SWINNERTON Family History





Butterton Grange - Built for Thomas Swinnerton in 1830

THE JOURNAL OF THE SWINNERTON SOCIETY

VOLUME 9. No.2

DECEMBER 1992

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 course of the years he wrote a number of articles and papers about the fam-ily 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.518 184.

PRESIDENT

Sir Roger Swynnerton CMG.OBE.MC.

VICE-PRESIDENTS

Colonel J.C.A.Swynnerton OBE. (United Kingdom)
H.Norman Swinnerton ASc. (USA)
W.J.Swinnerton (Australia)
W.R.Swinarton (Canada)

CHAPLAIN

The Reverend Edward Swinnerton

COUNCIL

D.G.Brock

Mrs Elizabeth Livesey

Mrs Kay Sabell

Col.I.S.Swinnerton (Treasurer)

J.D.Swinnerton

J.E.Swinnerton (Chairman)

L.W.Swinnerton

T.F.Swynnerton

N.W.R. Watts

GENEALOGIST & ARCHIVIST

Col.I.S.Swinnerton TD.DL.JP.FSG.Hon.FGHSC

SECRETARY

D.G.Brock

SWINNERTON FAMILY HISTORY

Volume 9 Number 2

December 1992

CONTENTS

Foreword - The Chairman	22
Miscellaneous Jottings	25
Letter to the Editor	27
Memories of Butterton - The Rev B.T.Swynnerton	29
Tree of the Swinnertons of Butterton	32
Directory of Members	34
Swinnerton Heraldry	43
Family Notes	44

Editor - Iain Spencer Swinnerton

FOREWORD

The Chairman

A meeting of the Council of the Society was held on November 14th at the home of our President, Sir Roger Swynnerton. In preparation I read through the minutes of the last 3 year's meetings to check if anything of importance had been missed so that it could be discussed again if necessary.

I noted that in September 1989 we announced PROJECT 1990 which was designed to persuade members of the society to write their own history of their branch of the family. The project was instituted in memory of Ken Armitstead, a founder member of the society, who died very suddenly in 1984, just a few months short of his retirement as Head of Languages at the Royal Naval College, Dartmouth. Ken had done a tremendous amount of family history research and it had been his intention, on retirement, to bring up to date the 1881 printed history of the family which was compiled by the Reverend G.T.O.Bridgman and the Reverend Charles Swynnerton. This book has long been out of print but is now available in facsimile copy through the efforts of our Genealogist, Iain Swinnerton.

This "Account of the Family of Swynnerton" runs to over 200 pages and gives a most comprehensive history of the family from the time the first Lord of the Manor of Swynnerton appears in the Domesday Book of 1086 down to the latter part of the 19th century. It includes many trees of the various branches of the family and is a MUST for anyone who can claim to have Swinnerton blood in their veins! Most of the present members of the society can be fitted into one of those trees.

As far as I am aware, nobody except myself took up this challenge or did anything about recording the history of their family.

WE OWE IT TO OUR DESCENDANTS, and those yet to come, to record all we can discover about our ancestors and I exhort all heads of households to make the effort to write down their own family history if they have not already done so. We must ensure that

the knowledge which our grandparents or other relations possess is written down in a readable form or recorded on tape for the benefit of our grandchildren and other descendants to come. We are apt to forget that when an older member of the family passes on, all the knowledge he or she had stored in their memory is lost for ever. Since I became interested in my family history, I have often regretted that I did not make a note of the stories about our family my grandmother and other relations told me when I was a child and before the details faded from my own mind. When my grandmother told me what her grandmother had told her we were back in the 1860s!

I started to record my family history about 10 years ago and gradually built up a picture of my grandparents' lives. I searched further back by visiting the villages and churches where my earlier ancestors resided. I also visited the Record Offices at Lichfield, Stafford and Warwick where I was able to examine old Church Records, Parish Registers, Directories, Census Returns and other documents which provided a host of information about the family and where they lived. Imagine the thrill when you discover the actual will of an ancestor who died some 350 years ago and see his actual signature and an inventory of all his goods and chattels. All the effort involved suddenly becomes very worthwhile.

It was hard going typing out all the information on an old-fashioned typewriter but when, about 3 years ago, I decided to buy a computer it all became so much easier. I soon discovered how simple it is to use a word processing program which allows you to see what you have typed on a screen and correct and re-arrange it before you actually print it out. It even has a built-in spell checker!

I have published my researches in an A4 size book of over 100 pages. Commencing with a history of the village of Swynnerton down to the present day, it includes information on some of our ancestors who have lived there during the last 900 years. Copies of wills, inventories, photographs, estate settlements, gravestone

Foreword (continued)

inscriptions etc. are included which all help to make up the story of my own Warwickshire branch of the Swinnerton family. I was able to use some of the articles from back issues of this journal to help build up the story and I received valuable assistance from Iain in checking and printing.

It would be easy for anyone to use the basic information on the earlier generations from my writings and add the story of their own branch. Should you wish to try this, I will be pleased to send you a copy on receipt of a cheque, money order or PO for £7.00. The layout of the book will show you how I have treated the subject and you will quite likely be able to improve on my ideas. A copy of the facsimile edition of the original 1881 history by the Reverends Bridgman & Swynnerton can be obtained from the Society (orders to Iain Swinnerton) for £12 - the knowledge contained therein would enable you to enlarge your own book.

Should you not have a grandchild to teach you how to use a computer and show you how easy it is, give me a call on

and I will put you in the picture. I am sure that Iain, with all his knowledge of the family history, will also be pleased to help if he can. As a result of the recession, computer prices have tumbled and a basic computer can now be bought new for £200 and a good second-hand one with more capacity for about £250 so now is the time to act! Make a New Year Resolution that during 1993 you WILL write up your family history.

As an encouragement and to make it more interesting, I will give a Trophy for the best family history submitted to our archivist. You will not do it in a week or two or even a few months so let's say during 1993 and 1994. The entries can then be displayed at our 21st Anniversary Gathering in 1995 and the Trophy presented on that day Don't think that's a long time off and put it on one side - start NOW.

Meanwhile, a Happy Christmas and a Healthy and Prosperous New Year to you all.

J.E.(Joe) Swinnerton

MISCELLANEOUS JOTTINGS

Journal of the Gwent Family History Society

No:31. 1992.

"Readers not familiar with Charles Hassell's General View of the Agriculture of the County of Monmouth (1812) may be interested in the following useful list of main landowners in the county which he recorded".

Amongst those listed is:Thomas Swinnerton Esq. Winnastow, Monmouth.

(ex Mrs Betty Jones).

Thomas is easily identified as TS.32, the last of the Butterton family. By one of those curious coincidences, which seem to happen to mr-quite a lot, when I was addressing the Gwent FHS at their AGM and 10th Anniversary celebrations a few weeks ago, I was quizzed about this Thomas and also about the late Mr William Swinnerton of Abergavenny, a former member of the society, who many present had known well. The next jotting relates to his family.

Bangor (Caernarvonshire) Parish Registers.

5 October 1827 George Swinnerton married Anne Nicholls 11 June 1833 George Swinnerton (widr.) married Lydia Jones

These are easily recognisable as of the Chester family, organ builders and Freemen of the City of Chester.

MISCELLANEOUS JOTTINGS (continued)

Newtown (Montgomery) Parish Registers.

30 July 1822 William Bennett (widr.) married Ann Swinnerton Wits: Thomas Owen and John Jones

(ex Mr John Rowlands of Aberystwyth) This lady I have not yet identified.

* * * * *

Snaith (Yorkshire) Parish Registers

2 Nov 1810 Mary Swinnerton, widow of Thorne was buried.

2 Feb 1816

Ann Watson illegimate daughter of Samuel Watson farmer of Henshall and Elizabeth Swinnerton, baptised.

30 November 1826

Henry Motherby illegitimate son of John Motherby farmer of Henshall and Elizabeth Swinnerton, baptised.

(ex.Mrs Pauline Litton)

These are part of the large Yorkshire Branch but history later repeated itself. Another Elizabeth Swinnerton in Adbaston, Staffordshire in the 1850/60s also had a penchant for farmers and had a daughter and son before marrying. However, her son was baptised Swinnerton and we have descendants in the society today.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Miss Jesse Swenarton of

wrote:

I was interested in your reference to Graeme Campbell of Australia in the September 1991 Journal enquiring about his great-grandmother Annie Swenarton. She was a sister of my grandfather and married John Campbell also from Ireland. Her brother William I know went out on the journey with her for health reasons for a holiday. He bought Lisnamorrow House in 1859 but died in 1863, the house then went to my grandfather, then to my father and so to me.

Back to the Campbells. Their son John (who had 10 sons and 3 daughters!) came on a visit (from Australia) to relations near Kilrea with his youngest son, also John, in 1939. War was declared and they did not get back. John Senior died some years ago and is buried in the family burying ground at Kilrea.

John Junior married a local girl and had one daughter Beth, a university graduate now in Canada. He is retired and lives with his wife near Kilrea. I have added some dates known to me on the enclosed sheet which may be of help to somone later on.

Miss Swenarton also sent me this newspaper cutting of a picture of John Campbell from Australia.

You will find the tree of this branch of the family in Volume 8, No.8 December 1991. Research in Ireland is much more difficult than in the rest of the United Kingdom because so many records were destroyed in the fighting in the Law Courts at Dublin in 1922. We are, therefore, always grateful for any items.



John Campbell, Vice-President, presents 92-year-old William Crockett with his trophy for winning the Christmas tourney.

TROPHIES PRESENTED

The Tamlaght O'Critly Bowling and Table Tennis Clubs held their joint annual dinner dance in the Anglers' Rest with upwards of 150 guests attending.

After the meal Mr Ivan Bolton. President of the Bowling Club, paid a glowing tribute to the members and invited Mrs

runner-up in final; ladies' pairs,
Mrs Alice Kelso and Mrs Tillie

Village C

Clarke, winners. Open pairs, McCaughey, winner; Mrs Alice R.W.Kelso and S. Mulholland.

Club competition; Christmas tournament winners, Willie Crockett and David Quinc; Robert Sufferin and Victor Getty, runners-up. Junior tournament - Colin McCombe, winner; Helen Dempsey, runner-up. Crocket Cup - Mrs Alice Kelso, Gerry Dempsey to present the winner, Mrs Tillie Clarke, various trophies to the winners, runner-up. Lyle Cup pairs -These included Kilrea and John Campbell and John Max-District Churches League: Open well, winners; David Maxwell Singles, William Anderson; and Thos. Armstrong,

Village Cup, mixed - James

Kelso, runner-up; Campbell Cup, mixed - William Anderson, winner; John Maxwell, runner-up.

The table tennis club also had on show their many trophies when they made a clean sweep of the competitions organised by the Ballymena and District

These were presented to their representatives Jim Dempsey, Herbert Patterson, Robert Armstrong, Garry Dempsey and Billy Turner

MEMORIES OF BUTTERTON

The Rev.Brian Swynnerton

I vividly recall my first visit to the village of Butterton. It was 1945 and I cycled over one Wednesday afternoon from Sandbach where I was at school. It was an increasingly wet day and I had planned to do some sketching and watercolour painting! However, my second visit was in the springtime of 1958 with my wife-to-be. The sun shone and the church was unlocked. The dilapidated state of the church was not so depressing as it might have been because things always look better in sunshine.

My third visit was in June this year (1922) and I was greatly impressed by the transformation. I came with Mr Joseph Swinnerton, the new chairman of the Swinnerton Society, and his wife who were visiting for the first time. The Swinnerton Society was set up while I was Curate of Swynnerton. I enjoyed this job enormously and I had been a Reader for 10 years before being ordained in 1969. I had got to know the parish very well indeed. When I was directed to another curacy, I was glad that the Swinnerton Society had been formed. I am delighted now, when I hear of all the ways in which the society has been able to help over the years for example by renovating the organ. Even better is the way it has given many of the family in far flung parts of the world, a link with "home".

From Saxon times, Butterton was part of the Swynnerton lands and of the ecclesiastical parish of Swynnerton. I have a copy of the London Gazette dated 1844 which officially announced the setting up of the parish of St. Thomas, Butterton. Before that, Swynnerton parish had its northern limits at Keele. The Boundary appears to have been exactly where the M6 runs today. However, the Swynnertons who were very much involved in the Crusades, gave all their Keele end of the parish to the Knights Templars and they did a similar thing with their lands in Lincolnshire. In the latter county, they gave the knights a church

Memories of Butterton (continued)

as well. Many historians regard the Templars as the founders of the great charitable brotherhood of Freemasonry.

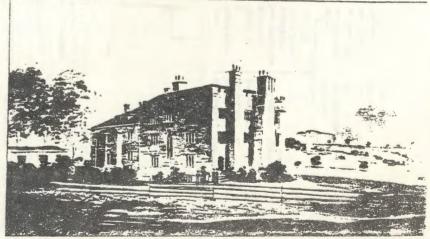
The family also gave the proceeds of their Grange Farm to Trentham Priory. The present Butterton Grange farm is of great interest to architectural students. It was designed by Sir John Sloane for Thomas Swinnerton of Butterton Castle in 1815. Four generations of my family were bricklayers/stonemasons/builders and my great-great-great-grandfather Ralph, who was born in 1771, worked on the building. He apparently said it was a better house than Thomas's own and there was a standing joke in the family that the stable block at Butterton was a far better building than the old castle. Ralph joked "The horses live best at Butterton!"

The ruins of Butterton Castle have been well preserved by Mr Wegmann and they are now in a delightful setting. I had been disappointed, on my previous visits, to find them inaccessible amidst a sea of brambles, nettles and other vegetation. The castle keep was built about 1180. It was similar to the Scottish border peel towers and we are most fortunate that the Delves family at Doddington near Nantwich have preserved their keep from about the same time. Sir Evelyn Delves Broughton did a wonderful job in protecting this fascinating piece of architecture from vandals. It is well worth seeing.

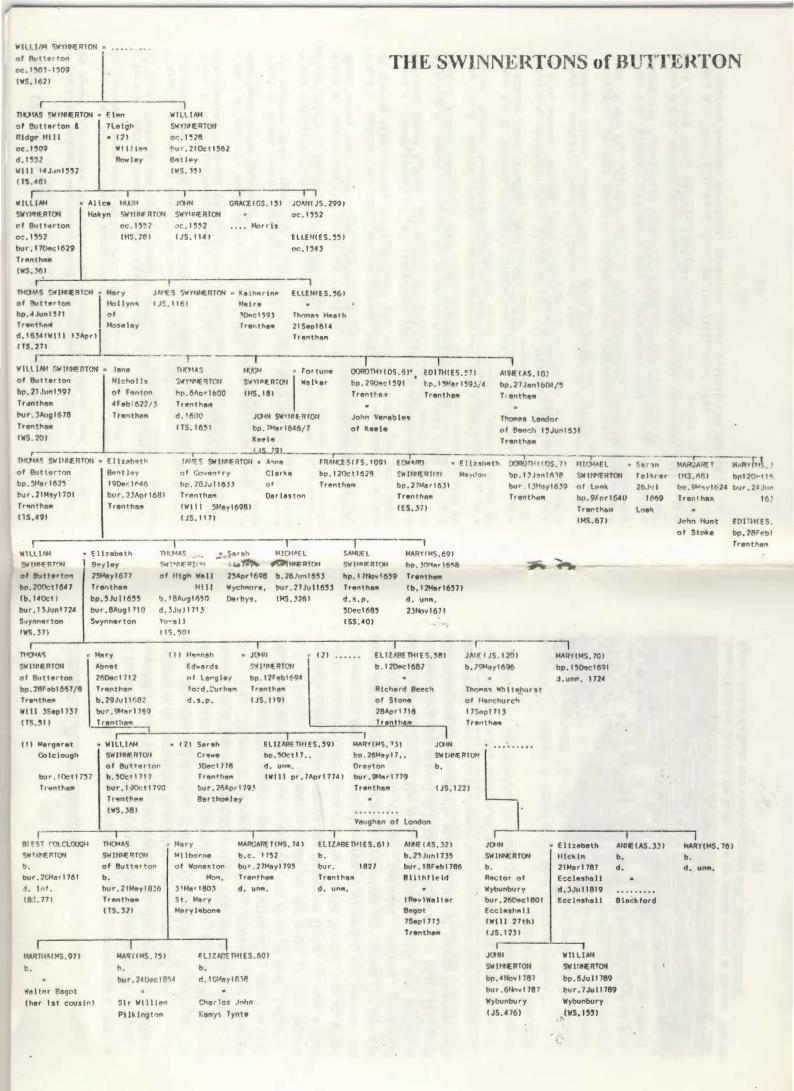
The Swynnertons built three keeps or castles. The foundations of the Swynnerton castle consist of massive sandstone blocks buried in the undergrowth of an island in the lake which lies to the south of Swynnerton Hall, the home of Lord and Lady Stafford. The third castle stood within a moat at the Eyeswells at Eccleshall and was the site of an archaeological dig, the results of which appeared in a document entitled Museum & Art Gallery Archaeological Report dated 1984. Copies can still be purchased at the Hanley Museum.

Undoubtedly Butterton Castle is the most interesting as a number of etchings and oil paintings exist which show it in all its glory one shows old Thomas Swynnerton, the Recorder of Stafford, walking in the grounds. We can also see the magnificent trees, lake and fine horses. Much of the wealth of Thomas and his father William went to help set up the Josiah Wedgwood enterprises of the 18th century and the Pilkington glass industry in the 19th. Thomas's second daughter married Sir William Pilkington and Pilkingtons use the Swinnerton flory cross as their trade mark to this day (whatever one may think of that - Editor!)

St. Thomas's Church stands on the edge of the famous geological feature known as the Butterton Dyke. It was a fault which probably dates from the time that the Wrekin was an active volcano. It proved a useful source of stone for the Swynnerton lands for centuries. The most interesting fact about the Dyke is that Charles Darwin carried out his earliest geological investigations here. He was very friendly with the Butterton Swinnertons and stayed at both Butterton and at Maer Hall with the Wedgwoods, eventually marrying one of Josiah Wedgwood's daughters.



View of Butterton Hall from the South. Note the palatial stabling in the rear. The tiny figure in front of the house with a stick is supposed to be Thomas Swinnerton.



,		
•		
,		
	SOUTH AFRICA	
	MISCELLANEOUS	
	39	

NEW ZEALAND

AUSTRALIA

SWINNERTON HERALDRY

When an armigerous person (that is to say one who possesses a coat of arms) becomes head of an organisation which also has Arms, he or she is entitled to use a "combined" coat of arms containing elements of both. Good examples are Bishops who can join their arms to those of their Diocese and Lord Mayors who can do the same with the arms of their city. The arms of the organisation take the senior position on the right of the shield (the left as you look at it) and the personal arms go opposite - the place normally occupied by the wife's arms if she has any because the office holder is deemed to be "married" to his office and organisation! The crest and motto used, if there are any, are the personal ones of the office holder.

Thus your Editor, who has been President of the Birmingham & Midland Society for Genealogy & Heraldry since 1972, is allowed, during his term of office, to use Arms of Office in this way. These are illustrated below.



An unusual use of Heraldic Arms and,I think, the first usage of Swinnerton Arms in this way.

FAMILY NOTES

Changes of Address: Mrs B.V.K.Morgan to

The Reverend and Mrs Edward Swinnerton to and our best wishes to them on their retirement.

(Note. The accompanying directory includes the old address because it was printed before the new one was received.)

Congratulations to Mr and Mrs Ray Swinnerton of Radcliffe, Manchester on the birth of a son Harry James Swinnerton on the 11th June 1992.

Also to Kristyan Swinnerton (KS.49) son of our member David K.S.Swinnerton on his marriage to Nicola Joanne Taylor at St.Peter's School Chapei, York on the 31st October 1992.

Congratulations of a different sort to Michael Swinnerton son of our Chaplain above who is making something of a name for himself as a racing driver. He was awarded "Driver of the Day" at three events this year - Silverstone, Brands Hatch and Thruxton. He was just pipped to the championship by his friend Mike Evans but they are still good friends!

Finally, it is Subscription Renewal Time again. Unless you pay by standing order (and I urge you to do so if you can) a renewal form is enclosed. Please deal with this straightaway and make my life easier. It wastes so much time and costs so much in extra postage if I have to keep sending reminders.

A very Happy Christmas and my best wishes for 1993 to you all.

KEEP YOUR JOURNAL SAFELY

Binders are available in an attractive Red we-clean finding Gold-blocked with title on spine and with the society base on the front.

Each holds 10 issues (1 Volume) and in index.

£2.50 each post paid UK.

WEAR YOUR SOCIETY TIE

Available in Maroon, Deep Blue and Ling Grey.

£4.00 each post paid UK

DISPLAY YOUR SOCIETY BADGE YOUR

Badge with self -adhesive holder for your winds

£1.00 each post paid UK.

All the above are available from the secretary hose address the inside front cover. Please allow extra ordering front coverseas.