

SWINNERTON
Family History



Edward Swinnerton – Merchant Navy circa 1948

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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 Swynnerton Family Records

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SWINNERTON FAMILY HISTORY

Volume 12 No.5

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FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The days are drawing in as we are looking forward to Christmas. It is difficult to believe that, only four months ago, Elizabeth and I were watching the midnight sun from the deck of the *Braemar* as we cruised the fjords of Norway. The sunsets were wonderful to behold!

Please send me any news of the widespread Swynnerton (or Swynnerton) family. I can only tell you that my nephew Robert and his new wife, Bettina, are expecting a baby Swynnerton next year. I am also pleased to report that Keith and Elizabeth Livesey have left Altrincham for Llandudno, and are very happy with the move. We hope to visit them in their new home in March. I have also received a letter from Ron and Margaret Swynnerton who left Newcastle-under Lyme for Cornwall, and are also pleased with their move.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Peter King, who is working his way through all the certificates of births, deaths and marriages that are in the possession of the Society, and is transferring them all onto computer. This is a long and painstaking task, and we are very grateful to him.

The next AGM will be held in Swynnerton on Saturday 9th June 2004. Please make a note in your diary now, if you think you may be able to attend. This will mark 30 years since members of the family met at Swynnerton for the first time. At the AGM, Elizabeth and I will be retiring as we will have come to the end of our permitted time as Chairman and Secretary.

The Council are urgently looking for replacements and for additional members of Council to help out with advice and ideas as to how to carry the Society forward. Do please think carefully as to whether you can help – if no new volunteers come forward to help the present long-serving members of council, there is a danger that the Society will just fold up. The duties are not onerous – we meet on only three occasions a year one of which is the AGM.

Lastly, may I congratulate our patron, and my cousin, Hugh, Lord Thomas of Swynnerton, on his latest beautifully illustrated book, "Rivers of gold", the story of the Spanish adventurers who sailed to the Caribbean to found an empire and search for gold. An exciting read!

May Elizabeth and I both wish you all a wonderful Christmas, and a peaceful New Year

Roger Swynnerton

OUR DESCENDANTS WILL HAVE PROBLEMS!

I was recently sent a photocopy of this, I don't know who wrote it so I apologise to whoever did for not asking permission to copy it but I thought it was so pertinent that it was well worth reproducing and hope he or she will forgive me and feel suitably flattered.

"...the way society is going, the breakdown in the basic disciplines of social conventions will cause problems, not only now but for the future. The reason for the gathering that evening is not relevant to the story, I was with an assorted group of women, just a small group of nice friendly people, but I was amazed by what I heard.

Taking into account modern technology, I had always assumed that, in this computer-dominated age, the researching of family history by future genealogists would get easier and easier. But if you were thinking along similar lines – forget it!

The familiar problems of hunting for lost documents, looking for strays, searching parish records, may not be so difficult for our great-grandchildren when they can look it all up on computer disks, or CD Roms or whatever it is by then, but there is a new problem developing that had never occurred to me before that meeting.

One lady remarked that she had been married three times and each time, she had not only changed her own name but had changed her children's surnames as well. What a challenge that will be in a hundred year's time!

Another, having had a divorce, did not wish to keep "his" name, nor did she wish to revert to her maiden name, so one day she sat down with her children and they spent an hour or two deciding on a new name that would adopt as their own.

Her friend, also divorced, changed back to her maiden name but her daughter retained her father's surname, by which she had been christened.

Yet another lady, not married but living with a regular partner and using their own names, said that, to avoid arguments over which name to use for their children, if and when they have any, they were planning to use both surnames hyphenated.

Believe it or not, all this was from just six well-balanced women in the thirties to fifties age group, professional women of at least average intelligence. And we all know of single parents, or couples with a flexible relationship, with children who bear the names of either the father or the mother.

The various combinations of these complicated associations are mind-boggling and will introduce ever more twists and turns for the researcher of the future to worry about.

So who said that family history research is supposed to be easy? Our descendants will need a lot of hard work, and that little extra bit of luck."

EDWARD SWINNERTON 8 March 1926 - 18 October 2003

This bright and loving light went out in our lives and this is our personal tribute to a great man who touched the lives of many in his understated and quiet way. Many of you will have met him at some of the Swinnerton Society meetings, to others he was just a name in the 'list of credits' in the cover of the Society's magazine. To you he was Chaplain of the Society for nearly 30 years, to us, his family, he was so much more and this is our tribute to him.

He was born in Liverpool in 1926, the youngest of 5 brothers. At the tender age of 2 years his Mother died and he was passed around to various relatives until it was his misfortune to be brought up by his Aunt and Uncle Nicols. It was a hard and cruel upbringing completely lacking in love and any feeling of self-worth, he was unwanted by them and he was never in any doubt about that. He told me this about his beloved Doris " I had not been shown love until I met her".

At the age of 14 he started a heavy engineering apprenticeship at the Crewe Works and his love of steam trains began there and continued for the rest of his life. Realising that he wanted to expand his knowledge and experience of engineering he joined the Merchant Navy in 1947 with the Cunard Line. He mostly sailed the North Atlantic passage, from Southampton to New York, Bermuda etc. and destinations up the St Lawrence River. He recalled the time when his ship was ice bound in the St Lawrence one particularly hard winter. They were stationary for so long that they were plotted as an iceberg by other ships. This place was known as 'Patchet's Corner' for many years, being named after the Captain of the ship!

Whilst serving with Cunard he qualified for his Chief Engineer's Ticket, becoming their youngest ever Chief Engineer. He served on many ships, but one of his best loved was the original Queen Elizabeth, as he thought, the last of the great ships from a bygone era. He was heartbroken when it was burned and lost in Hong Kong Harbour.

During this time he married his 'beloved' Doris in West Derby, Liverpool in 1949 and settled down to a happy and loving family life raising 4 children, Ena, Michael, Paula and Elizabeth. The desire for being with his family full-time was so great that he left the Merchant Navy in 1955 and became an Engineer Surveyor for the Vulcan Boiler Company.

In 1961 Ted made a dramatic life changing decision; supported by Doris, he went back to college to study Theology at St Aiden's, Birkenhead. He had always been a regular churchgoer and he felt now that he had a calling to become a priest, a calling that was very much confirmed by all the people he helped throughout his ministry. This was a hard decision for the family, as there were already 3 children and Doris was expecting a fourth child.



Edward Swinnerton at the baptism of his grandson Alexander in the Chapel of the Order of the British Empire - St. Paul's Cathedral

The Descent of Edward Swinnerton

John Swinnerton = Mary
b.1793
Astley
|
Joseph Swinnerton = Ann Jones
Shropshire 1845-1875
1821-1871
|
Thomas Edward Swinnerton = Annie Don
1852-1905 1876-1897
Liverpool
|
William Joseph Swinnerton = Helen Nicholls
1882-1948 1880-1929
|
Edward Swinnerton = Doris Edith Mealor
1926-2003

He was ordained in Prescot Parish Church in September 1964 and priested in Liverpool Cathedral in September 1965. His curacies were served at Prescot and Holy Trinity with St Christopher's Blackpool. In 1970 he was inducted as Vicar at Hambleton Lancashire where he hosted one of the early Swinnerton Society Council Meetings.

He took a keen interest in the Society in his younger days and was Chaplain from the beginning. In 1975 he took the inaugural family service in Swynnerton Parish Church and he and Doris attended gatherings whenever Parish duties allowed. However, by the late 1970s his parish responsibilities increased when Hambleton Parish was combined with St John, Out Rawcliffe, and his attendance at gatherings was increasingly difficult to manage. His last parish was the joint benefice of All Saints, Barnacre with St John, Calder Vale, from where he retired in 1992 at the age of 67 due to ill health. He moved across the Pennines to Tockwith near Wetherby to be near his eldest daughter.

Once retired, although dogged by ill health, he still managed to work as a part time Prison chaplain at H.M. Prison Wealstun for 2 days a week, as well as covering full time for holidays. He was also honorary assistant priest at St Wilfrid's Harrogate where he and Doris attended services and he assisted on many occasions. His funeral service and requiem were held here.

Ted and Doris celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in April 1999 just before Doris suffered her long-term illness and death in March this year. This inevitably took its toll on Ted's health, as they were such a devoted couple. He said that she was his life and that he felt that they were as one and when she died he had lost the love of his life. He suffered 3 heart attacks and a mini stroke in the 7 months since Doris died and this was more than he was able to fight. Sadly, for us, he died in the Lambert Memorial Hospital, Thirsk on Saturday, 18 October 2003.

This is a brief resume of the factual side to our Father's life, but does not show the true measure of the man. He was a quiet, unassuming and gentle man who lived a full and varied life. He was an excellent parish priest and cared deeply about the people to whom he was charged with their spiritual welfare, and he was always astonished at how much others loved and respected him in return.

Judging by the letters the family has received from his friends and parishioners since his death he was well loved and admired. As one of the many letters said, "You cannot possibly know all the good that Ted did, but we know what an important part he played in our lives".

As a husband and a father he gave love unconditionally. What can be more important than that? We thank God for the privilege of knowing him and being his children, we were truly blessed. He was a prince among men and utterly irreplaceable.

Ena and Paula

The Swinnerton Society



List of Members

1st December 2003

INTRODUCTION

This is the first list of members we have produced since 1998. Up to that date we used to produce one every year with the December Journal but people move around so much these days that it proved very difficult to keep up with all the changes. In addition, we had a constant history of forgetful, non-paying members who then came back sometimes after a gap of some years.

I have tried to make this as an accurate a list as possible – please tell me of any errors if there are any so that I can make the list 100% correct.

I am sorry to say that we have lost a considerable number of members since 1988, some sadly by death but a much larger number who have not renewed their subscriptions. Previously we have hung on giving a year's grace but we can no longer afford to go on supporting members who do not share the costs of running the society.

Our membership today, at 141 world-wide, is the lowest it has been for many years. So – if you can recruit any new members and particularly enrol the younger members of your family, please do. Also, if you see a name missing from the list that you know, please try and persuade them to rejoin.

* * * * *

The list is in simple alphabetical order. The identification number that follows the Christian name (I have used that term because it is one we are all used to and do not think it will upset anyone in the family although it is politically correct today to say forename!) is the member's number on the family trees. If the number is in brackets it signifies a widow of a former member. If there is no number it means that the member is descended from a Swinnerton. Then comes the Branch from which the member is descended and the last number is the date of joining the Society.

* * * * *

Finally – please do renew your subscription promptly to ensure you, your self, remain on the list!

Note that the list is designed as a pull-out supplement so that you can detach it and use it as a separate booklet.

Mrs M.E.ANTILL
(Margaret Edith) [Warks] Heanley View, Hurley Common, Atherstone, Warks
CV9 2LR 1999

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HR2 PN6 1991

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Liverpool, Merseyside
L31 6ED 2003

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(Elizabeth) ES.222 [Betley] The Retreat, High Street, Blunsden, Swindon, Wilts
SN26 7AG 2002

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(Eileen) [Betley] 4 Nansen Place, Levin, New Zealand 1983

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SY8 4HN 2002

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2002

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Pershore, Worcs WR10 3LJ 1983
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2003
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2002
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2000

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1991

Mrs E.YEANDLE

(Elizabeth) [Betley] West Stowey, Luckwell Bridge, Minehead, Somerset TA24
7EN 2000

NOTES:

Anne Swinnerton of Alexandria

This is the last Will and Testament of me Anne Swinnerton widow of Thomas Swinnerton late of Alexandria deceased. I bequeath unto Thomas Edward Swinnerton George Swinnerton Brothers of John Swinnerton hereinafter mentioned the sum of five pounds each and subject thereto I revise and bequeath all the real and personal estate to which I shall be entitled at the time of my decease unto the said John Swinnerton of Alexandria aforesaid and unto Margaret his wife or the survivor of them in equal shares as tenants in common the share of the said Margaret Swinnerton to be for her sole and separate use and I appoint the said John Swinnerton sole Executor of this my Will hereby revoking all other Testamentary writings In Witness whereof I have here unto

Set my hand this 8th day of August 1876

Signed by the said testatrix as and for her last Will and testament in the presence of us present at the same time who at her request in her sight and presence and in the presence of each other have subscribed our names as attesting witnesses

signed Anne Swinnerton
signed Barbara Erkman
Deakness
signed Hy Williamson

A true copy

Her Britannic Majestys Chief Consular Court for Egypt Alexandria

F Arpa

Legal Vice Consul

30th November 1876

In her Britannic Majestys Chief Consular Court for Egypt at Alexandria

Be it known that on the 29th day of August 1876 the last Will of Anne Swinnerton late of Alexandria aforesaid Widow deceased who died on the 19th day of August 1876 at Alexandria aforesaid and who at the time of her death had her fixed place of abode at Alexandria aforesaid within the jurisdiction of this Court was proved and registered in this court and that the administration of the personal property of the said deceased was granted by this Court to John Swinnerton the sole executor named in the said Will he having first been duly sworn.

Signed: Ch O Cookson Judge

A true copy

H.B.M's Chief Consular Court for Egypt Alexandria August 29th 1876

F Arpa Legal V. Consul

* * *

Proved at London 5th February 1877 by the oath of John Swinnerton the sole Executor to whom Admin was granted

ON the 5th February 1877 the Will of Anne Swinneton late of Alexandria in Egypt Widow deceased who died on the 19th day of August 1876 at Alexandria aforesaid was proved in the Principal Registry of the Probate Division of the High Court of Justice by the Oath of John Swinnerton of Alexandria aforesaid Engineer. The sole Executor named in the Will he having been first sworn duly to administer under £200

No Leaseholds



Barrie Swinnerton at a Chinese New Year Party in Hong Kong



Nick Swinnerton in action

MEET YOUR COUNCIL – BARRIE SWINNERTON

Barrie Ronald George Swinnerton (BS.14) is the son of Ron and Delia Swinnerton of the Adbaston branch of the family. He was born in Great Wyrley, Stafford in 1940. After attending King Edward VI Grammar School, he left at 18, having decided the family business of Swinnerton's Garage in Stafford (started by his grandfather George in the 1920's) was not for him.

Instead he joined the Nelson Research Laboratories of the English Electric Co and trained as a physicist. In 1968 Barrie joined The Morgan Crucible group having been involved in research on carbon brushes for some time. In 1973 we moved with baby son Philip to the Gower Peninsula when the company opened a new factory near Swansea. Barrie and I still live in the same house today.

It was in 1973 that Barrie started to be involved in overseas business, initially in Latin America, North Africa, Pakistan and Europe. However after 1980 when Barrie made his first visit to China his work took him to the Far East and in 1983, when he became Director of Morganite International Asia, I joined him for three years in Hong Kong together with our two sons.

On our return to the UK in 1986 Barrie continued to travel in the Far East as well as becoming President of a number of European companies until his retirement in 1998.

In retirement Barrie enjoys his golf and skiing besides taking up birdwatching, together with a lifetime of rugby watching which is, of course, the Welsh national sport. He now has the time to see more of his sons Philip and Nicholas, who is a Welsh surfing champion and married to Kelly.

Margaret Swinnerton

* * * * *

FOSTERS YORKSHIRE PEDIGREES.

Pedigree of Pilkington now of Chevet

Sir William Pilkington of Chevet married 25 June 1825 Mary daughter and co-heiress of Thomas Swinnerton Esq., of Butterton.co.Stafford, by his wife Mary, daughter and heiress of Charles Milborne, Esq., of Wonaston, and of the Priory, Abergavenny, by Lady Martha Harley, his wife, daughter of Edward, 3rd Earl of Oxford.

Son - Sir Lionel Milborne Swinnerton Pilkington of Chevet Hall,co.York,b.7July 1835 succeeded his brother as 11th bart. in 1855 took by royal licence the names of Milborne Swinnerton mar. 3 February 1857 to Isabella Elizabeth Georgiana only child of the Rev. Chas. Kinleside rector of Polling, co. Sussex. High Sheriff of Yorkshire in 1859 (had issue).

WHO WAS WHO IN THE SWYNNERTON FAMILY

This series was originally published on loose A4 sheets in the 1970s. As many have by now disappeared, we thought it would be a good idea to reprint them and incorporate them into the Journal

SWYNNERTON - THE REVEREND CHARLES FSA. (CS.19)

Charles Swynnerton was born on 27 November 1843 in the Isle of Man, the second son of Charles Swynnerton, a stonemason who had moved from Liverpool to settle on the island, and Mary, the daughter of Robert Callister of Castletown, known in the family as the 'short Manx woman'.

Sometime between 1878 and 1882, the Reverend Charles and one of his brothers restored the family surname to Swynnerton which had been the common spelling from circa 1100 to 1633. The other brothers did not change and continued with the rendering used by the rest of the family.

Charles was educated at St. John's School, Hurstpierpoint; University College, London (1866) and Oxford (1870) but did not sit for a degree. He was ordained in 1868 and elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries in 1889. With three of his brothers he was a Founder Member of the William Salt Archaeological Society, Stafford in 1879. He was Headmaster of Ramsay Grammar School, Isle of Man and Curate of St Olave's Lazayre from 1868 to 1873 when he went to Ceylon as a Government Chaplain, where he served until 1877.

On 23 November 1874 in Delhi, he married Maud, daughter of Major Henry William Massy of Grantstown, Tipperary. Only two of their children survived the rigours of the Indian sub-continent, Francis Massy (1877-1938) and Gertrude Mary Massy ('Maud') (1882-1935). His first wife died on 11 November 1882 at Mussoorie in India. Later in life, on 23 October 1909, he married Edith, daughter of the Rev. T. Aiken-Sneath of Woodchester Lawn, near Stroud, Glos.

After Ceylon, the Revd. Charles joined the Indian Establishment from 1877-1901. He is recorded as being a Chaplain on the Bengal Establishment (1884) and later a Senior Chaplain to the Indian Govt. He saw active service with the Kabul Expeditionary Force (1878-9), the Hazara Field Force (1881) and the Black Mountain Expedition (1894-5).

The Rev. Charles devoted much of his time in India to collecting, from original sources, a large number of folk tales from the Upper Indus and these were published as *'The Adventures of the Punjab Hero Raja Rasalu'* (1884), *'Indian Nights Entertainment'* (1892) and *'Romantic Tales from the Punjab'* (1903). At that time he was a member of the Royal Asiatic and Folk-Lore Societies and of the Asiatic Society of Bengal. Amongst his other publications whilst in India were *'The Afghan War'* and *'Gough's Action at Futtehabad'* both prior to 1884 and *'A History of the Angelo Family'* which was published in *'The Ancestor'* (volume VII). He also wrote a considerable amount of verse, published under a single cover in 1925 as *'A Medley of Occasional Verse, Grave and Gay'*.

Eight of these were subsequently reproduced in the County Series of Contemporary Poetry (VII Gloucester) in 1927.

He undoubtedly started his researches into the family history at an early stage and before he went East. In May 1888, from India he wrote an introduction to the Hon. & Rev. Canon Bridgman's *'Account of the Family of Swynnerton of Swynnerton and Elsewhere in the County of Stafford'* to which he had contributed some chapters. Amongst his writings on the family were *'The First Two Generations of the Swynnertons of Co. Stafford 1086-1122'*, *'The Earlier Swynnertons of Eccleshall'*, *'Swynnerton of Chell, Co. Stafford'*, *'On the Cross-legged Effigy in Swynnerton Church'*, *'Two Ancient Petitions from the Record Office'*, *'Notes on the Family of Swynnerton (Concerning the Presumed Wife of Roger de Swynnerton, the Baron)'* and *'On some Forgotten Swynnertons of the Fourteenth Century'*.

After leaving India in 1901, the Rev. Charles held numerous chaplaincies in Italy, Egypt and Cyprus before becoming Vicar of St. Leonard Stanley in Gloucestershire from 1912-1920 during which years he devoted himself to the restoration of the church. Two publications of his at that time were - *'Stanley St. Leonard'* and *'Some Early Selwyns'*. He was active up to the time of his death in 1928, his 85th year, when he had in train the re-publication of his *'Romantic Tales of the Punjab'* in three volumes, the first of which was printed before his death, but the publication of the remaining volumes then lapsed. He died on the 16th November 1928 and was buried at Minchinhampton, Glos.



MISCELLANEOUS FINDS

Eliza Vaux, charged in connection with the gunpowder plot, was put into the custody of an alderman, **Sir John Swynnerton**, [JS84] in London, and made to remain with him for many months until a plea to Salisbury got her bail. {The Gunpowder Plot, Antonia Fraser p.199 November 1605}

*

The *Vadia Guerre* accounts supply as many as 255 different named individuals, including 158 who were not protection recipients and well over a hundred whose involvement in this campaign [Cambrésis-Thiérache, 1338-9] could not be ascertained from any other source. The men mentioned in the pay accounts are however a very mixed bag. An interesting group are the leaders of small companies who were serving without the benefit of enrolled protections.²³³ Such men could not rely upon a prominent captain to secure their letters of protection; perhaps, as ordinary knights, they lacked the authority or the experience to do so for themselves.

These include ... **Sir Thomas Swynnerton** [TS166] and Alan, Otes and Thomas Holand. Most retinue commanders are also to be seen in the Issue Rolls, receiving part or all of their wage-arrears at the Exchequer. For example, the three Holand brothers had not yet been fully paid off in February 1346: E403/336, m. 31. {Knights and Warhorses, Andrew Ayton p.183}

Sir Thomas Swynnerton [TS166] fought on the Breton campaign of 1342-3 as captain of one knight, two esquires and a retinue of one. He fought also on the Reims campaign losing three horses with a mean value of £8/14/5 and having return passage for 23 horses paid for by the crown. {Knights and Warhorses, Andrew Ayton appendices}

Brentwood Assizes, 1st April 1563 before Serjeant Ralph Cholmley and Gilbert Gerard, Attorney-General

Gaol prisoners: **Richard Swynerton**

Suspects delivered by proclamation: Richard Swynnerton
{Calendar of Assize Records for Essex}

* * * * *

A Happy Christmas to you all.

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