

SWINNERTON

Family History



THE JOURNAL OF THE SWINNERTON SOCIETY

VOLUME 9. No. 6

DECEMBER 1993

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 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.518 184.

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SWINNERTON FAMILY HISTORY

Volume 9 No.6

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Cover Picture:

St.Mary's, Swynnerton in the snow 1965

Editor - Iain Spencer Swinnerton

FOREWORD

The Chairman

The last meeting of the Council was held on Saturday and Sunday 8th and 9th October at Colchester, Essex. After meeting at the Mark Teys Hotel on Saturday for lunch a visit was made to Colchester Zoo. The Zoo, which covers some 100 acres, was originally Stanway Hall, the residence of one of our family ancestors, Sir John Swinnerton. John's father, who lived at Oswestry in Shropshire around the end of the sixteenth century, sent his son, John, to Spain to learn the aspects of the wine trade and on returning to England he moved to London to seek his fortune. After establishing himself in business as a Wine Merchant John became Controller and Sole Supplier of Wines to Queen Elizabeth 1st and became prominent among the citizens who were part of the London scene in Elizabethan times. He was clearly held in high favour by the Queen for he became Sheriff of London in 1602, was knighted in 1603 and became Lord Mayor of London in 1612. John prospered to such an extent that he purchased the Stanway Hall Estate where he lived until his death. The mansion still proudly stands, little changed since the time he lived there, and the grounds have been adapted to form one of the finest Zoos and Leisure Parks in Europe. Sir John commissioned the building of a church close to the hall but that is now a ruined shell with only the west wall and entrance still standing. The place is well worth visiting.

The business meeting of the council was held during Saturday evening at the home of our member Mrs Zoe Watts and her husband Tom who had kindly arranged the facilities for the weekend. The meeting over, we were dined and wined much as Sir John Swinnerton would probably have done at nearby Stanway Hall - almost 400 years ago - with good food, fellowship and wine. The council members are grateful to Tom and Zoe for their hospitality and generosity.

One of the items discussed at the Council Meeting was *The Vestry Door of Swynnerton Church*. This is the door on the west side of the church which opens on to the churchyard. The vestry was originally The Lady Chapel which was built onto the church about the middle of the fifteenth century and later became the School House. Members will recall, that at the Gathering in 1992, it was announced that our Society had offered to pay for a new oak door and frame at a cost of £846. The old door, which was probably the original, was in a great state of deterioration and an appeal was made for contributions towards the cost of replacement. *The good news is*, that from the proceeds of the raffle held at the gathering and contributions generously donated by members, the amount was raised and the door fixed. *The bad news is*, that when the door was fitted, it was found that the surrounding stone work supporting the frame was crumbling and required to be rebuilt. In addition it was found that a new frame to fit the rebuilt opening would have to be made. The cost to do this work is just over £700, and, as we undertook to pay for it in the first place, it falls on us to fund the amount to complete the job.

We have a certain amount in the "kitty" but there is a shortfall of around £400 required to pay for the extra work and I would again invite members to contribute towards this if at all possible. *Since our Family Society was formed in 1974 we have undertaken repairs to the organ amounting to £4,000, funded the purchase of the old church hall, which was due to be sold by the Church Commissioners for conversion to a bungalow - cost £1500. and*

which is, after all, "our church" - built by our ancestor Sir John de Swynnerton almost 800 years ago. An appeal was made to the public in 1990 to raise £80,000 to restore the main fabric of the church. More than half the target has been raised and the work is in progress.

To emphasise the importance of St. Mary's Church I cannot do better than quote from the leaflet which was issued when the appeal was launched - it is headed **"YOUR CHURCH"**

"St. Mary's has stood as a witness to the Christian faith for over 900 years. Throughout this time the families of Swynnerton and the neighbouring villages have come together here for worship, baptisms, weddings and funerals. The oldest part of the building dates from Norman times but evidence exists that some stones date back to pre-conquest times when the village was the site of the royal residence of a Saxon prince.

Entering the church under the Norman tower, the doorway leading to the nave is probably the best of its type in the West Midlands. The 16 bird-beak mouldings in the arch of the door are a splendid example of the best Norman craftsmanship.

The nave and chancel date from the thirteenth century - the Norman church having been rebuilt by Sir John de Swynnerton, who died in 1254. He had been Constable of the Tower of London and a Baron in the first Parliament. His remains lie in the vault below his effigy in the chancel.

The fourteenth century Lady Chapel - now used as a vestry - covers a vault containing 16 members of the Fitzherbert family, buried there between 1612 and 1865. Against the west wall stands a huge figure of Christ in Majesty. This thirteenth century statue was found buried at some distance from the church and is supposed to have been placed there before the time of Cromwell. Where did it come from? Lichfield, Rheims? - no one knows, but The Victoria and Albert Museum in London tells us that it is of immense historical importance. These features, together with the Tudor screen, remarkable stained glass windows, fine organ and bells, are exceptional for a village church the size of Swynnerton.

We are grateful to our predecessors who provided this place of worship for us. It is now OUR responsibility to leave the building in good order for future generations"

I think the above says it all. If you would like to help in the small item of the vestry door please send your donation to our Genealogist/Archivist/Treasurer, Iain Swinnerton. His address is on the inside front cover. No matter how small the amount it will be thankfully received and faithfully applied. Cheques should be made payable to "The Swinnerton Society"

As a finale to this "Foreword", Greetings to all members of the Society and their families and best wishes for a Happy Christmas and a Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

See you at the 21st Anniversary Gathering in 1995

J. E. (Joe) Swinnerton.
December 1993

THE MANX MUSEUM and NATIONAL TRUST

Douglas, Isle of Man

The menu for the Bay Tree Restaurant carries a number of potted biographies of prominent Manxmen accompanied by illustrations of the busts of them to be found in the museum. Those shown here were all sculpted by Joseph Swynnerton

JOSEPH SWYNNERTON (1848-1910)
Manx Sculptor

Joseph Swynnerton was born and educated in Douglas. After leaving school at 14 to join his father's business as an apprentice stone mason, he then went on to study art and sculpture in Edinburgh and Rome where he won prizes for sculpture. Although he spent most of his life in Italy, Swynnerton regularly made trips back to England and the Isle of Man, usually staying at Port St. Mary. He produced a large number of pieces ranging from busts of local dignitaries to large fountain and statues, including a statue of Queen Victoria at Southend.



JAMES BROWN (1815-1881)
(J.W. Swynnerton - 1882 - Marble Bust)

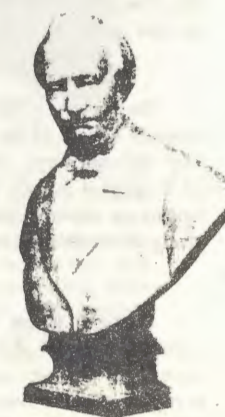
Founder of the Isle of Man Times
Campaigner for Government Reform

MONA (J.W. SWYNNERTON - 1882 - Marble Bust)

A half life-size statue of a female figure entitled 'Mona' representing a physical embodiment of the Isle of Man. The statue was produced in 1875 when Swynnerton was studying in Rome.



T. E. BROWN (1830-1897) (J.W. Swynnerton - 1909 - Marble Bust)
Manx Poet



UNIDENTIFIED GENTLEMAN
(J.W. Swynnerton - 1882 - Marble Bust)

A GROUP OF LADY ARTISTS

At this season, when the galleries are open for the great exhibitors of the year, and art becomes for a time the one engrossing topic of discussion, it may be interesting to visit the studios of a few of the ladies whose pictures hang on the walls of the Academy and the New Gallery, and learn something of the artists and their earlier work.

There are still to be found, here and there, in the western suburbs, amidst the desert of brick and mortar that spreads afar on every side, green and pleasant nooks that have escaped the ravages of the speculative builder. In one of these, in an old fashioned garden, where the flowers bloom as fearlessly in the blossoming boughs of the hoary apple-trees, as if London, with its smoke and noise, were a hundred miles away, we shall find the studio of one of our foremost women painters, Mrs. A. L. Swynnerton. Mrs Swynnerton's has been in many ways an exceptional career, for though she studied for a time in the Manchester School of Art, in all important respects she is self-taught, both in drawing and painting, and only her great courage and perseverance could have carried her triumphantly over the many obstacles she has encountered in the development of her talent.

Those interested in art must be familiar with the vigorous, unconventional portraits, and still more remarkable ideal paintings, exhibited for some years past by this gifted lady. Her "Cupid and Psyche" attracted much attention in the New Gallery in 1891, and many will remember with pleasure the artist's poetic conception of the classic myth, the fine modelling of the nude figures, the beautiful pose of the Psyche, as she stands enfolded in the deep blue wings of Cupid, against a background of rose-tinted mist. The large "Mater Triumphalis" of last year showed a further advance in mastery of the difficulties of the human form, and it was hoped that some still finer examples of Mrs. Swynnerton's ideal work might have been seen this spring; but she is represented in London only by the admirable portraits of two children, Miss Marjorie Turner and Master Gerald Wellesley, in the New Gallery, as the greater part of her time has of late been devoted to an important decorative painting of Chicago.

The subject of this large design, which is to fill an allotted space on the walls of the women's section of the great World's Fair is "Nursing," and this the artist has illustrated in three different ways. In the centre, Florence Nightingale, amongst the sick and wounded in the hospital at Scutari, represents the sterner sadder side of the nurse's duty, while its happier aspects are shown in the smaller panels, by the mother clasping her infant in her arms, and the young girl ministering to serene and beautiful old age.

As some of her subjects are painted entirely in the open air- the "Midsummer," for example, on which she has worked only out of doors, and for a short time each year in the warm light of June - some open space that is not overlooked by inquisitive neighbours is a necessity to Mrs. Swynnerton, and she rejoices in the peace and privacy of her present surroundings. Close behind her studio, a second is being erected for her husband, the well



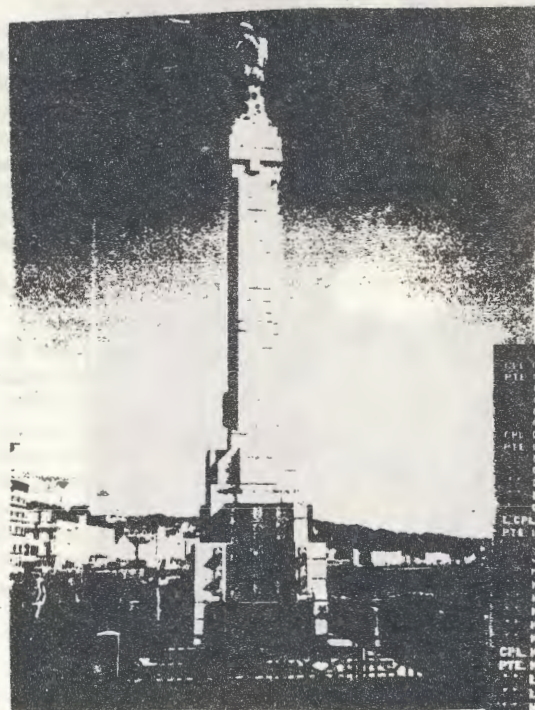
MRS SWYNNERTON

One of the most arresting images is an extraordinarily vivid and direct head-and-shoulders of "Susan Dacre" by Annie Swynnerton, 1880, a haunting characterisation which made me hope to see some time a representative show of her work. She became in fact an A.R.A., the first woman to be elected member (or anyway, part member) of the Academy,

since the two Founding Members of 1768, Angelica Kauffmann and Mary Moser — and even so, they waited till 1922 to admit her, by when she was well on into her seventies. This work can stand comparison with any British portrait of the period, and reduce most of them to platitude.

Financial Times Thursday September 24 1987

The Reverend Brian Swynnerton has written with reference to my note about the above in the last journal and says that when he and his wife visited the Isle of Man for the Manx Grand Prix in 1992, our member Frank Swinnerton who lives on the Island, showed him the war memorial on the promenade at Douglas on which Frederick is commemorated. He also sent me the two photographs reproduced here. The man himself still remains a mystery.

[illegible]

In the "History of the Douglas Family of Morton in Nithsdale (Dumfriesshire)" there is a letter which was written by Mrs Morgan (nee Douglas) to her aunt, Mrs Ann Jeffreys, at Worcester, when staying with her cousin, Mary Stanley in Cumberland. *It is dated August 8th 1822.*

"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 daughter 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 excellent neighbours to him I am sure. They say that they are quite glad he will be so near and if I visit them 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 going to go on with German which she understands a little"

*Your very affectionate niece,
F. A. Douglas.*

May 17th 1821 " 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 Anniversary of the Sons of the Clergy....."

No mention at all of the Christian name of Miss Swinnerton. She would probably be a lot older than the writer of the letter who would always address her as "Miss Swinnerton". There was great respect for the older generation in those days.

* * * *

1841 CENSUS Medway Gillingham Parish of Chatham Brompton Barracks fo.30 p.1
William Swinnerton 15 Soldier Not born in Kent

1861 CENSUS Brighton, Sussex Parish of St Nicholas Barracks fo 109 p.39
sched 178

T.Swinnerton 25 Unm Soldier b.Salop Shrewsbury
(probably 5th Dragoons)

(both ex Miss M.R. Killon)

As promised, I can now write up the final, fully researched story of the new Australian family who I first discovered during my visit to the Bi-Centenary Conference in Sydney in 1988. I met members of the this family at the home of our Australian Vice-President, Bill Swinnerton in Melbourne and again whilst I was staying with Bill and Grace in 1991. The family then produced documentation that I had not previously seen which gave me some new leads and with the help of Laurie Thompson, an experienced Australian genealogist, this has now all been checked and brought up to date.

So - to begin at the beginning. In the history of the family published in 1880 (*Collections for a History of Staffordshire, Volume VII Part 2 - An Account of the Family of Swynnerton of Swynnerton and elsewhere in the County of Stafford*) on page 165 you will find the tree of the Swynnertons of Whitmore Table IV. You will note that the Reverend Charles Swynnerton shows JOSEPH SWINNERTON as being born on the 13 March 1803 and marrying Caroline Spencer of Manchester on the 22 December 1823. However, there is a doubt about this date of birth. At his death in Victoria his age was certainly given as 51 which would tally but there is no trace in our records of his birth in 1803. In fact, in the Parish Registers of Newcastle-under-Lyme we find "1792, Dec 16 Joseph son of Benjamin Swinnerton (born 13 March)". We think he understated his age in Australia - probably to get work.

The Reverend Charles says that Joseph and Caroline's 3rd son William Walter had a son William Thomas born in Australia and we have been able to confirm this from the Victoria Pioneer Births, Deaths and Marriage Indexes which also lists his marriage to Julia Moulds (Charles says Mowles). We assumed, therefore, that William Walter had emigrated. However, we have now discovered that his parents, Joseph and Caroline, also emigrated to Australia which was not mentioned in the book at all.

They took passage on the sailing ship "Wallace" with six children and arrived at Port Philip on the 6th November 1841. The passenger list says:

Joseph Swinnerton	Father	38
Caroline Swinnerton	Mother	33
James 17	Betty	13
Joseph 16	Margaret	8
Thomas 5	Louisa	3

Betty is obviously the Elizabeth on the Reverend Charles's tree but here are 3 children not listed by him so whoever gave him the information about the family (which would have been sometime in the 1870s) either had forgotten these little ones or had not known of their births.

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.		James Swinnerton, b. 31 December, 1768; died on the Continent, without issue, 30 December, 1794.		Benjamin Swinnerton, son = Elizabeth, dau. of James Poole, of Finney Greene; born in 1771; died in 1849.		1. Anne. 2. Elizabeth, b. 31 July, 1767; wife of William Harding, Attorney, of Betley. 3. Jane, b. 8 April, 1769; died at Millend, Audley, 4 December, 1784. 4. Charlotte, b. 9 December, 1770; wife of Thomas Moyle, of Newcastle.	
James Swinnerton, J.P., born = Sarah Wright, <i>née</i> Sidney, at Newcastle, 15 May, 1799; Mayor of Macclesfield, 1846; died in Macclesfield, February, 1881, <i>s.p.</i>		Joseph Swinnerton, b. 13 March, 1803.		Joseph Swinnerton, son = Caroline Spencer, of Manchester; m. 22 December, 1823.		Benjamin, b. 22 May, 1806; d. 5 August, 1807.	
James Henry Poole Swinnerton, b. 19 March, 1825.		William Walter, born at Liverpool, 23 February, 1831; died at Bradford, 18 Sept., 1876.		Thomas Swinnerton, b. 13 March, 1803.		Thomas Poole, b. 29 June, 1807.	
James Henry Poole Swinnerton, b. 19 March, 1825.		Joseph, born at Liverpool.		James, drowned when a boy in Australia.)		1. Sarah. 2. Charlotte. 3. June. 4. Elizabeth.	
James Henry Poole Swinnerton, b. 19 March, 1825.		William Walter, born at Liverpool, 23 February, 1831; died at Bradford, 18 Sept., 1876.		Thomas Swinnerton, b. 13 March, 1803.		1. Letitia Poole, b. 28 September, 1826; died at Liverpool, 30 March, 1831. 2. Elizabeth, b. 16 May, 1828.	
William Thomas Swinnerton, born at Stafford, 1857.		James Henry, born at Stafford, 1857.		George Frederick, born at Hertford, 1868.		1. Mary Elizabeth, of Stone, now living. 2. Julia Caroline, born at Macclesfield, 1865, now living. 3. Jane, born at Hertford, 1868.	

Note that William Walter did not accompany his parents although only 10 years of age. Was he ill and unable to travel? In fact, in the Census of 1841 I have found him living with his Aunts Jane and Caroline, both unmarried teachers, at Bedford Street, Liverpool. His sister Elizabeth aged 12 is also there but it looks as though she did go with her parents according to the passenger list. I can find no trace of him in the 1851 Census by which time he would have been 20 and indeed he must have gone to Australia before then because his marriage to Julia Moulds is shown in the Victorian Pioneer Records as having taken place in 1850. He must, subsequently, have returned to this country because he is registered in the Index of Deaths at St. Catherine's House as having died at Bradford in 1876 aged 45.

In 1848 on the ship "Berkshire" we find 2 William Swinnerton listed on the passenger list both aged 28 and both stated to have been born in Betley! Neither of these can have been 'our' William Walter so when did he go out? I cannot say where William Walter was born but he was certainly baptised in Liverpool on the 24th of April 1831.

However, I can tell you that subsequent research has shown that one was a William Henry, son of Thomas and Esther Swinnerton of the Betley family baptised at Forton on the 7th January 1821. He subsequently married an Irish lass, Eliza McQuade at Geelong, Victoria on the 8th April 1851 and had a large family of whom more in the next issue. The family thought that he was a son of Joseph & Caroline but that is not the case.

Joseph and Caroline had more children in Australia - Sarah Ann born in Victoria 1843 and Benjamin born in Melbourne in 1845 and it was the latter who continued the line and has given us our new family. He married Louisa Caroline Millar, who had originally come from Cornwall, at Melbourne in 1875 and their descendants were shown in my original tree in the June 1991 (Volume 8 No.6) issue of this journal. This tree has now been amended considerably because we also have the family of our new member Mr E.C. Swinnerton of Sydney to add. I am waiting to hear from him and I shall then be able to type up an accurate tree for the next Journal.

In the course of his checking the Australian records for us, Laurie unearthed what he described as a veritable Pandora's Box of Swinnertons with many entries for people we know absolutely nothing about and had no idea were in Australia. There is still much work to be done!

SWINNERTON BIRTHS IN THE STATE OF VICTORIA , AUSTRALIA 1888 -1913

1888-1891	NIL			
1892	Anabral ?	Charles Swinnerton/Lucy Cave	Albert Park	18907
1893	NIL			
1894	William James	William Swinnerton/Ellen Jane Mannin		7269
1895	Anne	Mary Swinnerton	St. Arnaud	32580
	Julia	Ellen Jane Mannix	Stratfieldshire	33047
1896	Nellie(Maria?)	William Swinnerton/Ellen Mannix	Bendigo	25648
1897	Flor Mabel	Ethel Swinnerton	Ballarat	16126
1898	Thomas	William Swinnerton/Ellen Mannix	Bendigo	8669
1899	Henry	William Swinnerton/Ellen Jane Mannix	Heathcote	19257
	Myrtle	Ethel May Swinnerton	Ballarat E.	15533
1900	Benjamin Alex.	Hedley Swinnerton/Rebecca Fraser	Ballarat E.	16213
1901	Dorothy	Hedley Swinnerton/Rebecca Fraser	Ballarat E.	24286
	Joanerh?	William Swinnerton/E. J. Mannix	Heathcote	3902
1902	Jno	William Swinnerton/Ellen Mannix	Bendigo	15886
1903	Hedley	Hedley Swinnerton/Rebecca Fraser	Ballarat E.	15307
1904	Hedley Fraser	Hedley Swinnerton/Rebecca Fraser	Ballarat E.	15295
	Leslie	William Swinnerton/E. J. Mannix	Heathcote	3568
1905	Mary Agnes	William Swinnerton/E. J. Mannix	Strathfieldshire	13979
1906	Eliza	William Swinnerton/Nellie Mannix	Kangaroo Flat	11480
	Jno Spencer	Hedley Swinnerton/Rebecca Fraser	Ballarat E.	15761
1907	NIL			
1908	William (Howard?)	Hedley Swinnerton/Rebecca Fraser	Ballarat E.	578
1909	Donald Maxwell	Hedley Swinnerton/Rebecca Fraser	Ballarat E.	24609
	Dennis Gordon	William Swinnerton/Ellen Mannix	Strathfieldshire	6653
	Ellen Mary Elizabeth	Frederick Swinnerton/Alice Jane Vance	Richmond	5929
1910	NIL			
1911	Frederick John	Frederick Swinnerton/Alice Jane Vance	Richmond	14562
	Jane (Vic?)	William Swinnerton/Ellen Mannix	Strathfieldshire	24437
1912	Edna May	Hedley Swinnerton/Rebecca Fraser	Ballarat E.	475
1913	NIL			
SWINERTON				
1865	William	D1 John Jesse Swinerton/Mary Hulbert	St. Kilda	2634
1873	Jesse	B William Swinnerton/Eliza McQuade	Landsborough	10276
1883	Annie Mabel	B Benjamin SWinnerton/C.L. Miller	Ballarat	6661

NO SWYNNERTONS

SWINNERTON MARRIAGES IN THE STATE OF VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA 1888-1930

1888	NIL			
1889	Eliza Swinnerton	Crowlands	Joseph Orr	3400
	Ruby Sarah Swinnerton	London	Ginho Agrati	8774
1890	Lucretia Swinnerton	Shropshire	Alic Nicholson	2030
1891	Charles Swinnerton	England	Lucy Cave	6335
	Eunice Swinnerton	Woolrich?	William James Rahaley	2428
1892-4	NIL			
1895	Louise Swinnerton	Cornwall	Thos Bernard	4981
1896-8	NIL			
1899	Ethel May Swinnerton	Ballarat	James Robert Parsons	7956
	Hedley Swinnerton	Ballarat E.	Rebecca Fraser	7---2
	Jane Swinnerton	Crowlands	Peter DeClercq	231
1900-4	NIL			
1905	Clarice Swinnerton	Ballarat E.	Alfred William Powell	6385
1906	NIL			
1907	Frederick Charles Swinnerton	England	Alice Vance	7761
	Mary Francis Swinnerton	Navarre?	Path Thomas Casey	5938
1908-14	NIL			
1915	Charles Swinnerton	Australia	Violet Wheatley Williamson	9965
	Wm. Henry Swinnerton		Mabel Isbla Hall	147
	Julia Cath Swinnerton		Jas Knopp	5650
	Marg Lavinia Swinnerton		Jno Jas Muir	9441
1916-8	NIL			
1919	Jess Swinnerton		Olive May Humphries	10346
1920	NIL			
1921	Hannah Swinnerton		Jno Patk Kildea	4541
1922	Benj Alexr Swinnerton		Ruby Rebecca Jukes	5790
	Sarah Swinnerton		Edw Heall	412
1923	Dorothy Bayles Swinnerton		Thos Jas Boyd	10061
1924	Hy Swinnerton		Fran Gladys Ethel Yeoman	13980
1925-6	NIL			
1927	Arth Jas Swinnerton		Lily Irene Steel	10547
	Ellen Marie Swinnerton		Wm Jno Field	511
	Thos Leo Swinnerton		Hilda Marj Barry	8268
1928	Eliza Swinnerton		Herbert Hilston Gladman	9817
	Jno Swinnerton		Ruby Flor Bolding	869
1929	NIL			
1930	Mary Agnes Swinnerton		Oliver Hy Slater	8750

INDEX TO BIRTHS IN NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA 1880-1889

Surname	Other Names	Number in Register	Father	Mother
SWINNERTON	James Thomas	82 13013	Thomas	Annie
	Edith	84 06818	Alfred J.	Mary F.
	Louis O.	87 05175	Alfred J.	Mary F.
	Ada	82 06796	Alfred John	Mary F.
	Alfred John	80 01455	Alfred John	Mary Frances
	Percy	89 18154	George E.	Clara L.
	Florence E.	84 04221	James H.	Florence
	Arthur L.	88 06788	Joseph R.	Emily
	Frank D.	87 06806	Joseph R.	Emily
	William W.	84 04876	Walter	Mary E.
	Walter I.	86 04065	Walter I.	Mary C.
	William G.	89 04499	Walter J.	Mary E.

INDEX TO BIRTHS 1890-99

SWINNERTON	Albert J.	94 18244	Alfred J.	Mary F.
	Stanley L.	90 18844	Alfred J.	Mary F.
	Sydney T.S.	93 05696	Edward T.	Beatrice S.
	Beatrice E.	93 10742	George E.	Clara L.
	Elsie L.	90 10410	George E.	Clara L.
	Florence L.E.	97 31548	George E.	Clara L.
	Jean M.	96 03566	George E.	Clara L.
	Arthur J.	91 04818	James H.	Florence S.
	Lily M.	93 29891	James H.	Florence S.
	Doris E.	90 18761	Joseph R.	Emily
	Ernest M.	92 19447	Joseph R.	Emily
	Amy R.	90 30210	Thomas E.	Beatrice S.
	Alice M.	93 05340	Walter J.	Mary E.
	Grace J.	96 28595	Walter J.	Mary E.
	Margaret L.	92 23396	William	Ellen J.

MISCELLANEOUS NEW SOUTH WALES BIRTHS

Pre 1856

*SWINNERTON Benjamin 1843 2892 27

1900	SWINNERTON	Lilian M.	Walter J.	Mary E.	29311
1903		Myrtle I.	Walter J.	Mary E.	27998

* Duplication of entry in Victorian Pioneers.

The above are the only births in NSW 1843 - 1905. Victoria was part of New South Wales until 1851.
(Note: Sarah Ann on tree was missed out from both the NSW and Victoria registers.

SWYNNERTON AND WITCHES

It was a chilly Autumn night around fourteen years ago and I was driving home through the quaint countryside between Cannock and Wolverhampton. A few leaves still clung to the trees, and a crescent moon could often be glimpsed between thin clouds as they scurried past on a high wind.

On my left was the 'mile wall' bounding the Hilton Park estate, a stone structure whose battered length had been one of the wonders of the world to my parents and their companions when they came this way on camping expeditions in the 1930's.

Traffic was sparse, and pedestrians even sparser, and my mind was, as usual in those days, on church business. Suddenly, a glowing white shape appeared on the right of the dark road and passed quickly across my headlights to a breach in the 'mile wall' before vanishing again.

After I had gone a short distance, I realised what I had actually seen; a young woman, with long, tangled raven hair, wearing a white robe held at the waist with a thin, dark cord. Her pale arms were bare, and more surprisingly so were her feet.

Of course, there's no accounting for female taste in dress, and this was a particularly zany period, but the girl's outfit was obviously of the type adopted by the more publicity-minded members of 'Wicca' the witchcult that everyone who is into the occult knows and loves.

The Hilton Park estate is hardly the place to knowingly pay host to witches, since it has been in the hands partly of the Coal Board and partly of St. Joseph's Rest Home, in the Hall itself, for many years. Yet this is an ancient site, as evidenced by an old moat quite near Hilton Hall.

The Vernon family, long-time owners, played host to one of the great curiosities of Staffordshire, Jack of Hilton, who probably needs no great dwelling upon. He was a hollow brass figure, a foot high or so, in the form of a kneeling man with one hand on his head while the other clutched his phallus, which was swathed in oak-leaves.

At New Year, the Lord of nearby Essington, would pay long-standing homage to the Hilton Hall family by bringing them a goose. Jack, who literally had a hole in his head, was filled with water and plugged with clay before being set on a big fire in the main hall. When he boiled, emitting steam from a small mouth-hole, the goose was marched around the fire before being sent to join its ancestors. After the bird was cooked, the Lord of Essington was given a large helping of its meat. Opinions differ as to whether this ritual happened on each New Year or only on request, but the Vernons are gone now, and Jack lives on someone's shelf in the same county as the even more enigmatic Stonehenge.

The Vernons are said to have gained Hilton Hall by marriage around 1562, which oddly enough is the date given for the death of SIR HUMPHREY SWYNNERTON, possibly the last head of the family who previously inhabited the residence.

Wedgewood opened a new factory site near Hanley in the 'Potteries', and, anxious to give it the sort of name that would appeal to notions of classical beauty, he called it 'Etruria'. On reflection, this might seem odd, since this ancient land, now a province of Northern Italy, was not the best known area of the old world. Nevertheless, this was almost certainly where Jack of Hilton had its origins.

The Etruscans were a mystical race, much concerned with divination, which they executed by examining animal entrails, by observing the weather, and by watching the flight of birds. The Midlands-born author D.H. Lawrence was fascinated by the Etruscans and explored their tombs in 1926, writing excitedly about how they interested him. Perhaps he was drawn to them because they were reckoned to be sensuous people with no fear of death.

Nevertheless, they were overthrown by the Romans, and three hundred years later the forgers of the largest empire of ancient times had built Watling Street through the Midlands and had villas, farms, and forts at Stretton, Brewood and Penkridge.

At the most homely level of their religious beliefs the Romans revered their household gods and goddesses; these were generally known as 'lares' and took the form of small human figures in non-ferrous metal. It is tempting to suppose that Jack of Hilton perhaps confiscated from some Etruscan home or temple, had been adopted as one of these minor spirits. His oak-leaves garb would appeal to the Romans especially in their times, since they held the oak sacred, like the Britons whom they invaded.

I often wondered how Jack came to be used as a kind of glorified kettle, but this was possibly a mistake. The Etruscans made beautiful hollow metal figures, especially of the mythical 'chimaeras', with their triple animal heads, and they had open mouths.

Perhaps it is to be expected that a small pagan deity should survive so long in Staffordshire, when we consider it is the home of the Abbots Bromley Horn Dance, which may essentially pre-date even farming, and remember that it was part of the last British kingdom to be ruled by a pagan king. King Penda took control of Mercia in 626 AD and ruled it for three decades, waging war against all-comers and often forming alliances with Celts to further his ends.

The spirit whom Jack represented might well have escaped into the local countryside, for a little way south-east of Hilton, by the Bloxwich Road, the Victorian ordnance survey map shows 'Mockbeggar Hall', now prosaically marked as Barns Farm. A mockbeggar was one of nearly 200 supernatural beings identified by folklorist Michael Aislabie Denham, and its job was to lead people astray and abandon them with laughter when they got into trouble. 'Beggar' is here a variant of boggart or bogey, but just over in Pelsall was Goblin's Pit Wood and Goblin's Pit Farm, from which the mockbeggar in question may have emerged. At the other end of a lane from Mockbeggar was Hobbler End, and 'hob' is an old name for the Devil, but we must not get too carried away; a 'hobbler' was a man who pulled a canal barge on his own, as the Tipton Slasher did in his declining years, and the Wyrley and Essington Canal, one of the oldest, is just across the fields.

Lucifer whose name was 'Aradia', sometimes known as Herodias. This daughter, born of such unearthly parents, was eventually sent to earth in ancient times to teach magic and witchcraft to the simple and oppressed people on the earth so that they could hit back at their rulers.

Leland wrote all the witch's words in a book which he named after the goddess, but which is often called 'the gospel of the witches'.

Even if the lady I saw that night did not have this 'gospel' under her arm, I should think she had some version of it in her heart.

(L.B. Jackson)

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BAPTISM AT ST. THOMAS'S, BATH ROW, BIRMINGHAM

18 Aug. 1861 Oscar Thomas, s. John & Ann Swinnerton, Ruston St. North, Blacksmith. and

1861 CENSUS Birmingham Ladywood District of St. Barnabas. Ruston St. North. Schedule 70 House No. 3

John Swinnerton	Head Mar 26	Blacksmith b. Stafford	Ann
-do-	Wife Mar 21	-do-	
Oscar Thomas Son	6m	b. B'ham	
(ex F.V. Winchurch)			

* * * * *

From The Accounts of Mr Meigh, Constable for Fillongley and Corby taken the 15th day of Nov. 1733
"pd to Tho. Swinerton Bread Wayer (sic) and Ale Taster for his oath and journey 0-2-6 "
(ex Mrs Jane Bowen)

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GUILDHALL M/S 11936/379 p. 596

588926 21 September 1791
Samuel Swinnerton at 'The Rose' in Monkwell Street (London), vintner.
On his house only, the White Hart Inn situate at Colnbrook, Middx, intended for his own occupation brick and tiled£800
Stable adjoining in yard behind and separate, brick and timber and tiled£400

£1200

also M/S 11936/381 11 November 1791
More detail than above
(ex David Hawkings)

£1300

Jane is back in the headlines again!

Slough suited by Swinnerton strike

SLOUGH, three times champions, took advantage of Ipswich's slip to go back to the top on goal difference over Balsam Leicester, with whom they drew 1-1, writes Bill Colwill. Ipswich, the champions, were knocked back when a 54th-minute goal by First Personnel Sutton Coldfield's Jane Swinnerton at a penalty corner condemned them to a 1-0 home defeat.

Slough's captain, Karen Brown, was always dominant and controlled the mid-field but here side had to fight back after Morag Laird gave Leicester the lead from a 26th-minute lead from a penalty stroke. The veteran striker, Lesley Hobley,

claimed the equaliser in the 54th minute.

Goals from Lorraine Marsden and Lucy Newcombe gave Hightown their first points of the season in a 2-1 home win against Clifton. At Chelmsford, Kate Trollove scored first for Ealing four minutes into the game. Chelmsford's Jane Smith missed one penalty stroke, Lynn Bollington equalised at a second and their winner came from a Jo Green penalty corner.

Liz Clegg scored her first National League goal, and finished with four in Woking's 7-0 win against Colwall in Division Two while Olton suffered their first League defeat in five years going down 2-1 at Sherwood.



Jane Swinnerton:

Tone Up for Christmas.
Every Wednesday, 2pm.
Swinnerton Hall, Gibbon Road, Kingston. Body control and jazz dancing.
Ring: 540 4133 or drop in.

☐ You know the cause of some of our worst humiliations? Forgetfulness.

Like the time Anne Swinarton of Scarborough forgot she was wearing a hat with a veil in a restaurant.

"I aimed a forkful of gravied potatoes for my mouth — they wound up all over my face."

FROM THE NEWSPAPERS

In the June 1992 Journal, I asked who was Ivan Russell-Swinnerton. Here is the answer - a brave man indeed to stand against such a charismatic figure.

HENLEY

Michael Heseltine (Con)



MICHAEL Heseltine has been MP for Henley since 1974. He has a majority of 17,000 and is currently Environment Secretary. He is 59-years-old, studied politics, philosophy and economics at Oxford and was in the Welsh Guards.

Before becoming an MP he was a publisher and chairman of Haymarket Publishing Group.

A former Defence Secretary, his is commonly known as Tarzan.

Ivan Russell-Swinnerton (Lab)



IVAN Russell-Swinnerton, 47, lives in Henley and is a governor of Rycote-wood College, Thame, and Henley College. He has been a Labour party member for 14 years and a member of the trades union movement for 22 years.

He teaches general studies at King Alfred's School, Wantage, and education is high on his agenda. He says stealing Michael Heseltine's seat is not out of the question.

SWINNERTON SOCIETY PRODUCTIONS

THE SOCIETY TIE. Made in Woven Jacquard with a single Swinnerton Society Cross and Horseshoe badge. Available in Navy Blue, Maroon and Grey. Price £4.50 plus .50p postage. Set of 3 - one of each colour £12.50 plus .50p postage.

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Both the above are obtainable from the Secretary, David Brock (address inside front cover)

AN ACCOUNT OF THE FAMILY OF SWYNNERTON. A facimile copy of the original history of the family published in 1886 by the William Salt Archaeological Society, Stafford. Over 200 pages of the family history with trees of various branches of the family. £12 plus .50p postage. Every Swinnerton family should have a copy. Obtainable from Iain Swinnerton (address inside front cover).

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