

SWINNERTON
Family History



*John Swinnerton – Emigrant to Australia
1829-1910*

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The Swinnerton Society

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SWINNERTON FAMILY HISTORY

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Editor - Iain Spencer Swinnerton

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Foreword – The Chairman

Once in a while, I make my way to the Family Records Centre in Islington to copy details of births, deaths and marriages of Swinnertons in England and Wales. The Family Record Centre at 1 Myddleton Street, EC1 replaced the research facilities previously at St. Catherine's House and the Census Reading Rooms in Chancery Lane.

It is always very busy, largely with people like myself who have come to research their family. There are many large volumes of indexes of births, marriages and deaths in England and Wales since 1837.

Most volumes are handwritten, but the newer volumes contain sheets which are computer produced. Searching these heavy volumes is hard work, taking them down and returning them to their correct place, Upstairs, there are dozens of tables with microfilm readers where you can check Population Censuses from 1841 and other records. The Centre has a small bookshop, and a refreshment area.

When I return home, I transfer the information I have recorded into my computer, so that this information can be shared. The problem is that the information is brief, and we often do not know who this particular Swinnerton is, or how they fit into the Swinnerton family trees. No addresses are given, only the briefest details of names, places, and dates. More information can be obtained by purchasing certificates, but this is expensive. Also, a good reason has to be given for requesting a certificate, as certificates are sometimes wanted for fraudulent purposes. Sometimes, of course, I recognise, in the indexes, either a member of my own family, or someone else I know

Another source of information is newspaper cuttings and photographs. I am always glad to receive these, whether they are about deaths, weddings, or achievements - even about the occasional black sheep of the family. Again, however, the information about the person is often not enough to identify them. If you know more details, please send them.

Sometimes the paper is merely identified as the "*Gazette*". You may know it well as the *Sunderland Gazette*, or whatever, and this would help to narrow down the area. If you know more about the person in these cuttings, please send these details.

I am in the process of indexing the Newspaper Cuttings Collection, and am always pleased to receive more from your local press.

Roger Swinnerton

EMIGRANTS TO AUSTRALIA

This issue of the Journal has a distinctly Australian flavour just as the last issue was largely devoted to Canadian records (as a tribute to the late Bill Swinarton). However, I am thankful to say that this is not in memory of anyone. Nor has it anything to do with the fact that I shall be going to Melbourne in April to lecture, once again, at the Australasian Congress. I shall no doubt be meeting many old friends from all over Australia and New Zealand as well as visiting some of our Australian family.

Rather it is due to the fact that the Australian families are long overdue for a mention. The fact that this is now possible is due to the sterling efforts of Roy Talbot who has typed up many of the pieces for me, for which my grateful thanks.

The first Briton to go to Australia was, as I have mentioned several times in this Journal, Marine Thomas Swinerton who was a guard on the First Fleet of convicts who sailed to Australia in 1788. His origins are unknown. All we know is that he was in Captain Watkin Tench's 6th (Portsmouth) Company of Marines (they did not become Royal Marines until 1802) but, sadly, there is no trace of his personal service record at the Public Record Office. Sad, because this would have given us a pointer to his place of birth. By a curious coincidence I have just been researching another Marine in the same company for a client and his records have not survived either.

We know that he was discharged and granted a piece of land in Australia (in the Field of Mars) and that he is supposed, as well as farming, to have gone into the Prison Service as a warder at Paramatta Jail. We also know that he married Margaret Williams at Paramatta on the 18th March 1792 when his name is recorded as Swinnington. However, there are extensive records of Margaret Williams, who had been sentenced in 1788 to seven years transportation, aged 13, for stealing silver (we have a summary of her trial). From 1806 on, at least, she living with the convict James Roberts with a son. Presumably, therefore, she had left Thomas Swinerton (or been left by him) by then and reverted to her maiden name. The Army's last record of him is in 1792.

Was this when Thomas returned to England which, C.J.Simes in an article in *Descent*, the journal of the Society of Australian Genealogists, in September 1995 entitled *The Fate of the First Fleet Marines*, asserts he did? He says he was one of the 27 Marines who did not forego farming to join the New South Wales Corps, of whom seven eventually disposed of their grants and returned home.

The next to go to Australia was Joseph Swinnerton, great-great-grandfather of our Australian Vice-President, Bill Swinnerton of Melbourne. Joseph descended from the Yew Tree family. He was baptised in Stone, Staffordshire in 1792 and emigrated in 1841 arriving at Port Phillip on the 6th November of that year on the *Wallace* with six children. He and his wife Caroline (née

Spencer) subsequently had five more children and they and their descendants have been featured in this Journal on many previous occasions.

It was nearly 40 years before the next emigrant and this brings us to the family whose records are the principal subject of this issue of the Journal. We know very little about the origins of John Swinnerton this emigrant. We think he may have been a great-grandson of Thomas Swinnerton of Uffington in Shropshire. John was baptised at Astley in Shropshire on the 11th of October, 1829 and emigrated to Australia in 1878 together with his second wife Eliza (née Round) and eight of their nine children (the last had died in 1874 before it could even be named). They obviously sailed from Plymouth as his third child, Alfred John, was baptised there on the 15th November, 1876 - presumably while they were waiting for the ship the *Earl Dalhousie* on which they eventually sailed. John is described in the parish register as a Dye Moulder, Emigrant (which should, of course, be Die Moulder) and his wife is given as Elerner. John died on the 15th of May 1910, at Sydney. This is the story of his descendants.

* * * * *

The following notes were written by Gladys Hutchinson (née Murphy in 1980), daughter of John's grand-daughter Ada Swinnerton. Ada had been born in 1882 in Australia. Although she repeats herself at different times, I thought it worth showing them all rather than try and edit them.

A FEW NOTES ON JOHN SWINNERTON

There is little known of the background of John Swinnerton and his wife Eliza (née Round). Incidentally according to my grandfather's death certificate his father's name should also have been Alfred John. Some years after son Alfred became so successful in his business he brought John, Eliza and their other two children, George and Lucretia, out from England to Alfred and Mary's home which was then at Leichardt, Sydney.

Shortly after their arrival in Australia there was a disagreement of some kind and Eliza left her husband and Lucretia in Sydney, taking George to Melbourne (Victoria, Australia) with her. It is not known whether she and George remained in Australia or returned to England. John Swinnerton obtained work in the outback of New South Wales. He communicated with his son Alfred from time to time and was apparently happy in this country.

From relations of his employer in Sydney, John was said to be very popular with everyone on the property.

When Alfred wrote to his mother, Eliza, telling her of his new wife and that she was a native of Australia, Eliza was not entirely convinced until she arrived here that her daughter-in-law was not an Aboriginal. Of course Alfred had meant that she was "colonial" born. Lucretia lived with her brother, Alfred, and his family until she married a Mr. Rackow, who was an artist on

the staff of the Sydney Bulletin. He had also been employed as a court artist by a Sydney daily newspaper, sketching witnesses and defendants etc. at criminal sittings, also divorce actions and such, as was the custom in those days.

* * *

NOTES ON THE PROGRESS OF ALFRED JOHN SWINNERTON IN SYDNEY N.S.W. AUSTRALIA (1856-1927)

From Shrewsbury Shropshire, Alfred John migrated to Australia about 1875. We thought him to be an Engineer - his death certificate now proves this to be correct.

However on arrival in Sydney, Alfred found there was a great demand for decorative cast iron work. Mansions, humble dwellings and terrace houses alike, were decorated with the "Ironlace", which was so popular in Victorian England.

After the marriage of Alfred to Mary Frances Coleman (14.6.1879) the continuous demand for decorative cast iron influenced Alfred to set up a foundry at the back of the first residence of the couple in the inner Sydney suburb of Darlington. This small industry was successful, and approximately 5 years later a partnership was formed with another man in a large foundry of Parramatta Road Annandale Sydney (the partner, Frew, managed the clerical aspect of the business).

The firm of Swinnerton and Frew eventually employed over 50 men and became the largest producers of cast iron pillars, balusters and lace panels in Sydney.

Grandfather Alfred John's enterprise in his country of adoption had ensured a very comfortable living for himself and his family.

The popularity of the now called "Sydney Lace" was revived some years ago for use on modern colonial style homes. As early Sydney buildings were demolished, junk yards were besieged by eager buyers for original work. Under the many coats of paint the manufacturer's name could sometimes be seen. Members of the family have discovered the stamp of "Swinnerton and Frew" usually on fluted pillars.

GRANDFATHER ALFRED JOHN SWINNERTON

Birth date 1856.

From Shrewsbury, Shropshire, England he migrated to Australia in the late 1870's. It was thought he was an engineer just through his apprenticeship. (No member of the family can be certain of this fact).

On arriving in Sydney however he found there was a great demand for decorative cast iron - now referred to as "Sydney Lace". Many homes and terraces were decorated with this "Lace" which in that era was very fashionable in Victorian England. In a small backyard foundry he began

casting, and soon had a lucrative business. This was in Rose Street, Darlington, an inner Sydney suburb where he and his wife Mary Frances, began their married life, and where their two eldest children were born.

Some years later, Alfred and John Frew began a partnership in a foundry in Parramatta Road, Annandale, in much larger premises, employing over 50 men. The Swinnerton family moved into a house nearby.

Following success in business, Alfred moved his family to a three storied house in Renwick Street, Leichardt which was described to me in detail by my mother. Installed in the new house was an organ, an upright piano and a table piano (similar to a grand piano, but square in shape – this had been acquired by Alfred via a bad debt). This instrument was a favourite with the children. It was in the basement where there was a conservatory at one end and fish tanks set into a wall.

The organ was Grandfather Alfred's favourite instrument. He had played organ as a young man in a Church in Shrewsbury. He played only church music and I remember my mother telling me that he had a special talent – an ability to transpose at sight music placed before him, to any key required.

The foundry partnership came to an end when John Frew's dishonesty with accounting and other matters was discovered. Frew disappeared and years later was found to be producing iron lacework in Melbourne.

In 1886, prior to the end of the partnership of Swinnerton and Frew, Alfred discovered that two of his casting designs had been copied and produced by another firm. From one of a series of books on the history of "Iron Lace" by Dr. Graeme Robertson, I found an interesting article dealing with the law suit that followed.

Dr. Robertson, quoting from the April 1887 issue of the "Australian Ironmonger": "In the equity division of the Supreme Court of N.S.W. Swinnerton and Frew, iron-founders, sued William L. Dash for infringement of copyright. The copyright had been granted to the plaintiffs under the seal of the Office of Copyrights of N.S.W. for the space of three years from November 23rd 1885. Two designs were involved: Reg. numbers 217 (a balcony railing of fern design) and 218 (a freize and bracket of floral design)."

"On August 5th 1886, Alfred Swinnerton had inspected ironwork being carted to a building site and found it to be exactly to his design. There was no registration mark on it. It had been cut away probably in the mould, but there was a rough mark on the bar, where the plaintiffs' name should have been. It appeared that the words had been obliterated in the pattern."

There were two pages of detailed reporting of the Court proceedings in the "Australian Ironmonger". Alfred Swinnerton had purchased the designs from Mr. Hunter MacPherson, an iron merchant, in good faith, but unfortunately the designs had been previously registered under a Victorian statute, and therefore the N.S.W. registration was invalid and ineffective. The plaintiffs' counsel conceded the invalidation, but said his client had believed he had obtained a

new design, and had a right to it. He said the plaintiff purchased the designs, registered them, and had acted bona fide in the matter.

Dr. Graeme Robertson, amazingly, as well as being the author of six quarto size books of Australianiana, illustrated with his own photographic work, is a Doctor of Medicine, and a consultant Neurologist to four principal Melbourne hospitals, and the Royal Australian Navy.

Though his wife was a 'home-body', to use an old-fashioned term, Alfred himself enjoyed travel. He made two or three voyages to Tasmania where he visited an old friend. At weekends he took his family for outings in a horse-drawn "Sociable". From my mother's description, this was a vehicle similar to a small 'bus – probably drawn by two horses, with seating running the length of the vehicle on each side.

The eldest children were sometimes taken by their father to Bantry Bay, a favourite family picnic place, and where oysters could be gathered by the sugar-bags full. (Bantry Bay was a remote area in those days, and it must have been quite a journey from Leichardt to the Northside). One Sunday, along with Alf, Ada and Edie, Louis was included in the picnic party. Lou was said to be rather delicate in early childhood and it was necessary to coddle him somewhat, but on this occasion, his mother relented and allowed him to go along.

Lou, no doubt excited and over eager, managed to topple overboard from the hired row-boat soon after leaving the shore. He was hastily fished out, dried off and dressed in Ada and Edie's petticoats, while his own clothes dried in the sun. His mother never knew of this, nor did he suffer any ill effects.

I remember my grandfather with great affection. I can still picture his backyard garden in Nelson Street, Annandale. There were grape vines growing over a trellised area near the kitchen door, and flower beds with old-fashioned varieties of roses flanking a long asphalt path. Just behind the laundry was a small neatly kept lawn, with two bee-hives placed behind a low wall.

When staying with us at Hazelbrook, Grandfather would take me for long bush walks. He built a cubby house for my sister Grace and myself, thatching it with branches of leaves from gum trees. He would sit by the cubby house, smoke his pipe and watch us play.

Grandfather was a tall, distinguished looking man, though somewhat stooped in old age. In his country of adoption, he had worked hard for most of his life.

If we could ask him now if he were glad that he had come to this fair land of ours, I feel quite sure his answer would please us.

GRANDMOTHER MARY FRANCES SWINNERTON née COLEMAN
Born 1858 in Sydney, New South Wales, Mary Frances was the first born of Henry and Mary Coleman. Her surviving brother and two sisters, were James,

Alice and Eliza. James remained a bachelor until late in life, when he married a widowed Salvation Army worker. Eliza never married. Alice married James Taylor. The Taylor's were well liked by the Swinnerton family. Cousin Jimmy Taylor, the eldest son, was killed in World War I.

Grandmother's young girlhood was spent at St. Marys, west of Sydney. When the Coleman family moved to Sydney, their home was in Liverpool Street, near George Street, on the site where the District Court now stands. The family later moved to the then elite, new residential suburb of Woolloomooloo.

Mary Frances married at twentyone – bore six children: Alfred John 1880, Ada 1882, Edith 1885, Louis Osborne 1887, Stanley Livingstone 1891, and Albert James in 1894.

Our grandmother was said to have been years ahead of her time in child-care and most rigid in matters of hygiene. (Back in Victorian days, this trait must have been regarded as somewhat unusual, even slightly eccentric). Certainly there was evidence of her care for the young in the following generation of her grandchildren, for whom she showed the same concern. For instance I well remember we children dared not cough in Grandmother's house for we would be sent off to the nearest chemist's shop for a bottle of "Hearnes" bronchitis cure – a favourite medicine of Grandmother's, but not to our taste! I remember too, her insistence on nothing less than perfect table manners.

All six of Grandmother's children were encouraged to be self-reliant and innovative. (An oft-heard saying in the household was "necessity is the mother of invention"). All the family enjoyed music and some had piano lessons – others taught themselves with the aid of instruction manuals. Artistic talent was encouraged too. Eldest son, Alfred, and youngest, Albert showed no mean ability in this field. A painting in oils by Alfred titled "Stag at Bay" was presented to the owner of the "Baldfaced Stag Hotel" in Parramatta Road, Leichardt by his proud father, who was a friend of the publican. One wonders what the young artist thought about his work hanging in the public bar of the Hotel. Whatever – no doubt he hoped it was appreciated by the customers.

Grandmother believed all young women should be taught to sew, so of course her two daughters, by the time each reached the age of fourteen, were making their own clothes. In fact, Ada by this time was also making dresses for her friend and next door neighbour, Polly Smith. Ada (my mother) told me that before she reached fourteen, she was entrusted with shopping for clothing for her three younger brothers, as her mother rarely left the house when the children were small. Reminiscing once, she laughed and said she wondered what the various sales assistants thoughts when she produced odd lengths of string. These would be the boys' measurements of head sizes, jacket and trouser lengths, shirt sleeves and such. Decisions on quality, and cost were left entirely to young Ada.

The elder children began their education at a small private school run by a woman teacher in Renwick Street, Leichardt, a few doors away from their home. Later they were enrolled at a private school run by two maiden ladies which at that time was next door to Petersham Town Hall in Crystal Street. In the playground of the School was a large nut-tree (from my mother's description probably a Queensland nut tree – Macadamia) which was a great source of encouragement for the children to arrive at School early. The early-birds would be rewarded by finding nuts which had fallen during the night. Graduating from this Primary School, the children were sent to All Saints Church of England School at Petersham. (I cannot remember hearing any details of the schooling of the three younger boys of the family).

All the children attended Sunday School. It seemed the children chose Churches which, because of their various ages and proximity to home, suited them best. Ada and Edith attended Hunter Bailey's Presbyterian Church in Johnston Street, Annandale, where there were a lot of activities for youngsters, and which had a fine library. Their mother, incidentally, was a prodigious reader, who read all books brought home by her children. It was a gaslight era, but I was told Grandmother read late into the night by candlelight or by soft kerosene lamps.

As in all large families, there are many anecdotes remembered and repeated over the years. I have included those of the Swinnerton family that I remember, in the history of Mary Frances, as I believe it was she who kept these little gems evergreen:

The traumatic night of the big fireworks display – Father had bought a huge box of Chinese fireworks to celebrate some historic occasion. (It may have been Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee). The family could hardly wait until night came to see the display. Unfortunately right at the start, a rocket lit, went astray and fell into the open box of fireworks. Everyone dashed for cover as the assortment of crackers, bangers, roman candles and catherine wheels etc. ignited and exploded in all directions. The children wailed as their night of fun was over in just a few minutes.

Stan and the lilies – It was Stan's responsibility to help look after his younger brother Bert. He was a thoughtful child, and though only three years older than Bert, took this responsibility seriously, and before he left for School each morning, would pick up and hide any object he though might be a danger to the three year old. One morning, his mother asked him to pick any lilies that were in flower in the back garden, as Bert had been observed pulling the poisonous yellow tongues from them. She meant Arum lilies of course, but Stan diligently picked all lilies, including his father's prized Rock Lilies. Everyone was in quite a state, I was told, waiting to hear what Father had to say when he returned home from work that evening. Grandfather Swinnerton evidently learned something from this, for many years later in his back garden

of the cottage in Nelson Street Annandale, I remember clearly that his Rock Lilies (still favourites) were hung safely on the fence back of his bee hives!

Ada and Edith's invisible escort – Whenever the girls were out at night, visiting or attending a Church function, eldest brother Alf would be sent along to see them safely home. It seemed Alf was at an age when boys weren't too keen to be seen with girls (in those days at any rate), and it was his habit to walk a few yards ahead of them. One night, returning from a Cantata at the Church Hall, the girls heard quick footsteps behind them. However, it was their Minister who, worried to see them walking alone, kindly offered to escort them home. "Oh no thank you" said one of the girls, "our brother is with us". The Minister peered along the Street, but by this time Alf was out of sight in a dark patch beyond a street light!

Bert and the card games – Bert at quite an early age, learned to play several card games. He was a bright boy, so of course he excelled at them. One day, Bert could not persuade any of the young people to play with him – no one enjoys playing any game when they can't win sometimes. He implored the adults too, but with no success. Poor Bert tried a little too hard. Someone lost patience, and there were a few angry words, whereupon Father marched into the room, took the pack of cards and threw them into the fire of the kitchen fuel stove. Fathers of the Victorian era had the last word, and after this there was no card playing for many a day. There was no strait-laced objection to card playing in the Swinnerton household, and Father did not fear his son would become a card-sharp. Clever or otherwise children were expected to be "seen and not heard" – too loudly at any rate.

Lou – Apart from Lou's misadventure at Bantry Bay, I cannot recall hearing any other stories about his boyhood. I mentioned about Lou's first trip to Bantry Bay in my notes on Grandfather Alfred Swinnerton. Grandmother never knew of this little mishap. It was a well kept secret. Lou was taught to play the violin – his own preference. He played for us once, when he, his wife and children were staying with us in Balmain. My impressions of Uncle Lou were of a kindly and sensitive man, and like all of the Swinnertons, he was always willing to lend a helping hand when needed to members of the family.

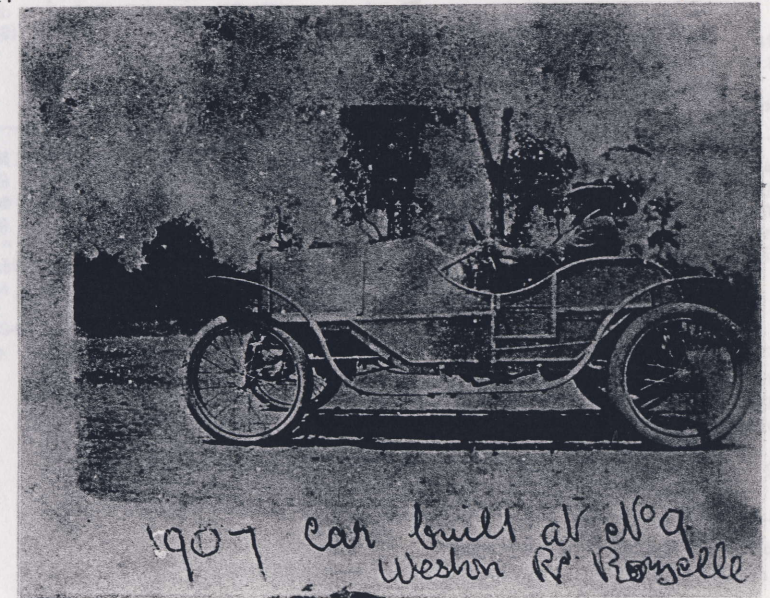
Alf – Perhaps because of my Mother's closeness in age to her eldest brother, I heard more of his achievements than of the others. I was told of his designing and casting objects in a small backyard furnace when a young boy. These included a toy stove for sister Ada, which she greatly prized. The resourcefulness and independence encouraged by Grandmother Swinnerton was exhibited by Alf the day he badly burned his arm while working at his furnace. Rather than upset his mother and sisters, he simply got on his bike and rode to the nearest Doctor's surgery. No one knew of the accident until he arrived back home treated and bandaged.

In his young manhood, Alf got together what would be called these days a "group" of his young musically inclined friends. This was his "Nigger

Minstrel Show". Whether the performances were for Church functions or otherwise I can't recall, but they were said to be a great success. One of the members of the group was Alf's friend Perce Drummond, who later joined with him in an enterprise to introduce roller skating to Sydney. I believe the roller craze started in Melbourne, but I am reasonably sure that his was a 'first' in Sydney. Second-hand skates were bought, and a Hall in Prince Alfred Park Sydney was converted to a roller-rink. Grandmother said the boys worked hard in their spare time to re-condition dozens of pairs of second hand roller skates. The roller craze must have been in full swing here pre-World War I for I remember trailing behind my parents on a pair of specially made skates at a rink in Drummoyne – it would have been the year 1913. I was four years of age. (I never knew what became of that tiny pair of skates).

Long before this, Alf had designed and constructed the first all-Australian motor car – 1907 in fact. This car I believe was not registered, as subsequent models were in 1913 and 1915. Relics of a later model "Swinnerton" is preserved in a Sydney Transport Dept. warehouse. The Daily Telegraph recently reported plans the Department has for re-development of a site in the Haymarket area for a museum to house their vast collection of early vehicles.

My Father and I, as a child, were taken by my Uncle for outings in the later model car. I was about seven years old at that time. On one trip, a visit to the Field of Mars Cemetery, I can recall Uncle Alf picking a blossom of purple Lasiandra and holding it against the light grey paintwork of the car. He jokingly asked my Father "What do you think of this Dick, as a colour for a car?"



Swinnerton of Shropshire and Australia

JOHN SWINNERTON = (1) Elizabeth
 Labourer died circa 1795 (JS.18) (2) Anne
 b. circa 1769 bur.2 Jan 18091 Uffington, Shropshire aged 32

JOSEPH SWINNERTON = Mary Anne Mannering = (2) William Mainwaring RACHEL (RS.2)
 Bap.21Feb1797 15Oct1831 bap.4Aug1799
 Astley, Shropshire Wroxeter Astley
 d.circa 1830 (JS.16)

(1) JOHN SWINNERTON = (2) Eliza Round
 bap.11Oct1829 1854
 Astley Wellington, Shropshire
Emigrated to Australia 1878 b.circa1834
 d.15May1910
 Sydney (JS.249)

GEORGE ELIAS = Clara Louise ALFRED JOHN = Mary Frances JOSEPH ROUND FREDERICK CHARLES ELIZABETH LUCRETIA EUNICE SARAH Daughter
 SWINNERTON Jackson SWINNERTON Coleman SWINNERTON SWINNERTON ANN (ES.200) (LS.35) (ES.201) ROUND un-named
 b.3Sep1854 1887 NSW b.30Aug1856 b.1875 b.1859 b.1870 b.1870 ROUND
 Broseley d.17Jan1927 b.1859 Sydney d. b.1872 b.1872 b.1872 b.&.d.1874
 d. (GS.18) Australia (JS.358) (FS.75) = Madeley
 Rackow

PERCY = Vera Ioni BEATRICE = James JEAN (JS.1)
 SWINNERTON Wilson. (BS.2) Burnell MARGARET
 b.1889 b.1893 b.1896
 Paramatta Paramatta Granville
 (PS.3)

ALFRED JOHN = (1) Grace Elizabeth
 SWINNERTON Murphy
 b.25Apr1880 1903 Balmain
 Woolloomooloo d.16Oct1914
 Sydney (2) Sybil Kessey
 d.16May1961 b.21Mar1892
 Sydney d.15Aug1968
 (AS.147) Sydney

LOUIS OSBORNE = Louise STANLEY = Ethell Lilian
 SWINNERTON Crab LIVINGSTONE = SWINNERTON
 b.1887 1911 SWINNERTON
 b.10Dec1890 Caldwell
 Leichardt d.11Nov1973
 Sydney (SS.148) Sydney
 (LS.36)

ALBERT JAMES = Marion ADA (AS.49) EDITH ES.202
 SWINNERTON Linda Gray b.1882 b.19Dec1884
 b.12Aug1894 d.1972 Sydney
 Annandale = d.20Oct1967
 b.29Sep1898 Richard John Sydney
 d.4Sep1978 Murphy =
 Apr1909 James Allan
 d.5Mar1945 Falconer
 16Dec1911
 Sydney
 d.28Dec1949

FLORENCE Charles Fletcher EUNICE LUCRETIA
 L.E. (FS.3) 17Mar1917 b.after 1899
 b.1897 Dulwich Hill (ES.1)
 Granville =
 R.Cheetham

MARK ALFRED = Doreen Louise MARJORIE SYBIL = Arthur James TESLA JOHN
 SWINNERTON Marr (MS.208) Nightingale SWINNERTON
 b.9Jul1920 13Mar1942 b.24Jul1923 19Aper1952 b.24Dec1930
 Balmain Ryde, NSW Bathurst Sydney
 (MS.207) b.31Aug1922 Kiama Sydney (TS.179)

ALFRED RUBY LESLIE
 SWINNERTON (RS.134) SWINNERTON)
 b.1912 b.1914 b.1928
 (AS150) Hurstville (LS.37)
 = d.1955 =
 Noels =

OLGAR LILIAN ELIZABETH JOAN ELVY LINDA DAPHNE ELIZABETH CYNTHIA JUNE
 (OS.11) (ES.203) (ES.204) MARY (DS.59) (CS.107)
 b.25Feb1918 b.1Dec1928 b.22Jul1919 b.19Apr1922 19Jun1934
 Sydney Sydney Sydney Sydney Sydney
 = = = = =
 Reginald John Patrick James Keith Graham John
 Elvern Pearsall McDonald Roger Pain Jordan
 Bowie 5Mar1955 4Jun1942 4Mar1944 9Jul1955
 Sydney Sydney Sydney Sydney Sydney

BARRY MARK = Dianne Mary GREGORY = Maree Irene KAREN LEONIE
 SWINNERTON Bailey SWINNERTON Wilkinson (KS.37)
 b.3May1944 23Jan1971 b.6Jun1951 23Sep1973 b.19Nov1953
 Ryde b.9Aug1950 Ryde b.8Apr1952 =
 (BS.50) Sydney (GS.108) Ryde Stephen Richard
 Pavett
 7Oct1978

TAMARA KYLIE MITCHELL LUKE
 ANITA (TS.201) MARIE SWINNERTON SWINNERTON
 (KS.50) b. (MS.342) b. (LS.65)

Our Grandparents, Mary and Alfred, lived for many years in the small semi-detached cottage in Nelson Street Annandale. During those years Grandmother made very few visits away from home, though none of her family lived any great distance away from Annandale. I believe one visit only was made to Hazelbrook by Grandmother – this when our “weekender” was newly built. When she was in her early sixties however, Grandmother became an enthusiastic patron of the local movie theatre. She and her friend, Mrs. Tarleton, would attend every change of programme. When Grandmother died, aged 68 in 1926, it was shortly after the death of her husband. She had said at that time, “I can’t live on without him”.

GREAT GRANDFATHER SWINNERTON AND GREAT GRANDMOTHER SWINNERTON née ROUND

There is little known of the background of our Grandfather’s parents. It is known however they came from Shrewsbury, Shropshire, Northwest England. Possibly information such as Christian names of the parents, their respective birth dates and occupation of the father could be found in Church records in Shrewsbury. Children were Alfred, Lucretia and George. (Early last century I am told, births and baptisms in outer provinces were recorded in Parish Church records).

Some years after Alfred emigrated to Australia, the family came to Sydney to visit Alfred and his wife Mary, who were living in Leichardt at this time.

Great Grandmother Swinnerton I was told, was not entirely convinced until she arrived here, that her daughter-in-law was not an Aboriginal! At the time of his marriage, her son had written to say that his new wife was a native of Australia – meaning of course, she was Colonial born. Facts related to me indicated that Mother-in-law Swinnerton could not have been an easy woman to get along with. Shortly after their arrival, there was a disagreement of some kind, and Great Grandmother left her husband and Lucretia in Sydney, taking George to Melbourne. I have no recollection of ever hearing whether she and George remained in Australia, or returned to England.

Lucretia lived with her brother and his family until her marriage, becoming a favourite aunt of the children. As a child, I can remember being taken to visit my Great Aunt Lucretia and her husband, Mr. Rackow, both by then fairly elderly. Mr. Rackow had been an artist on the staff of the “Sydney Bulletin”. He had also been employed as a Court artist by a Sydney daily newspaper, sketching witnesses and defendants etc. at criminal trials, and at divorce actions and such, as was the custom in those days.

Great Grandfather obtained work in the outback of New South Wales. He communicated with his son Alfred from time to time, I believe, and was apparently happy in the country. Strangely, in later years, my parents, then in business in Annandale, heard of him through Mrs. Krohn – a customer – whose father was his employer. She described Great Grandfather Swinnerton

as a most lovable old gentleman, who was popular with everyone on the property.

* * * * *

Extracts from some un-named Australian newspapers.

Swinnerton and Frew’s Ironfoundry and Engineering Establishment

The above place of business is situated on the Parramatta road, Leichardt, between Young and Macquarie streets. On entering the premises we found ourselves in the store or sale room and not seeing either of the partners in the office, which is to the left of the entrance, we sat down, took our memorandum book from our pocket, and commenced to jot down the result of our observations, until someone should come along, to whom we could confide the information, that we were a gleaner of news, and wanted permission to look over the establishment, with a view to afford our readers some idea of the nature of the work carried on by this enterprising firm. We should imagine the store we first went into must be a “wholesale” one, for we saw more stoves and grates in stock than we cared to count—they seemed to us every conceivable design and make, and were both manufactured on the premises, and imported. The grates were really handsome in design, and fit for the drawing-room of the nobility, while further along, we noticed the less costly but withal comfortable grate, suited to the cottage of the artisan. Stacked up we also saw a large quantity of window mullions fluted and twisted, and of various other designs, an order for which had only just been completed, and now ready to be sent to their destination. Fortunately for us, at this particular juncture, we were met by one of the partners, who, after hearing our modest request, and stipulating that we should confine ourselves to facts (ahem!) said he would pilot us over the premises. We say that it was fortunate for us that we were met by this gentleman, because we felt that we were terribly at sea, quite out of our element, and unable to describe one half of what we saw ; but having a gentleman with us who kindly explained many things, we became less nervous and followed our genial hearted conductor. Before passing into another compartment we noticed a very superior set of bakers ovens which had been made on the premises—they appeared to be fitted up with every requisite and were supplied with steamers, water tank and fire blows. The prices of the ovens varied from £6 to £25 each. Passing through we came into the blacksmiths’ and the fitting shop. Here we saw a large pair of carriage gates being made to the order of Dr. Bly, of Strathfield. These gates are 12 feet wide each, and have two smaller wickets to match. The designs were supplied by Messrs. Ellis and Slayter, architects, of Sydney. The whole of the beautifully designed scrollwork is of wrought iron and when

completed these gates will be as handsome, if not the handsomest, which have yet been made in the colony. One of the pieces of the scroll we noticed was being drilled by a self-acting "seven speed drill machine" of the most improved pattern and style, attached to which was a vice and table plate. The speed was easily regulated by turning a handle, and the way in which it performed its task seemed to us something wonderful. Not far from this "boring" affair we saw an emery grinding wheel, driven, of course, by steam, and utilised not only for the sharpening of tools, but also for burnishing and grinding off all superfluous knobs and excrescences. A little farther on we come to the plumbers' shop, which is fitted up with six vices and a 6ft 6in roller, on which are made three columns known as "McLean's Patent Composition." These columns somewhat resemble common piping or spouting, but for durability will stand as long as iron. The columns are hollow and filled up with a peculiar kind of concrete, which, when set, becomes so hard that it is impossible to break off a piece. The peculiar material used is of course a trade secret. There is a large demand for these composition columns, every one of which, when sent out from the firm, bears a brass plate on which is [smudge]ed the registered trade mark of the firm. A door leading from this department took us into the yard, where we saw any quantity of colonnade columns of various designs—Ionic, Corinthian, Doric and Tuscan caps—shafts fluted and plain, floral and plain, fluted and floral with long bases ; moulding boxes of all sizes and peculiar shapes were stacked up in one corner, single and double shanks capable of lifting from 30lbs to a cwt and a quantity of scrap as well as a large stock of pig iron ready to go to the furnaces. We next passed through some out-buildings which brought us into the foundry, which is a large building 100ft x 80ft, and in time we saw a number of men busily engaged in moulding columns, friezes, spandrels, spear heads and plates, which latter, we are informed, are a speciality of the firm, and they are enabled to obtain a double-faced casting from the same plate. The loam used is three different qualities—No. 3, as it is called, being expensive and is used for very fine work only. At the rear is a fire-stall stable attached to which is the harness-room and store loft, in the latter of which the fodder and horse provider is kept. The coal bin is close to the engine room—the firm being large consumers and purchasing by the truck, are compelled to have some place to store it, more especially just now as the "coal strike" was likely to prove more serious than anticipated, this firm having secured enough to last them for some time to come.

We now proceed to notice the tubular cores and the drying room. The oven we thought a peculiar looking affair. It was 18 feet x 4 feet and 2 feet 6 inches deep. The heat passes under and over and finally escapes through a specially prepared pit up an exhaust pipe. The iron plates on which the cores were dried is of unusual thickness. A store room and iron rack and the sorting rooms we also saw, and in the former were neatly arranged banisters, newels, newel

posts, friezes, consisting of every conceivable design and size from 4 inches to 16 inches, spandrels to match, iron palisading and balcony iron of all kinds, while in the sorting room were displayed all kinds of different castings. There is a screw cutting lathe on the premises. It is a 20 feet bed, and is fitted up with back gear, wheels and cogs complete. It is driven by steam power from the main shaft and can also be utilised when required for wood turning. There are also three blacksmith's forges on the premises. The boiler is an eight-horse vertical, and the engine is one of Lane and Reynolds, of London, from which by a six feet fly wheel, is driven the whole of the machinery. For the purpose of blowing the cupola or furnace, there is one of Gunthrie's patent 30 inch fans, which is provided with a 12 inch outlet. The establishment is one which is well worth a visit. The work turned out is first class, and the contracts completed by the firm have gained for them a reputation second to none. The number of hands employed varies from 35 to 50. They have had entrusted to them some large orders, one of the latest being the whole of the ornamental ironwork used in the construction of the palatial hotel recently erected at Lady Robinson's beach. Our best thanks are due to Mr. G. Frew, who so kindly enlightened us on many matters of which we were ignorant. We cordially wish this enterprising firm all the success which they merit from the high class nature of the work they turn out of their establishment.

Industry at Leichardt

Among the thriving industries in this suburb that of Messrs. Swinerton & Frew is one of the most important, considering that it employs something like an average of 40 hands. As an ironfoundry it has gained an excellent name and consequently does a large quantity of work for various parts of the colony, turning out 60 tons a month of castings alone. Besides this a number of blacksmiths are kept going with wrought iron work. At present the latter are making a pair of very attractive and massive carriage entrance gates and another pair of wicket gates of the same class, which, by the way, were designed by Messrs. Ellis and Slater, architects, of Sydney, for Dr. Sly's residence, Carrington Avenue, Strathfield; the design requiring some extra neat work on the part of the artizan. Messrs. Swinerton & Frew's workshops, situated in Parramatta-road, opposite what is known as Johnstone's estate, cover a large area of ground, the moulding shop alone being 100 feet by 80, and at the time of our visit all the space was occupied by moulders at work, casting being done by the firm every day. The melting furnace is constructed on the most approved principle and is provided with an equal blast at both sides, produced by a Guthrie fan revolving 2800 times a minute. Close by there is a very large core oven for drying the cores of columns for verandahs, balconies, &c., a large quantity of which are turned out by the firm. The engineering shop is provided with drilling, punching and clipping and other

machines. One of the drilling machines is a specially complete worker. It is a French make and provided with appliances which can regulate it to seven different speeds. It has turn-table gear which permits of moving the work about without any labour or bringing a screw vice under the drill. The firm have of late added to their business that of wholesale and retail ironmongery. It is certainly a pleasure to be able to record such advancement as shown by Messrs. Swinnerton & Frew by sheer hard plodding, but could be greatly increased by a change in the fiscal policy of the colony.

* * * * *

Swinnerton & Frew v. T. W. Garlick; claim £22, balance due on contract for erecting a house at Clifton. Mr. M^cCoy appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. Blackett (instructed by Mr. Dixon) appeared for defendant. Defence admitted, after certain deductions, a debt of £6 8s 2d. It was shown by plaintiffs than one distinct contract and several subcontracts were made (some of which were made verbally) in regard to the building and various payments were made, while the amount claimed was the residue. The defendant showed that certain agreements had been made and payments had been made at different times, which left a balance due of amount paid into Court. Mr. Kenwood (of Messrs. Kenwood and Kerle, Sydney) deposed to the performance of the work to their satisfaction and gave evidence relating to the value of the subcontracts. Verdict for £13 13s, with costs of one witness.

* * * * *

Extract from the "Sydney Morning Herald," August 31st, 1889.

NOTICE is hereby given that the Business lately carried on by ALFRED JOHN SWINNERTON and GEORGE FREW, trading as Swinnerton and Frew, as Ironfounders and Ironmongers, Parramatta Road, Leichardt, having expired by effluxion of time, the Ironfoundry Business at Parramatta Road, Leichardt will be hereafter carried on by ALFRED JOHN SWINNERTON, as A. J. Swinnerton and Co., to whom all accounts must be paid, and who will discharge all liabilities up to date; and the Ironmongery Business situate in Macquarie Street and Parramatta Road, Leichardt, will be hereafter carried on by GEORGE FREW.

Dated this 31st day of August A.D., 1889.

A.J. SWINNERTON.

Witness—M. MITCHELL, Solicitor, Sydney.

GEORGE FREW.

ALL DEBTS owing to the Firm of SWINNERTON & FREW, Ironfounders and Ironmongers, Parramatta Road, Leichardt, must be paid before September 14th, 1889.

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ALL ACCOUNTS against the Firm of SWINNERTON & FREW, Ironfounders and Ironmongers, Parramatta Road, Leichardt, must be rendered in duplicate before the 14th September, 1889.

* * * * *

Extract from the "Sydney Morning Herald," June 17th 1891

TO ENGINEERS, BLACKSMITHS, IRON-FOUNDERS, BUILDERS, and CAPITALISTS.

PARRAMATTA-ROAD, LEICHARDT,
only three miles from
CITY OF SYDNEY.

That VALUABLE and EASY REACHED BLOCK of FREEHOLD LAND, having 86ft. 3in. frontage to PARRAMATTA ROAD, with a depth of 15ft. extending to a wide lane down which are LARGE SHEDS, SLIPS, stables and buggy house now used as a pattern store.

Together with
MACHINERY PATTERNS (wood and iron), MOULDING BOXES, BLACKSMITHS' FORGES complete, rack for holding 50 tons of castings, 3 HORSES, DRAYS, CART, OFFICE FURNITURE.

THIS PROPERTY and PLANT is well known as the business premises &c., of Messrs. A.J. SWINNERTON and CO., who have been working it since 1880. It is now offered (BY TENDER, on or before Monday, 6th July next) as a GOING CONCERN. STOCK-SHEETS and any other information can be obtained from the undersigned to whom tenders are to be addressed.

RICHARDSON and WRENCH, LTD. 98 Pitt-street, Sydney.

The highest or any tender not necessarily accepted. (1887)

October 27th 1889

ALL ACCOUNTS owing to the late firm of Swinnerton and Frew, Parramatta-road, Leichardt, if not paid at once to the office, 167, Parramatta-road, Leichardt or to J.R. Swinnerton, whose receipt will be a sufficient discharge, will be placed in the hands of a solicitor for recovery. Dated this 21st day of October 1889.

SWINNERTON and FREW

TAKE NOTICE that the Iron Foundry Business lately carried on by Swinnerton and Frew at Parramatta-road, Leichardt, has been PURCHASED by A.J. SWINNERTON, who alone receives and executes orders for ironfoundry and other work done by the firm.

A. J. SWINNERTON and CO.

THE Gentleman who took the PHOTO BOOK away from Annandale Foundry to Annandale-street on October 15 is requested to return it at once.

A. J. SWINNERTON and CO.

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Engineer and General Blacksmith
ANNANDALE IRON WORKS
NEAR TRAM TERMINAL

Undated

Wrought and Cast Iron Gates made to order.
ALL KINDS OF ORNAMENTAL CASTINGS.
Colonial Ovens, Pilasters, Columns, Mullions,
Frieze and
Spandrels of every description.

QUARRYMEN'S TOOLS REPAIRED, MADE AND SHARPENED.

All Orders Promptly Attended To

ACCIDENTS WITH EMERY WHEELS

Several accidents have occurred lately through the bursting of grindstones. Some months ago at Messrs. G. Simpson & Co.'s implement factory, Warracknabeal, Victoria, two men were badly hurt through an emery wheel bursting into fragments, and only a fortnight ago the new wheel which replaced the one destroyed also flew in pieces, seriously injuring a bystander. A somewhat similar affair occurred three weeks ago at Messrs. A. J. Swinnerton & Co.'s iron foundry, Parramatta-road, Annandale, Sydney, where an emery wheel, about 20in in diameter, while revolving rapidly, burst with a loud report, and a man working near was struck on the head by some of the fragments and killed on the spot. The fragments were hurled into the air with great force, one piece penetrating the iron roof of the foundry, and another piercing the roof of an adjoining building.

TENDERS.—To Oven Builders.—Bakers' Oven Fittings to suit all classes kept in stock. Call our designs before purchasing elsewhere. A. J. SWINNERTON and CO., Parramatta-road, Leichardt.

SWINNERTON AND FREW

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HAVE OPENED THEIR

NEW BRANCH STORE

With every Requirement for
BUILDERS' AND GENERAL FURNISHING
IRONMONGERY,
CARPENTERS' EDGE TOOLS of every description (best
makers).

In conjunction with their well-established Iron Foundry, and hope
by
strict attention
to Customers to gain a liberal amount of patronage.
BAKERS' OVEN FITTINGS a speciality, from £5 per Set.

Take Notice—The Trams stop at the door.

**PARRAMATTA ROAD AND
MACQUARIE STREET NORTH,
ANNANDALE, LEICHARDT.**

MUSEUM OF APPLIED ARTS AND SCIENCES

HARRIS STREET JLW/JOG BROADWAY, SYDNEY 63/643

19th September, 1963

Mrs. A. Swinnerton
52 High Street
GLADESVILLE, N.S.W.

Dear Mrs. Swinnerton,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees I should like to thank you very much indeed for your generous action in presenting to this Museum the early internal combustion engine built by the late Mr. A. J. Swinnerton in 1914 and

an early American dress sword. We are also grateful to you for the brief account of Mr. Swinnerton's achievements as an engineer and inventor.

In view of the late Mr. Swinnerton's wide interests on the engineering, electrical and radio fields, the scientific staff would like to know whether you have any references to the dates of manufacture or installation of the following items made by your late husband:-

1. The first semi-diesel hot type engine made in Australia.
2. Commonwealth patent for high pressure centrifugal blower.
3. Four cylinder, four stroke, reversible petrol engine.
4. Short wave radio.
5. Amplifier
6. Public address loud speaker.

Any help you could give us in this matter would be of great assistance to the scientific and technical staff.

In conclusion, I should like to thank you for your courtesy in receiving Mr. Don Harkness and our Assistant Keeper of Exhibits, Mr. N. Harwood, at your home, and spending so much time with them and offering the very valuable information which you did.

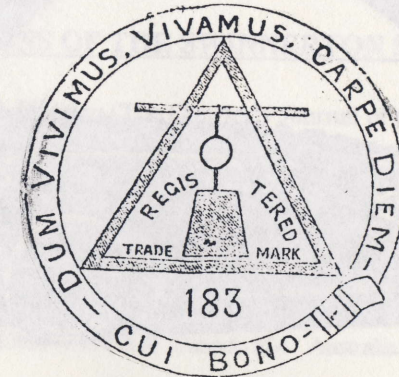
When the 1914 Swinnerton engine is displayed in our proposed Transport Museum, I should be very pleased indeed if you would visit us and see the engine on display.

Yours sincerely,
(J. L. Willis)
Director

Restored Cars No. 2. Vol. 1 January 1974

Information on the car building exploits of Alfred SWINNERTON of Leichardt, N.S.W. is very limited but it is known that he made his first model in 1908, and another in 1914. This latter, a 2-seater, was something of a contradiction, in that it employed old-fashioned belt drive transmission and also very advanced chassisless construction. The 4cyl. 11hp. engine from this model is in Sydney's Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences.

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Swinnerton & Frew
THE PARAMATTA ROAD
IRONMONGERS AND IRONFOUNDERS
Have Just Started an Ironmongery Branch

With one of the most Complete Stocks in the Suburbs of Sydney
EVERY DESCRIPTION OF

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Millet Brooms, great variety from 1s each; Saucepans, Eggbeaters,
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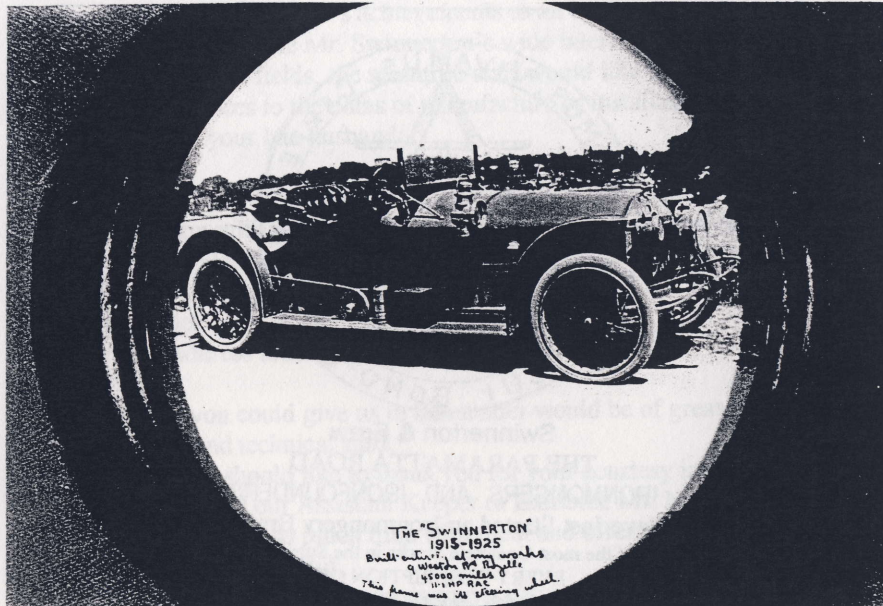
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183 PARAQMATTA ROAD and MACQUARIE STREET
Leichardt



Family Notes

Change of Address:

Council Member Stuart Limb to 40 The Banks, Bingham, Nottingham NG13 8BT (01949 836408)

Many congratulations (although both somewhat belated) to:

Ernest and Audrey Swinnerton of The Wirral, Cheshire who celebrated their GOLDEN Wedding Anniversary on the 27th of December 2002.

And to:

Bill and Grace Swinnerton of Melbourne who celebrated their DIAMOND Wedding Anniversary on the 5th of September 2002

But, a very sad note to end on. I am sorry to tell you that Hazel Jones of Canada died on the 5th March after a stroke following a long illness. Hazel was one of the first to join the society, she had been working with the Revd. Brian Swynnerton on their common Betley ancestry before I made contact with them and was always a very loyal and generous supporter. Our very sincere sympathy goes to her husband and their family.

PUBLICATIONS OF THE SWINNERTON SOCIETY

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