

Swinnerton Family History

The Journal of the Swinnerton Society



ISSN 0508 6755

VOLUME SEVEN

NUMBER SEVEN

APRIL 1989

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'S DESK

Angela and I will shortly be moving into Shropshire, I almost said 'back ' to Shropshire because, although I was born in Staffordshire and still live in the County (despite having to suffer a West Midlands postcode!), we have always had a close association with the County. There has been a lot of cross-border movement between the two counties by our family, my grandfather and great grandfather were both born in the county and, of course, our ancestor John Swynnerton was Sheriff of BOTH counties at the same time!

I had a long and happy association with The King's Shropshire Light Infantry as their close support Gunner Battery Commander and we made many friends there.

So, despite being very proud of belonging to one of the oldest Staffordshire families, I shall feel quite at home in our second county.

This year is a Gathering Year. I do not suppose we shall repeat the fantastic success of the special Domesday Gathering in 1986 but nevertheless we hope to see many of you there. A preliminary booking form is enclosed.

Despite my many pleas and the inducement of a discount, 45 members of the Society have still not renewed their membership. I do not know the answer. We now have to send out extra reminder letters which are a drain on the Society funds. If you know any of them, please give them a gentle push.

For those of you who are kind enough to covenant your subscription or pay by standing order, only the old rate of sub was received because, of course, I omitted to send you new forms. I now enclose them and if you are really kind, you could send the difference for this year when you return them! Thank you.

LIVING AT STAFFORD CASTLE

In last months Journal I related the story of how, in 1936, when a single young man of 24, I came to live at Stafford Castle with the caretakers Mr and Mrs Stokes. I continue with a further account of my experience.

Stafford Castle lies on the north-western side of the County Town of Stafford. A mile from the centre of Stafford on the Newport Road, it stands on a high pronontory, occupying a site on which the first castle was built around the year 1100 AD. The latest castle was built in the early 1800s on the same site and on the foundations of the fourteenth century keep, the rebuild being designed in Gothic Revival architecture.

The path leading from the Newport Road to the castle, slopes slightly for about 150 yards and climbs into a steep gradient as it reaches the castle mound and there is a small level area near the foot of the north east tower. At the time I lived there it was an unmade track, but a vehicle could be taken to this point, there being just sufficient room for the coalman to turn his lorry round. At first I parked my car on this spot, but when winter set in, the surface became muddy and I left it in the woods below and walked the rest of the way, taking a short cut by climbing the 50 or 60 steps to the castle door.

THE PHANTOM RIDER

It was an eerie experience walking through these woods late at night, with the rabbits scattering in all directions as the headlights of the car disturbed them, the shrill hoot of an owl and often a lurking fox slinking across the path and I always felt a sense of relief when I was climbing the steps and finally reached the entrance to the castle. I recall that on an exceptionally dark night, I was about a third of the way up the steps when I heard the sound of a horse galloping up the pathway and I turned round, rooted to the spot for about half a minute, but could see nothing and the sound disappeared into the trees at the far end of the North east tower. Although somewhat startled, I tried to put it out of my mind, for I knew that horseriders sometimes came into the woods near the Newport Road. Everyone had retired to bed, but next morning I mentioned it to Bert Stokes and asked him who was likely to be out riding at that time of night - almost midnight. He questioned me very thoroughly about it and the way he reacted, led me to believe that he knew something which he was not prepared to discuss - he was very non-committal and extracted the promise from me that I would not say anything about it to Mrs. Stokes, "as it may make her nervous" he said, or to my friends or anyone else, as they would probably talk about it and she would get to know.

This episode set me wondering, not because I had heard this rider, but of the way old Stokes had reacted. I also discovered that there was no path beyond the castle in that direction along which a rider could go. Not being a believer in ghosts or the supernatural, I tried to dismiss it from my mind. It was

difficult however and it was always in my thoughts as I wended my way home late at night. I heard this horseman again some four or five weeks later. It was a particularly stormy night with the rain lashing down and the trees setting up a rustle which transcended into a roar as the wind gushed up towards the castle. Instead of climbing the steps - which were very steep and awkward, and I was fearful of the wind blowing me over - I continued up the pathway. When near the top, this thumping of hooves came up from the woods below and this time it appeared to disappear into the wood towards the back end of Castle Church graveyard. It was several days later that I mentioned to Mr Stokes that I had heard this horserider again and I could see immediately that he was uneasy and took on a mysterious attitude towards the whole matter, when normally he would delight in talking about any subject under the sun.

I tried to reason with myself that the noise of the wind and trees had played tricks on me, or that it had been a train passing in the distance, but I was certain - especially with the first instance which was on a calm night - that the noise I had heard was that of a horse moving at a gallop. I dared not tell my fellow lodgers, I could imagine their reaction - they would have delighted in waylaying me one night enshrouded in a white sheet to scare me. The thought also struck me that it may have been set up by this pair as a joke, but the first occasion happened on a Sunday night and they were not there until Monday night.

Much of the detail of what happened during the six months I was living at the castle has faded from my memory over the passing of more than 50 years, but I have never forgotten the horse episode and have often wondered - particularly when I learned that traces of an ancient settlement had been discovered - whether the place is haunted by a lone rider who once frequented the old castle. Perhaps some of the people who have been working on the excavations have heard or felt something unusual?

Mr & Mrs Stokes had three sons, one was a Police Officer in Stafford, the second worked at the English Electric Co., and the youngest worked either for Hords the Printers or the Stafford Advertiser. They would now be in their seventies and if still alive could probably give some interesting information about the castle and their parents and most likely have some photographs of the place as it was when they lived there.

Whilst living in Stafford I met my wife to be - a Miss Evelyn Shirley. We were married at St Paul's Church, Lichfield Road in March 1937 and at that time the ground round the castle and the pathway was in a particularly muddy state and I recall that on the morning of my wedding, Mr Stokes and my fellow lodgers insisted in transporting me in a wheelbarrow down to my car to prevent getting my shoes covered with mud.

J. E. Swinnerton.



‘Rescuers’ blamed for decay

POLITICIANS basking in the limelight of national television coverage for the rescue of Stafford Castle were really responsible for its destruction, claim two people connected with the monument.

A former archaeological worker and a man who once lived at the castle have blamed borough councillors for letting it decay until it had to be demolished.

But council leader Walter Dean said the dilemma was caused by a 13-year-long squabble between two Government departments and that the demolition had allowed the excavation of the fortress to go ahead.

“The borough council’s involvement in the history of Stafford Castle has been shamefully glossed over,” said Richard Musgrave, of Alma Street, Stone, who worked on the excavation for two years.

“Until the early 1960s, the castle stood proud and tall with its two massive 19th century towers intact.

“It was the council of the day that allowed the castle to fall into disrepair. A young man was killed while carrying out an act of vandalism, which by their negligence of the monument they had hardly discouraged.

“It was the council who, in panic and with no care for its historic past, dynamited the castle’s towers. Surely this was the greatest act of vandalism of all?

“Shouldn’t Stafford Borough Council come clean about its involvement in the history of the castle of which

it has only recently become proud?”

Joe Swinnerton, of Walsall, was reminded by the BBC 2 television documentary last week of his stay at the castle in 1936 and 1937.

“I lived at the castle with Mr and Mrs Stokes, the caretakers who were mentioned in the programme as the last occupants to live there,” said 75-year-old Mr Swinnerton, who married a Stafford woman while he was working here.

“The castle appeared to me to be in a fair state of repair. The walls were sound. The roof over the banqueting hall and the floor surfaces of the towers were watertight.

By Neil Thomas

“I called on the Stokes when I was home on leave from the army in 1940 but did not see the castle again until about 1960. I was shocked to find it in such a vandalised state.

“Had new caretakers been appointed when Mr and Mrs Stokes retired and a few thousand pounds spend on maintenance, the whole building would still be standing,” said Mr Swinnerton.

Bert Stokes and his wife left the castle in 1950 and Lord Stafford gave it to the old Stafford Borough Council in 1961. Council leader Walter Dean recalled the debate about its future which spanned more than a decade.

“By the time the property was given to us by Lord

Stafford, it was already in a difficult condition. It was not very well built,” said Mr Dean.

There then followed a prolonged discussion between two Government departments – the listed buildings section of what is now the Department of the Environment and the ancient monuments section.

“The listed buildings section would not allow us to alter the Jerningham superstructure of the castle at all while the ancient monuments section were only interested in preserving the motte. The two were unable to agree what was the right thing to do.

“In the meantime, a young man got killed after he had broken through the barbed wire to get in and we had to consider something pretty desperate. So we pulled down the two towers and spent quite a lot of money making it safe.

“At least some of the recent archaeological work could not have been done if part of the castle had not been demolished so in retrospect I am inclined to think our actions were right anyway. It would certainly have cost a lot of money to repair it,” said Mr Dean.

It was not until 1977 that the importance of the earthworks surrounding the castle and the extent of the surviving medieval stonework was appreciated

Colin Swinnerton of Rossett, near Wrexham tells me that his father, our member LEONARD SWINNERTON, celebrates his 80th birthday on July 26th this year and says that he thinks this must put him up near the top of the list of long-living members of the family. It certainly does but not quite at the very top, two ladies are before him, it would be ungallant of me to name names though! He is still in very good health, takes holidays on his own and regularly sings in the local male voice choir. Our congratulations.

Colin also tells me that his eldest son NEALE has just been awarded a flying scholarship with the Royal Air Force. He passed all his tests with very high marks and his eyesight is good enough for an Air Loadmaster which, apparently, has to be better than a Pilot's. Our congratulations to him too.

Ray Swinnerton of Sandbach writes to say that he has been reading about the Battle of Bosworth and wonders if any Swinnertons took part in the battle and where he could look to find out? This took place on the 22nd August 1485 but I can find no reference to any member of the family being present. By this time, the Swynnertons had declined from the peak of their powers under the first three Edwards when they played a considerable part in national affairs and had reverted to their previous role of minor Staffordshire landowners. The principal representative of the family in 1485 was Humphrey Swynnerton (II) of Swynnerton & Hilton, the son of Humphrey Swynnerton of Swynnerton and Anna Swynnerton of Hilton who was a simple 'Esquire'. He had served as Escheator for Staffordshire from 1474 to 1477 but there is then no further mention of him, as far as I know, until he was commissioned to muster archers for Henry VII's foray into Brittany in 1488. Does anyone know any more?

I received a letter from a Martha Morse Melville of Bowie, Maryland in March who said she had found my name in the 1988 Genealogical Research Directory and noticed that I was also tracing the Swinnerton family, one of over 300 families that she was currently tracing! but so far she had only found one Swinnerton ancestor, Anne of whom she knew nothing further except that she married John Mytton who died in 1499/1500. Of course I was able to give her all the details and did so despite the fact she sent no addressed envelope, stamps or International Reply Coupons. As I told her, many family historians simply would not reply, if you ever have cause to write to anyone for family information, please do follow the golden rule and ALWAYS send a stamped, addressed envelope for the reply or its equivalent.

I teach a regular class in Family History Research at the College of Further Education in Wolverhampton and having completed the lesson on the Censuses, one of my students went and did some searching in the 1861 Census and at the next class presented me with an extract for our family which I had not previously been aware of. "Cast your bread upon the waters!" It was for the Parish of Great Wyrley in Staffordshire and read:-

Willm. Swinnerton	Head	Mar 48	Labourer in	b. Oxfords.
			an Iron Works	Chipping
				Norton
Ann	-do-	Wife	-do-33	-do-
Elizth	-do-	Daur	12	Scholar b. B'ham
Ellen	-do-	Daur	9	-do- b. B'head
Peter	-do-	Son	7	-do- b. Cannock
Rosa	-do-	Daur	4	-do- b. Cheslyn Hay
Bertha	-do-	Daur	3	-do-
Walter	-do-	Son	2wks	b. Great Wyrley

So far, I have failed completely to tie this family in with any branch we know.

Mrs Pauline Saul came across a book entitled 'Public House Checks of Birmingham & Smethwick', a guide list of Public Houses and Beer Shops and their proprietors featured on metallic checks issued between 1830 and 1910 in Birmingham & Smethwick by R.P.N.Hawkins.

These checks or tokens were used by individual taverns as a form of small change and for advertisement. Amongst those listed was the 'STAR', corner of Hope Street, proprietor THOMAS SWINNERTON.

Glynis McIntyre, a member of the Gwent Family History Society, wrote to say that in the church at LLANDEVAUD, Gwent there is a window in the South wall to the memory of JAMES SWINNERTON, incumbent 1897-1924. He was blind and "remembered for his goodness to blind people and caring for them in a home he established for them" (Bradney's History of Monmouthshire. 1932)

The Reverend James Swinnerton was born at Colton Staffs on the 10th March 1846, He married twice, as you will see from the little tree opposite and his son HUMPHREY SPENCER SWINNERTON was a member of our Society until he died in 1977. Sadly his descendants, although they did get in touch with me, did not keep up the connection. The Reverend James's grandfather was THOMAS SWINNERTON, a farmer of Bridgnorth, Shropshire but so far, after many years, I have not managed to get back any further.

Mr John Hebden, Chairman of the Guild of One-Name Studies was searching through some records in Yorkshire when he came across the Poll for the West Riding of Yorkshire of 11/12 May 1835. At the Sheffield Booth, No 3 Handsworth Township he found that GEORGE SWINNERTON of Intake, registered but 'voted for no one'.

THOMAS SWINNERTON -
Farmer
(TS.158)

JAMES
SWINNERTON
b.16 Aug.1809
at Wednesbury
Bridgnorth
d.2 Jan.1894
Glazely, Bridgnorth
Gardener
(JS.183)

(1) Ellen White
of Brierley Hill
Stourbridge 1867
b. c.1844
d. circa 1920
Australia
una.
(RS.66)

- Sarah
SWINNERTON
b. 17 Jan 1869
(b.1868)
Collingbourne
d. 1916
Australia
(JS.184)

JAMES
SWINNERTON
Sydney
Australia
(JS.181)

(2) Sophia Pratt
on 15 Oct.1889
Stratton, Cannock,
Staffs.
b.10 June 1851
Worfield, Salop
d.20 Feb.1935
Llandeud
(JS.185)

WILLIAM - Isabella
SWINNERTON
b. 1871 d. 6 Apr 1915 b. 1876
Pusey Werrington Madeley
d. 1930
Werrington
sp. (REV)
(MS.65)

FRANK -
(FS.32)
son
Noel W.
Green
Pontypool
1940

The family of THE REV JAMES SWINNERTON
(see opposite) which produced no less
than 4 clergymen.

OLIVE
SWINNERTON
b. 1878
Madeley
d. 1932
Newport
(MS.108)

DORA
(OS.24)
b. 1916
Newport
Noel W.
Green
Pontypool
1940

HUMPHREY
SPENCER
SWINNERTON
b.21 Jan.1893
d. 1977
(MS.48)

EDWARD J.
SWINNERTON
b. 1929
Newport
(ES.104)

DOROTHY
SOPHIA
SWINNERTON
b. 1890
d. 1891
Newport
(OS.23)

MARY IRIS
SOPHIA
(MS.107)
b.15 May 1924
Newport, Mon

ARTHUR JAMES
SWINNERTON
b. 1969
Newport (AS.62)

SHEEMA WHAIRI
(SS.67)
b.17 Oct.1973
Newport

Albert G
Withy
1947
Newport

Mr Eric Banwell writing in the Journal of the Guild of One-Name Studies on the subject of the numbers of Births and Deaths registered at St.Catherine's House in London, quoted the numbers for his family as 1200 Births since 1884 and 483 post-1884 Deaths leaving a present day Banwell population of 917 and said "Was he Mr Average?"

He invited other One-Namers to submit figures for Births 1851-1880 and for 1951-1980 so that he could do some statistical comparisons.

I submitted our figures which are:-

No of Births registered 1851-1880	579
No of Births registered 1951-1980	441

and commented that we appear to be in decline!

I received a letter from Ray Sparkes (Books) in February sending me their latest catalogues and telling me that he had a manuscript book which he thought may be of interest to me and my family. It had the signature of 'Wm.Swinnerton' and the bookplate of 'Thomas Swinnerton Armiger' on the front endpaper.

It was a copy of Erdeswick's "A View of Staffordshire containing the Antiquities of the said County" and this copy was not apparently in Salt's List(see Harwood's Erdeswicke 1844) but is similar to the Huntbach Copy. It is not dated but must be after 1709 (as this date is mentioned in the manuscript). There are additions as in Huntbach's copy. It is folio and bound in contemporary calf.

The price was £2250. A similar copy in the catalogue without signature or bookplate was £2000 so you can see how proof of ownership increases the value. I replied giving them exact details of William and Thomas but regretted that we could not afford it.

Mr Malcolm Cooper, a member of the Birmingham & Midland Society for Genealogy & Heraldry, has a Maltese wife and so spends quite a lot of time in the Island. He was recently searching the International Genealogical Index for Italy when he came across the following:-

CLARK, James and SWENERTON, Sarah Anne married
19 June 1840 Napoli, British Chaplaincy.

They had 5 children (all Clarks, of course) all baptised in the British Chaplaincy.

He also found the marriage of JOHN SWINERTON and Eliza Barrett on the 15th September 1839 at the British Chaplaincy, Genova.

Our member TIMOTHY SWYNNERTON, writing on the 1st April this year, said that he had heard on his car wireless that there was an exhibition of paintings at the Manchester Art Gallery which included some by DAME ANNIE SWYNNERTON.

Do any of our members living in that area have any more information?

Congratulations are in order for MELANIE TERESE SWINNERTON who, according to the Law Society's Gazette of the 15 July 1987 (it has only recently been sent to me) was admitted as a Solicitor on 1 July 1987. She is LLB and her address was given as [redacted]

The trouble is that we do not know who she is! If anyone does, please pass on our best wishes and let us know.

THE HERALD & GENEALOGIST - VOL.8 - PAGE 383

Helen Maria, (daughter of Robert Croker, clerk in holy orders who died May 1848, and his wife Margaret, dau. of Standish Grady, of the Grange, co. Limk.) married Swinnerton, eldest son of Sir Thos. Dyer. Bart.

THE AUSTRALIAN FIRST FLEETER

I have recently been shown a copy of a new book 'The Founders of Australia, a Biographical Dictionary of the First Fleet' by Mollie Gillen. It is a superb book and most interesting but unfortunately, it tells us nothing further about THOMAS SWINERTON at all. His actual entry is:

SWINERTON, Thomas

Thomas Swinerton, private marine 2nd (Portsmouth) Company, served at Port Jackson in the company of Watkin Tench. On 3 January 1792 he received a grant of 80 acres at the Field of Mars. No later record has been found.

and the entry in the abstract of biographical data at the end is even less revealing, as you can see very little is known about him compared with some of the others. I am going to try and see if I can find out anything more from the records of the Royal Marines.

Abstract of Biographical Data

Name	Arrival			Tried		Born		Spouse
	Ship	Age	Status	When	Where	When	Where	
STOREY, John	Charl	24	Crew	-	-	c1763	Scotland	
STOW, James	Alex	26	Convict	1785	Lincoln	c1761		
STRAFFEN, James	Sirius	48	Crew			c1739	Northum.	
STRETCH, Thomas	Friend	34	Convict	1783	Salop	c1753	Cheshire	
STRONG, James	Alex	35	Convict	1784	Dorset	c1752		
STRONG, William			Marine	-	-			Martha Allot
SUMMERS, John	Alex	34	Convict	1784	Glos.	c1753	Gloucester	Jane Christie
SUMMERS, Thomas	Alex		Crew	-	-			
SWESEY, John	Supply	29	Crew	-	-	c1758	Jersey Is.	
SWINERTON, Thomas			Marine	-	-			
TARR, Isaac	Sirius	25	Marine	-	-	c1762		Elizabeth Clark

During my visit to Australia last year, I was taken on a private tour of the library and archives of the Society of Australian Genealogists. Naturally, I looked in the indexes to see if I could anything more about Thomas. I failed and, in fact, there was only 1 reference to our family in the whole of that vast library - and that was wrong!

It was an extract from a Journal called 'The Escutcheon' of March 1967 and was a poem called 'The Tournament at Dunstable' by Nancy Puttock. It says:-

"The following is the first instalment of a Ballad relating the story of the celebrated Tournament held at Dunstable in 1308. All the people referred to were in fact present at the time and the Arms given in blazon are correct. Ed."

We then get this:-



de SWINNERTON

Then up beside him came Roger de Swinnerton,
argent a cross pate sable,
Though slightly aged, with silver beard, lover of
horse and stable,
He rarely missed a tournament so keen a sagittarian
was he,
An eager sportsman all his life and much prone to
victory.

March, 1967

The Escutcheon

Whoever wrote the poem could not distinguish between a Cross Patee and a Cross Formy Flory.

From the Fleet's Victualling List we can see that THOMAS was listed as No.149 and that he was victualled at Teneriffe for the 5th-10th June: at Rio de Janeiro from 18thAug-2nd Sep and at the Cape of Good Hope from 15th Oct-11th Nov - all 1787, of course.



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Wildlife Preservation Trust Canada Newsletter
February 1989

Kirsty Swinnerton - The Dian Fossey of the Pink Pigeon

When the Trust was launched in Canada in 1985, your generous donations supported field research in Mauritius to monitor the progress of captive bred pink pigeons returned to the wild. Our first biologist, David Todd, spent two tough years chasing the elusive pigeons and has recently left the island. But the pink pigeon, being in Durrell's words 'an enormously stupid bird', cannot yet be left alone so we have hired Kirsty Swinnerton to continue the studies. Kirsty's boss refers to her as the most capable field biologist he has ever met. She's a gutsy superwoman who camps alone in the forest for weeks at a time, living on cold cooked potatoes and baked beans. Our 'Dian Fossey of the Pink Pigeon' comes from a famous family of English naturalists, including one member for whom the Swinnerton's Robin is named. The latest news from Kirsty is terrific -- for the first time since the reintroduction program began captive bred pink pigeons have been observed sitting on eggs in the wild. They haven't hatched yet, so keep your fingers crossed. In the meantime you can bet Kirsty is glued to her binoculars!



Members of the Swinnerton Society at the International Congress on Family History
Sydney, Australia October 1988

Ron Robinson, Ted Swinnerton, Iain Swinnerton, Bill Swinnerton, Tesla Swinnerton
Ann Robinson, Eunice Byfield, Craig Swinnerton, Grace Swinnerton, Jack Byfield



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, LONDON 1988

From the Newspapers



**ESSINGTON
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Swinnerton inspires nine-goal Staffs

By Cathy Harris

JANE SWINNERTON, the former England striker, scored four goals to help inspire Staffordshire to a crushing 9-0 win against Northamptonshire in the Midlands NatWest county championship in Cannock yesterday.

Staffordshire, national champions two years ago, led 3-0 at half-time but turned on the pressure after the break to complete the onslaught with a classic display of clinical finishing.

Sue Holwell, the Leicestershire and England sweeper, once again underlined her superiority at penalty corner striking when she scored three goals to help Leicestershire maintain their unbeaten record.

The contest in the West looks set to develop into a struggle between Gloucestershire and Devon after both teams ended the first weekend of matches level on points.

Last season's winners, Devon, were held to a goalless draw in their opening fixture against Avon, but later fought off a spir-

ited challenge from Wiltshire to win through goals by Bridget Irish and Tammy Miller, with Barbara Jones replying for Wiltshire.

England discard Lyn Bollington pressed her claim for a recall when she added to last week's hat-trick with four more to help Essex beat Norfolk and Huntingdonshire.

In the North, the traditional rivals Lancashire and Yorkshire share the honours with both teams undefeated after five matches.

Maggie Souyave, the Lancashire captain and former England and Great Britain international, has returned to her best form and has been the major influence in her team's success.

U100 meeting

AN open meeting to discuss the new U100 insulin has been organised by the North Warwickshire Health Authority.

It will take place on Thursday, February 24, at Swinnerton Middle School, Avenue Road, Nuneaton (near Coton Arches) at 7.30pm. A panel of medical experts will be available to answer queries. All diabetics and their families are welcome to attend.

Cheese and wine evening



Guests at the Soroptimist International of West Bromwich cheese and wine evening, held at the Hollies, Burnt Tree, Tipton, home of the secretary, included (from left): Miss Evelyn Roper, immediate past president Midland Chase divisional union; Miss Lesley Coley, president of S1 Smethwick; the Rev Joan Bayliss, president of S1 West Bromwich; Mrs Sheila Fincher, member of S1 West Bromwich and maker of cake; Miss Lucy Swinnerton, celebrating 60 years in West Bromwich; Mrs Janet Whyley, the Lady Mayoress of Sandwell.

Red-nosed boss is kidnapped



Shock horror... Walsall businessman held to ransom... Police seek red-nosed pixies in effort to unravel case.

Mr Frank Swinnerton, managing director of Goodfellows Garages, was dragged from his offices early on Friday morning by several strangely attired people.

Police issued the following description of the assailants: height about 4ft 6ins, slight build, dressed as pixies, and with bright red noses.

Following lengthy investigations they were able to track the culprits down to Chuckery Infants School where they eventually found Mr Swinnerton tied to a chair.

He was released only when the ransom demands had been met. Police made no arrests.

With this and other collections on the day, the school raised £154.

SWINNERTON—

Peacefully on November 11, 1987, at Market Drayton Cottage Hospital, Doreen Annie Swinnerton, aged 76 years, of Soudley Farm, Cheswardine, Market Drayton.

Funeral service 2.30pm on Monday November 16, 1987, at St. Swithuns Church, Cheswardine, followed by interment in the Cemetery.

Family flowers only, but donations if so desired to be divided between St. Swithuns Church, Cheswardine and Soudley Methodist Chapel, for which purpose a collection plate will be provided in church.

Inquiries please to J. R. Williams Funeral Director, Waters Upton. Telephone Great Bolas 423.

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, WI

Engagements 2

MR. J. SWINNERTON and

MISS H. J. TYLER

The engagement is announced of Miss Heather J. Tyler to Mr. J. Swinnerton, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs B.A. Swinnerton, from the Isle of Wight. Love from both families.

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Local man who traced family history dies



● Mr Bertram Swinnerton.

A LOCAL man, whose ancestors have been traced back to the Battle of Hastings in 1066, has died after a long illness.

Mr. Bertram Swinnerton of Uttoxeter Road, Handsacre died on New Years Day at Hoar Cross Nursing Home.

Mr. Swinnerton was born at Madeley into an old North Staffordshire family traced back to 1066, and mentioned in the Domesday Book, and spent a lifetime working on the railways.

He began work in 1924 as a track maintenance man for the London Midland and Scottish Railway, before becoming a Civil Engineer at London Euston Station, and taking over as Permanent Way Advisor for the London Midland Region, based in Birmingham.

Mr. Swinnerton retired in 1972 and had lived with his wife in Handsacre for the last 15 years.

SWINNERTON (Bertram).

Beloved Husband of Mary, devoted Father of Anne and Grandfather to Richard and Sarah. Passed peacefully away on January 1 at Hoar Cross Nursing Home after a long illness patiently borne aged 84 years.

Family flowers only, but donations if desired payable to John Short and Son, Chase-town, later to be distributed to the Parkinson's Disease Society and St. Luke's Church. Funeral arrangements later.

Lichfield Mercury
8 Jan 1989

SWINNERTON (Dorothy).

Peace is yours, memories are ours. God bless.

Hazel, Bill, Margaret, George.

Express and Star

25 Feb 1989

GOLDEN WEDDINGS

ALLAMAND - SWINNERTON.—On Oct. 1, 1938, at the Church of the Holy Trinity, Stroud Green, Eiac to Maud. Present address, Wokingham.

Daily Telegraph
1 Oct 1988

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Pensioner sat with 'train in lap'

AN 80-year-old man who laughed and joked with firemen during their 4½-hour battle to free him from a wrecked rail carriage sat up in bed in Glasgow Royal Infirmary yesterday and said he was looking forward to a hill-walking holiday at Easter.

Mr John McCulloch, the last survivor to be cut from the tangled coaches, was sitting in the front carriage about 10 feet behind the driver's cab when he looked out of the window and saw another train coming towards them on the same track.

He said: "I saw a train coming towards us and just knew what was going to happen. I stood up and tried to make for the door but then there was an almighty bang and the carriage caved in."

Another passenger, Mr Chris Hendrie, 22, who escaped unscathed said: "This guy was sitting there with a train in his lap."

"He was just sitting there, with a fag in his mouth. He seemed completely calm. The train had come right in where he was sitting."

Mr McCulloch, who worked as a labourer on the railways for 20 years, was trapped by his left foot inches away from the crushed cab in which the driver, Mr Hugh Keenan, 62, died.

"I could see the driver's head in front of me, but I don't think there was much chance for him," he said.

"My main worry was that if the blood supply to my foot was cut off for much longer I might suffer from gangrene."

Mr McCulloch, a widower,

By Jenny Shields and Chris Tighe in Glasgow

expects to be discharged today or tomorrow and is already turning his thoughts to an Easter holiday in Fort William.

Asked by Mr Rifkind, Scottish Secretary, who also visited the crash site, what went through his mind when he realised a crash was inevitable, Mr McCulloch said: "Survival, I was just hoping".

Another survivor pulled from the Springburn train was Mr Charles Swinnerton, 60, recently made redundant after being a British Rail engineering worker all his working life.

He said that he had repaired many crashed trains. "We used to say they were like concertinas. To experience a collision yourself is quite unique in anybody's life."

Mr Swinnerton, whose face is stitched and badly bruised, was sitting in the third coach.

He said: "There was a bang first and then I was thrown up against the seat facing me."

Mr Ian Anderson, 37, consultant accident and emergency surgeon at the Victoria Infirmary who crawled into the crushed cab of the Springburn-bound train, said the driver

would have died in the wreckage if his leg had not been amputated.

He praised the firemen who had spent over four hours trying to free the man, 23-year-old Mr Joseph McCafferty.

"Mr McCafferty's left leg was amputated just below the knee in an operation that lasted about 15 minutes. It was a pretty grisly affair and not conducted in the ideal circumstances but if we had not freed him he would have died there," said Mr Anderson.

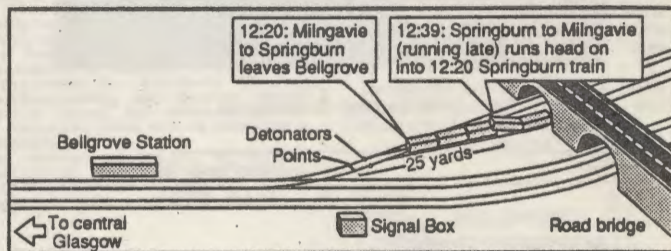
Mr McCafferty is in a critical but stable condition in the intensive care unit in the Victoria Infirmary. His right leg is also broken.

Three other survivors were still recovering in hospital yesterday.

Mr John Ellis, Scotrail general manager, escorted Mr Rifkind around the crash site. He indicated that Scotrail already had an idea of the cause.

Scotrail expect to announce preliminary findings about the cause of the accident this afternoon.

Mr Ellis discounted suggestions that the use of a single line for two-way traffic was to blame.



Daily Telegraph
8 March 1989

Church news

Appointments

The Rev S R Paul Spilsbury, Vicar, St Peter, Lawrence Weston, Bristol, diocese Bristol: to be also Rural Dean of Westbury and Severnside, same diocese.

The Rev Nigel J Stone, Curate, St Saviour and St George w St Andrew, Battersea, diocese Southwark: to be Parish Priest, St Paul, Brixton, same diocese.

The Rev Edward Swinnerton, Vicar, Hambleton, diocese Blackburn: to be Vicar, Barnacre w Calder Vale, same diocese.

The Rev Bernard J Wigan: to be Curate (non-stipendiary ministry), St Paul, Brighton, diocese Chichester.

Times
25 Mar 1989

CASSLEY

THE DROUGHT in May ruined sport. Apart from the first two or three days of the month, the river was dead low for the rest of the time. The couple of days at the beginning of May assured some sport for that first week before the water ran out. Neil Graesser told me they had 12 fish. Mr Shaw had four of these: two from the Round Pool, one from Neil's, and one from Upper Platform. Mrs Swinerton had three fish from the Round, Fence, and Neil's on a black-and-yellow tube-fly. Mrs Godwin had two fish — a 12-pounder from Upper House and one of 9 lb from the right bank of Lower Platform. Mrs Playstead had her first-ever salmon, 10 lb from Neil's.

The second and third weeks of May were blank. No water, although quite a number of salmon were over the falls and the fish in the pools from the falls to the Kyle were stale fish. A lot of fish were in the Kyle waiting for a spate. It didn't come, yet Ian Smith not only had the one and only fish of that week, but it was his first-ever salmon. It came out of the Crow's Nest: 9½ lb on a small Collie Dog.

Over the first four days of June the rains came and in four fishing days 15 salmon were caught — more than for the whole of May (13). — ROGIE.

Trout and Salmon July, 1988



Staffordshire Swynnerton

Stafford 10 miles, Stoke-on-Trent 8 miles, M6 5 miles

A former Victorian water tower, listed grade II, with magnificent views

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Offers in excess of £50,000

Ref: 75/10431

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Express & Star

Court Circular

KENSINGTON PALACE

April 5th

The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, today visited the Rover Group Land Rover/Range Rover Plant at Solihull.

Her Royal Highness was received on arrival by Her Majesty's Deputy Lieutenant for the West Midlands (Colonel I. Swinnerton).

The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, who travelled in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight, was attended by Mrs Jane Stevens and Major The Lord Napier and Ettrick.

Daily Telegraph
6 Apr 1989

FAMILY NOTES

We were very sorry to hear of the death of our member JOY HALL on the 19th December 1988 at Barmouth. Joy had been a member from the very beginning and was a very loyal supporter of all our activities and funds. Her late husband FRED had also been a member. Joy was one of the few surviving relatives of the author and our former Vice-President, Frank Swinnerton.

We were also very sorry to hear of the death of another long-serving member, BERTRAM SWINNERTON on the 1st Jan this year. Bertram was a member of the large Betley Branch and a regular attender, with his family, at our Gatherings.

We extend our sincere sympathy to both families.

CHANGES of ADDRESS

Mr J.D.Swinnerton to [REDACTED]

Mrs M.D.E.Martin to [REDACTED]
Steven K.Swenerton to [REDACTED]

T.Swinnerton to [REDACTED]

Mrs E.Bolitho to [REDACTED]

Welcome to new members Mrs Audrey Swinnerton of [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] and Mr David
Lee Swinnerton of [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Welcome back to Mr Fred Swinnerton of [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Mrs Lelia Morey of [REDACTED];
[REDACTED] and
Paul A.Swinnerton of [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]