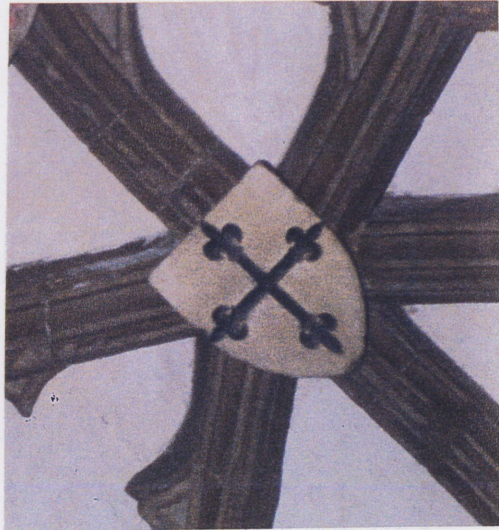


# SWINNERTON Family History



The roof boss in Canterbury Cathedral cloisters of  
Robert de Swynnerton who took part in the Crusade under Richard the  
Lionheart in 1190.

THE JOURNAL OF THE SWINNERTON SOCIETY

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AUGUST 2005

# The Swinnerton Society

A non-profit making organisation devoted to the welfare of Swynnerton Church and the research and publication of Swinnerton Family Records

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## SWINNERTON FAMILY HISTORY

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Number 10

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## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Margaret and I finally moved to our new home on the Gower Peninsular on 10 May. What a relief after months of delay and frustration. Since then we have been fully engrossed with our property and particularly the garden.

The Gathering at Swynnerton on the 4<sup>th</sup> June gave us plenty of things to think about and I would like to thank Margaret for her efforts in spite of all the other pressures. We had a good attendance at this Triennial Gathering which followed the AGM and by all accounts everybody seemed to enjoy the day. Thanks too for the arrangements made by the Revd Brian Swynnerton on both Saturday and Sunday. His family service was delightful and followed by an interesting tour of St. Mary's church.

In the afternoon after the usual excellent lunch (with wine this year thanks to the Society's Patron) we were all totally absorbed by the talks of our speakers. Our Patron, Lord Thomas of Swynnerton, gave an interesting outline of his family roots and this was followed by Keith Livesey's talk 'Who was Wally?'. This was a fascinating and emotional presentation of Keith's family history and his perseverance in exploring his roots.

Sunday morning following the church service in St Mary's a small party of us set off on the Swynnerton Steeplechase ably guided by the Revd Brian Swynnerton and his wife Anne. The names flowed by:- Swynnerton Mill at Hatton, Chorlton Church, Butterton, Dyke Ridge, The Yew Tree, Church of St Margaret at Betley and the interesting three gravestones of Brian's ancestors.

For those of you who haven't yet purchased it *The Swynnerton Steeplechase* publication is an absorbing insight into our family history.

Many of you attending the gathering may have noticed that the year 2006 is an important milestone in the history of Swynnerton, the 700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the granting of the Charter to the village by King Edward I in 1306. There are plans for the commemoration of this to include a medieval fayre to be held on Saturday 12 August 2006 in Swynnerton with many interesting events including a living history camp, the re-enactment society Buckingham's Retinue and the Charter ceremony itself. Not surprisingly the Society have been approached for our support on that day and even to take part in the ceremony! So dust off your medieval costumes and sharpen your swords for this landmark day in the history of Swynnerton.

*Barrie Swynnerton*

## *My first visit to a Gathering of the Swinnertons*

As a 'first timer' at a family gathering, I was asked by our President if I would write down my thoughts about it for the next Journal. Being a fairly new member of this society I thought a little background information might help.

In late September 2003 quite by accident I came across an article in a back number of *Practical Family History* written by one Iain Swynnerton. I had joined our small Genealogy Group, which is affiliated to the local U3A and was hoping to find some details of my maternal Grandfather Henry Swynnerton who had lived and died in Tutbury Staffs.

With encouragement from other members I decided to write to Iain having thought that the face in the photo with the article looked reasonably honest (as in 'Would you buy a used car from this man?') providing him with as much information as I could. He replied by phone a few days later and told me I was a member of the family and that in fact he and I were 4<sup>th</sup> cousins!

After that I was showered with information about this large and talented family - about whom I knew nothing. My mother knew very little about the rest of her

relations - if indeed she knew she had any! I joined the Family Society and having been told about a Gathering this year I was determined to try and attend.

My friend Linda Harding offered to drive me up and with secretary Margaret Swynnerton's help in booking the hotel we duly arrived during the afternoon of Friday June 3<sup>rd</sup>. In the Bar that evening we met 9 other Family Members who made us so welcome. We all had dinner together amidst much laughter - the wine helped! It was a great start to the weekend.

Meeting for Coffee in the Church Hall on Saturday was very relaxing and I enjoyed seeing people greet each other with obvious pleasure. The Revd Brian came and chatted to us and was interested in finding out where we 'Fitted In'. When we went over to the Church I was surprised to find how large it was, a very handsome building both inside and out.

Chairman Barrie chaired the brief AGM as the President was stuck in traffic on the M6 enjoying the view! Before the service we went back to the Church Hall to avail ourselves of the facilities and on our return we found the President and his wife had just arrived safely and we all went

back into the Church for the lovely service lead by the Revd. Brian.

The rest of the day's events were all held in the village hall where we found all was ready for us. In fact everything ran like clockwork but I suspect that at times the Committee and their helpers were like a family of swans, (gliding across the lake but under the surface paddling like crazy)!

There was so much to look at and people to greet that I could hardly take it all in. Trawling through the archives and finding books by Frank Swinnerton (he and Swinnerton Potteries were all I had heard about from my mother) looking at old photos which I love to do, I knew it would take at least a week to do it justice!

I bought some mementos from Geoff's Pottery 'stall' and I will always remember his happy smiling face! The lunch was super – very yummy and I had no trouble tucking in, nor did anyone else I think! Following that our Patron, Lord (Hugh) Thomas of Swynnerton, gave a talk, which I thought struck just the right note for the audience of family members. My brief exchange with him in the Buffet line was amusing.

I was very affected by Keith Livesey's talk about his Father

entitled 'Who was Wally?' as I had just completed a similar journey (with lots of help) finding out about my Grandfather. It is surprising how it affects you on an emotional level – satisfaction and sadness, going hand in hand as Keith had experienced.

When the time came to say farewell at the end of the afternoon I was overwhelmed by the hugs and kisses I received from people I had not met as well as the ones I had – especially Geoff's gallant kissing of my hand. You made an old lady very happy! What a Gent! Also – many blessings for Granddaughter Gracie – the latest Swinnerton I understand.

Whilst getting ready for dinner that evening I reflected on the lovely day and recalled 20 or more years ago coming across F Swinnerton the Caterers who had taken over Kia Ora Drinks. I was working for P & H Ltd Wholesalers and I was given a card by the Rep (which I still have) and I told him about my Swinnerton connection. When he called again he told me his Boss had invited me to contact him, as I was sure to be a relative. The 'Logo' on the card was lost on me and only recently the story behind it was explained.

I regret now I did not follow up the contact, as if I had I would have known about the Society

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long ago and perhaps would have been to most of the Gatherings. Such is fate, nothing is too late though and I made it this time.

We spent the evening at the hotel together (14 this time) and it was a great finish to the weekend with lots of fun and laughter - the jokes being proportionate to the amount of wine that disappeared. My friend Linda had a wonderful time snapping away with her digital camera all the weekend and the prints she produced from her laptop and printer (which she just happened to have with her)

showed very red cheeks at both dinner evenings, I wonder why! Breakfast on Sunday was rather more subdued. It was sad to say goodbye and I do hope we meet again some day. Linda and I thank you all for making the weekend so very special.

Hopefully we have made some new friends. Special thanks again to you Iain for being the 'catalyst' for all these new experiences and wonderful memories. We were shattered when we got home and one week later I am still reeling.

*Jan Aldhous*

\* \* \* \* \*

## The 'Other Isle of Man Swinnertons' during the World Wars. by Stuart Limb

I thought that it would be appropriate to write during 2005, the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the Second World War, about the war service of my Swinnerton forebears. Private Frederick William Swinnerton my grandmother's younger and only brother, joined the 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion of

the Cheshire Regiment. He was killed aged 19 at Ypres and is commemorated on the Menin Gate, the War Memorial at Douglas, Isle of Man and the plaque in Swynnerton Church. With his death the Swinnerton name died out in my family. My grandmother's sister Francis May Swinnerton had a boyfriend in

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Grimsby who died during the First World War. She never married after this. My great grandfather Joseph Swinnerton was never the same after 1918 and died in unhappy circumstances in 1924 on the Isle of Man. Frances May Swinnerton, during World War Two, ran an internment camp for alien women in the Falcon's Nest Hotel Port Erin. My



*My grandmother – Victoria Swinnerton*

Uncle Patrick can remember the strict security at the Hotel when he visited her whilst recuperating from a wartime accident. My grandmother Victoria Swinnerton married John Thompson in the Isle of Man in 1912 and left to live in Nottingham. John Thompson, approaching 50, was too old to serve in the First World War and died before the beginning of the

Second. The children of John and Victoria though all made their mark during the Second World War. John Francis Hugh Thompson, Victoria's eldest son, joined the RAF and after training in Canada and South Africa was stationed as a pilot/navigator in Yorkshire. Whilst on a mine-laying mission over the Baltic Sea his plane was shot down and all the crew lost. He is commemorated on the RAF memorial at Runnymede. He left a widow Norah who is still alive at 92. His only son Michael was tragically killed in a motorcycle accident in the 1950s. Victoria's next son, Alec Thompson joined the South Notts Hussars in 1937 and served in Palestine, North Africa and the Western Desert. After Tobruk he was captured at Knightsbridge and spent several years in Italian POW camps. After the Italian surrender the Nazis transferred POWs to North Germany in the 'Long March'. Alec came back from the war mentally traumatised. My mother can remember her mother Victoria (Swinnerton) aged nearly 60 taking him on a kind of 'pub-crawl' to try and bring him round. Alec emigrated to Canada in 1947 and established a carpet cleaning factory. He was sponsored in his emigration by Joseph Swinnerton's sister-in-law, Polly Bowling. He married Isobel, the daughter of the editor of the Toronto Star. Both are still alive nearing 90. Patrick Thompson is Victoria's third son and he joined the Sherwood Foresters in 1937 and after training

became a despatch rider with the Signals Corps. He was injured in an accident just as war broke out. After recovery he joined the Grenadier Guards as a despatch rider, only to have another accident. He was invalided out in 1944 but joined the South Notts. Hussar Territorials after the war as a signaller. He is now a pensioner in the Royal Hospital Chelsea.

Victoria's eldest son Frederick Hugh Thompson won an open scholarship to Oxford in 1941 but was unable to take this up until after the war. He joined the South Staffordshire Regiment in 1942 and in 1944 was posted with the Gordon Highlanders where, as a platoon commander, he won the Military Cross. The citation says it was 'for devotion to duty and cool courage in the face of the heaviest enemy fire' at the River Orne crossing in France and at Delmanhorst Holland where he 'went round his platoon continuously giving confidence to his men, completely disregarding his own safety'. Such was his modesty he never told his wife or his mother about his war record and Military Cross. His brother Patrick discovered the details following his death. After the war Hugh Thompson became an archaeologist and author. He died in 1995. His last book, *The Archaeology of Greek and Roman Slavery*, was published posthumously in 2003 by the Society of Antiquaries whose General Secretary he was for 21 years. His earlier excavations at Chester Amphitheatre were the subject of a BBC *Timewatch* programme in

2005 where his work is being continued. His wife Sheila, children Rosalind, Lucy and John Francis Swinnerton Thompson



*My grandfather John Thompson*

survive him.

Victoria's two daughters Joyce Thompson and my mother Sheila Thompson both served as Red Cross nurses and fire-watchers in the Second World War. My mother married my father, Clifford Limb, who served on minesweepers during the war and was involved in the D. Day operations. As one of the 'younger generation' I can say that I'm proud of the contributions, great and small, that my Swinnerton forebears and their children made during two world wars. The only thing that I question is whether I could have been as brave as they were?

## *From the Burton-on-Trent Daily Mail 1900*

### *Local Yeomanry At Bulawayo*

Mr J. Swinnerton of Ashley House, Caldwell has received the following letters from his sons, Ted and Harry Swinnerton of the Hants Yeomanry Cavalry, who are at the front under General Carrington. One which is dated September 4<sup>th</sup> and written from Bulawayo says:-

"We have had a glorious time marching, plenty of excitement, plenty of work, plenty of bully beef and nearly had ditto of biscuits but unfortunately ran short the last day or two. We had no sooner arrived here that we had orders to get off after De Wet (the Boer General) in 24 hours, but happily that has been altered to four days so we hope to have time to look round the town. There is no doubt it is a splendid place, although we were happy on the march sleeping in the open air and nothing to worry us as we were not much afraid of night attacks. You would not believe the joy experienced on reaching civilisation again. The town is lit up with electricity. We have had some trying times and sometimes we had only one bottle of water for 24 hours, but never mind, I've prayed for one of these thirsts to return if I ever live to see England again".



### *A Cruel Joke in Camp*

"One night an alarm sounded as a big fire had broken out, or rather had been started, close to our camp and was approaching fast. We all had to stand to our horses with loaded arms with orders to saddle up and line up in order at once. There was a deuce of a stir, especially when some friendly natives came to warn us that the Boers had started the fire.

We had a big joke one night, one fellow, named Fox, saved his ration of flour until he had about a stone, when he bought some sultanas and raisins and together with a bit of bully beef fat, proceeded to make a roley poley pudding. Of course the news soon went round amongst his circle of friends and from that moment they all seemed particularly friendly with him. All would have been well for the few, but some other evil minded men also got wind that Fox was boiling a plum-duff. He waited until Fox went to fetch some wood for the fire, a distance of at least a mile, and then substituted a dummy pudding tied in a similar handkerchief. He then bought the proper pudding to another fire and finished boiling it and we scoffed it. After about 12 hours of hard boiling word passed round that Fox's pudding was all ready for eating and a happy

little party sat round on our saddles with mess tins at the ready and watering mouths. The closing scene, which beats all description and beats any play I ever witnessed, came about when Fox cut the string and pulled out a well boiled, dirty, ragged pair of old pants. I'll never forget the sight if I live to be 100. The question now is, "who pinched Fox's plum-duff?"

### *Roughing It*

"We are now camping in mud huts which are alive with creeping little insects which give great annoyance at night time. We have to take our horses nearly two miles for a drink and we have to carry ours from the same place, so we have had only one "cat lick" for five days; you should see us for cleanliness. Another bright interlude was marching all day without seeing a bit of wood for our fire and we had to camp at a spot used by the bullock wagons. We had to use for fuel any rubbish we could find including bullock dung. Not a very nice thing to boil tea or bake bread with, but of course we are hardened to all that by now. If we get through all right and the war is over shortly I think I'll try six months in the mounted police, as they get 10s per day and all found. If we should be sent back home in the winter it would be awful after this heat".

The following letter sent by Ted Swinnerton dated July 17<sup>th</sup> 1900 says:- "We are leading a fair life, something between a soldier, policeman and a convict and playing a fine waiting game. We had to stop a lot of natives from uprising and had a tough job but eventually settled a few of them. The others gave in, but I believe it is only for a short time as they are massing everywhere. We have to keep a sharp look out at night as they can crawl through the long grass without being seen, and if we burn the grass they are just the same colour as the ground and it is no joke to sleep with arms on and every moment expecting about 20,000 black natives coming to give one a pill. If I had my way I would bayonet the lot of them".

### *The Terms Of Yeomanry Settlement*

"One of our officers had an interview with Mr Cecil Rhodes the other day about the prospects of our stopping out here after the war is over. He said that all the men of the Imperial Yeomanry would be given a grant of 3,000 acres and 50 head of cattle with £25 a year for five years given us. Half the produce of the cattle given to us would have to be returned to the Chartered Company, together with 10s per year as a kind of stamp duty. At the end of 5 years, if we wished, we could pay back the £25 per year (£125) which we received, the land would then become our own. Or, we may go on renting it at £5 per year as long as we like. Of course, that is all very good, but if you fancy coming out here I will willingly turn my 3,000 acres over for you. I remember

someone saying that after the war South Africa would become overcrowded, but now I think it will take millions of people hundreds of years to do it. We went out shooting the other day and saw any amount of baboons, jackals and other large animals. The baboons were nearly six feet tall and they looked very happy jumping from tree to tree. We have a lot of New Zealanders and Australians with us and decent fellows they are too”.

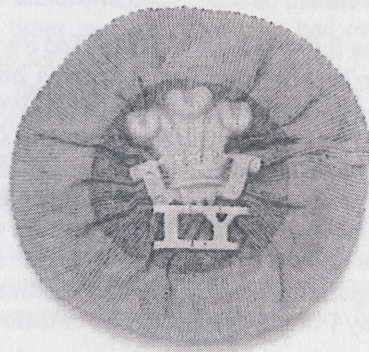
\* \* \* \* \*

### The Imperial Yeomanry.

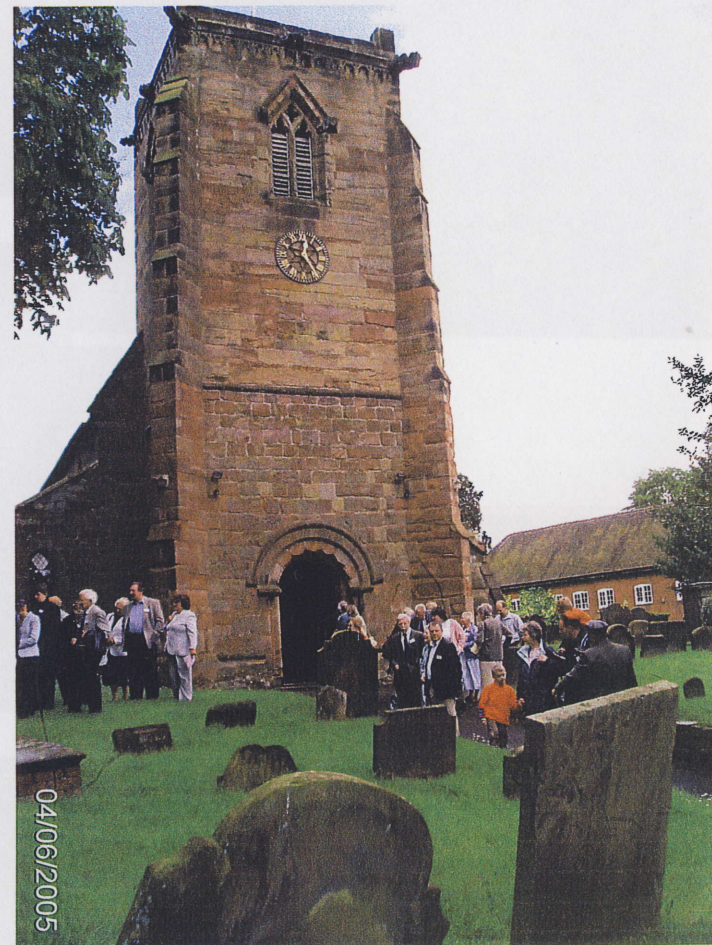
Regiments of Yeomanry Cavalry were first formed in 1794 to repulse possible invasion by the French. It was never intended that they should serve overseas but were specifically for the defence of this country.

However, the defeats inflicted on the British Army by the Boers in the opening stages of the Boer War between October and December 1899, particularly during ‘Black Week’ in December when we were defeated successively at Stornberg, Magersfontein and Colenso, resulting in British forces being besieged in Ladysmith, Kimberley and Mafeking, made the government realise that we simply did not have enough troops.

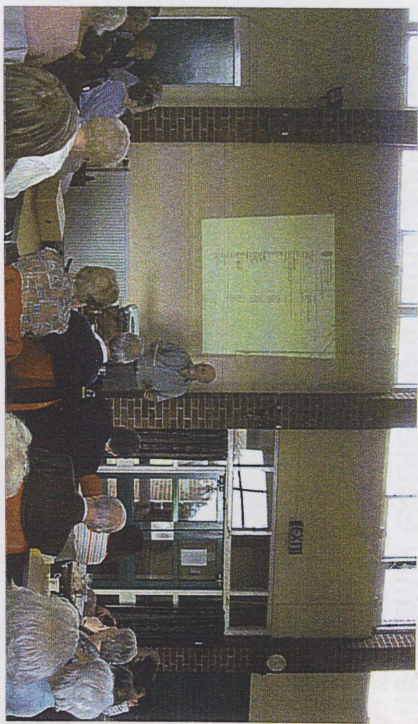
On the 18<sup>th</sup> of December 1899, they called for volunteers and special legislation was brought in to allow them to serve overseas. The response was quite remarkable. By the end of the war, 132 companies had been formed organised into 35 battalions. The Hampshire Company, with which Ted and Harry Swinnerton was the 41<sup>st</sup> Company.



### The Family Gathering 4 June 2005



Gathering outside Swynnerton Church before the service.





*Geoffrey Swinnerton hard at work selling Swinnerton china*



*Detective Sgt Greg Swinnerton*

## Young helping old to shut out comen

By Mike Underwood

Teeside Evening Gazette June 7 2005

Free advice to help elderly and vulnerable Teessiders keep out evil comen is being offered at Teeside University this week.

Students at the university have joined forces with Cleveland Police to devise the sessions, which are aimed at helping residents to feel safer in their homes.

Distraction burglaries, when a bogus caller keeps a victim talking at the door while an accomplice breaks in through the back of the house, is a distressing crime often aimed at the elderly.

*The most common distraction burglary is by someone posing as a representative for the water board or a gas or electricity supplier – Greg Swinnerton*

But the “Beat the Bogeyman” session promises to offer expert guidance on keeping the comen out.

Detective Sergeant Greg Swinnerton, of Cleveland Police, said: “In Cleveland we have seen a decrease in the number of distraction burglaries since we began Operation Strongbow in June 2003.

“Since then our detection rate has risen from three per cent to 30 per cent. The most common distraction burglary is still caused by someone posing as a representative for the water board or a gas or electricity supplier.

“Our message here is to always ask for an identity card and then call the company, but from a number in the phone book, not from a number on the ID card”.

Six trained student volunteers, who have been working in partnership with the police, will deliver the session to a group of elderly people on Wednesday.

It will be held in the University’s Clarendon Building from 10am to 2pm and will include role play and a video presentation.

A University of Teeside spokesman said: “The aim of the session is to help older people feel more confident when dealing with callers at the door”.

The session is open to all older people and is free of charge. The students have all been trained to deliver the training sessions by former Chief Superintendent Brian Steele, an acknowledged expert on doorstep crime.

## Noel William Swinnerton by the Revd. Brian Swynnerton

*(continued from Swinnerton Family History Vol.12 No.9 – April 2005)*

Both my parents recalled seeing Lady Crewe win a mixed doubles tennis tournament with Noel as her partner. My mother was very saddened by the large number of village lads, who were now about the village in their distinctive uniforms. A great many of them would never be able to play tennis again. Sadly, in towns and villages across Britain, there were thousands of young men suffering from the most dreadful wounds and injuries. I grew up in the Thirties and in my small village of 250 souls we had two men without legs and a man without hands and there were, of course, many others suffering from being shell-shocked or gassed.

Noel was not at home for very long because he persuaded the village doctor, Dr. Gittens, to write a letter to the Royal Engineers Depot at Chatham, Kent, to say that he had examined Noel, at Noel's request and considered him fit for light duties. Dr. Gittens was a former Army surgeon and had served in the South African War. Noel got a telegram a few days later telling him to report to Chatham as soon as possible. When Noel arrived at

the Royal Engineers Headquarters he was interviewed by two senior officers. Apparently, he had been selected for Officer Training way back in his Volunteer Days; the springtime of 1914. This was by virtue of the fact that Noel had good technical qualifications which were much in demand everywhere. The request that he be returned to the United Kingdom to undertake such training had apparently been following him on his way through France and the Balkans. The message nearly caught up with him in Malta and in a re-addressed state eventually arrived at The Moss the day after Noel had left for Chatham. My father re-addressed it. The letter caught up with Noel. However, by then Noel had been told the good news.

He returned to The Moss via London having the memorable experience of buying kit with a special Royal Engineers grant of money that the two senior officers had been able to bestow on him because of the letter written by either Dr. Gittens or someone in the Crewe family. Eventually, on the 5th December, 1916, he arrived at Jesus College,

Cambridge. He was wearing civilian clothes as instructed at Chatham and which turned out to be the required dress. Noel told me he felt sorry for some of the cadets who had arrived straight from the trenches.

'Out of Hell and into Heaven with a little difficulty at the Golden Gates!'

I have a group photograph of the



twenty-three cadets with Noel, the Senior Cadet, and the Staff. The contrast between the squalor of Salonika and Gallipoli and the majestic splendour of a Cambridge University College

was truly amazing. The silver and the servants! All quite unbelievable. Their Commandant was a very young cavalry colonel (a scion of the Nobility) and a fine horseman with a very experienced Royal Engineers Captain as the 2i/c. There was a Grenadier Guards Regimental Sergeant Major and an Army Service Corps Staff Sergeant in charge of administration. Noel was always full of praise for the arrangements and organisation. He described the Staff as 'Inspiring and encouraging'. It is interesting that Noel, after the Second World War, was given the task of setting up Railway Staff Development and Improvements Schemes for British Railways. I think he must have recalled his Cambridge training. I joined the London Midland Region of British Railways when I left school in 1947 as a Civil Engineering Trainee (surveyor and draughtsman). In 1955 I attended a 'Good Instruction' Course held at the British Railways Staff College, Darlington. There were twenty students and four Directing Staff.

The Principal was an ex-army colonel and his deputy a wartime training instructor who had retired with the rank of major and joined the railways. All had railway experience but their military

experience helped to create the necessary ingredient of discipline. Good order and discipline underpinned the whole invaluable experience. Noel passed-out top of the Officer Training Course and was gazetted to the Royal Welsh Fusiliers as a second lieutenant. Noel was astonished that he was not going straight back to the Royal Engineers in France. Most of the rest of the Course were going straight back to the fighting after a very short leave.

Back at the Moss Noel felt very fortunate to be able to visit local friends and especially the Estate Yard. Very quickly he was invited to meals and social gatherings by the Crewe family. It was then that he discovered that the Crewes had links with The Royal Welsh Fusiliers and that was why he had been directed to the 'Family Regiment'. Apparently the Crewes had frequently asked William, Noel's father, about his progress. At that time the Marquis was serving in the Government as Lord President of the Council and Secretary of State for India. Two branches of the Crewe Family had links with serving members of the R.W.F. They were the Crewe-Reads and the Crewe-Milnes .

By early 1917 the British infantry regiments were very short of

commissioned officers. In Noel's case, of course, he might have trained as a Sapper officer in 1915 if his mail could have caught up with him! I am sure that Noel enjoyed that long leave. My father and he discussed railways and I know that he encouraged my father to apply to take the L.N.W.R. Staff Entrance Examination and to continue with his evening class studies. Frank, my father, passed the exams and became a trainee Booking Clerk. Since his thirteenth birthday he had worked as a Junior Porter and Lamp Boy at Madeley Station . With the onset of the War he had lots of opportunity to extend his experience at Stafford and Crewe as an acting Platform Foreman and Shunter . On one occasion he took over as a Fireman on the footplate of a crack express because the fireman was suddenly taken ill . Frank rose to be an operating manager. He was especially fond of his older brother Noel and recalled polishing his boots and buttons when he came on leave.

In March, 1917, Noel was instructed by letter to join an R.W.F. battalion in France. He was there to command a platoon and when the battalion suffered many losses he was extremely lucky that his was the platoon to be kept in reserve. However,

whilst waiting in a railway cutting behind the lines they had a visit from the Prince of Wales who brought them gifts of cigarettes. H.R.H. won all their hearts by his friendly nature and genuine interest in their families and homes. The Prince talked to Noel about the Gallipoli Campaign. Noel told him about Jack. The Prince expressed a view that indicated he felt the award of posthumous recognition was not at all satisfactory. Shortly after this Noel was promoted to Lieutenant and found himself on his way to Paris and then to Marseilles in the South of France again! He had been directed to join the troopship *Transylvania*. The officer in charge of the troops packed on the ship was Major Henry Leigh Bibby of the Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry. Major Henry had been in Egypt for the past two years. There he had served as a Squadron Commander fighting the Turks. He was now an acting Lt. Colonel. Noel had met Major Bibby some years earlier. The Major was delighted to meet him again. They came from the same part of the world and got on well. The Leigh Bibby family originated from a Chester /North Wales Family. Noel and his father had met Bibby at Bunbury, Cheshire, well before the War

when they were doing some restoration work on one of the Marquis of Crewe's properties. Bibby told Noel that he was now appointed as his Adjutant with the temporary rank of Captain, but expressed grave concerns about this venture into the Mediterranean Sea. They leaned over the bridge rail and watched the other ships setting sail. All the ships were loaded with troops and equipment for what was obviously a great enterprise. He told Noel he was to look after the leather briefcase. This had the detailed plans and instructions for 'The Great Enterprise' which was to totally defeat the Turks in the Middle East. So the greatest and grandest of all the many ships carrying the men and stores cast off. The *Transylvania* made an impressive sight as many ships in the port saluted her with their sirens.



## St. Mary-The-Virgin, Aldermanbury

Dyer's Court, with an entrance at No. 11, Aldermanbury may be said to have been erected on historic ground, for on the east, part of it would appear to occupy the site upon which formerly stood the "bury" or court house of the Ealdorman from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the beginning of the 15<sup>th</sup> century, when it was abandoned by the mayor and aldermen for their enlarged or newly-erected Guildhall, begun in 1411. At this time, Alderman Sir William Estfeld (Mayor in 1429 and again in 1437), is known to have been in possession of a mansion contiguous to the site of the "bury" if it did not actually form a part of the court-house itself. It was situated at the rear of the houses in Aldermanbury, which afterwards became Nos. 15 and 16, and north of the parish land adjoining Dyer's Court, near the west end of Guildhall.

In the middle of the 15<sup>th</sup> century, Aldermanbury was one of the few districts possessing a conduit, for the supply of water to the inhabitants. For this, the parish was indebted to the munificence of Sir William. He was a public-spirited man, and a great benefactor of the church and parish alike, The "fayre conduit by Alderman berie church" was connected with the pipes conveying sweet water from Tyburn brook, and stood in the centre of the street at its widest part, the junction of Aldermanbury and Love Lane, almost opposite the entrance to Estfeld's mansion.

The work of erecting the conduit was begun by Estfeld in the said parish, to the use of the said Thomas Buck, Merchant Taylor." The capital messuage and the four tenements were held of the Prior of the Holy Trinity, Aldgate, by fealty and the yearly rent of 13s. 4d.; while the parcel of land upon which the Estfeld chapel was built, was held of the Chamber of London by 1 lb. of wax, to be paid yearly to the church of St Paul, at the rent of a rod and a rose for the Mayor at Pentecost.

At the Time of Tomas Buck's death on 20<sup>th</sup> November, 1523, Richard, his son and heir, was aged 2½ years, and by will, Thomas Buck appointed George Rolle and three others, his executors, to apply the rents, etc., to the use of his wife, Alice, and also to that of his brother, Matthew, for their lives, by way of repaying a debt, the remainder to his son, Richard, and his heirs.

The property eventually came into the possession of *Sir John Swynnerton* (Lord Mayor in 1612-13). He was farmer of the impost on wines, an office from which he acquired considerable profits. He was one of the founders of the East India Company. During his Mayoralty a pageant was performed at the opening of the New river; or, as it was called, "The running streame from

Amwell Head into the cisterne near Islington." The pageant was arranged under the joint management of John Herminge and Thomas Dekker, the poet. At Sir John's death, in December, 1616, he was succeeded by his third son, Thomas, then 16 years of age. The property he inherited consisted of several houses in Aldermanbury, including the house his father had occupied. He married Joanna Symonds, and, in 1650, their daughter and heiress, Thomasine Swynnerton, married William Dyer (Sheriff of Essex, 1677-8), bringing him a fortune of £30,000, as well as the Aldermanbury mansion and other houses.

The mansion, measuring 70 feet east to west, and 55 feet north to south, was destroyed in the Great Fire, and rebuilt. Upon the sites of the houses adjoining it on the south, and the parcel of land upon which stood the old chapel, Dyer erected, in 1668-9, a tolerably large square, consisting of six imposing houses, with an open entrance for coaches and carriages leading from Aldermanbury, which houses were subsequently occupied by persons of some standing.

William Dyer, who was created a Baronet in 1678, died in 1681. He was succeeded by his son, Sir John Swynnerton Dyer, and the family may have held the property during the early years of the following century, for we find one Sir John Swynnerton Dyer, shooting himself in a fit of insanity, and receiving burial in Aldermanbury in 1801.

Fifteen or sixteen houses which, in the nineteenth century, stood on ground owned by Sir John Swynnerton, were subsequently pulled down and new premises erected. About 1824, they were converted into warehouses by Messrs. Bradbury Greatorex and Company, and, in 1845, they, with other properties, were destroyed by fire, to the value of nearly a quarter of a million pounds. The present extensive premises, numbered 2 to 11 Aldermanbury, occupy not only the old site in Dyer's Court; but, in order to increase accommodation, additional ground was taken in, leaving the carriage entrance as it was in Sir William Dyer's time.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Camden's Britannia by Gough P.507

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"NW of Stone is Swinnerton, the estate of a family of its name from the Conquest to the reign of Henry VIII, when it passed to the Fitzherberts of Norbury, in Derbyshire, by marriage with the heiress of Swinnerton, to whom it now belongs. It was anciently a Royal Seat and a market now disused".

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**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Swinnerton Society held in Swynnerton on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2005**

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The Chairman, Barrie Swinnerton welcomed 53 members to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance. He briefly outlined the programme for Saturday and Sunday. He also said that President Iain was travelling down to the AGM from Harrogate and might be late arriving.

1.05 APOLOGIES Apologies were received from Annabel Wade.

2.05 MINUTES of the last AGM were taken as read and signed.

3.05 MATTERS ARISING None

4.05 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT Barrie Swinnerton reported that there had been a number of deaths in the Society during the year including May Brock, Norman Swinnerton and Mary Vivash. Diane Cunningham has taken over as Vice-President U.S.A.

Two Council meetings had been held during the year in Hales and Swynnerton. The former coincided with the re-enactment of the Battle of Blore Heath and during the latter Malcolm Smith gave a presentation on the Society's new website.

The Chairman congratulated President Iain for the Society's journal which had achieved second place in a recent competition run by the Guild of One-Name Studies and thanked him for his hard work in producing the journals each year. A request was made to the floor for support for future journals.

The Chairman was also happy to report that the Revd Barry Brewer had started work again after his illness, albeit on a reduced scale. The good news of the English Heritage grant to St Thomas' Church in Butterton was conveyed to the meeting and the Chairman hoped we could visit a fully refurbished church on the occasion of our next family gathering.

5.05 TREASURER'S REPORT This was given by Alan Jones for the year 2004. It was reported that whilst there had been a reduction in subscriptions, particularly in the UK, the net assets of the Society at the end of 2004 were £1369.02.

6.05 MEMBERSHIP REPORT In the absence of Iain Swinnerton the

Chairman said that membership continued to reduce with overall membership at about 138 of which 90 were in the UK. He said that some Council members had recently enrolled younger members of their family and he requested the gathering to encourage other family members to join.

7.05 ARCHIVIST'S REPORT The Chairman reported that records continued to grow and were being recorded with computer technology. A display of interesting items have been arranged in the village hall. He requested that any items of interest be forwarded to the Society.

8.05 ELECTION OF OFFICERS Elizabeth Livesey has come to the end of her six year term and the Chairman thanked her for her past work as Secretary and on Council. There were now two vacancies on council. The Revd Brian Swynnerton proposed Mareta Jerrett which was seconded by Geoffrey Swinnerton and Ray Swinnerton seconded by Liz Yeandle. Keith Livesey agreed to continue as Hon.Auditor.

9.05 ANY OTHER BUSINESS Outside the meeting the Chairman was approached by Margaret Thompstone regarding the 700 year Swynnerton Village Charter celebration on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2006. Whilst this matter will need to be discussed by Council, in principle it is hoped that support from the Swinnerton Society would be forthcoming.

10.05 DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING The next AGM will be held in Swynnerton on Saturday 3rd June 2006.

## **FAMILY NOTES**

We are sorry to belatedly have to announce the death of our member Harold Swinnerton Cook on the 22<sup>nd</sup> October last year and send our sincere sympathy to his daughter, our member Penny Cook.

We welcome another 'next generation' member, Ben Yeandle of 41 Third Avenue, Oldfield Park, Bath BA2 3NZ. Ben rapidly made his mark and was a tower of strength at our Gathering in June.

Dr Guy Swinnerton has a new address – 662 Dartmouth Point NW Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6M 2V7.

Finally, do note the new address for our chairman and secretary on the inside front cover and do please have a look at our new website – Malcolm has done wonders with it and it is growing all the while..





*Enjoying lunch at the Gathering*

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