

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

Research into one's family history is never finished. I thought that was a well known fact and yet we have had several members of the family join the Society but then leave when we had tied them into the main family tree. Obviously they thought that there was no longer any need to belong.

How wrong they were I have proved over and over again.

Over the last couple of years we have accumulated a lot of new information of the American descendants of Joseph Swinnerton of Betley, the 4th son of William of Betley, mainly through our member Steven Saunders who is one of them.

Having laboriously amalgamated them into the already very large tree, I sent it off to our expert tree-compiler, David Brock and he had just completed it and returned it to me when our President received a whole lot of new information about a sub-branch who still live in Africa! Back to the drawing board. However, for the first time ever, we do not have the majority of this branch in print.

I am sorry to say that despite my appeals in the last journal and at the AGM. at the time of going to press, 67 members of the Society have not renewed their subs for the current year. Reminders are included with this Journal and if they are not renewed straightaway, I am afraid that this is the last Journal you will receive.

This has left us very short of funds and Council, therefore, were forced to restrict the number of Journals per year to 3 until the situation improves. This issue is, however, a month late caused by a combination of extreme pressure and ill-health and I do apologise to those of you who have had to write to check whether they have missed a journal.

ANOTHER ADBASTON DESCENDANT?

Mrs Pauline Litton, a frequent contributor to the pages of this Journal, wrote an article in the March edition of Family Tree Magazine (a magazine I recommend you all to read - it is now available regularly from W.H.Smiths, John Menzies etc.) on 'Double Baptisms' and used as one of her examples Margaret Swinnerton who was baptised at Cheswardine on 5 February 1815 and again at Swynnerton (Roman Catholic) on 18 Oct 1833 prior to her marriage to Stephen Talbot - a Catholic and the ancestor of our member Roy Talbot (see this Journal Vol.3 No.6 October 1978.)

Mrs Patricia Holmes, a history teacher from Studley in Warwickshire and an avid reader of that magazine, saw the article and wrote to Mrs Litton saying that she had "recently been researching into the family of my maternal great-grandmother who lived at Adbaston, Staffordshire before her marriage. She married in Adbaston Church in 1866. Her mother, my great-great-grandmother was Sarah Swinnerton cousin to the Margaret of your article."

She then gave details of more information she had obtained and asked Mrs Litton for details of her research into the family.

Mrs Litton, naturally, sent the letter on to me and I simultaneously also received a letter from Mrs Holmes as, while the letter was in transit, she and her husband had visited Swynnerton where she had, by chance, met Mr John Deag one of the churchwardens who, of course, quickly told her all about the Society and myself.

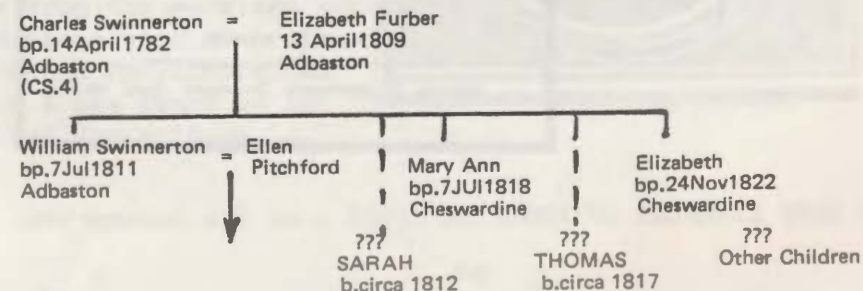
She gave me all the information that she had acquired in the course of her research much of which, of course, was already in our records. We did have a record of the marriage of her great-great-grandmother Sarah Swinnerton to John Grovenor at Adbaston on 11 May

1829 but had a query against as we did not know who Sarah was. No father's name was given but one of the witnesses was Francis Swinnerton so it was fairly obvious she belonged to the Adbaston family although there was no baptism recorded.

A search of our records for the surrounding parishes in Staffordshire and Shropshire also failed to turn up the baptism.

However, Mrs Holmes had one piece of information that we did not have - an extract from the 1861 Census for Shropshire. This showed Sarah Grovenor living at Doley, head of a family consisting of her daughter Jane and grandson Edward J. Grovenor. She gave her age as 49, described herself as a laundress and said that she had been born at Adbaston, Staffordshire. This would put her year of birth as 1812.

Now if we look at the Adbaston family at that period we see that CHARLES SWINNERTON, the eldest son of William of Adbaston, had married in 1809 at Adbaston and had a son, William, baptised in 1811 but there were then no more children recorded until the baptism of a daughter, Mary Ann, in 1818 at Cheswardine and then another daughter Elizabeth, in 1822 also at Cheswardine. It is fairly obvious that there must have been more children in between - I think that Thomas who was buried at Adbaston in 1835 aged 18 was one and this Sarah could well have been another but where were they born and baptised? We have a complete extract of Church of England Registers for Staffordshire and Shropshire, I believe, but they could have been Non-conformist which, of course, includes Catholic. The Search continues!



Thy will be done.

In Affectionate Remembrance of
Mary,
Relict of Isaac Swinnerton,
Who Died at Wolvey Dec. 15th,
And was Interred at Thorpe Constantine Dec. 18, 1879,
Aged 72 Years.

In Affectionate Remembrance
of
Isaac Swinnerton,
Of Thorpe Constantine,
Who Died May 10th, 1877,
Aged 70 Years.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
Elizabeth,
The beloved wife of Thomas Swinnerton, of Ryton,
WHO DIED APRIL 1ST, 1891.
Aged 51 YEARS.
Interred in Bulkington Churchyard April 4th.

SOME MORE EXAMPLES OF MEMORIAL CARDS - ex Joe Swinnerton

SOTHEBY'S
FOUNDED 1744

34-35 New Bond Street, London W1A 2AA
Telephone: (01) 493 8080
Telex: 24454 (SPBLON-G)

km:45

12th January 1988

Colonel I.S. Swinnerton
The Swinnerton Society
Owls Barn, Bridgnorth Road
Stourton, near Stourbridge
West Midlands DY7 6RS

Dear Colonel Swinnerton,

I am writing to you in connection with a miniature we are currently researching. It depicts a middle-aged man who is wearing the Naval General Service Medal with two bars and dates from the mid 19th century. On the reverse is pencilled the name Swinnerton but we can find no trace in naval biographies of an officer of that name that corresponds to the date. I wonder if in your records you have any information that may be of interest to us in the cataloging of this miniature. If so, I would be most grateful if you could let me know.

Yours sincerely,

Kay Mowlam
Kay Mowlam (Mrs.)
Miniature Department



(I replied saying that apart from the marriage connections with Admirals Vernon and Phillimore, as far as I was aware we had no Naval Connections.)

ANOTHER MYSTERY SOLVED

Mrs Eileen Bolitho of Levin, New Zealand first wrote to me in March 1982 and told me that she had become interested in tracing her family history and had discovered that her great-grandmother was a Swinnerton in Australia. Her name was ESTHER SWINNERTON and she was born about 1854 at Ballarat, Victoria, Australia. Her father was WILLIAM SWINNERTON who had married Eliza Macquade.

Esther married Ephraim Arnold in 1876 and one of the witnesses was a HARRIET SWINNERTON.

That was all the information she had and unfortunately no trace of Esther's birth could be found in the Australian records.

We did a search here in all the records but could find no trace of her birth in the UK either.

Our PRO, Joe Swinnerton, visited the Bolithos during his trips to New Zealand but could get no further either so there the matter rested until 3 weeks ago when I received another letter from Mrs Bolitho saying that they had been waiting for the past two or three years for the Birth, Marriage & Death Records for Victoria to be made available and at last they had been able to obtain William's Death Certificate.

This revealed that he had died on the 22 Dec 1898 at Ararat Borough, Victoria aged 78 years. His parents' names were not known but he had been resident in Victoria for 52 years HAVING BEEN BORN IN STAFFORDSHIRE!

A birth certificate for one of his children born in 1873 stated that he was 51 and born in STAFFORD.

These two put together mean that he was born about 1820/2 and that he had emigrated about 1845/6. Without reading any more, I knew who he was, and Mrs Bolitho

had also found an entry for a family in the IGI which gave a William born about 1820 and which included several names that were peculiar to one branch of the family, notably Jesse and Esther - yes, the Betley branch.

The relevant section of the tree is shown in the centre pages and Mrs Bolitho is now proved to be a third cousin to our member Tom Swinnerton, her ancestor being WILLIAM (WS.102) who, incidentally, had a very large family so there must be Swinnerton descendants of his around in the Antipodes today.

How appropriate that we should have gained this new link in Australia's Bicentennial Year.

* * * * *

KELLY'S DIRECTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE 1904

p.53. Joseph SWINNERTON Beer retailer Ruyton

(This, I think, is JS.147 from the Warks Branch)

* * * * *

From the Marriage Register of St. George, Stonehouse, Plymouth

12 March 1885 John Smerdon, 25, bachelor, Corporal Royal Marines of Stonehouse, Father - Elias Smerdon, Labourer and Ellen Elizabeth SWINNERTON, 25, spinster, of Plymouth, Father - Samuel Antorn Swinnerton, labourer. By Banns

WILLIAM = Margaret
SWINNERTON (Mary)Cooper
b.7May1772 13Oct1793
Betley Madeley
d.12Oct1839 b.c.1761
Betley d.24May1865
(WS.14) aet 92

(1)Esther = THOMAS = (2)Elizabeth BETTY MARY = Benjamin HANNAH = John
Lunt SWINNERTON (census) (BS.3) (MS.35) Barrow (HS.49) Johnson
14May1815 b.24Jun1794 b.28Dec1794 b.1Aug1797 21Sep1825 b.2Feb1810 30Jul1832
Betley d.13Sep1854 (bp.31Dec) (bp.11Oct) Betley d. 1848 S.O.T.
b.25Apr1793 (TS.26) Betley Betley
Barthomley
bur.25Jul1846
Betley

JOSEPH = Elizabeth
SWINNERTON d.3Apr1850
bp.13Apr1800 Salford
Betley
d.7Jan1872
(JS.48)

JOHN = Elizabeth WILLIAM MARGARET ELIZABETH SAMUEL MARY(MS.96) HENRY = (1)Ann THOMAS THOMAS
SWINNERTON Stinton SWINNERTON (MS.46) (ES.95) SWINNERTON bp21Mar1821 SWINNERTON Machin SWINNERTON SWINNERTON
b.2May1818 15Jul1845 (WS.102) bp.5Apr1816 b.c.1826 (SS.41) d.26May1838 (HS.43) 9May1858 NUL (TS.110) b.Australia
Forton Southwark bp.7Jan1821 Betley ESTHER b.c.1830 Betley bp19Aug1833 d.26May1877 b.c.1837 d. " b.14Oct1819
d. b.c.1821 Forton (JS.236) d.21Sep1875 Ecleshall MRS BOLITHO bp10May1836 bur.8Aug1832 Betley d.2Feb1901 = (2)Harriet (TS.61) Liverpool
d.21Sep1875 Ecleshall

JOSEPH = Elizabeth
SWINNERTON Amsdon
b.14Oct1819 27Feb1848
bur3Mar1871 Marylebone
Liverpool d.3Jun1894
(JS.372) Liverpool
(Twin)

THOMAS = Catherine ELIZABETH SAMUEL
SWINNERTON Miller ESTHER SWINNERTON
b.8Jul1846 Yool (ES.155) (SS.58)
London 9Jul1878 b.30Aug1857 bp16July1842
d. Scotland Cambusnethan Betley
(TS.91) d.15Nov1943 Lanark d.13May1847
Truro bur.18Nov1858 Scotland

THOMAS = Gertrude
SWINNERTON Pearce
(TS.100) 19May1902
b.11Nov1881 Madeley
Madeley b.23Nov1877
d.14Jan1956 d.4Jun1954
Kidsgrove

STEPHEN = ELLEN
JOSEPH
SWINNERTON 18
bp.50Oct1856 Liverp
L'pool
(SS.150)
d.4Apr1936

JOHN = Agnes NINA ISABELLA = William KATE
RUSSELL Emma Lang (NS.12) Harold ELIZABETH
SWINNERTON 7Aug1909 b.6June1874 Rose (KS.20)
b.28May1881 Kincardine Wishaw 25Dec1908 b.1884
Wishaw b.14Jan1883 d.29Apr1959 d.1963
d.19Jul1966 d.15Oct1963 Truro unnm.Truro
Stourbridge Wolverhampton
(JS.237)

ETHEL MARGARET = (1)Bernard
(ES.130) Hamilton
b.22Mar1895 Killed 1917
Wishaw = (2)Walter H.....
d.7Nov1983 Schofield
Wokingham 2Sep1919 Wishaw

JOHN = (1)Milda ARTHUR = Muriel
THOMAS Williams SWINNERTON Hebe Cotton
SWINNERTON 1935 NUL (AS.89) b.11Jan1903
(JS.556) b.21Dec1913 d.25Jan1904
b.15Oct1907 = (2)P..... Madeley b.29Jan1906
Madeley Bradshaw 1973 NUL b.17Oct1917 (HS.128)
d.1Jun1964 Madeley Basford EVA MARY James Alfred
Madeley Mothershaw

EDITH
(ES.139)
b.29Jan1906
Madeley
=
James Alfred
b.8July1904
Mothershaw
ETHEL G...
(ES.228)
b.30Jul1910
d.26Dec1920
Madeley

STEPHEN JOSEPH
SWINNERTON = Clara Pears
b. 1877
Liverpool 1905
d. Birkenhead
d.15Jan1936
(SS.248)

Staying with the Australian Connection in this most important year, you will remember that in the issue of this Journal for December 1980 (Vol 4 No.5) we published an account of the 'First Fleet' and revealed that one of the Royal Marines on board guarding the convicts was THOMAS SWINNERTON. We asked who he was and we have not solved that question yet but we do know a little more about him thanks to our members Mrs Marjorie Nightingale and her daughter Mrs Glenda Hooper and the British Australian Heritage Society.

Apparently Thomas DID stay in Australia and was one of the Marines who was granted 80 acres of land in the area known as 'Field of Mars (Marines)' in 1792 as a reward for outstanding service. This area is now Ryde, Sydney. Eight Marines were granted land there and we are trying to find out if anything is known in Australia about Thomas's age and place of birth.

Of course, the other very important thing we want to know is did he marry and produce descendants and, if so, where are they now?
I hope we may have an answer before I go out there in October.

In connection with my visit to the International Conference, Mrs Nightingale is hoping to arrange a 'mini-gathering' of Australian Swinnertons while I am there. Bill Swinarton organised one in America you will remember and we hope the one 'down-under' will be just as successful.

* * * * *

We have been told that the Manor Court Home, Manor Court Road, Nuneaton is run by the SWINNERTON TRUST. No further details but I assume that this is something to do with the Warwickshire Branch - there is also an Alderman Swinnerton High School in Nuneaton.

SEPTEMBER 1st

Very light winds with heavy rain.

2nd

A better breeze this morning. Lat. 28, 30 South. Long. 38, 4 East

SEPT. 3rd, 1860

Blowing a fresh fair wind. Wind S.W.

4th

A ship in sight. It is refreshing to see anything besides our own ship and selves. We sighted her at 8 A.M. and overtook her at 10:30 A.M. Spoke each other. She was named the Amethyst. Bound for Point De Galle, the most Southern point of the Island of Ceylon, E.I. Compared reckonings and bade each other goodbye and stood on our respective courses.

5th

Fair wind. Good sailing. Passed a ship from Sunderland. Compared reckonings. Bade each other good bye by dipping the ensign three times and bore away.

6, 7, 8th

Pleasant weather, making 10 knots an hour.

9th

Sailing well. A young woman died at two o'clock today. The cause of her death appears to be kept a secret. She was consigned to the deep at 7 P.M. Captain reading the funeral service. No relatives on board. A sad scene.

10th

Contrary wind. Passengers got the blues.

11th

Wind dead ahead towards evening more favorable.

12th

Sliding through the water with a good 10 knot breeze every person congratulating each other.

SEPTEMBER 13, 1860

Head winds. Quite a contrast to yesterday. Took all my clothes out of my chest today, found Kate's bouquet. I will keep this as long as an atom of it exists. Come what may. What thoughts the sight of it brings to my mind. I can again see Mother and Kate in the parlor packing my box. That box with my name on it in great white letters.

14th

Fair Wind. Boxes stowed away.

15th

A ship in sight. Saw what the Captain said was the Island of St. Paul's. It only appeared like a small dark cloud on the horizon.

16th

Sunday. The second mate Dennis McPhillip died at 2:15 P.M. of consumption. He requested the Captain to bury him on shore which he promised to do. A passenger named Patrick Moon also died today at 7:30 P.M. of consumption leaving a wife one child and Mother-in-Law. Fair Wind.

17th

Wind Fair. The passenger that died yesterday was consigned to the deep at 6:50 A.M. Quite a gloom over the ship. The Captain has had a lead coffin and also a wooden one made for the second mate and he is hanging now under the Long Boat to be buried when we land. Every person looking very serious and quiet.

18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23rd

We have been making great progress this last week drawing near to Australia. Every person up early and late hoping to get a glimpse of land, every person pretty well browned up with the sun. I think nearly all the sailors are going to run away if possible when we get to port. There are two especially. They tear up some portion of their clothing every night. Some of the sailors broached some of the cargo this week and consequently got drunk to the astonishment of Captain. Some were locked up in chains in consequence. We are opposite Swan River Settlement, South Australia. About 300 miles from Land. Moonlight.

SEPT. 24th, 1860

Contrary wind. We experienced a Southerly Burster, as the sailors

call it, a regular old screecher of a hurricane, blowing was no name for it. I thought it would take the masts out of the ship.

25th

Head winds. Provoking.

26th

Sailing under a light breeze. The anchor chain was brought out on deck. The anchors got ready and fixing up generally to go into port. The ship is in a regular state of fuss what with scrubbing, painting, scraping and cleaning. The sailors say they are putting on her Sunday clothes. God send her an early day to display them to advantage, I say.

SEPTEMBER 28th, 1860

Baffling winds making no progress. Takes very little to make us look glum.

29th

Everything pleasanter today. What a difference a fair wind makes. The ladies getting dresses ready and the men looking up their best suits.

30th

Strong head winds. Can see no sign of fine clothes today. Too anxious now to see land to take much note of what is going on.

OCTOBER 1st

Wind the same, we are off the South Coast of Van Dieman's Land.

2nd

Wind dead ahead.

3rd

Fair wind again. A few days like this and we would get to our journey's end and it's time. It blew strong at night.

4th

A repetition of yesterday.

5th

Going very slowly, but her head is in the right direction. A large piece of sea weed passed and several sharks about. The cannon brought on deck once more to announce the first sight of land.

ANOTHER LETTER FROM THE PAST.

To Mark from his brother Frederick

A l'Aigle d'Or
Place de la Monnaie
Bruges
Belgium

Oct. 30th 1888

Dear Mark

Father has told me you have been enquiring after me in one of your last letters, and I am very glad to hear it, for it shows you have not totally forgotten a brother whom you don't know very well. I hear little of you from father, and never saw any of your letters - chiefly because I have not been near father for long since many years. It appears I am something of your own nature a restless character. But I did write to you once or twice, but as I never got any answer I gave you up as a correspondent. I should like to hear from you, and to hear how Sarah and the children are, and what on earth you are doing. As for me I am as you will see abroad again, after a couple of years in Manchester grubbing for existence. I seriously thought once or twice of throwing all up and going off somewhere - to America - to root you up perhaps and ask for a job. But I have pulled through it all right, not making much money certainly, but paying my way. So here I am for one year on contract, a kind of thing very common among the best artists in these degenerate days and therefore nothing to be ashamed of. At the end of my year here I calculate upon making a start in London, where as you perhaps know Joseph and wife are flourishing. But they will see very little of me "chez euse". I hope you have not forgotten your French, I like this place which of course would not suit you at all, it being a dead city so to speak, at least very quiet. But it is picturesque and cheap and models are to be had easily.

I have a lot of friends here, and manage to pass a few evenings per week at houses where I speak various of several languages, to wit French, Italian, English and Flemish. They are very nice people taking them altogether.

I suppose you know I have a small house and studio in the Isle of Man. Father built it and I raised a loan and bought it from him and at present he is living in it. R.P.B.'s* family occupy it during summer months on rental, so I am saved bother about raising interest.

Godfrey has lately been to Australia and China as first mate of the steamer "Afghan" - the ship all that Chinese row was about at Victoria. Charles is in India and is still busy on the pedigree. By the bye have you got a copy of the book? It is all in it, so dont forget to impress on my American nieces and nephews that they have a clear descent of 800 - eight hundred - years. Of course in America you dont think much of these things - but some day people will be just as vain there of such things as today they are here in the Old World - and dont you forget it!

I wont write to you any more for the chances are you never will answer - but if you do answer send me a photo of yourselves and children and I will send you one of my noble self. I have none of myself just now, but am going to get a dozen by order from my young woman.

With love to yourself and Sarah and to the children, I'am

Your affectionate Bro

Frederick Swinnerton

I suppose you know Joseph and Charles spell their name Swynnerton. Lord! Lord! Godfrey will be home about Xmas. John Nicholson is doing awful pot-boilers just now. He has dropped water colour painting - the only thing he was master of in painting.

*

R.P.B. = Robert Platt Blakeley, husband of Mark's sister Catherine

MISCELLANEOUS

Shropshire

The Escapades of Richard Peshall of Chetwynd by Rev.W.G.D. Fletcher, MA.FSA.

Shropshire Arch. Society. 3rd Series, Vol.VI, Pt.II, 1906

The early part of the 15th Century was a lawless age, murders, thefts, robberies and other deeds of violence were very prevalent, not so much by the poorer classes as Knights, Esquires, Gentlemen, Landowners and even ecclesiastical dignitaries. One such lively young Shropshire man was Richard de Peshall of Chetwynd, a man of ancient lineage and the Ancestor of many gentlemen of the highest standing in Salop and elsewhere now living, but whose misdeeds could scarcely be matched.

Richard de Peshall was by descent a Swynnerton, one of the oldest and most important of Staffordshire Knightly families, 2 or 3 of whose members were Bannarets in the Scotch and French Wars, and one obtained Baronial Rank having been summoned by writ to the House of Peers by Edward III. His Ancestor, Richard de Peshall, was a younger son of Sir John de Swynnerton Knt., Lord of Parva Sugnall, Peshall and Swynnerton, and assumed the name of Peshall on obtaining from his father temp. Henry III the manor and lands of Peshall, a township in Eccleshall Parish

(I find there are eight more pages of Richard's escapades, which will surely give me writer's cramp - ex. Mrs Constance Beard)

FAMILY NOTES

It is with great regret that we have to announce the death of our member Mr ALBERT RICHARD SWINNERTON on the 11 December 1987 at St.Helen's Hospital, Hastings aged 91. An account of his service to his country was published in this journal, Volume 4 No.10 p.177.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

Sir Roger Swynnerton to [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

NEW MEMBERS:

Mrs Brenda Kathleen Vincent Morgan, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. Mrs Morgan is the daughter of our late member, Mr Albert Richard Swinnerton OBE.ISO.

Mrs Linda Kathleen Clarke, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

who is the daughter of Mrs Morgan.

Mrs Patricia Holmes, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the gt-gt-gt granddaughter of Sarah Swinnerton of Adbaston (see ante).

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the AGM of the Society will be held on Saturday 24th September 1988 in the Cavendish Club, London at 2.00pm. Please note the date now, further details will follow.

Swinnerton Family History

(The Journal of the Society)

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