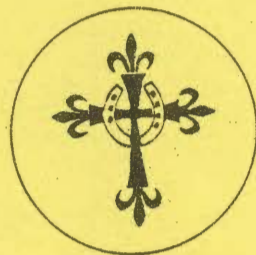


SWINNERTON

Family History



Charles Swinnerton
1813–1907

THE JOURNAL OF THE SWINNERTON SOCIETY

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SWINNERTON FAMILY HISTORY

Volume 8 No.3

September 1990

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Editor:Iain Spencer Swynnerton

Charles was born on the 19th October 1813 in Liverpool, the fifth son (out of a total of 6 sons and 2 daughters) of Joseph Swinnerton and Hannah, nee Dodd. Joseph had been born in Betley and was the Master of the Charity School there for a time. Subsequently, however, he appears to have moved around the country a good deal as he had children born in Chester, London and Newcastle-under-Lyme before finally settling in Liverpool about 1800.

As a small boy, Charles witnessed the first steam boat to sail in the Mersey and the first railway train between Liverpool and Manchester. He learned the trade of stonemason and in his mid-teens travelled to London to work with the intention of proceeding to Rome to improve himself as a sculptor. However, this was not to be and instead he crossed the Irish Sea to the Isle of Man where he was to work initially at dressing the stone being used in the building of King William's College (1830-33). The crossing to Douglas took 2 weeks due to headwinds and heavy seas, a journey that today takes just a few hours!

He took lodgings in Castletown, where the College was being built, and there met Mary Callister or Collister - it has been spelt both ways - of a family who were resident in Cronk Renny, Castletown. She kept a small school near the country hamlet of St Marks. They married on the 13th August 1834 in St. Mary's, Castletown but subsequently moved to Douglas where he took up employment with Messrs. W. & R. Quiggin - timber, slate and general merchants. Mary is listed in the 1846 Directory of Douglas as a Staymaker. Their home at 60 Fort Street is listed in the 1847 Directory as a boarding house.

Charles's talent was soon recognised by the general public; firstly for a Grecian Urn carved on a local tomb and later, a bust of one of his children carved in stone "direct from nature".

By 1843 he had entered into partnership with Daniel Creer, a fellow stonecutter, with whom he purchased several building plots and erected terraced houses in the developing town. However the partnership did not last, by 1843 it had been dissolved and they had gone their separate ways. Charles moved to Fort Street where his wife advertised "Desirable Lodgings". His stone yard, in which he employed 2 stonecutters and 5 labourers, was immediately opposite the house and backed directly onto the shore. Years later his eldest son Mark recalled how his father had tried to raise a pig in the yard. The pig was very fond of seaweed but never grew any bigger than a 'good sized tom cat'!

Charles was a man of many parts: he was the maker of the first steam engine ever made in the Isle of Man which drew crowds of country people to his house after Market on Saturdays. He took a great interest in things antiquarian and due to his initiative, several runic crosses and other historic objects were collected for the local museum.

One of his most ingenious works was a beautifully sculptured sundial enriched by Gothic ornamentation, a figure of Old Father Time and several grotesque heads: the unique feature was that it had sixteen dials each giving a different time for a different place in the world. One account says that the heads were all of different races of people and when the shadow of the hand fell on a certain head eg a Chinaman or an Egyptian it told the time in that land. This article, apparently appeared in America and was entitled "Famous Sundials of the World". A Mr Joe Cannell of Cleveland showed it to Charles's grand-daughter Florence: the article said that the sundial had been in the nunnery grounds for many years and was then taken to a boy's school where it had been defaced. It was traced from there to a private estate in England but had since disappeared entirely. The calculations were all undertaken entirely by Charles. The President of the Society, Sir Roger Swynnerton, a great-grandson of Charles, possesses a book in manuscript form entitled

"Problems in Dialing - As Worked Out and Figured by Charles Swinnerton", Douglas 1840. The book was bound in Sienna by the Reverend Charles Swynnerton to whom it was given by his father in 1905.

The mainstay of Charles's business was monumental carving, which ranged from very straightforward headstones to the best examples to be found on the Island. His ecclesiastical work included gargoyles, angels, pulpits, fonts and reredos. Charles worshipped at St. Thomas's in Douglas and when in 1875 they decided to erect a school, he entered the open competition for the design of the building. His plan won first prize but he offered his services as architect free of charge. He also undertook some carving on the building and, at the foundation stone laying ceremony, the vicar's wife who performed the ceremony was presented with an engraved silver trowel which had been made and supplied by Robert Swinnerton, Charles's 28 year old son who was a watchmaker and jeweller.

Amongst other work he carried out was the pulpit back of the altar wall in the chapel at Bishop's Court and a reredos of Caen stone in St. Thomas's Church, Douglas. This has since been replaced by a wooden one but pieces of the original can be seen in the Castle Rusben Museum.

Charles took an active part in the affairs of the town of Douglas having been elected to the Town Commissioners or Council in May 1867. He topped the poll of 6 candidates with 124 votes, the last candidate gaining only 10. He retired from business in 1882 at the age of 69 and realised his life-long ambition to go to Rome where he spent 9 weeks out of his 3 months visit to Italy.

In 1890 he had a house-cum-studio built at Gansey in the south of the Island which was also used occasionally by his sons Joseph, the internationally known sculptor and Frederick, the artist.

Charles died on the evening of St. George's Day 1907 at the grand age of 93 years, 6 months and 4 days, not

previously having shown any signs of illness. He was buried in St. Peter's Churchyard, Onchan which is near Douglas where his wife had been laid to rest 33 years before on the 1st January 1874.

He had, in fact, carved the plain headstone for this family grave himself and included his own name and the numbers 18... intending the mason to put in the last 2 numbers of the year he died. He had obviously never visualised that he would live on into the 20th century and so, after the funeral, the whole reference to the date had to be carved out by cutting a recessed panel and a new date was then carved into it.

Charles and his wife are further commemorated in St. Matthew's Church which is only a few yards away from their first home on the quayside at Douglas. The memorial, which was provided by their son the Reverend Charles Swynnerton, is a stained glass window depicting St. Matthew and is a very fitting memorial to a man who spent a lifetime creating memorials to others.

The Manx Quarterly reported that he was a commercial success and a 'gentleman with a delightful manner'. According to family notes, his retirement home on the shore at Port St. Mary was very beautiful and had superb views of the sea and rocks and headlands all around, which was a definite encouragement to his artistic children. His grandchildren Godfrey and Frances said he never really got over the death of his wife Mary despite having outlived her by so long. She was described as being tall and slender but very soft and gentle. She was a very well educated person and a great reader but was a semi-invalid for years before she died. Another granddaughter, Florence, describes how she used to go to the churchyard at Onchan with her grandfather to visit her grandma's grave; it had a high ornamental black iron fence around it which was always covered with delicate pink and mauve blossoms which were very fragrant.

(From the original article by Richard Kelly and additional notes by Douglas Swinnerton, another of Charles's great Grandsons.)

William, of Betley, son of Hannah, dau. of Joseph Hilditch, of Betley; baptised at Betley, 21 February, 1741; m. William Swinerton, at Betley, 27 May, 1763; died at Betley, 20 March, 1788.

John Swinerton, son of William and Hannah; born at Betsey, 7 May, 1773; died at Betsey, 80 July, 1770; died at Betsey, 7 March, 1797, leaving issue.	William, born at Betsey, 7 May, 1773; died at Betsey, 4 12 October, 1839, leaving issue.	Elph, born at Betsey, 3 December, 1773; died at Betsey, 8 July, 1838, leaving issue. James and William.	Joseph, of Chester; born at Betsey, 6 March, 1777; died at Liverpool, 23 July, 1806.	<p>1. Ann, wife of Hugh Court, of Betsey.</p> <p>2. Mary, wife of William Hodgkins, of Craddock's Moss.</p> <p>3. Lydia, wife of William Plant, of Stockport.</p> <p>4. Sarah.</p> <p>5. Elizabeth, twin with John.</p> <p>6. Hannah, wife of Rev. W. Evans, of Stoke.</p>
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William Swinerton, son of Joseph and Hannah; born at Chester, 11 Feb., 1798; died at Liverpool, 26 January, 1861, leaving issue.	John, born at Newcastle, 27 London, 27 July, 1802, leaving issue.	Joseph, born in Newcastle, 23 Stafford, 22 August, 1810.	Daniel, born at Newcastle, 23 Stafford, 22 August, 1810.	Charles, of Doncaster, Calistote, of Castle-town, baptized at Malver, 25 July, 1809; died at Doncaster, 1 January, 1874.	1. Mary, wife of John Machin.	2. Ann, wife of John Cutt.
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Mart Swinerton, of Swinerton, one of the United States, eldest son of Charles and Mary, m. Sarah Garrett of Glenwood, Iowa, U.S., and has issue, Charles, Mary, and Sarah.
Charles Swinerton, dau. of Major H. W. Massey, m. Olivia, dan. of Henry Sydenham, Esq., of Edinburgh.
Robert, in business; m. Olivia, dan. of Henry Sydenham, Esq., of Edinburgh.
Joseph Willard, sculptor of Boston, m. Annie Robinson, of Manchester, Atle.
Godfrey Lloyd, Merchant Seaman, vice.
Frederick, Artist, of Rome.
Katherine Margaret, m. Robert Platt, Blakeley Esq., of Manchester, and has issue, Charles Swinerton, Blakeley, d. 13 Nov., 1870; Gertrude Mona, b. 25 Nov., 1866; Katherine Swinerton, b. 6 July, 1868; **Edith Mary Platt**, b. 8 July, 1870.

<p> James Francis Messy Syn- neron, born at Folkestone, 3 Dec. 1877. </p>	<p> William Henry, born and died at Abbot- bed, 14 Feb., 1880. </p>	<p> 1. Alice Maud Messy, born at Puslawa, Ceylon, 2 Sept. 1875 ; d., same place, 7 March 1878. </p>	<p> Charles Mart, born at Douglas 10 April, 1875. </p>	<p> Robert Henry, b. 17 Sept., 1878. </p>	<p> Godfrey Joseph, b. 1886. </p>	<p> 1. Frances Amelia, b. 18 Oct., 1872. 2. Olivia Mary, b. 6 April, 1878. 3. Frances Gertrude. </p>
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Godfrey
Lloyd, Mer-
chant Ser-
vicer, of
London.

and, dau. of
Major H.
W. May,
of Rome,
co. Tippec-
any, Ind at
Muscorie.

Charles Swinerton, of the United States, eldest son of Charles and Mary, n. Sarah Garrett of Glenwood, Iowa, U.S., and has issue, Charles, Mary, and Sarah.

Katherine Margaret, m. Robert Platt, Blakeley Esq., of Manchester and has issue, Charles Swinnerton Blakeley, b. 12 Nov., 1870; Gertrude Mona, b. 25 Nov., 1886; Katherine Swinnerton, b. 6 July, 1868; Edith Mary Platt, b. 8 July, 1874; Maud Giuseppina, b. 9 October, 1878.

Godfrey	1. Frances Amelia, b. 18 Oct., 1872.
Robert Henry, Joseph, b. 17 Sept., 1876.	2. Olivia Mary, b. 6 April, 1878.
	3. Florence Gertrude.

Charles Mark,
born at
Douglas, 10
April, 1873.

e Maud Massey, born at
 sawa, Ceylon, 2 Sept., 1876;
 same place, 7 March, 1876.
 trude Mary Massey, born at
 Coorie, 18 Sept., 1882.

1. Alice Maud Maesy, born Pusilawa, Caylon, 2 Sept., 1887, same place, 7 March, 1888.
2. Gertrude Mary Maesy, born Muscoria, 18 Sept., 1888.

Charles Francis Massy Swyn- erton, born at Folkestone, 9 Dec 1877	William born at A bad, 1 1890.
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EARLY HISTORY

Hilton Hall lies in the north west corner of the industrial Midlands. Both the M6 and M54 motorways carve through its former parkland. Today it is only two hours by train from London, but Hilton was once hidden deep in woodlands, uncomfortably close to the troubled Welsh borderlands, and a three-day journey to the capital city. To the north east stretched the hunting forest of Cannock. Within eight miles westward were Moseley Old Hall and Boscobel with its legendary oak tree, where the young Charles II hid in 1651 after his defeat at Worcester.

Hilton is half-way between the villages of Essington and Shareshill, and is not a Parish in its own right. The inhabitants of Hilton were baptised, married and buried in the chapel at Shareshill.

Earthworks in the vicinity suggest that there had been a settlement at Hilton since earliest times. But it has never comprised more than a manor house and parkland, two or three farms and a handful of related cottages.

FIRST RECORDS

The first official mention of Hilton occurs before the Norman Conquest. When Lady Wulfruna founded a monastery nearby at Hampton - hence the name Wolverhampton - Hilton was one of the townships she gave to the monks.

Nearly a hundred years later, in 1086, the Domesday Survey recorded that the canons of Hampton held 'two hides' of land in 'Haltone'.

THE MIDDLE AGES

Early in the 14th century the manor of Hilton was granted to **Sir John Swinnerton**. It then descended in the Swinnerton family for more than two hundred years, until a daughter Margaret, married Henry Vernon of Sudbury, Derbyshire in 1547

HILTON HALL (contd)

The manor house the Vernons thus acquired was almost certainly typical of the moated homesteads that proliferated in this part of the country.

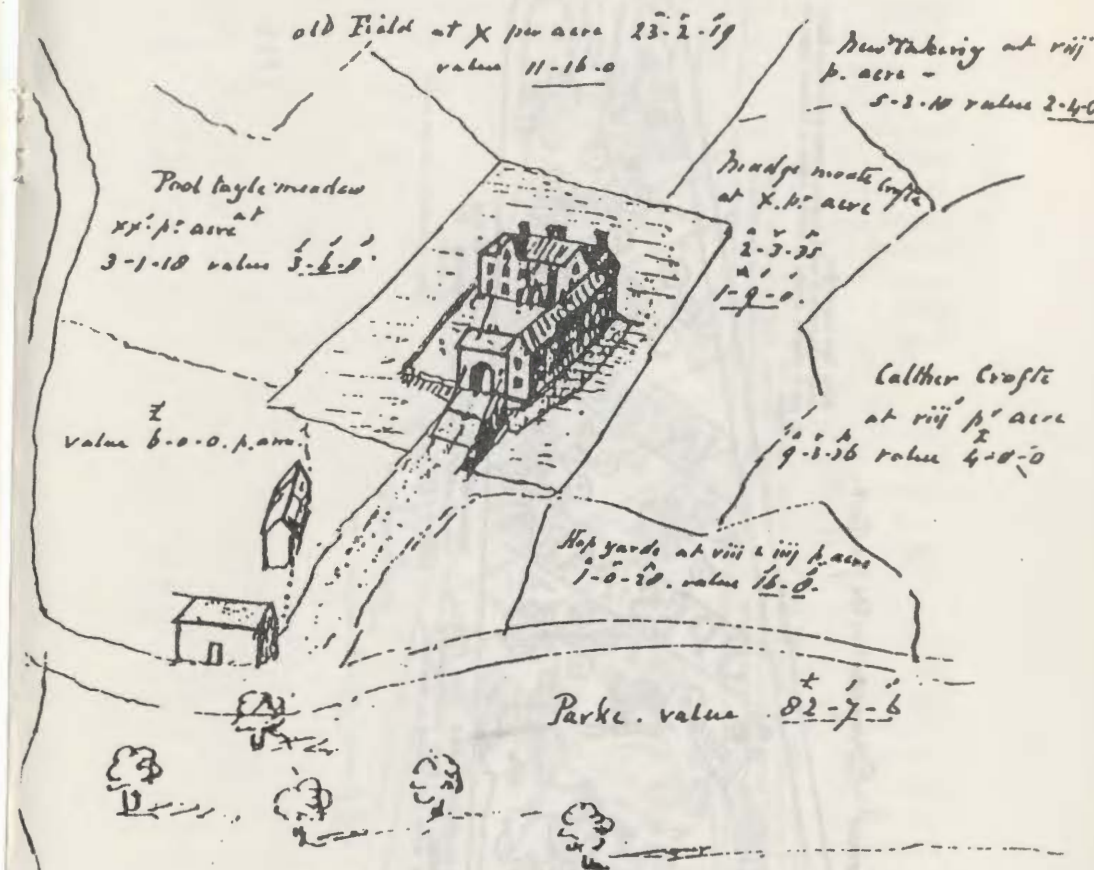
The moat was rectangular and man-made. Within it would have been a courtyard enclosed by a wall. In one corner stood the original Swinnerton house, including a square stone tower with thick buttressed walls and a central core of chimney stacks from the kitchen at ground level going up through one or two floors of living quarters above. To the west of the tower there was a gabled wing - probably also in stone, but perhaps with parts half-timbered - providing a two-storey high great hall, possibly with private parlours on a couple of floors beyond.

There would always have been outbuildings within the moat, for stabling, storage and the like. A long two-storey range with mullioned windows, backing on to the water and forming the east side of the courtyard, appears to have dated from the early 17th century. This survived into the nineteenth century.

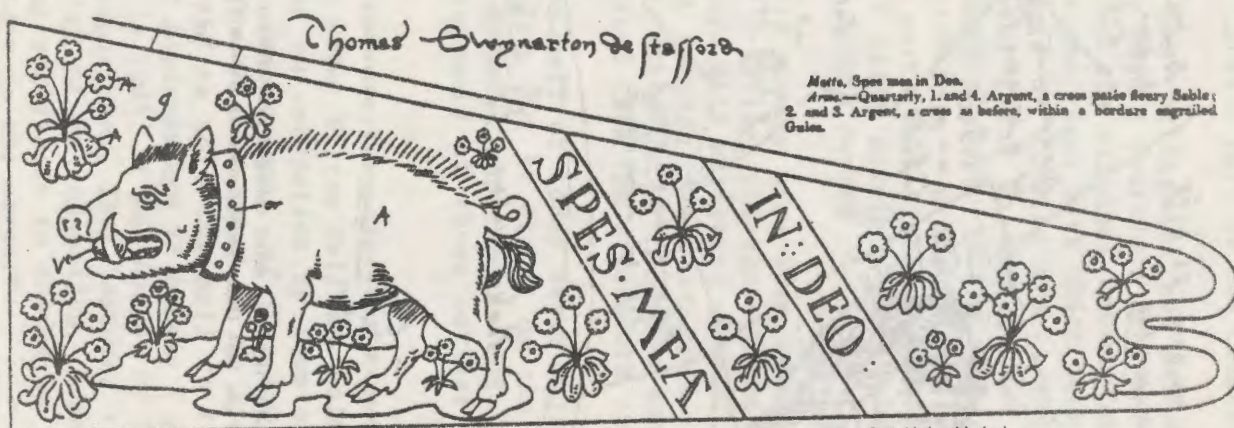
The Hilton Hall of today dates mainly from the early 18th century, but it stands on the site of the Swinnerton's medieval manor house and incorporated within it are fragments of those earlier walls and foundations.

Editor's Note: Hilton Hall was sold by the Vernons in 1956 after an occupation by them and their predecessors, the Swinnertons, of just over 600 years. For a short while it was owned by Mr Pickard from Pelsall but in 1958 he sold the hall to the Sisters of St. Joseph of Bordeaux and it became a guest house for the elderly. In 1985, it was bought by Tarmac PLC as their group headquarters. They restored it beautifully and, not knowing of my connection, I was retained by the consulting architects to advise on the restoration of the heraldry in the house!"

HILTON HALL



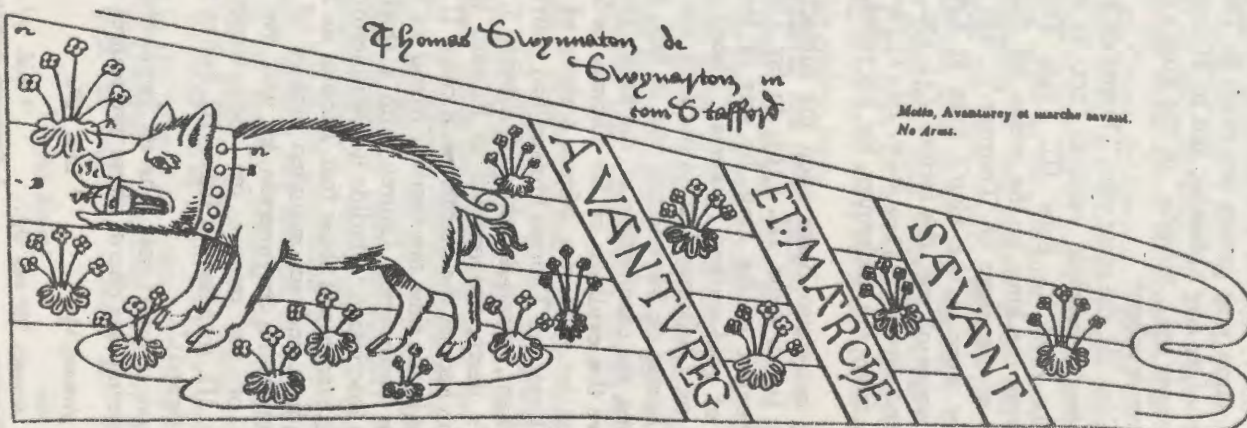
THE EARLY MOATED MANOR HOUSE - detail enlarged from William Frederick Vernon's copy of the 1651 Hilton survey made by William Fowler.



THOMAS SWYNARTON, of Stafford. Red. (The cross of St. George); on a green mount sprinkled with daisies, a white boar having a blue collar,

thereon six golden roundels. Sprinkled with (14) tufts of white daisies; 12 only in engraving. See also p. 151.

Motto. Spes mea in Deo.
Arms.—Quarterly, 1. and 4. Argent, a cross patée Sable; 2. and 3. Argent, a cross as before, within a bordure engrailed Gules.



THOMAS SWYNARTON DE SWYNARTON in com. Stafford. Four stripes alternately yellow and blue. (The cross of St. George); on a green mount, sprinkled with tufts of daisies, a white boar, his

collar of blue with golden roundels, in his mouth a green apple. Sprinkled with (16) tufts of white daisies. See also p. 242.

Motto. Aventuroy et marche savant.
No Arms.

161d.

Roger died in 1338, just after his elevation to the rank of baron, and in the same year grants are made to Thomas de Swynnerton, *knight of the king's chamber*, and to Humphrey de Swynnerton (a younger son), 'scutifer' of the king's chamber, for winter and summer robes.¹

At Easter 12 Edw. III. the same year, Thomas de Swynnerton, *knight of the king's household*, receives £200 as wages of war.² Also, on 24 June, 14 Edw. III. 1340, Thomas de Swynnerton was with the king in the action off Sluys, and immediately after at the siege of Tournay.³ He and his brother Humphrey were in the king's train at Crecy, and received for their wages of war, the former £31 17s., and the latter £6 8s. 6d., and again in 33-4 Edw. III. 1359-60, as a *knight of the king*, from the exchequer, for his robes, he had 106s. 8d.⁴

The following entry also bears upon the subject, and is besides curious: In 27 Edw. III. 1353, to Sir Thomas de Swynnerton of the gift of the king, by way of fee, of the cost of one cloth of gold-worked 'rakemat' placed over the head of the king on Christmas Day in the 27th year (of the reign)—100s. Thomas de Swynnerton was, in fact, as Canon Bridgeman observes, the chamberlain of the king's court.⁵

Lastly, we have the evidence of Sir Thomas de Swynnerton's marriage, for his wife was Maud, a sister of Thomas Holand, Earl of Kent, and Thomas Holand had married Joan, the 'fair maid of Kent,' grand-daughter of Edward I. who, on Thomas Holand's death, was married to Edward the Black Prince, and by him became the mother of Richard II.⁶ Dugdale mentions that in his time the tomb of Maud de Swynnerton still existed in Swynnerton Church, with a shield of the Holands, and the inscription 'Matilda de Swynnerton.'

The following extract will show that Thomas de Swynnerton had five esquires and six mounted archers of his own retinue: To Thomas de Swynnerton kt. and five esquires and six archers of his retinue, for their wages of war, October, 33 Edw. III. to May, 34 Edw. III. (when the peace of Bretigny was signed).⁷

It would be rash to assert that John de Swynnerton whose case we are considering was one of these five esquires; but it is

¹ *Exchequer Accounts*, 242.

² *Ibid.* 243.

³ *Staff. Coll.* viii.

⁴ *Exchequer Accounts*, 243 and 244.

⁵ *Ibid.* 243.

⁶ *Heralds' Visitations*.

⁷ *Exchequer Accounts*, 244.

curious that he and Thomas de Swynnerton died about the same time, the latter apparently in France.

At Easter, 36 Edw. III. 1362, to the *executors* of Thomas de Swynnerton in part payment of his wages of war, his reward, and for the *re-passage* of his horses—£66 13s. 4d.¹

According to Canon Bridgeman, Thomas de Swynnerton died in December, 1361, and as we have seen John must have died in the spring or summer of 1362, perhaps earlier. What did they die of? Not in war, because there was then peace. The second visitation of the plague broke out in August, 1361, and raged till May, 1362. Robert de Swynnerton, lord of Swynnerton, died in the first visitation of 1349, and it is more than likely that both Thomas and John perished in the second. That John de Swynnerton died on service is certain, because, as we have seen, the king continued his grant of Sellyng to his widow Joan.

Enough however has been quoted to show the position held by the Swynnertons in the time of Edward II. and III., and to explain the reason of the exemption of all of that name from the subsidies levied in those two reigns.

It is certain then that John de Swynnerton was nearly related to Sir Roger de Swynnerton. It will not be so easy to discover the degree of that relationship, though we may do so approximately.

We may take it for granted that John de Swynnerton, the squire of 1345, was not of an earlier generation than Sir Roger de Swynnerton himself. That was the generation which saw personal names pass from the fluid and fluctuating state engendered by manifold manorial possession to become fixed and regular surnames. No longer merely local or residential, no longer fluctuating designations, they became constant quantities—unchanging patronymics in the sense of being generic. Thus in the generation preceding names are still in confusion, without any method or order, and, as examples, Stephen de Isewall, Nicolas de Aspley, John de Sugnall, Richard de Peshall, Richard de Chell, are all really Swynnertons. Even so late as 1336 John de Swynnerton of Isewall appears in the records as John 'de Isewelle,' or 'de Iselewelle,' or 'de Uselwall.' Speaking generally however the change set in with the reign of Edward II. The capital

¹ *Pell. Issues*.

manor gave the fixed surname to the various scattered members of the family not already differentiated whatever their holdings might be; and so, whereas Roger de Swynnerton's uncle is oftener called 'de Uselwall' than 'de Swynnerton,' his brothers are always 'de Swynnerton.' 'John de Swynnerton's' place therefore will be found in the generation of Roger de Swynnerton, or in the generation of Roger de Swynnerton's sons. Let us examine both.

Roger de Swynnerton's brothers were:—

1. Sir John de Swynnerton of Hilton, kt., who died in 1340, and could not possibly have been the John whose origin we are now considering.
2. Richard de Swynnerton, a man-at-arms in the retinue of Roger de Somery at Crecy and Calais, who was living in 1350.
3. Nicolas de Swynnerton, a priest.
4. Stephen de Swynnerton, to whom the king gave the manor of Morton in co. Dumfries, and who seems then to have left Staffordshire.
5. Another John who was a monk of Westminster.¹

Of the same generation as Roger de Swynnerton was his first cousin, John de Swynnerton of Isewall, but he died in 1337. The other Swynnertons of that generation appear to have been distinguished by purely local names.

We now come to the next generation. The line of John de Swynnerton of Isewall may be passed over, as, from the fact of his paternal inheritance going to Sir Roger de Swynnerton at his death in 1337, he would appear to have left no issue. John de Swynnerton of Hilton had a son John, but he accompanied the king to Flanders in 1345, at the very time the other John de Swynnerton was with James de Audley in Gascony, and besides his death occurred in 1380, not in 1362. Richard de Swynnerton had a son 'Thomas son of Richard de Swynnerton,' to whom he transferred all his property in Chorlton and Whitmore, and who sold or bequeathed it to Thomas son of Elias del Wode and Elianor his wife, daughter of Richard de Hatton, in 1368, but there is no evi-

¹ Bridgeman gives also an 'Alexander de Swynnerton.' There was no Alexander de Swynnerton. He was merely the bailiff 'de Swynnerton' (Ancient Petitions, No. 7,812, Record Office).

dence that Richard had other sons. If Stephen de Swynnerton had sons they are not recorded.²

We are thus reduced to the male issue of Sir Roger de Swynnerton himself, and his sons as at present known were—

1. Sir Roger de Swynnerton, eldest son, kt., who died v.p. and s.p.
2. Robert de Swynnerton, a priest, lord of Swynnerton, who died of the plague in 1349.
3. Sir Thomas de Swynnerton, kt., lord of Swynnerton, who died in (December) 1361, probably also of the plague.
4. Richard de Swynnerton, a priest.
5. Humphrey de Swynnerton of Isewall, squire of the chamber to Edward III., ancestor of the later Swynnertons of Isewall.³

Now in this list what strikes us most is the absence of any John. For (1) the original founder of the house was a John; (2) Roger's great-uncle who conferred Swynnerton on his father was a John—Sir John de Swynnerton, kt., who died in 1284; (3) his uncle of Isewall, and his father's companion in arms on many a hard-fought field, was also a John; and (4) his next younger brother of Hilton, the seneschal of Cannock Forest and the king's deputy warden of the forests this side Trent, was also named John. Evidently then in the list of Sir Roger's sons there is a John missing. In my opinion the missing John is found in 'John de Swynnerton,' who went with James de Audley to Gascony in 1345, on whom the king conferred for a term of years the manor of Sellyng for his good services, and who died, apparently of the plague, early in 1362, leaving a widow, Joan, to whom the king's grant was confirmed. He was evidently an enterprising character like Sir Roger himself, and the evidence of the *Army Miscellanea* of 1345 proves that his holding was under the Earl of Lancaster, close to Swynnerton, somewhere in the Liberty of Newcastle, apparently at Butterton, certainly in the demesne of Whitmore, which was part of the manor of Knutton, which was a member of the earl's Liberty of Newcastle-under-Lyme.

That the Audleys were mesne lords of the manor of Knutton, of which Whitmore was only a member,³ may be seen

¹ *Staff. Coll.* vii. pt. 1.

² *Ibid.*

³ I have an original deed, circa 1225, in which John son of Ralph de

in the suit of King Edward I. against Thomas le Forester for four bovates of land in Knutton, and against John de Knutton, for three bovates of land in the same vill. The defendants called to warranty William Russel, who appeared and warranted the tenements to them; and William Russel called NICHOLAS DE ALDYTHELEGH (Audley), then head of the house, to warranty for all the land claimed by the king (which was in fact the whole manor), and Nicholas warranted it to him, and appealed to a Great Assize, which found in his favour.¹

But besides all this the Audleys had long before obtained a grant of rents of Assize in the Liberty of Newcastle, which made them the virtual landlords of the local tenants of the duchy.²

There remains one more point of singular interest bearing on the problem of the identity of this John de Swynnerton.

It was a custom in the palmy days of armory for great captains to confer on their most distinguished followers the right of bearing some modification of their own arms, an honour which would correspond with the V.C. or the K.C.B. of modern times. In accordance with this custom, James de Audley is said to have conferred on the four Staffordshire squires whom he is said to have selected to stand by him throughout the battle of Poitiers, an augmentation of gules fretty gold, then the distinguishing arms of the house of Audley. According to Ashmole, their names were Dutton of Dutton, Delves of Doddington, Fowleshurst of Crewe and Hawkestone of Wrinehill; but there is reason for supposing that Ashmole is only approximately right, for Dutton and Delves, to begin with, were Staffordshire men of Maer and Whitmore respectively. Be that as it may, Froissart particularly refers to these men, but unfortunately he neither gives their names nor mentions the grant of arms. A precisely similar grant however must have been made to another squire of James Audley, to a member of the family of Swynnerton, and the heraldic evidence is so striking that it is difficult to resist the conclusion that all five grants were made, if not at the same time, at any rate by the same leader, and during the progress of the same war. Any one who will compare the

Cnotton confirms to Ralph son of John de Wytemore lands in Whitmore granted by his father to John de Wytemore's father.

¹ *Quo Warrants Pleas*, 31 Edw. I. 1292.

² *Inquisitions*, temp. Hen. III. Stafford Library.

various coats of these five squires with each other, and then with the arms of the Audleys themselves, will understand how strong, not to say irresistible, the evidence is. I therefore give here the whole six coats, beginning with that of James de Audley himself:—

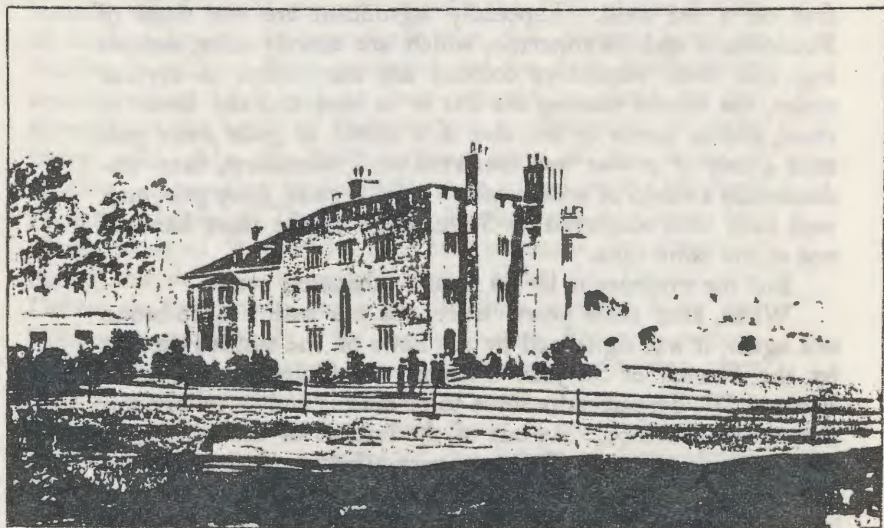
1. AUDLEY. Gules fretty gold.
2. FOULESHURST. Gules fretty gold with a chief ermine.
3. SWYNNERTON. Ermine a chief gules fretty gold.
4. HAWKESTONE. Ermine a fesse gules fretty gold.
5. DUTTON. Quarterly silver and gules, the gules fretty gold.
6. DELVES. Silver a cheveron gules fretty gold between three delves sable.

A glance at these various coats suggests a very obvious inference, which is that, while the four squires immortalized by Froissart, whichever of these they were, acted as James de Audley's bodyguard at Poitiers, a fifth squire had so distinguished himself, there or elsewhere, as to merit a similar mark of honour. All bear the golden fret, and all display the fret on a red field. Especially significant are the coats of Fowleshurst and Swynnerton, which are exactly alike, excepting that their respective colours are marshalled in reverse order, the former bearing the fret *or* in base and the latter in chief, and it seems to me that if a shield of *gules fretty gold with a chief of ermine* was conferred on Fowleshurst, then undoubtedly a shield of *ermine with a chief of gules, fretty gold*, may well have been conferred on Swynnerton by the same hand, if not at the same time.

But the evidence is by no means exhausted yet.

When, after three years' truce, the war with France broke out again, it was signalized by the news of the sudden capture by the French of St. Jean d'Angely in Guienne. At once Edward III. despatched a force to re-take it and to relieve the threatened province. As one of the leaders of the first draft of 300 men-at-arms, Froissart particularly mentions James d'Audley. The draft however was so hurried off that no Letters of Protection for any of those composing it appear on the French or Gascon Rolls. Still it is on record that, on the arrival of the news, James Lord Audley, Ralph Lord Stafford and John de Sutton Lord Dudley of co. Stafford, forming part of the relieving force, with twelve other barons, received writs of urgency to hasten to Westminster, on the morrow of the close of Easter, to advise the king respecting the safety and defence of the kingdom. Dated 20 March.¹

BUTTERTON HALL



The old Butters Hall, Staffordshire, built about 1560 by William Swinnerton (b.c.1538, d.1629). It was demolished about 1730 when his gt-gt-gt-gt-gt-grandson decided to build a new house. All that now remains of the old Tudor mansion is one corner of an outside wall which, up to a few years ago, could still be found hidden in a small copse.

MISCELLANEOUS

SHROPSHIRE QUARTER SESSIONS ROLLS

October 1831. Ref No.QR329

John Swinnerton, labourer of Oldbury (nr. Bridgnorth) enters into a Recognisance.

This John appears several times in the Rolls, what he had been up to I do not yet know but I will find out!
(ex Tony Rydings who is computer-indexing the Rolls)

* * * * *

1881 CENSUS

HANDSWORTH, 62 Birmingham Road, Perry Bar

Sarah Swinnerton Unm. 18 Domestic Svnt. b.W.Bromwich

HANDSWORTH, Stone Quarry House, Perry Bar

John Swinnerton	Hd Wdr	58	Quarryman	b.Staffs	Sheton?
Joseph -do-	Son M	31	-do-	b.Staffs	Tipton
Sarah -do-	Son's wife	24		-do-	Tipton
John -do-	Grandson	3		-do-	Perry Bar
Francis -do-	Grandson	1		-do-	Perry Bar
Margaret Fellows	Wid	58	Housekeeper	-do-	Tipton
John White	Nephew	9	Scholar		Yorks

(These are entries passed to me by various people who are amongst the thousands country-wide who are working on a total transcription of the 1881 Census)

* * * * *

MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS from WESTERFIELD, Suffolk SWINNERTON

Charles Edward	b.29Jul1882	Bur.22Feb1951	No.265
Rector of this parish 1948-51			
Grace (nee Dover)	b.3Jun1893	Bur 8May1982	-do-
husband & wife		(ex Mrs Pamela Palgrave)	

FAMILY NOTES

We were very sorry indeed to hear of the death of our member Dr. Brian Swynnerton FRCP. on the 26th July aged 72. He was our President's youngest brother and we send our very sincere sympathy to his family.

* * * * *

Change of Address.

Mrs Diana Cunningham to [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

* * * * *

Can anyone tell me where our member H.J. (John) Swynnerton of Offley Brook, near Eccleshall has moved to? His last journal was returned marked 'Gone away'.

* * * * *

NEWS FROM St.MARY'S, SWYNNERTON

There is very good news from the Stonework Restoration Fund. The total raised by the Flower Festival at the last count was £1931 and, subject to English Heritage providing the grants it has promised, the parish are now pretty confident that the required £80,000 will be realised by the end of the year. This includes monies promised and covenanted and I think it is an excellent achievement. Thank You to all of you who contributed.

The latest fundraiser which was launched at the Flower Festival is a very attractive book called "*A Taste of the Countryside - Recipes from Swynnerton*". It is a most attractive book, nicely printed and illustrated containing some 46 recipes including one mistakenly attributed to me but which was actually submitted by Angela! They are available for £3.50 from Mrs Eryl (yes it is Eryl, I have not missed off a B) Onions, [REDACTED]

They would make a very nice Christmas Present.

THE SWYNNERTON SOCIETY

was founded in 1973 as a non-profit making organisation devoted to the research and publication of Swynnerton Family Records and the support and welfare of St. Mary's Church, Swynnerton, Staffordshire.

Research into the family history had been started in the 1870s by the Reverend Charles Swynnerton FSA. Over the course of the years he wrote a number of articles and papers about the family and gathered together many Swynntons from all over the world.

Interest in the family history became dormant after his death in 1928. The present Archivist resumed research into the family records in 1952 and founded the Society in 1973. Today it has a world-wide membership and holds a 'Gathering' at Swynnerton every 3 years. It is registered as a Charity No. 518184.