

SWINNERTON Family History



Edward 'Ted' Swinnerton – founder of Swinnerton Cycles

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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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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I hope you have all managed to survive the cold winter months and are looking forward to some warmer spring weather. Let's hope it is not too wet although we are told many parts of the country need the water badly in order to top up the depleted reserves. Not so here in South Wales however!

The saga of our building works continues and after 4 months so far with at least 2 more months probably still to go Margaret and I are looking forward to some short holiday breaks to try and recharge our batteries. We visited Southern Spain a month ago and had an interesting visit to Ronda which is a fascinating town between Marbella and Seville and is well worth a visit. In April we are planning to go to the Isles of Scilly which we visit regularly and then to Crete for a week of birdwatching and botany.

At our recent Council meeting we had a presentation on the forthcoming Swynnerton Medieval Charter Festival to be held on Saturday 12 August 2006 which was reported in some detail in the last journal. Former chairman Roger Swynnerton will play the part of Sir Roger de Swynnerton and his wife Elizabeth will play the Lady Elizabeth. Sir Roger will receive the Charter from Edward I during the ceremony. We are told that Roger has some doubts over his horseriding skills but even so we look forward to seeing him in full medieval costume on horseback!

We hope as many of you as possible will be able to come along on the day which will be action packed with events including mock battles and jousting. There will be stalls and the Society will have a tent displaying items of interest and of our family history.

Then on Tuesday 15 August which is the actual date of the annual fayre granted by the Charter document there will be a banquet in Swynnerton Village Hall preceded by a service in St Mary's church Swynnerton at 6.30pm. Further information and tickets for the banquet are available from the organiser Mrs Margaret Thompstone. Tel No 01782 796605. There is a web site for this event : www.swynnertonmedievalfestival.org.uk and also email address: charter700@aol.com

Margaret and I look forward to seeing some of you again in the summer at the Society's AGM on the 3rd June in Swynnerton. Let's hope for good weather on the day of the Charter Festival.

Barrie Swynnerton

Swynnerton Cycles

In 1915, Edwin (Ted) Swynnerton opened a small bicycle shop in Victoria Road, Fenton, one of the six towns comprising the modern city of Stoke on Trent. He lived behind the shop - money was tight in those days, particularly between the wars, and his business was mainly dealing in second-hand machines and running a thriving repair service. From these beginnings, he developed a successful bicycle hire service keeping a fleet of all sizes of machines on the road and at weekends - in the summer all of them would be in use.

Ted kept his 'day job', which was head slipmaker, responsible for the various clay mixings used to produce the ware, at an old-established pottery which was later taken over by the Doulton Group, while his wife Bertha ran the shop during his working days.



During and after the Second World War, the shop just ticked over and in 1954, Ted and Bertha decided to retire and hand the business over to their youngest son Roy and his wife Doris. They were both keen cyclists and lost no time in improving the business, acquiring and expanding into properties on either side of the original shop. Competition was keen in those days and it took a lot of very hard work to survive, shop hours often extending until 9.00 or 10.00pm!

However, they continued to grow while taking great care to uphold the good reputation that Ted had built up over the years.

In the 1970s, a branch shop was opened close to Stoke on Trent city centre as, by this time, Roy and Doris's eldest sons, Mark and Paul, had joined the business. This division of effort proved not wholly successful and eventually it was decided to concentrate the business at Fenton. More extensions were made and many improvements, Mark and Paul eventually taking over the running of the shop so that Roy and Doris could gradually retire.

Swinerton 
Cycle Sport

Cycling in the Forest

Mark had been involved for some time in helping the Forestry Commission mark out trails for cyclists on Cannock Chase in Staffordshire and this led to the opening of a branch at Birches Valley. Cannock Chase is the smallest Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) on mainland Britain covering 25 square miles. The rolling hills of the Chase have a rich environmental and historical interest having once been a royal hunting preserve for the Bishops of Lichfield. Today's heathland area is designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and requires careful and sympathetic management. Cannock Chase was also the site of the first ever large scale military manoeuvres in 1872 and has long been associated with the armed forces. During the industrial revolution the whole area was mined extensively but today the main activities to be seen involve recreation and timber production. There are many places of interest to visit including Visitor Centres, Museums, and various remnants of the area's rich military and industrial history. Visit Birches Valley Forest Centre run by Swinerton Cycles to find out more.

By 2003 this was fully operational with a well-stocked shop, repair service and lots of bikes and children's trailers for hire seven days a week. Since then more new trails have been opened and even more are planned; weekends and bank holidays are particularly busy.

The Fenton and Birches Valley shops complement each other and Roy and Doris are extremely proud to see the way the boys have developed

The Fenton and Birches Valley shops complement each other and Roy and Doris are extremely proud to see the way the boys have developed and improved the business to make it one of the best appointed and stocked in the country. Ted would have been amazed at the progress of the business he started 90 years ago and certainly would not credit the changes in the modern development of the simple bicycle he knew. However, one thing that has not changed is the high quality of service which is widely acknowledged to be in the highest tradition of Swinerton excellence.

The shop has a strong racing cycling pedigree. Roy was one of the best track cyclists of his era. In the 1970s he served as Team Manager and Team Mechanic with British teams in the Olympic Games, World Championships, Tour of Britain Milk Race, Tour of Berlin etc. and managed the England Team in the Commonwealth Games in New Zealand when the team won nine gold and several silver and bronze medals. All the family developed a love of cycling as a sport and pastime: between them they have won countless medals in British Championships (and one World Silver Medal) and have raced internationally for Great Britain all over the world. More recent additions to the family, not surprisingly, have also been racing cyclists: Martin Earley, Irish champion cyclist and coach, former Tour De France rider and stage winner married Roy's second daughter Catherine and John Herety, former National Champion, Tour De France Rider and GB Team Coach married his next daughter Margaret. With such expertise in the family you would struggle to find as much experience under one roof anywhere else in the UK.



The Swinerton Dreadnought Troupe (see over)

The Dreadnought Troupe

As a boy, Ted Swinnerton lived at The Old Black Swan, Hanley, the second oldest coaching inn in Staffordshire, where his father was the landlord. There was a legend that this had been a refuge for highwaymen (including Dick Turpin of course!), and had a secret passage from the cellar to the nearby church for quick getaways. Strangely enough, when the pub was demolished, the local newspaper reported that the remains of an underground passage had been found and bricked up. The pub had a piano and Ted taught himself to play. The drinkers used to call for Ted "to play us a tune". Gradually the tunes he learned, according to his grandson Roy, matched the songs they sang and he became so proficient that eventually he could play anything 'by ear'.

He was one of the prime movers in the Dreadnought Troupe which was a family entertainment group who visited and performed at hospitals, church halls and other charitable events. Ted wrote the sketches. They also had a Kentucky Minstrel show (black face of course) – which would meet with strong disapproval in this modern, politically-correct age.

Who are the Cycling Swinnertons?

The family's earliest ancestor that we have been able to trace so far is Thomas Swinnerton who first appears in our records in the 1841 census where he is listed as living in Stoke on Trent, Honeywell with his wife Hannah and children Joseph, James, Hannah, William, Jane and Thomas and two lodgers Mary Hill and her son Henry Hill. His age is given as 55 but in the 1841 census ages over 15 were rounded down to the nearest 5 years so he could have been any age from 55 to 59. In this census people were only required to say whether they had been born in the county in which they were then residing to which he answered 'yes'.

Ten years later in the 1851 census, he was living in Honeywall (*sic*), Stoke upon Trent and told the enumerator that he had been born in Honeywall, Staffordshire. He gave his occupation as 'potter' and his age as 63 which means he was born about 1788. He died in 1854. Honeywell is in Penkhull which is a joint township with Boothem in the parish of Stoke upon Trent (note the difference between the parish which is Stoke upon Trent and the city which is Stoke on Trent). His eldest son Joseph was also a pottery worker as was Joseph's son, another Thomas, who was the father of Edwin, the founder of the firm.



Family on wheels

There are nine in the Swinnerton family, and they own 23 bikes including two tandems on which Roy and Doris take nine-year-old Frances and seven-year-old Bernard when the family go hostelling.

"Cycling is our life," said Roy, "both for work and pleasure." Work is the cycle shop he owns in Stoke-on-Trent. Pleasure at the moment centres largely round the competitive cycling of Bernadette, who is 19 and training to be a teacher, and Mark, 16 and still at school. Bernadette has won the National Sprint Championship for the past three years and the silver medal in the 1969 World Championship road race in Czechoslovakia.

In schoolboy events Mark has won three cyclo-crosses, been second in North Staffordshire circuit and sprint events. He has won one open circuit race and been second in ten.

Catherine and Paul, 13-year-old twins, and Margaret, 11, all cycle to school regularly and Catherine won a schoolgirls' circuit race at Birmingham last year against girls two years older than her.

"We don't press the kids into cycling," Roy assured us. "If we're going for a day's ride and any don't want to come, they can stay with their Grandma and it's less for us to carry food for. Mostly they want to come though."

"If Bernadette gets selected for the World Championship in Switzerland and Italy this year we'll take as many kids and bikes as we can. We have a caravan and tents, and I've made a special rack for the car which takes five bikes—more can go in the caravan. Cycling has brought us friends everywhere. Bernadette has a cup called after her: the Bernadette Trophy is for the most popular rider in the St. Christopher's Cycling Club, which is a national club, and it was first awarded to her."

Woman's Own 1971

Another Sporting Swinerton

Alfred William Swinerton was born in the Lying-in Hospital, City Road, London on the 4th May 1870, the son of George Henry Swinerton and Emma Stark. George was described as a traveller meaning a commercial traveller or salesman, not a traveller in the modern sense of the word!

Alfred grew up to be a good sportsman and, in particular, a first class road race walker. The picture shows him coming first in the London to Brighton Walking Race but we don't know when!



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The first Amateur Walking Championship was held in 1866, promoted by the Amateur Athletic Club, when J.G. Chambers of Cambridge University won the 7-mile race in 59:32.

The 7 miles continued to be contested until 1893, becoming the Amateur Athletic Association Championship in 1880, and track walks have, ever since, been included in the AAA Championships.

The famous London to Brighton race was first held in 1886, promoted by the long-vanished Hairdressers' Athletic Club. Sadly, after 79 races, it had to be abandoned in 2003 due to the modern heavy traffic when the number of competitors had dwindled from hundreds to as few dozen after a walker was killed on the A23 in the late 1980s.

Race walking is the only way to allow people to walk at speed without running. The AAA say that clearly some of the early 'walkers' were running if their times are to be believed. Race walking rules demand that a part of a walker's foot is on the ground at any one time - when you run there are times when nothing is touching the ground.

Our member Robin Wade, his great-great grandson, wonders if anyone recognises this newspaper cutting. Robin thinks the picture was taken between 1890 and 1895.

Alfred died on the 8th September 1939, so he escaped the horrors of the Blitz but his wife Margaret and his children all live through it. We printed the tree of Alfred's family in the first issue of this volume of Swinerton Family History (August 2002). The tree then started with John Swinerton born about 1780 in Bishopsgate, London and his descendants were artificial flower makers in London for several generations. Alfred William was the first to spell his name as Swinerton but no-one knows why he changed.

Since publishing that tree, other information has come to light and we believe that John's parents may have been Richard and Jane Swinerton.

Continuing the sporting tradition

Council members Ray and Shelagh Swinerton have both had long sporting careers – Ray was a fencer and Shelagh still is a long distance runner. More about them in our next issue.

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Two Swinnerton Sailors

We have featured quite a few Swinnertons who became soldiers in this journal over the years (and there are more to come). However, we have not previously featured any of the family who became sailors so it is time to make amends.

Ernest John Swinnerton joined the Royal Navy on the 6th March 1917 'for hostilities' to use the rather quaint expression on his record sheet in Admiralty Records Class 188. He said he had been born on the 2 January 1887 at Islington, London and that he was a fitter. He was 5ft 9½ins tall but his chest measurement was only 36¼ins so he must have been a very slim man. He had brown hair, brown eyes and a fresh complexion.

It is recorded that he had tattoos of a snake and a tiger's head on his left arm and a stork on his right arm.

His number was 26975 and his record sheet showed that he had previously been No.Y14347 in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve.

He is listed as joining at HMS President II, but this was what was called a 'stone frigate' - a land-based barracks at the Crystal Palace which was the accounting base for the Royal Naval Air Service. On the 5th November he was posted to Killingholme and was rated ack ami (E). I have yet to find out what these mean but I think he was an air mechanic.



*Officer's cap badge
of the
Royal Naval Air Service*

On the outbreak of the First World War a Royal Naval Air Station had been set up at Skegness to provide air cover from the Humber to Cromer in Norfolk. This station was soon replaced by Killingholme which was

on the banks of the River Humber. Patrol duties were to protect the oil installations at Immingham, the ports of Grimsby and Hull and to repel Zeppelin attacks. Killingholme became a large seaplane base, but also had land planes and was a training centre for seaplane pilots. September 1914 saw several Zeppelin raids on Lincolnshire at Humberstone, Owmbly and Gainsborough in which Killingholme planes were used to intercept the raiders. In March 1918 the base at Killingholme became a US Navy base to carry out convoy escort work, submarine searches and long distance reconnaissance. The base was handed back to British control in January 1919 and was closed in June that Year.

His record finishes with the interesting statement that he transferred to the RAF on 31 March 1918, his conduct throughout being described as 'VG'. The Royal Air Force was founded on the 1st April 1918 with the merger of the Royal Flying Corps and the Royal Naval Air Service.

Our second sailor was **Bert Richard Swinnerton** who said he was born on the 29th October 1898 at Bethnal Green, London and was a 'Steel man'. He was 5ft 7¾ins tall but also had a very small chest measurement (35ins) by comparison with the average man today. He also had brown hair and brown eyes and a fresh complexion but no tattoos – just a mole on his left scapula. His number was 425B. He also joined at President II on the 15th November 1917 'for Hostilities'. He subsequently served at Roehampton, Immingham (both Kite Balloon Stations) and Killingholme and, like Ernest John, was discharged on the 31 March 1918 to the RAF also with a conduct rating of 'VG'.

It is not surprising that the two men were so similar because they were, in fact, brothers – sons of George John Swinnerton and cousins to Frank Swinnerton, the famous author. 'Bert Richard' was properly Albert Richard, later in life appointed OBE, father of our member, Brenda Morgan.





Roy and Doris Swinnerton celebrating their 80th Birthdays last year with their children and twenty two grandchildren

Church And Parish Of Swynnerton

An account of the Church and Parish of Swynnerton, From the most ancient times, With notices of Distinguished Persons connected therewith: Collected chiefly from authentic records, And partly conjectured from Contemporaneous history, and Other sources of information.

W.T. 1859

(Is this the Reverend W. Taylor who was the rector at that time, and inspected the tomb of Sir John de Swynnerton in association with Mr. Thomas Fitzherbert of Swynnerton Hall in 1856 ?)

CHAPTER I

Of Swynnerton we do not find any mention during Saxon times, although its name is apparently of Saxon origin, and there were Saxon settlements of importance in the immediate neighbourhood. There was a fortification at Bury Bank, little more than a mile distant, of which the traces still exist; this was called Wulfercester, from Wulfece the king of Mercia, whose name also gives its derivation to the town of Wolverhampton. And at Maer, which is five miles from Swynnerton, was another Saxon fortress, said to have been raised by Kenric, a king of Mercia, as a protection against Osric king of Northumberland, and near to which the latter was killed in battle.

Of recognised Roman remains we have not any very near to Swynnerton, but it was the

practice of the Saxon's to avail themselves of Roman military positions and the fortifications known as Saxon at Maer and Bury Bank may accordingly have been in their origin Roman camps. Nor are there any direct traces of the Danes hereabouts, unless Cat's Low upon Tittensor Common, which adjoined, and might form part of Wulfercester, be Canute's Low, or Hill; or if, which is more directly to the point, Swynnerton itself be not Sweyn's town, though this, as will be shown, is less likely.

The earliest specific mention which we find of Swynnerton is in the Domesday Book, where it is included in the territory granted by the Conqueror to Robert de Stafford, having previously, no doubt, been the property of some Mercian Earl or Thane, now rudely displaced to make room

for this needy Norman. It is called in Domesday Sulvertone; but this must be an orthographical error on the part of those who conducted that survey, not withstanding that I have also been told, though I have not seen it stated on authority, that the ancient name of the place was Silverton, which was said to have been derived from the silvery appearance of the lichen-covered trunks of the oaks in Swynnerton Park, which appears to be part of the ancient forest; but this is far more iniquitous than probable, and sounds too much like the modern adaptation of a legend than old name, not to mention that Swynnerton Park, although within the manor and parish, is in reality four miles distant from the hall and village, or, as it was once called, the town, of Swynnerton.

I believe that the old word is Swineton, or Swynetone. It is curious to remark how many places in this neighbourhood are compounded of the word "Swine". Besides Swynnerton we have Swineshead, Swynfen, Swinford, Swinchurch and Swinton or Swindon, to which should be added the synonymous Hogshill, and the river Sow, whatever that word may really signify, which gives its name to Sowborough, now Shugborough, the seat of the Earl of Lichfield. Swine is of course Saxon, and I

believe that this was our derivation, and that the ancient name was Swine(r)tone, or Swyne(r)tone, the r being inserted for the sake of *euphony*, and that Sulvertone was a corruption by the writer of this part of the Domesday Survey, who would probably be a stranger to the place, and perhaps a foreigner, and would write the name as he heard it pronounced. He was thus easily led into a trifling error, and was very likely no great scholar. Or the mistake may have been that of the transcriber from his report into the main volume, who was still more certain to be a Frenchman. It is likely that many errors would arise from these causes. To take two similar names in this county, for Swinford or Swinerford we find written in Domesday Svinesford, and for Swineshead Sueneshed, in both which cases the writer evidently shirks the "w", in the one case by the foreigner's obvious resource of "v", in the other by the "Suesnes" for "Swines", which is exactly Norman French suited to the Saxon sound. Very probably Swynertone was thus first made Svynerton, which, being inharmonious, by an easy metathesis became Synvertone, and thence Sylvertone or Sulvertone, "u" and "y", and "l" and "n", being readily interchanged, as we know. The common people often pronounce

it now in their thick guttural accent as if it were Sunnerton, and letters not infrequently receive the direction of Synnerton, forgetting the "w", and that even by persons who know the name perfectly well. This *indicates* at all events that mistakes of this kind abound in the Domesday Book.

We have however another possible derivation from the Danish name of Sweyn. Dugdale suggests in the case of Swinton in this county, and his arguments would apply equally in other places where names have a similar prefix, that the derivation is from the Danish king Sweyn. It is true that many Danes were settled in the country, especially in this district, which was included under the *Heptarchy* in the kingdom of Mercia, but the only Sweyn who was king of England did not reign more than two years. Still Sweyn being not an uncommon Danish name, some other gentleman so called may have given his name to their spots. Nevertheless, upon the whole the derivation from Sweyn seems much less probable than from "Swine". We have too many names of places similarly derived that the probability in its favour seems very much strengthened. Besides all the places beginning with "Swin-" or "Swine-" (which might be claimed for Sweyn), we

have all the synonymous derivations of Hogshill, Hogsthorpe, Hogsnorton, Sowton, Boarhunt and Boarhill; we have Oxendon and Oxton, exactly parallel instances of Swynnerton and Swinton; we have Oxenhill and Oxhill, Oxwick, Oxbury, Oxhead, Oxcomb, Oxenhope, and above all Oxford. Again, we find the parishes of Bulcote, Bulbridge and Bulford; Cowfold, Cowton, Cowgill, Cowthorpe, Cowley. Once more, there are Shapscar, Sheepshed, Sheepstor, and Sheepwash; besides others which might be instances, too many to name. All these, it is to be noticed, names of parishes, and therefore cases in point, because the divisions into parishes were Saxon. We thus see the other animals giving honourable names of their own to old settlements, and, as it were, founding their cities, and shall not the swine do the same, the most familiar of them all among our Saxon ancestors, who were so fond of their pork, and were even sometimes thought themselves to resemble them in their habits, and styled in contempt Saxon hogs by their more refined conquerors. We know now how they kept those large herds of swine, which frequented the forests and marshes, the Swin-pens and Swin-fords of the country. Can we not fancy our Swynnerton once the settlement of a few half-

naked swineherds with their *grunTERS*; an outlying portion perhaps of some old thane's estate, the summer quarters it might be of some Gurth and his fellows, whence they led out their charges, as the primitive custom was, to pasture on the marsh and acorns of the forest.

Before quitting the subject it is worth while to observe that the crest of the family of Swynnerton, the ancient lords of the manor, was the boar's head, which they would take either from their own name or from that of the place; this shows that the herald as the person who devised the crest associated with the name of Swynnerton the idea of a "swine". To this circumstance however we ought not perhaps to attach too great importance, since we do not know at what time the family first assumed their coat of arms, and the boar's head may be a conceit of later times, the device being borrowed from the sound of the name, as was not unusual, and may have no real reference to the etymology. This however must pass for what it is worth; what is more worthy of notice is, that the family of Swynnerton took their own name, which had previously been Aslen or Allen (Erdeswick), from that of the place, and as they came in before the end of the reign of William the Conqueror, which would be just the time of

the compilation of Domesday Book, we may then certainly conclude that Swynnerton, and not Sulvertone, was the true original name.

But to return for a moment to Sweyn and his claim; it is to be observed that the places of which the names begin with Swin- are scattered all over England, whereas persons of the name of Sweyn would be likely to have their lands collected round a few particular counties. Moreover names of places do not occur (beside, there which it may be pretended come from Sweyn) derived from the names of Danes, if we except a few which may be thought to have their appellation from Canute, as perhaps Catsfield and possibly Catton, and some place beginning with Can-, though there are more doubtful. Knutsford will be Knutesford, Canute being often pronounced and written Knute. Cat's Hill in Worcestershire is said to be an abbreviation of Canute's Hill; and so no doubt Sweyn may have given his name to some places, and we may allow him to claim a few of those which begin with Swin-, especially where the termination seems natural and appropriate, as Swinfleet.

(To be continued)

Joseph Swinnerton – Clockmaker.

Our member Nigel Watts emailed me in February to say that he had seen a rather nice 18th century long case clock made by Joseph Swinnerton advertised for sale on the internet. It was on Ebay with a reserve price of £4200 but had failed to sell. Nigel wondered if Joseph was his ancestor because he remembered his uncle Kenrick (Ken Armitstead - our sometime chairman now, sadly, no longer with us) who was a great collector of clocks saying that one of his ancestors was a clockmaker.

In fact Nigel's ancestor was John Swinnerton, another clockmaker and brother to this Joseph.

This led to a most interesting exchange of information with the seller Mr Cliff Freeman of Castlegate Clocks who emailed me:



I have had some correspondence with a Mr. Nigel Watts who tells me he may be a descendant of a Joseph Swinnerton, clockmaker.

I am the owner of a longcase clock that was made by Joseph Swinnerton of Newcastle under Lyme, Staffs. I have tried to find out more about this maker than that which is noted in "Clockmakers and Watchmakers of Central England" by Joseph McKenna- Mayfield books. The information therein is scant to say the least. Until my contact with Mr. Watts I had no idea that there may be a society dedicated to the Swinnerton family and had not thought of this as a research avenue for clockmakers, clock restorers and horological historians.

Do you have any information on Joseph Swinnerton that you would be willing to share with me? All I have is a rough trading date and some notes on a repair to the church clock at Keele.

This is a marvellous clock that, by its style and construction, was built around 1710-1715. I have had this clock in my possession for some time now and I have thoroughly restored it during that time. I have enjoyed its presence in my collection but, being a clock dealer as well as a restorer, some of my clocks are for sale. This is one of those. However, I would like to have more information on this fine early maker for my own records and hope that you and your society can help.

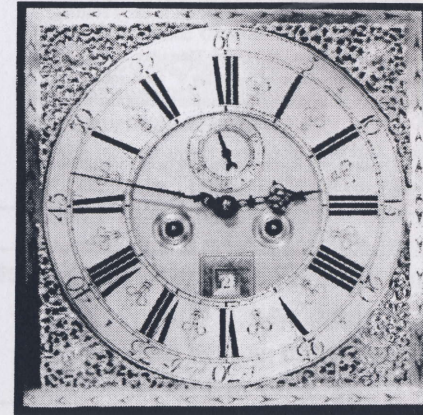
I have a very comprehensive photographic record of this clock which I will send to you if you would like it for your records

Well, of course, I was delighted to correspond with Mr Freeman and was able to supply him with information about Joseph and his family.

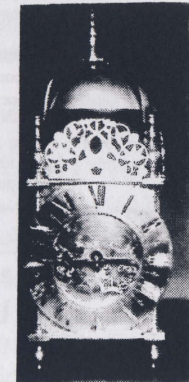
Joseph was baptized at Whitmore, Staffordshire on the 31 January 1666 together with his twin Benjamin who died aged one. Joseph was the 4th son of Edward Swinnerton and Sarah who owned a small estate called The Yew Tree in north Staffordshire.

Joseph married a lady named Margaret (we have not yet found the marriage) and, at the moment, that is all we know about him.

There was also a third brother, Thomas, who was the best known of the three brothers – he seems to have specialized in carriage clocks and the only ones I have ever seen a picture of, the brass clock shown here, is in America,



Joseph's clock



Thomas's clock



“Woman of the Bible”
Press Release

When you set a team of expert flower arrangers to work in a historic and charming parish church and village you have the beginnings of a significant Flower Festival. If you include a Jazz Band and add as a guest speaker, Professor Sir Ghillean Prance, one time Director of Kew Gardens and someone associated with both A Rocha and the Eden projects, you have something really worthy of attention.

This nationally - advertised Festival is taking place at Swynnerton Parish Church near the time the community celebrates the 700th anniversary of the giving of its Charter by Edward 1st. The flower arrangements are based on 17 women of the Bible and will give us much scope to meditate on their stories. One wonders in what way Mary, the mother of Our Lord, will be represented in the church which bears her name. More challenging may be the way Jezebel or Delilah are portrayed!

Here are some dates and times:

- The Festival will be held in St. Mary's Parish Church Swynnerton (near Stone) from Friday 8th September to Tuesday 12 September (open 10.00 am to early evening; refreshments available).
- There will be a special service to open the Festival at 7.30 on Thursday 7th September.
 - The jazz concert takes place on the evening of Saturday 9th September.
- Sir Ghillean Prance will be hosting a Question & Answer session during the weekend.

We warmly welcome visitors from the Diocese and if you would like more information, please ring David Harman on 01782 796681

**The Annual General Meeting of The Swynnerton Society
will be held in the Church Hall
Swynnerton
On Saturday 3rd June 2006 at 11.00am.**

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Swynnerton Society held
in Swynnerton on Saturday 4th June 2005**

The Chairman, Barrie Swynnerton welcomed 63 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, Diana Cunningham and family, Valerie and Hans Dall, Jack Swynnerton and Iain and Angela Swynnerton.

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

3.05 MATTERS ARISING None

4.05 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT Barrie Swynnerton reported that there had been a number of deaths in the Society during the year including May Brock, Norman Swynnerton and Mary Vivash. Diane Cunningham has been appointed Vice-President (U.S.A.) in succession to the late Norman Swynnerton in recognition of her long and invaluable service to the society. 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 website.

The Chairman congratulated President Iain for the Society's journal which had achieved second place in a recent international 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, Rector of Swynnerton, 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 ACCOUNTS

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. The account, (see page 263) were adopted.

6.06 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 joined 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 our records continued to grow and were now being recorded with computer technology. A display of interesting items has 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 Maretta 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 12th 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.

Membership

As at the 1st April 2006, we had 133 members in the UK of whom only 68 have so far renewed their subscription for 2006: 15 in the USA, 6 in Canada, 12 in Australia, 3 in Denmark, 3 in New Zealand and 1 in South Africa making a grand total of 173 which is well short of the 200 we need to sustain the society. Please renew your subscription if you have not already done so and do your best to recruit some new members amongst your family.

You will note that over a third of our membership is overseas.

Profit/Loss Account Swinnerton Society			
	Year to Dec 04		Year to Dec 03
Income			
Subscriptions UK	£932.00		£1,159.15
Subscriptions Canada	£127.80		
Subscriptions US	£231.08		£138.46
Subscriptions Aus	£139.55		£220.90
Sales	£41.50		£29.70
Interest	£42.98		£0.81
Donations	£322.50		£85.00
Research Income			£31.10
Bonus	£80.00		
	£1,917.41		£1,665.12
Expenditure			
Subscriptions paid	£41.40		£73.90
Journal Printing	£713.94		£495.73
Journal Posting	£230.85		£83.82
Postings Canada	£20.21		
Stationery	£107.63		£79.31
Gathering			
Printing of Trees			
Printing of Steeplechase			
Misc Supplies			
Misc Supplies			
Research	£78.10		£28.00
St Marys Aumbry			
ISS Expenses			
GS Expenses			
Charter for Archives	£128.87		£12.00
Hire of Room	£25.00		£35.00
Purchase Printer & Software	£63.00		£372.88
	£1,409.00		£1,180.64
Profit/Loss for year	£508.41		£484.48
Balance b/f	£860.61		£376.13
Profit/Loss carried forward	£1,369.02		£860.61

Balance Sheet and Journal Vouchers Swinnerton Society

	As at 01/01/2004	Cash Received	Cash Spent	Monies Abroad	Accruals	B/S Bonus	As at 31/12/2004
Assets							
Bank Balance	£607.00	£1,338.98	-£1,268.71				£667.27
Monies held abroad	£389.38			£478.22			£867.60
Building Society	£268.26					£80.00	£348.26
Total Assets	£1,124.61	£1,338.98	-£1,268.71	£478.22		£80.00	£1,733.10
Less Creditors							
	-£264.60				-£100.00		-£364.60
Net Assets	£860.61	£1,338.98	-£1,268.71	£478.22	£160.00	£80.00	£1,369.02
I & E	£860.61	£1,338.98	-£1,268.71	£478.22	-£100.00	£80.00	£1,369.02
Income & Expenditure Account	£860.61	£1,338.98	-£1,268.71	£478.22	-£100.00	£80.00	£1,369.02

Family Notes

Change of address:

Jeremy D. Swinnerton to The Buttery, Lower Farm, Halton Village, Aylesbur,
Bucks HP22 5NS.

Congratulations to:

Keith Livesey, our auditor, and Elizabeth, our sometime secretary, on the birth of
grandson **Jonty Scott William Greenlees**, son of our member Emma Greenlee:
These are very belated congratulations because Jonty was born on the 12 Septer
2004 but news of his arrival seems to have slipped past us.

Franklin and Veronica Swinnerton on the birth of a granddaughter **Charlie Ma**
daughter of their son Richard Franklin Swinnerton and his partner Marie Newbe
the 11th October 2005.

The membership figures on page 262 include some more new members.

We welcome:

Paul Swinnerton, Carey, Tally Ho Corner, Shadoxhurst, Ashford, Kent TN26
Paul has not yet sent in his details so I do not yet know where he fits into the fa

Mark P. Swinnerton, Brookside, Cheadle Road, Draycott in the Moors, Stoke
Trent ST11 9RQ

Paul A. Swinnerton, Willow Cottage, Dale Bank Road, Freehay, Cheadle,
Staffordshire ST10 1RE

Bernard J. Swinnerton, 14 Chartwell Park, Sandbach, Cheshire CW11 4ZP
I am sure you will recognise these three as cycling sons of Roy Swinnerton of
Swinnerton Cycles.

Amendment:

Patricia Swinnerton-Cooper tells me that her date of birth is 11 March 1955 a
as printed on the tree in Volume 12 No.10.

Valete:

Very sadly, I have to tell you that **Brian Anson Swinnerton** of Ryde, Isle of W
who rejoined us only last year, having been an early member of the society, die
suddenly earlier this year. Our sincere sympathy goes to Pat. We are very glad
his son Joseph Anson as a member to keep up a long association with the societ

PUBLICATIONS OF THE SWINNERTON SOCIETY

Swinnerton Family History (The Journal of the Society)

Vol.1 1974-5. Vol.2 1955-1977. Vol.3 1977-79.

Each volume contains 10 issues, is fully indexed and bound in A4 Binder.
Price per volume - UK £2.50 USA \$5 Canada \$8 Australia \$6

Volume 4.1979-82. Volume 5.1982-84. Volume 6.1984-87. Volume 7.1987-89
Volume 8.1990-9 Volume 9. 1992-94 Volume 10 1995-98

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UK £1.00 USA \$3 Canada \$4 Australia \$3

A History of the Family of Swynnerton.

Facsimile reprint of the original history of the family published in 1880
complete with family trees and index. 208 pages.

UK £12 USA \$20

Canada \$30 Australia \$27

Daughter of the Raj by Margery Thomas

(out of print – awaiting reprint)

Our late President's personal story. Born in Simla in 1894, she tells of her
childhood in India in the days of the Raj: of nursing on the Eastern Front in the
Great War as a VAD: of England after the war completing her traioning at Barts
Hospital and then to Africa with her husband in the Colonial Service. A truly
fascinating story of life in a bygone age.

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Overseas members please send dollar notes as the commissions deducted
by the banks for exchanging dollar cheques are prohibitive.

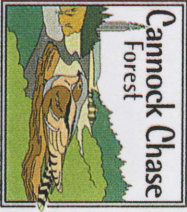
*All the above are available from Mrs Elizabeth Yeandle, Style, Wootton
Courtenay, Minehead, Somerset TA24 8RG*

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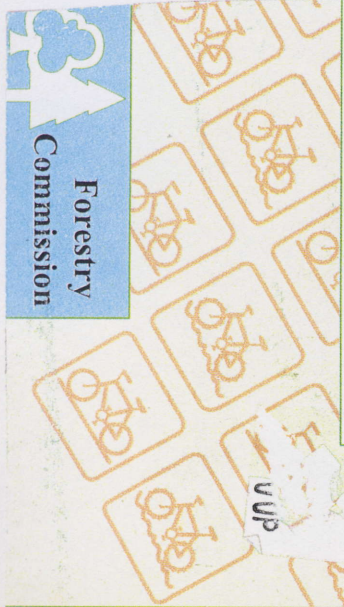
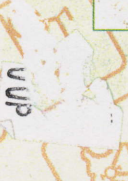


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