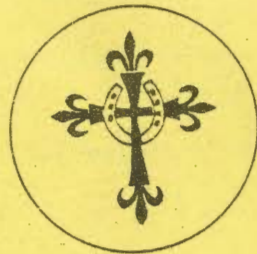


SWINNERTON

Family History



John Walter Swinnerton MBE.TD.BSc(Econ)

1916 – 1991

THE JOURNAL OF THE SWINNERTON SOCIETY

VOLUME 8 No.7

SEPTEMBER 1991

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SWINNERTON FAMILY HISTORY

VOLUME 8 No.7

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Editor:Iain Spencer Swinnerton

This is by way of being an Australian Issue. After my recent trip the family in the Antipodes is fresh in my mind and so I thought I would devote most of this issue to them. There are 3 distinct families in Australia the newest of which I dealt with in the June issue. There is now more information about this as you will see.

The first man to emigrate to Australia appears to have been *JOHN SWINNERTON* who was baptised at Astley, Shropshire, on the 11 October 1829. He married, as his second wife, (I have not so far been able to identify his first wife) Eliza Round at Wellington in 1854. Their first child, *George Elias Swinnerton* was born in the same year at Broseley as were the next 6 children but the last two were born at Madeley (Shropshire). However, the child who we are concerned with here was his second son *ALFRED JOHN SWINNERTON* who, although born at Broseley in 1856, was not baptised until he was 20 years old. The significant fact was that the baptism took place at PLYMOUTH presumably while the family were awaiting passage to Australia. The entry in the register of Holy Trinity Church, Plymouth says *Alfred John, son of John and Elerner (sic) Swinnerton of the Emigrant Depot, (born 30 August 1856)*. The father's occupation is given as a Dye Moulder. So - we may safely assume that they emigrated shortly afterwards. John died in Australia in 1910. I do wonder why only Alfred was baptised. Had all the others been 'done' in Shropshire but he had been overlooked and they wanted to make sure before what was then a very long and arduous journey?

It was Alfred who was one of the pioneers of Australian Motoring and who produced the "Swinnerton" which is listed in the Roll of the Vintage Cars of Australia.

John's great-granddaughter is Marjorie Sybil Swinnerton, known to us, of course, as *Mrs Marjorie Nightingale*, who has helped the society so much over the years by distributing, at her own expense, this Journal which I send to her in bulk. Her brother, Tesla John Swinnerton, and daughter, Glenda Hooper, are also members of the society as is Mr Stephen Pain, also of this branch. Marjorie and Tesla's elder brother, Mark Alfred, has produced 2 sons of whom the second, Gregory, has also produced two sons so again, the line is assured for some time to come. A younger brother of Alfred, Louis Osborne Swinnerton, also had sons but we know very little about them at the moment and there are a lot of loose ends to tie up there.

The next branch out there stems from *JAMES HENRY SWINNERTON* of the Yew Tree Branch who was born at Stafford on the 16th of May 1857. He emigrated to Australia about 1882 and died in Melbourne on the 1st of November 1923. He was a printer like his great-uncle and namesake who had been the proprietor of the Macclesfield Courier.

A curious little sideline is that the Yew Tree Branch produced 3 generations of Mayors. *THOMAS (1719-1796)* had been Mayor of Newcastle-under-Lyme in 1756; his third son *JOHN (1766-1819)* was also Mayor of Newcastle in 1804 and his nephew *JAMES (1799-1881)* mentioned above was Mayor of Macclesfield in 1846.

James Henry established a printing works in Australia which was continued by one of his sons but not thereafter. James's first two sons were born in Manchester: *James Agnew* (Agnew was his mother's maiden name) in 1879 and *William Henry* in 1881 but his other children were born in Australia - *Florence Elizabeth* in 1884, *Arthur James* in 1891 and *Lily Mary* in 1894.

The Grandson of James Henry, the emigrant, is our member *WILLIAM JAMES (Bill) SWINNERTON* who, as the descendant in the male line of the Yew Tree Branch (which is the senior surviving branch), is the present head of the Swinnerton Family. Fortunately, Bill has two sons Gerald and John who, in turn, have both produced sons so the succession is secure for the foreseeable future.

The relevant portion of the Yew Tree Branch is detailed later in this journal, there are still a lot of loose ends to tie up. For instance, why did the Rev. Charles say that James Henry's older brother William Thomas was born in Australia in 1852 when we have no evidence that his father ever went out there? Also, Charles said that William Thomas had an uncle James who was "drowned when a boy in Australia". These are mysteries that I hope to be able to clear up and also find out whether there are any descendants of all the others mentioned on this tree.

Until Bill Swinnerton visited me in this country in 1985, he had no idea where his grandfather had come from and I had no idea what had happened to the James Henry Swinnerton who the Reverend Charles just listed as having been born at Stafford in 1857. .

As I mentioned in the last issue, we now have money available in Australia for research, the purchase of certificates etc. which should help us to clear up all these little mysteries and anomalies and I shall be putting this to good use very shortly.

The third branch in Australia stems from *FRED SWINNERTON* (for so his birth was registered but he was also sometimes known as Frederick Percival) of the senior sub-branch of the Betley family. He was born on the 27th of October 1882 at Coleshill, Warwickshire, the 5th son of Walter Swinnerton and Emma (née Cattell). He married twice, firstly, in this country, Hannah Linton on the 22nd of October 1904 at Ashton-under-Lyme by whom he had one son also registered as *FRED* but sometimes known as Frederick or Frederick Pilkington Swinnerton.

He appears to have left England in 1912 and on the way out to Australia met his second wife Rose Mary Bowley and they were apparently married in Singapore. At the time of his first marriage Fred was a Corporal in the Manchester Regiment. I do not know which Battalion he was in but both the 1st and 2nd Battalions were involved in the Boer War but the 3rd and 4th Battalions were on home service at Aldershot and Portland at this period. However, the Regimental Depot was in Ashton-under-Lyme which is where he got married. He must have completed his service before he emigrated but he was obviously an experienced soldier and while I was in Canberra in May, I found him on the embarkation records of the Australian Army listed as S/Sgt. Fred Pilkington Swinnerton in the Australian Army Pay Corps and having a regimental number of 5 (a very senior member indeed) having joined on the 21st September 1914. His 'trade or calling' is given as 'Clerk in the Defence Department' so he was working for the Army before he joined up. His address is given as Roseleigh, Cross St., Guildford, New South Wales and his age as 32. His next of kin is given as Rose P. Swinnerton of the same address and his pay was 11/- per day - a lot more than I started with 35 years later! He embarked at Melbourne, Victoria on the A3, Orveto on the 21st of October 1914. This must be why he did not start his second family until 1919 when our member Eunice Dorothy Pilkington Byfield (née Swinnerton) was born. She was followed by Eric (born 1922), Eileen Maude (our member Mrs Cudd, born 1926) and Edwin Charles (born 1928). The latter is known better to us as Ted and is, of course, also a member of the Society and our Australian subscriptions collector. His son Craig, daughter Mrs Stermark and nephew Dennis are also members of the society. Ted and his two sons did not follow Fred's army career but opted for the Australian Navy as you will see.

Whilst going through the Australian Army Embarkation Rolls I also found three other Swinnertons - No.220 Private Arthur Leslie Swinnerton of the 60th Railway Company; No.5026 Sgt. Ernest Mainwaring Swinnerton of the 9th Field Ambulance and No.2480 Driver Sydney Samuel Swinnerton of the 4th Motor Transport Company. At the moment, I do not know who any of these are. Do any of our Australian members claim them?

* * * * *

There are no other sub-branches as far as I am aware but there are a lot of Swinnertons in the Australian telephone Directories who I would dearly like to identify!

* * * * *

There are others who we do know - Mr & Mrs Swinnerton in Tasmania who I mentioned last time: Derek Harding Swinnerton, a former member and a member of the Adbaston/Yew Tree Branch in Crib Point and members Mrs Lois Williams and Mrs Anne Robinson both of the Warwickshire Branch.

* * * * *

I mentioned at the start that there was further information about the new branch whose tree I drew in the last Journal. A rough tree in the possession of the family shows the Hedley who stands at the top of the tree and whose place of birth we do not know to have been the eldest son of a BENJAMIN SWINNERTON and Louise née Miller who were married in Victoria in 1875. Benjamin, in turn, is shown as the youngest of JOSEPH SWINNERTON and Caroline née Spencer. Now these are a couple we do know, of course, because they were the grandparents of the JAMES HENRY SWINNERTON mentioned in the account of the family of Bill Swinnerton on page 2. There are additional children listed to those mentioned by the Rev. Charles and there is some discrepancy of names but it certainly looks as if this is the same family. It would also explain one or two other mysteries and so we must get to work on this one.

Lieutenant TED SWINNERTON AM.RAN (Rtd.), JP for New South Wales, joined the Royal Australian Navy in May 1945 and was called up as an Ordinary Seaman, 2nd Class on the 7th of February 1946. During his career he served in the following HMA Ships and Establishments: *Cerberus, Penguin, Warrego, Torrens, Wyatt Earp, Warramunga, Albacross, 20th.CAG, Nirimba, Kuttatubul, Barcoo, Creswell and Melville.* This included service with the Occupation Forces in Japan and Expeditionary service in Antarctica in the Auxiliary Sailing Ship *Wyatt Earp.* He retired as a Lieutenant RAN after 30 years service in 1976 and was made a member of the Order of Australia in January of that year.

His eldest son, RUSSELL, is now a Commander in the RAN. He joined as a Cadet Midshipman in January 1967. He has served with the British Royal Navy on three occasions - on Operations and Weapons Courses in 1973, on a Principal Warfare Officer and Navigation Specialist Course in 1979/80 and Advanced Navigation Sea Check ("Dagger N"). This was followed by two years exchange with the Royal Navy from 1983 to 1985. He has served in HMA Ships *Melbourne, Sydney, Anzac, Vendetta and Vampire* whilst under training. He was the Executive Officer of the Patrol Boat *HMAS Bayonet* and Commanding Officer of *HMAS Barbette* in the mid-70s. He served as Navigating Officer of HMA Ships *Yarra* and *Jervis Bay* and *HMS Challenger.* He has also served on the staffs of the Flag Officer Sea Training, in Portland UK, in 1984 and the Maritime Commander Australia in Sydney from 1987 to 1988. He was posted in command of the Frigate *HMAS Torrens* in 1989-90 for operations in the Pacific and South East Asia.

Ted's youngest son, CRAIG, joined the Navy as a Recruit Seaman in 1982 and initially trained as a Quartermaster Gunner. After a period of sea service he was selected for training as a Clearance Diver. He served in the HMAS Ships and Establishments *Cerberus, Perth, Penguin, Curlew, Canberra, Kuttatubul and RAN Clearance Diving Team 2.* At present he is serving at the RAN Diving School as an instructor.

This is a remarkable record and one that has not been equalled as far as I am aware. In fact, I know of no Swinnertons who have served in the Royal Navy. Who is going to prove me wrong?



Above:
Bill Swinnerton,
his sons and their
families
Kew, Melbourne.



Right:
The Editor with
Bill's wife
Grace Swinnerton
Kew, Melbourne
May 1991



The descendants of John Swinnerton of Shropshire
Sydney Harbour June 1986



Tesla Swinnerton: Glenda Hooper; Arthur Nightingale
Kerri Pain: Mark Swinnerton: Gladys Hotchison: Marjorie Nightingale



The 'Swan' trade mark used by
Swinnerton Bros & Co.
The printers of Melbourne descended from
James Henry Swinnerton.

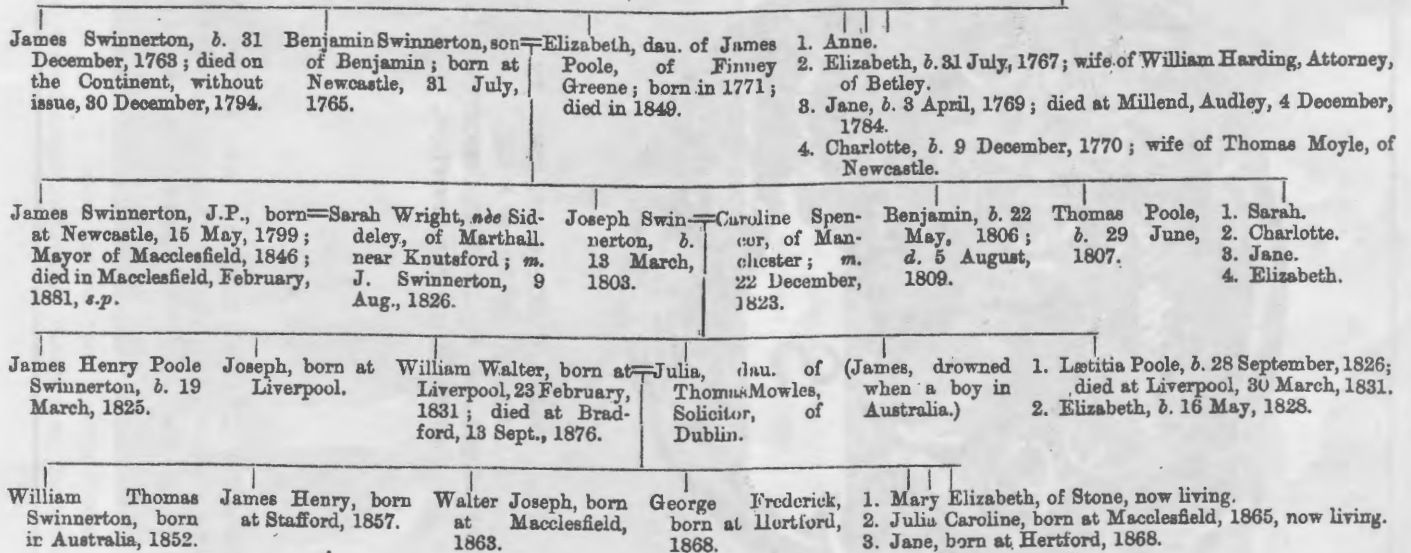
Great Families of yesterday we show, and
Lords whose parents were the Lord knows who!
(Daniel Defoe in 'The True Born Englishman')

SWYNNERTON OF WHITMORE.

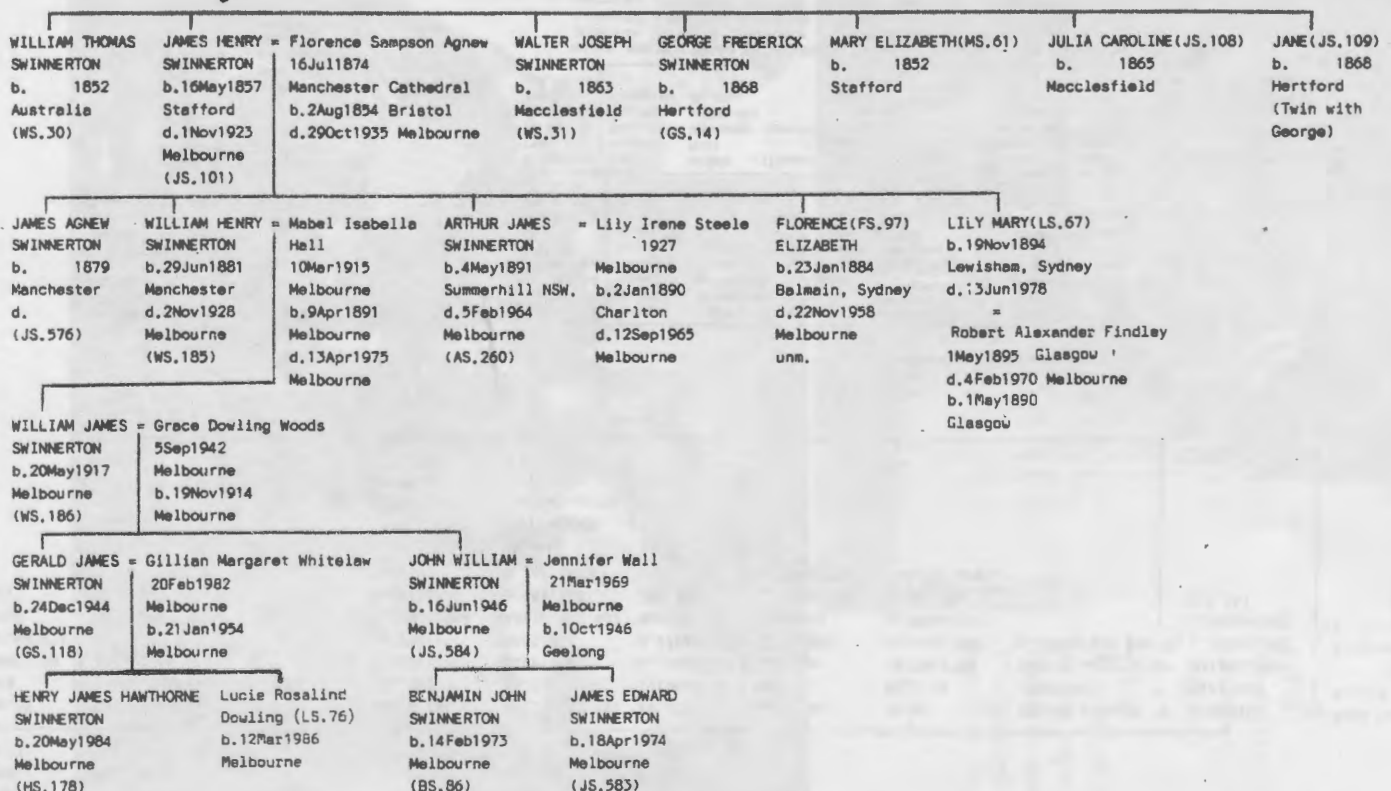
TABLE IV.

Descent of James Swinnerton, Mayor of Macclesfield.

Benjamin Swinnerton, the fifth son of Thomas and Mary Swinnerton, of Yewtree; baptized at Whitmore, = Elizabeth Turner his first cousin. 12 January, 1727; Mayor of Newcastle in 1762; died at Newcastle in August, 1770.



THE REVEREND CHARLES SWINNERTON'S ORIGINAL TREE
CONTINUED BY I.S. SWINNERTON



WALTER
SWINMERTON
b. 26Sep1847
Coleshill
bur-29Oct1882
Coleshill
d. 13Aug1885
d. 25Oct
(NS33)

CHARLES
- Catherine Boswell
Bower Forsythe
SWINMERTON
b. 13Jan1871
d. 1904
(CS21)

MARIA (MS.62)
- (Naude)
1909
Coleshill
d. 11May1968
Redhill
Surrey
Esau Tyler
SWINMERTON
bp. 14Dec1878
d. 1878
(TS.45)

ELLEN (ES.49)
- Gertrude Mary
SWINMERTON
d. 27Mar1963
Narrow
(WS.34)
b. 9May1881
d. inf. 1882
THOMAS
SWINMERTON
bp. 14Dec1878
d. 1878
(TS.45)

WALTER
SWINMERTON
d. 27Mar1963
Narrow
(WS.34)
b. 9May1881
d. inf. 1882
THOMAS
SWINMERTON
bp. 14Dec1878
d. 1878
(TS.45)

HENRY
WILLIAM
SWINMERTON
bp. 4Jul1880
d. 20Oct1882
Cambridge
(HS.25) una.

(1) Hannah Linton
FREDERICK
22Oct1906
Ashton under Lyne
SWINMERTON
d. 16Sep1956
d. 30Mar1945
(FS.24)

(2) Rose Mary
Bouley
1912
Singapore
b. 25Jul1892

FRED SWINMERTON - Gladys Kirkbride
b. 27May1905
Ashton under Lyne
d. 12Jan1970
Chatham
Soldier
(PS.15)

MARYMOR SWINMERTON - Delagh Anne
b. 11May1867
Salford
(MS.36)
JOHN RYLES
SWINMERTON
b. 3Jan1876
Belton
(JR.178)

ERIC
SWINMERTON
b. 13May1922
Sydney Aus.
(ES.53)
PATRICIA
SWINMERTON
b. 11May1944
Sydney Aus.
(ES.53)
d. 11Jan1968

EDITH CHARLES - Shirley
SWINMERTON
b. 27May1928
Sydney Aus.
(ES.53)
JOHN ERNEST
SWINMERTON
b. 28Mar1931
Sydney
22Mar1941

ELLEN RUDGE
(ES.52)
b. 30Apr1928
Sydney Aus.
RANWELL JOHN
Cudd
8Dec1945

RUSSELL
SWINMERTON
b. 20Oct1950
Australia
(MS.36)
CATHARINE
SWINMERTON
b. 20Sep1951
Sydney
(PS.8)

SHARON OLIVIAN
PATERSON
SWINMERTON
b. 28May1955
Sydney
GUY EDWIN CHARLES
SWINMERTON (CS.167)
b. 4Jun1980
Sydney



Left:
Addressing the
Canberra Conference
May 1991

Below:
At a house meeting
of the committee of the
Canberra Society
(our member Anne
Robinson frontleft).



Sailors Three - Russel, Ted and Craig Swinnerton



The Head of the Family,
William James (Bill) Swinnerton
Kew, Melbourne May 1991

FAMILY NOTES

We welcome the following new members:

Mrs ELIZABETH ANN LIVESEY of 'Beechfield',

She is the great-great-great-great granddaughter of ELIZABETH SWINNERTON of the Yew Tree Branch and William Harding. Elizabeth is descended from their daughter Anne and approached me after hearing me lecture on the 'History of the Hustices' in Cheshire. I knew who she was descended from immediately because I am descended on the maternal side from another daughter, Sarah, who married my gt-gt-gt-grandfather John Swinnerton. I was delighted to have a visit from Elizabeth and her husband Keith and we soon had the floor of the sitting room covered with the master trees!

KEVIN EARL BOWERS of

. Kevin's connection with the Swinnertons goes a long way back to KATHERINE SWINNERTON who married John Oldershaw or Hildershaw, sometimes Hildenshaw, in 1615.

JEFFREY ELLIOTT WOOD of

Jeffrey is the grandson of JOSEPHINE P. SWINNERTON and James Husted Wood. Josephine was the daughter of FREDERICK N. SWINNERTON (1869-1901) of the Gloucestershire Branch who, up until now, had just been a name on the tree and we knew nothing of any descendants. I had the pleasure of meeting Jeffrey when he called on me a few weeks ago although I was not at my brightest at the time as I was just recovering from a bout of 'flu. He is a veteran of the Vietnam War and has researched his family lines very thoroughly and has it all on computer.

* * * * *

DAVID SWINNERTON of the Yorkshire Branch has written to say that his son ANDREW was born on the 29 Jul 1979 and not March as I showed it on the tree in Journal No.5 and that his brother KEVIN married Nuala Stuart on 25 Jun 1989 at sale and they now have a son KEVIN JONATHAN SWINNERTON born on the 7th May 1991 who becomes KS.54 in the family index.

The other DAVID SWINNERTON from Middlesborough has also brought me up-to-date with his family doings and tells me that his son GREGORY has become a father for the second time as his wife Susan has had a son JAMES. DAVID SHAW SWINNERTON on the 27th May 1991. He becomes JS.628. He also told me that his Aunt RUTH (RS.128) passed away at Wrexham on the 25th January 1991

Sadly, I also have to tell you of the death of two of our long standing members.

WILLIAM STRETTON SWINNERTON of [redacted] died on the 15th June in the Nevill Hall Hospital. He was the father of our member Dr. Guy Stretton Swinnerton of Canada and brother of our member Miss Connie Swinnerton. He attended gatherings in the early years of the society and had always been a supportive member. We send our sympathy to his family as we do to the family of FRED G. SWINNERTON of [redacted]. He died of a heart attack while hiking with a group of elder hostellers in the Olympic National Park, Washington. His wife Betty said that they had had a wonderful week there hiking and going to various historical places by bus and she took comfort from the fact that he was enjoying the beautiful scenery and taking pictures of the snow-capped Olympics just a few minutes before he died.

* * * * *

MURPHY'S LAW FOR GENEALOGISTS - 1.

The vital will you need was in the safe on the Titanic

Your great-grandfather's newspaper obituary says that he died without issue!

When at last you solve the mystery you have been working on for 2 years, your Aunt says "I could have told you that"

Frederick George Swinnerton

A memorial service will be held Thursday, July 12, at 7 p.m. for Frederick George Swinnerton, 75, who died Friday, June 28, 1991, while hiking in the Olympic National Park. The service will be held at First Congregational Church, 717 Siskiyou Blvd.

He was born July 16, 1915, in Troy, N.Y. and received a bachelor's degree of arts from Amherst College in 1939 and a master of arts degree from Albany State College in 1940. He served three years in the 5th Air Force, 100th Service Squadron in World War II. After the war, he returned to teaching English in Elgin, Ill., where he met and married Betty Turner on June 6, 1947. He retired from teaching in 1979 and moved to Ashland in June 1990. He was active in peace and justice causes. He was editor of the Peace House publication, "Clear Action," worked for Fair Share and Ashland Interfaith Committee Council, the League of Women Voters and was a member of the First Congregational Church.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by: three sons, Peter Spring of Ashland, John Swinnerton of Homer, [redacted] and Mark Swinnerton of Denver, Colo.; a daughter, Gail Engblom of Anchorage, Alaska; several foster children, including John Binder of Miami, Fla., Barbara Binder of the Netherlands, Phil Pistone of Chicago, Ill., and Mary Cinelli of San Jose, Calif.; and five grandchildren.

Contributions may be made to the Olympic Park Institute Fred Swinnerton Scholarship Fund, HC 62 Box 9T, Port Angeles, WA 98362.

Ashland Daily Tidings - 8 July 1991

SWINNERTON.

On June 15 1991,
Nevill Hall Hospital
William Stretto
Swinnerton of 59,
Park Ave Abergavenny
the beloved husband of
Nellie. Funeral Friday
June 21, service at 2
Peter's Church
Goetre, at 2.30pm, fo
lowed by interment in
the Churchyard. Famil
flowers only, bu
donations if desired, t
Nevill Hall Hospital.

Western Mail 18 June 1991

I am very sorry to have to inform you of the death of our first Chairman, JOHN WALTER SWINNERTON, on the 1st of August 1991. John was the only child of Walter Swinnerton of the Betley family and Gertrude Mary née Blackmer and was born on the 29th of April, 1916 at Coventry. His father was a Director of Cash's, the name tape people. I first made contact with John on the recommendation of my father's cousin, the late George Swinnerton, who knew him through amateur radio circles.

I first wrote to him in December 1969 but it was July 1970 before we made contact as he had moved from the address I had been given. John had been working on the history of his family for some time and had had the results confirmed by the College of Arms who made a grant of arms to him in the mid-60s.

Typically, I received a most friendly reply by return with an account of his researches and an offer of help with research at Somerset House or the PRO.

John had always had an interest in radio, he was granted a commission in the Territorial Army Royal Signals unit at Hall Green, Birmingham in 1938 and was mobilised in 1939. He went to France in 1940 as Signals Officer to a Field Regiment, Royal Artillery who he said still had 18-pounders and 4.5" Howitzers that they had first been issued with in the 1914/18 war! On his first visit to my home in October 1970, I discovered that the regiment concerned was one in which I had commanded a Battery in the 60s and had written the Regimental History for its centenary in 1964! It is a small world.

He served in North Africa and Italy on the Staff from 1942 to 1945 and rose to the rank of Major. He was awarded the Territorial Decoration and Clasp. He continued his TA service after the war for a while but retired when he moved to Chester in 1949.

He was educated at Bablake School, Coventry and Saltley College, Birmingham and gained a Bachelor of Science Degree in Economics from London University. In 1942, he married Patricia Mary Wise, younger daughter of a former Vicar of All Saints, Hoole, Chester and they had two children, Meriel and Michael John.

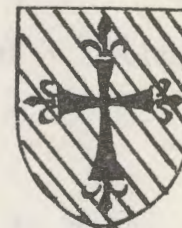
He continued with his interest in Radio and, in 1969, he was elected President of the Radio Society of Great Britain. He had a wide range of other interests: he was a keen philatelist particularly of the Holy Land, a member of the Heraldry Society, a Bridge,

Tennis and Organ player and a devotee of all kinds of music from Bach to Beatles. His other great interest was the National Savings Movement for which he worked very hard eventually becoming a County Chairman. In recognition of his long service to National Savings he was made a Member of the Order of the British Empire.

Once I got him involved with the Swinnerton Family History he proved to be a tower of strength and brought his keen, analytical mind to bear on several of our knotty problems of relationship. He took over my task of extracting all references to our name from the Indexes of Births, Marriages and Deaths at the General Register Office - first at Somerset House and later at St. Catherine's and, once he had completed it, kept it up to date each year until he was unable to cope any longer with the hurly burly that nowadays goes on there.

When I was persuaded to refound the Society in 1974 he became one of the four founder members, the others being the late Ken Armitstead and the Reverend Brian Swinnerton. When we got ourselves properly organised sometime later, he became our first chairman and gave unstintingly of his time to the Society and wrote our first constitution.

He was a familiar figure at our Gatherings and with his wry sense of humour (he once christened one of my dogs who was a Labrador/Collie cross a 'LollieDog') he was a great favourite with everyone and we shall sorely miss him. We send our sincere sympathy to Pat and his family.



The Arms of John Walter Swinnerton

The diagonal stripes are alternately Red and Silver

Motto - Conatu Meo (By my own efforts)

A letter from Graeme Campbell of [redacted] Australia enquiring about his great-grandmother ANNIE SWENARTON who married John Campbell about 1870. At first I was unable to find anything about her as I was unaware of this variation of our name being used in Australia although there are many of them in America of course.

However checking one of the Irish/American Trees for something else, there it was - Annie Swenarton noted as having gone to Australia with her brother William and having married John Campbell. We had no dates or further details so another link in the chain is now forged. Annie was the daughter of JOSEPH SWENARTON (JS.373) and Margaret.

A letter from DOUGLAS SWINNERTON of California giving me a number of corrections and additions to the Tree of the American branch of the Swinnertons of Betley. This will necessitate a wholesale revision and a complete retype so it will be some time before I am able to publish it.

A letter from ROY SWINNERTON of Stoke on Trent enclosing a copy of the history of his cycling firm from the "Bicycle" of May 1991 which I hope to include in the December issue.

Finally, a new variation, a letter addressed to Mr I.S.SWINNISRTON!

* * * * *

A few years ago, a number of members of the family helped with an indexing project. This involved filling in pre-printed cards with details from trees, both of which of course I provided. A simple little job but very important for our archives. I now have some more ready to be done and would welcome some volunteers to help.

THE SWINNERTON SOCIETY

was founded in 1973 as a non-profit making organisation devoted to the research and publication of Swinnerton 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 Swinnertons 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.