTON	Sarah	Dudley	U
00003	1837	Dec	SWINNERTON	George	Shr'bury	U
00004	1837	Dec	SWINNERTON	George	W.Derby	GS94
00005	1837	Dec	SWINNERTON	Eliza	B'ham	U
00006	1838	Mar	SWINNERTON	Frances	NUL	(WS24)
00007	1838	Mar	SWINNERTON	George	Dudley	U
00008	1838	Mar	SWINNERTON	John	Dudley	U
00009	1838	Mar	SWINNERTON	Thomas	Derby	U
00010	1838	Mar	SWINNERTON	William	Dudley	U
00011	1838	Jun	SWINNERTON	Amelia	Dudley	U
00012	1838	Jun	SWINNERTON	Ann	SOT	U
00013	1838	Jun	SWINNERTON	Mary	NUL	MS96
00014	1838	Jun	SWINNERTON	Jane	Pk'ridge	JS393
00015	1838	Sep	SWINNERTON	Benjamin	L'pool	U
00016	1838	Sep	SWINNERTON	Charles	Wrexham	U
00017	1838	Dec	SWINNERTON	Joseph	Leeds	JS206
00018	1839	Mar	SWINNERTON	Sarah	Nun'ton	U
00019	1839	Jun	SWINNERTON	Female	Foleshil	U
00020	1839	Sep	SWINNERTON	George	B'ham	U



The former manor Hazlebadge Hall in Derbyshire

In Derbyshire, Hazlebadge Hall was built during Edward VI's short reign by a branch of the locally powerful Vernon family, and a former manor house which has declined to farmhouse status sports the arms of Vernons and Swynnertons, with the date 1549, above five- and six-light mullioned windows in a gable whose old grey stone has now been rendered over. It stands at the roadside in Bradwell Dale behind a metal five-bar gate but is reputedly haunted by the ghost of Margaret Vernon, who is supposed to have died of a broken heart after seeing her lover marry another woman.

THE SWINNERTON SOCIETY

The 900th anniversary of the Domesday Book brings another celebration in its wake since it is in the Domesday Book that the name of Swinnerton first appears and this makes it the oldest surviving Staffordshire name still associated with the County.

The Chairman of the Swinnerton Society's Council has submitted this interesting account of the Swinnerton Society: 'To celebrate the 900th anniversary of the first recorded appearance of the family name-in the Domesday Book- the Swinnerton Family Society held its Triennial Gathering at Swynnerton on Saturday, 6 September 1986. The Society, which was founded in 1972, is devoted to the research and publication of Swinnerton family records and to the welfare of Swynnerton Church.

245 members of the family attended the Gathering, coming from as far afield as Australia, South Africa, Canada and the United States of America. After coffee, the programme included the Society's AGM which was held in St Mary's Church, Swynnerton, in which there is a Crusader's tomb of a 13th century Swynnerton who was the builder of the church, and the ancestor of many of those present. The Chair was taken by the Society's President, Sir Roger Swynnerton CMG, OBE, MC. After the Meeting members were able to view the excellent display of records and documents which were exhibited in the large vestry and arranged principally by the Society's Honorary Secretary, Lt.Col. I.S. Swinnerton, TD, JP, DL. During the day some 41 Swinnerton children were entertained by a team organised by the very brave wife of the Rector in the Church Hall which the Society had purchased for the church in 1982.

After lunch in the Village Hall, the adult members were summoned to a reunion service in the church by a team of bell-ringers sounding a peal specially composed for the occasion by the Captain of the Tower, Mr Len Venables. During the service the Revd Edward Swinnerton preached the sermon. Colonel JCA Swynnerton, OBE, read the lesson, the Revd Edward Swinnerton's daughter, Mrs Paula Barrett, played the organ, and a memorial plaque designed by Mr LW Swinnerton and made by Mr AJ Swinnerton to commemorate all the members of the family who were killed during two World Wars was dedicated by the Bishop of Stafford, the Rt. Revd John Waller.

To conclude an enjoyable day Lt.Col. Iain Swinnerton gave an illustrated talk about the family and the Domesday Book which contains the earliest known record of the family name.'

FROM THE NEWSLETTER OF THE STAFFORDSHIRE SOCIETY – WINTER 1987.

* * * * *

CHESHIRE OATHS OF ALLEGIANCE 1723

John SWINNERTON of Barthomley

(ex Mrs Pauline Litton who says that this was the only Swinnerton entered for the County)

From Mr Derek Cook of [redacted]

Dear Colonel Swinnerton

I have enclosed a section of my pedigree chart which shows the marriage of one of my long dead distant cousins Thirza Craig to R.SWINNERTON.

I was wondering if there is any connection between your family and the Craigs, if not it may be of interest to someone of your name.

Yours sincerely
Derek Cook

* * *

Of course I was able to send Mr Cook the full details of the connection as this is ROBERT WILLIAM SWINNERTON (RS.96) of the family of William the Soldier - see this Journal, Vol4 No.8 Sept 1981. That was last December but I have had no acknowledgement!

* * * * *

Ad man joins the board



ADVERTISING executive Mr Jack Swinnerton (left), of Taylor's Lane, Pilling, has been appointed a full board director of MWA, the Manchester advertising and marketing company.

His career in advertising goes back to 1955 when he started as production assistant at CWS Advertising. Over the years he acquired a reputation as one of the most experienced production executives in the North West.

He joined MWA in 1981 and has helped influence the growth of the organisation, with his experience in the fast-moving retail and consumer goods accounts a major strength.

JACK SWINNERTON

I am very sorry to have to tell you that Jack Swinnerton of Blackpool, who was a long-standing member of the Society and for many years our official photographer, died on the 17th March 1987. His son Jack, also a member, told me that the Society was a constant source of inspiration to his father during his last difficult years and, at my request, has written the following tribute.

"If you were to enter my father's comfortable retirement home on the coast, mid-way between Blackpool and Cleveleys you would immediately be confronted with his famous photographic family trees. On one side of the hallway is my mother's photographic tree faced by his own plus framed copies of the Family of Swynnerton Trees.

In the 48 years we spent together, through wartime, post-war austerity, relative prosperity and his retirement years, he was always first and foremost a family man. Gentle and sympathetic during the childhood years of my sister and I, uncompromising and firm in our young adult life, and a close and true friend in our maturer years, he was the most consistently genuine man I have known. Exasperating and stubborn if your opinions differed from his own (a family trait, I am told) yet generous to a fault and ever warm and welcoming.

Although a North Western Gas Board fittings inspector by profession, this was a side of his life I knew little or nothing of but I certainly remember his many leisure time activities and often wondered at his constant appetite for new interests. Keen on photography all his life, volumes of scrapbooks containing photographs of family members throughout this century can be browsed through and family and friends often recall half-forgotten moments in these fascinating volumes.

An intelligent man, he had many other interests such as gardening (trips to the allotment in 'Dig for Victory' days are an early treasured memory), all forms of D-I-Y but to professional standards as his City & Guilds Exam

Certificates prove. He was a film projectionist of some repute - at one time semi-professionally - and an avid reader of English and American History. Fond of light music (this could be painful at times because I am not) he would actually construct his own wireless sets and I believe he actually made the wind-up gramophone that I played with as a child.

He was, truly, a man of many parts."

* * * * *

Jack was a great supporter of our Society, both in terms of personal involvement (our photograph collection is nearly all his work) and financially and was a regular attendee at our Gatherings.

We send our very sincere sympathy to his wife and family.

I am also sad to have to tell you of the death of Carl Swinnerton of America, a member of the Society for many years and an authority on the history of the American Branches. I published a letter from him in our last issue and am glad that he was able to attend our Gathering last year which he obviously enjoyed immensely and, in his usual style, corrected one of my trees!

Ruth has sent me his obituary from their local paper which is reproduced here and I have written to her with our best wishes.

Carl Swinnerton

Centre Harbor — Carl Preston Swinnerton, 88, of Bradford, died Wednesday, March 4, in New London Hospital after a sudden illness.

He was the brother of Mrs. Minnie Nichols of this town.

He was born in Danvers, Mass., and lived in Bradford for many years.

Mr. Swinnerton was a school teacher for many years and was educated at Harvard, Class of 1920. He also took summer courses at Cambridge University in England. He taught at New Hampton School, where he was also a trustee; State Teachers College in Keene; Phillips Exeter Academy; Columbian University in the War Research Laboratory; and Pomfret School in Pomfret, Conn. After retiring from teaching he established a consulting firm in school sciences.

He also served in the student army training corps program in 1918. Memberships included the Chocorua Lodge F & AM in Meredith for more than 60 years and the New England Association of Chemistry Teachers, of which he was president.

He was also a trustee of the New London Hospital, past president of the New Hampshire Association of the Elderly, and town moderator of Bradford for several years.

Other family members include his wife, Ruth S. Swinnerton of Bradford; one son, John M. Swinnerton of Bradford; several nieces, nephews and cousins.

A memorial service was held Saturday in the First Baptist Church with the Rev. Robert Washer, pastor, officiating.

AN AMERICAN FAMILY GATHERING.

Ernest & Ruth Swinerton of Kingston, New Hampshire, USA have written to say that although they did not make it to the Gathering here last year...."we did have a family reunion in the state of Maine of the descendants of Ernest and Eldesta (Willey) Swinerton (Reed), Ernest's grandparents. 42 people came, all of the 1st cousins were present. Only 1 of the first generation was there - Eleanor (Swinnerton) Benson. Her brothers and sisters were unfortunately too ill to come. It was a great day for the Cook-out and swimming, playing horseshoes and just getting together.

Eleanor was the oldest Swinerton at 72, Virginia (Swinerton) Cresey, Ernest's mom was the oldest in-law at 77. The youngest was Jessica Swinerton, our grand-daughter at 6 weeks. The get-together was held in Aug 1986."

FAMILY NOTES.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS.

Mrs M.D.E.Martin to [REDACTED]

Mr T.F.Swynnerton to [REDACTED]

Mrs Anne Hamer to [REDACTED]

Dr.Felicity Watts to [REDACTED]

* * * * *

AMENDMENTS TO THE DIRECTORY.

Mr J.S.Saunders should read Mr J.S.SANDERS.

Mr A.J.Swinnerton of CREWKERNE should be AS.67

Mr A.J.Swinnerton of CHIGWELL should be AS.41

* * * * *

We were sorry to hear of the death of our member Mr Charles Swinnerton of Ellesmere Port and send our sincere sympathy to his family.

* * * * *

1834 Directory of Lancashire

Pigot & Co.

Joseph Swinnerton Register Office for Servants
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William Swinnerton Turner in wood
Norman Street, London Rd, Liverpool.

John Swinnerton Beer Seller,
St.James Street, Manchester.

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