

SWINNERTON Family History



This fine oil painting at Milford Hall is believed to be of Anne Swinnerton, daughter of William Swinnerton, Esq., of Butterton. She was married in 1773 to the Reverend Walter Bagot, of Pipe Hall.

THE JOURNAL OF THE SWINNERTON SOCIETY

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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 welfare of St.Mary's Church, Swynnerton, Staffordshire. Research into the history of the Swinnerton family had been started by the Reverend Charles Swynnerton FSA. in the 1870s and over the years he wrote a number of articles and papers about the family and gathered together many Swinnertons from all over the world. Interest became dormant after his death in 1928 until the present archivist resumed research in 1952 and re-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 in the United Kingdom No. 518184.

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SWINNERTON FAMILY HISTORY

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Editor: Iain Spencer Swinnerton

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By the time this Journal drops through your letter box most of our members will be preparing for Christmas. It matters not in which part of the world we live, the Christian message will go forth to remind us of the traditions that have sustained the faith of the English-speaking peoples for almost two thousand years. Those in the northern hemisphere will have ordered the turkey and made the plum pudding (or more likely bought it) and will be looking forward to celebrating by the fireside. Those in the southern hemisphere, where sunshine is in abundance, will be preparing the picnic or barbecue and thinking of spending the day on the beach or at the holiday villa..

In England we are already thinking about and preparing for the next Gathering of the Swinnerton Clan at the Village of Swynnerton on June 3rd next year. The Council members met on October 22nd last and arrangements are well in hand *to ensure that the 21st birthday of the founding of the Society will be the best Gathering ever.*

It is planned that the event will be continued over to Sunday June 4th to give members, particularly those from overseas, more time to get to know each other and to learn about their ancestral homelands. The Rev. Brian Swynnerton has promised to conduct his popular "Swynnerton Steeplechase" - a coach tour to places of Swinnerton interest in North Staffordshire, a marvellous opportunity to see the important landmarks of the area that have played such a great part in the life of our Swinnerton ancestors for the last 900 years. This will be preceded by a special service for the family at St Thomas's Church, Butterson which will be celebrating its 150th anniversary next year. St Thomas's Church was built as a memorial to Squire Thomas Swinnerton, Recorder of Stafford, who died in 1836, and whose dearest wish was to have his own church and church school. Built in neo-Norman Style, although not as ancient as Swynnerton Parish Church, it is a most interesting building and contains several memorials to members of the Swinnerton and the Swinnerton-Pilkington family who lived at nearby Butterson Hall during the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries.

A booking form for the Gathering, with full details, is enclosed with this Journal for the U.K. members. Those overseas received theirs with the September issue to assist in making early travel arrangements

and I urge everyone *to please make a note of the date immediately and return the form duly completed early in the new year.* I understand that throughout the centuries the Swinnertons have been noted for procrastination - ask our former treasurer - he often has to send three or four reminders to squeeze the £5 subscription out of some of today's mortals. Make it your New Year Resolution to divest yourself of this trait by sending the form in NOW - it will make it so much easier for the organisers. Your cheque can be dated May 28th.

A Commemorative China Plaque is being specially produced to mark the occasion. As with the commemorative ware of twenty years ago and the glassware made specially for the Domesday Gathering these will become family heirlooms. Details and an order form is enclosed. Don't delay order yours today.

Finally, to all members of the Society and their families and all Swinnertons throughout the world - however far "removed" - A Happy Christmas and a Peaceful and Prosperous New Year. *See you at the Gathering in 1995.*

J. E. (Joe) Swinnerton.

* * * * *

Keeping to the custom we have followed for the last few years, the last part of this Journal is a Directory of Members as at the 1st December 1994. With the Journal is a membership renewal form for 1995 - do please deal with it straightaway so that I don't have to keep sending out reminders which cost the society a lot of money. We have lost about 20 members in the last 2 years, mainly through people just not replying to reminders: our numbers now are lower than they have been for many years and so our resources for research into the history of our family and for the support of our church have been considerably reduced.

Please note that each country now has its own collector and that we have a new Treasurer for the UK.



I cannot possibly send you all a Christmas Card much as I would like to, but I also send you all my very best wishes for a very happy Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

FROM THE EDITOR

Here we are again at the end of another volume of this Journal - the 100th Issue I have produced. People often ask me how I manage to go on producing all the information but that is not the problem, it is finding the time to get it all typed up. I have files full of family data from all sorts of sources which I have accumulated over the last 40 years but much of it is still in a form which is not capable of reproduction without a great deal of editing - ie. in my handwriting!

However, the situation is improving, indeed I venture to say that we have made more progress in 1994 in getting the society's archives properly organised than we have for many years. This is because I have recruited a little band of helpers to supplement my very limited two-finger typing skills. Roger Swynnerton, Joe Swinnerton, David Brock and Elizabeth and Keith Livesey are all entering data onto computer either on their own machines or old ones I have managed to acquire.

The work is two-fold - entering our trees into a special genealogical computer program and typing up our archives. In the first case, it means I can search the database when I get enquiries instead of having to pore over trees for hours - the combination of my getting older and the growth of our archives means I no longer have the instant recall of names that I used to have. I can also produce lists and trees and, most important of all, it has enabled me to produce a master index to the family which includes all the spouses. I wrote an account of this for the specialist newsletter of the *Pedigree* User Group (which is the name of the program we use) as various experts said it could not be done and have already had one or two suggestions as to how improve it. 40 years ago I started a card index of the family and some of you will remember helping to fill in index cards but it grew to be very cumbersome and proved too difficult and onerous to always keep it up to date.

In the case of the archives, having them stored on computer disk as well as printed copies, means that I can call them up, suitably edit them and print them out for this journal without having to re-type them all.

We still have a long way to go but we have made a good start and my very sincere thanks go to the members of the team. Special thanks to Roger Swynnerton who has also taken over the extraction of the family entries from the Birth, Marriage and Death indexes at

St.Catherine's House and the Will Indexes at Somerset House in London. I started doing this in the late '50s and carried on until the society was formed in 1973 when the task was taken over by our late Chairman, John Swinnerton.

There is much to be done and if any of you would like to join the team, you would be most welcome. If you don't have your own computer we could loan you one and it is only straightforward typing just the same as on a typewriter.

The organisation of the Gathering next year is also going to be very much a team effort. Although I am taking the bookings and doing the exhibition, everything else is being done by members of the Council. The Chairman will be producing the commemorative plate as we have seen and will also be running his usual raffle: the Secretary, David Brock, is looking after the all the booking of the hall and church: Jeremy Swinnerton is running the Birthday Party (and there will be lots for you to see and do): Elizabeth and Keith Livesey will be running the bookstall - a job they are well qualified for as they do it for their branch of the Cheshire Family History Society: Angela is organising the Birthday Cake and Kay Sabell and Leslie and Cathy Swinnerton will be looking after you when you arrive and stewarding throughout the day.

It is good to see so many people becoming involved in the Society - after so many years of struggling along on my own, I am more than grateful.

For the exhibition, I would welcome contributions from you all - photographs, letters, books, medals, memorabilia or what have you? Do have a look around and if you have something you think will interest other members of the family, do please bring it along.

THE OTHER ISLE OF MAN FAMILY

I have made a little more progress with research into this family. Nigel Crowe, the Chairman of the Isle of Man Family History Society, kindly looked up some references for me in the Isle of Man General Registry (in the Manx language - the 'Oik-Recotyssee') and I was able to acquire 3 certificates which prove that this family did originate in Yorkshire.

The first certificate confirms that Victoria Mary Swinnerton was born in Douglas, Isle of Man on the 8th February 1887 at 47 Atholl Street. She is given as the daughter of Joseph Swinnerton, a draper and

Mary Ann Swinnerton, formerly Bowling. As we already knew that her sister Frances May was born at Dewsbury, Yorkshire on the 8th September 1893 to the same parents, except that this time Joseph is described as 'Fancy Draper (Master)', and that her brother Frederick William had also been born in Dewsbury in 1898, obviously the family had been living on the Island but had returned to England sometime between 1887 and 1893.

The next certificate shows that Victoria married John Augustus Thompson on the 5th October 1912 at the parish church of Kirk Marown in the Isle of Man. Her address is given as Marown and Joseph, her father, has changed his occupation and become a seed agent. John Thompson's address is given as 33 Bailey Street, Old Basford, Nottingham. Did they meet while he was on holiday one wonders? Not surprisingly, for Nottingham, he was a lace manufacturer while his father, another John Thompson is described as a civil servant, deceased.

The third certificate is dated 9th June, 1885 and is of the marriage of Joseph Swinnerton, aged 30, a draper of 47 Albert Street, Douglas, son of John Swinnerton, banker and Mary Hannah Bowling, 24, daughter of Thomas Bowling a confectioner.

Now, Nigel Crowe who is Manx born and very knowledgeable about the Island and its people says he knows of no banker by the name of John Swinnerton in the Island's records. His address is not given so we do not know whether he was living on the Island or, indeed, whether he was even at the wedding - he certainly did not sign as a witness.

The family were certainly not on the Island when the 1881 census was taken, however the Bowlings were, and are all shown as having been born in England. The next step is to check the 1891 Census.

MISS SWINNERTON - ? Which One ?

A year ago, I published this little extract from a book entitled 'A history of the Douglas Family of Morton in Nithsdale (Dumfriesshire)'

pp 501-2. Letter dated Ponsonby (Cumberland) August 8th 1822 from Mrs. Morgan (née Douglas) to her aunt, Mrs. Ann Jeffreys, at Worcester, when staying with her cousin, Mary Stanley.

"....Mr. Stanley, his sister, and Miss Swinnerton are just set off for Whitehaven on their way to Keswick. We breakfasted a little after seven and now, at eight, they are gone and we have a long morning before us. Perhaps I mentioned before that Mr. Stanley and his sister were going to Rydal to visit Lady le Fleming. He goes on to

Carlisle on Monday, and we do not expect him back till Saturday week. Miss Swinnerton we are very sorry to lose; she is a most agreeable person and we shall miss her extremely: she expects to meet her father today at Keswick. I have most kind invitations from both father and mother to visit them in Staffordshire on my return, or in Monmouthshire later in the autumn. This last mentioned residence is only six miles from Harry's vicarage, and they will be glad he will be so near, and if I visit him there, it will be a great pleasure to meet again with such a companion, as Miss Swinnerton. She and I and Mary have been reading Italian together most days; and should I ever visit, we are to go on with German which she understands a little...."

Believe me my dear Aunt,

Your very affectionate niece

F.A.Douglas

p.545. Diary of Henry Douglas, Chaplain to his uncle William van Mildert, and curate of Ewelme Oxfordshire (entries dealing with a visit to London) 1821 May 17 Thursday: Breakfasted with Robert. Went to George St. and accompanied the Bishop (of Llandaff?). Mr. V.M., cousin Mary and Miss Swinnerton to St. Pauls to witness the Anniversary of the Sons of the Clergy. Renel preached...."

I have been doing a little detective work on this and have solved who 'Miss Swinnerton' was. The clue lay in the reference to Monmouthshire which meant that she had to be of the family of Thomas Swinnerton of Butterson, Staffordshire, who by his marriage to Mary, daughter and heir of Charles Milborne of Wonaston, Monmouth and The Priory, Abergavenny, inherited those estates.

Thomas and Mary had three daughters - Martha, Mary and Elizabeth. It cannot have been Elizabeth because in the registers of St. George's, Hanover Square, London we find the following entry:

18 July 1820. John Kemeys Tynte, bachelor, minor (with consent of his father, Charles Kemeys Tynte Esq.) and Elizabeth Swinnerton, spinster of Wonaston, Mon.

So, when the letter was written in 1822, Elizabeth was already Mrs Tynte.

In the register of the parish of Trentham, Staffordshire, we find:


28 December 1820. William Bagot of the parish of Rugeley and Martha Swinnerton.

Although no residence is given for Martha, this is definitely Thomas and Mary's daughter and William Bagot was her cousin.


So that also eliminates Martha as she was already Mrs Bagot by 1822. That means it can only have been the middle daughter Mary who did not marry until 1826 but made the best marriage of the three when she married Sir William Pilkington, Baronet, at St. Mary, Marylebone, London on the 28th June of that year and from whom the present Milborne-Swinnerton-Pilkington family descends. QED!

DIRECTORY OF MEMBERS

Directory of Members (Continued)







A FAMILY HEIRLOOM FOR THE FUTURE

As noted above, to celebrate our 21st Birthday next year, our Chairman is making arrangements to produce a special commemorative plate. Many of you will remember the splendid range of pottery plates, beakers, ash trays and tankards printed with the engraving of St. Mary's, Church which he produced in 1980 and the cut glass goblets, chalices, loving cups and paper weights for our Domesday Anniversary Gathering in 1986.

These are now all collectors items and we are sure the new plate will be equally popular, perhaps even more so as it is possible this time to have your own family names printed on the plate which will make it a very personal family heirloom.

To do this, he obviously needs plenty of time so get your orders in early.

FAMILY NOTES

We welcome Mr William Victor Swinnerton of [redacted] as a new member of the society. Mr Swinnerton is a professional actor but we don't know yet where he fits into the family, we are awaiting his family record form.

Changes of address.

Mr Ronald Swinnerton to [redacted]

Our American Vice-President has moved to [redacted] and our congratulations to him on his marriage, we look forward to seeing them both at the 21st party next year.

A young lady called Jordanne Swinnerton has been much in the news as an up-and-coming model appearing, amongst other places, at the Clothes Show, Anyone know who she is?

PUBLICATIONS OF THE SWINNERTON SOCIETY

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