

SWINNERTON Family History



Council members at their Autumn meeting at Brereton Green. Back row l.to.r. Elizabeth Livesey, the President, Roger Swynnerton, Myrna and Alan Jones. Front row: Margaret Swynnerton, Sheila Swynnerton, Elizabeth Swynnerton, Barrie Swynnerton.

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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

*Volume 12
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FROM THE CHAIRMAN – Barrie Swinnerton

This is my first report as Chairman of the Society after my election in June this year. This is a great honour for me and seems a long way removed from those tentative steps I took in the early 1970's in visiting graveyards in Sowdley, Cheswardine and others to follow up my own 'Adbaston' family links.

My first duty on behalf of the society is to record our thanks and appreciation to Roger and Elizabeth Swinnerton for their sterling efforts during their time as Chairman and Secretary and also over a number of years as members of the Council. They set a very high standard which Margaret and I will be hard pressed to match. I would also like to welcome Anne Swynnerton and Liz Yeandle as newly elected members of the Council.

One of the main tasks over the coming year is to plan the next family gathering in the Summer of 2005. These events have always been a milestone in the development of our family history when so many 'Swinnertons' come together from all over the world in order to meet in the ancestral home at Swynnerton.

We hope that as many family members as possible will support this event. The provisional date is the 9th July 2005 which will also coincide with St Mary's Church Summer Fair in Swynnerton.

I have always found the gatherings stimulate a lot of interest and enthusiasm for our family history. There is such a lot of data available now which President Iain in particular has gathered together over the years with the help of members past and present. The challenge for the society is to be able to take this enthusiasm forward and to encourage more family members to join and in particular to attract our younger family relatives. I would ask you all to help the Society in this matter as we must try to increase membership numbers for the future.

My wife Margaret has taken over as Secretary of the Society and will no doubt call on her old skills. In her younger days she was secretary to a Bank Manager Company Director and even to the Secretary of the Country Landowners Association in Staffordshire. In this latter capacity she worked for Major Rodney Haszard of Milford Hall whose mother was also descended from a Swinnerton and where she first met our President. Born in Stafford, Margaret's own great-grandfather was Charles Jackson Clay who was described as Stafford's 'Grand Old Man' when he retired as Chairman of Stafford County Bench in 1938 at the age of 88.

Outside of the family Margaret's great love is for horticulture. She is secretary of our local gardening club and spends a good deal of her time at Swansea's Singleton Botanic Gardens as a 'Friend' helping to raise awareness and funds for the gardens.

Barrie Swinnerton

Ann Bagot's Diary (continued)

By popular request, here is a further instalment of this fascinating document.

1826

September

7th

Mrs. Willett, Charlotte Neave, Mr. Wm. Gresley and myself all went to Holly Bush where we found a very fine assembly of about 140 people. the day beautiful. Young Arthur Legge who I had not seen for years to my surprise – Sir Arthur. I was in hope Charlotte wd. have won the prize, the strangers but Caroline Curzon did - C.N. was however the 3rd. The Levetts, Sneyds, Bagots, Legges etc. all there and a very happy sociable day we spent. Mrs. Willett returned before dinner with Lady Charlotte Law, Charlotte, Wm. Gresley and myself came home a little before three.

23rd

Charlotte Neave and I went to the last archery meeting at Byrkley Lodge – the day fine and all pleasant. We went with Fredeick and Anne and Ellen Anson to Sudbury.

26th

Walked in the Park and saw Mr. Vernon fire with Rifles.

27th

Returned home, called at Holly Bush, Byrkley Lodge, Yoxall Lodge Mrs. Gisborne gave me a print of her husband which I much value, also called at King's Bromley but were not let in.

29th

Eat our Michaelmas goose at home.

October

2nd

Went twice to the cathedral.

3rd

Went to a party at the Deanery.

5th

Went to a party at the Palace.

7th

Had a large party at home.

13th

Frances Paget came for me to beg I would go to the George to see Anne Chester who was too tired to come to me. I went with him and spent an hour very pleasantly with her. they were on their road from Levens. She told me

of the death of poor dear old Leonard¹ who drop't down suddenly in the dinner hall and expired - Alas, Alas! for the last remnant of ancient Blithfield in that worthy and attach'd domestick. I never remember the place without him!

14th

Charlotte - Sheffield and I went to dine with Lady Cth: and Mr. Law.

17th

Charlotte Neave and I came to Milford.

22nd

Took Charlotte to walk and ride the Donkey on the Hills.

27th

Went a long ramble with Newton Law in Heywood Park in places I had not seen for many a year. Found Digby Neave on my return.

28th

Digby and Charlotte left Milford on their return to Dagnam Charlotte's visit has been production of both pleasure and pain to me.

November

5th

Returned home - called at Hagley in my way.

12th

I called upon Lady Charlotte Law who was alone and begg'd I would stay dinner with her which I did, how often have I dined tête-à-tête with her poor Mother - We had a pleasant evening.

December

2nd

Went to Shenstone Park - the first time I have been there since Mrs. Dunne (?) lost her 4 children. Mr. and Mrs. Manley dined.

3rd

Mrs. Gore brought me home - we called on Lady C. Law in the evening.

5th

Went to Gopsall called at Orton in my road found Mrs. Phillimore Eliza and Anne all glad to see me met also with a very friendly reception from Lord² and Lady Howe - their children are the 4th generation I have known - Lady Caroline and Mr. Poulet, Mr. and Mrs. Norbury, Mr. and Mrs. Hartopp in the House besides Miss S. Moore Montague, 2 Curzons, Fieldings and Babingtons.

6th

Howe sent me to Orton where I dined and slept.

¹ Old Leonard. There is a sketch at Milford of him in his yellow Bagot livery and silver crested buttons.

² Richard Wm. Penn, Lord Curzon, assumed the name of Howe and was created Earl Howe in 1821.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Swinerton Society held at Swinerton on Saturday 5th June 2004

The President, Iain Swinerton, welcomed members to the meeting.

1.04 APOLOGIES. Apologies were received from Barrie and Margaret Swinerton, Geoffrey Swinerton, Angela Swinerton, Peter Swinerton, Tim Swynnerton and Mary Papps.

2.04 MINUTES of the last AGM were read and signed.

3.04 MATTERS ARISING. The inscription on the table-tomb in St. Mary's churchyard to Thos. Swinerton and his wife Anne, has become almost illegible, and the Revd Brian Swinerton had suggested having it repaired. The council have decided that attempting to repair the tomb would damage the original inscription, and doing so would also set a precedent for repairing other Swinerton tombs, and so this one should be left alone. Brian Swynnerton informed the meeting that there was a very overgrown area in the churchyard at Betley which had three headstones, which represented 200 years of the Betley branch. He suggested that it would be a good idea to uncover this area.

4.04 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT. Roger Swynnerton reported the death of the Rev. Edward Swinerton, who had been chaplain to the society. The President represented the society at the funeral.

We had two council meetings during the year, at Shrewsbury in the Spring and at Brereton Green in the Autumn.

The Stone in the Wall Appeal. The original cost of repairing the wall of St. Mary's was £100,000 - £140,000, but the cost has now been reduced to £38,000, and work has already started, using the skills of a local man. It was felt that the society was not in a position to help with the project due to depleted funds, after giving £800 for the aumbrey in the church. The chairman congratulated Iain Swinerton on the changes in the Journal, which now included colour photographs. "The Daughter of the Raj" by our late president, Margery Thomas, is in the process of being re-printed.

5.04 TREASURER'S REPORT. This was given by Alan Jones for the year 2003. Brian Swynnerton congratulated Alan on the clarity of the report.

6.04 MEMBERSHIP REPORT. Iain Swinerton reported that in the UK there were 91 members, but only 74 had paid last year's subscription. In the USA there were 16 members, 9 of whom had paid. In Canada there were 5 members, all of whom had paid. In New Zealand there were 3 members,

who had also all paid. In South Africa there was one member who had paid. 30 people had signed tax gift aid forms which brings in more money for the society. The membership of the society has gone down and is now the lowest for many years.

7.04 ARCHIVIST'S REPORT Iain Swinnerton reported that he had acquired special archive folders and had roughly sorted much of the society's archives into these folders which were on display at the meeting. He thanked Peter Swinnerton for the large amount of typing he had done, and Peter King who had scanned a large number of birth certificates on to CD Roms.

8.04 VACANCY FOR SOCIETY CHAPLAIN. Roger Swynnerton had written to the Rev Ernest Swinnerton. Ernest had written back to say he did not feel he wanted to take on this position. Brian Swynnerton suggested that the council should ask the Rev. Barry Brewer if he would take on the chaplaincy. It would be possible for Keith Livesey, as a lay reader, to take on the position.

9.04 ELECTION OF OFFICERS. The chairman, Roger Swynnerton and secretary, Elizabeth Swynnerton are retiring as they have come to the end of their permitted term of office. Council member Barrie Swinnerton has agreed to take over as chairman and Margaret Swinnerton as secretary and they were duly elected as such.. This left two vacancies on the council. Anne Swynnerton has offered to stand She was proposed by Elizabeth Livesey and seconded by Sheila Swinnerton and was duly elected. To fill the remaining vacancy, Liz Yeandle was proposed by Valerie Dall and seconded by Sheila Swinnerton and also elected.

The council for the coming year will be:

Chairman: Barrie Swinnerton. Secretary: Margaret Swinnerton. Treasurer:, Alan Jones together with Elizabeth Livesey, Stuart Limb, Sheila Swinnerton, Mary Vivash,, Anne Swynnerton and Liz Yeandle.

The President thanked Roger and Elizabeth Swynnerton for their work as chairman and secretary over many years.

10.04 KEITH LIVESEY reported that many of the past issues of the journal are now out of print and he and we need to re-think our policy on reprinting.

11.04 DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING. The next AGM will be in Swynnerton , possibly on Saturday 4th June 2005, but as this will be a held during a full family gathering , the council will liaise with St.Mary's to find out on which Saturday they are holding their summer fair.

Letters to the Editor

A plea for help.

Sue Dobbin wrote to say that her grandmother, daughter of Sarah Swinnerton and John Ratcliff's son William Swinnerton Ratcliff and his wife, was brought up by another unrelated (as far as she knows) family from Barnwell, Somerset and it was not until the 1901 census that she found her, aged 4 years, as a visitor in this household in Weston super Mare but born in Nottingham. Her birth certificate is definitely the correct one, but she always said she was born in Banwell and her maiden name was Day. It seems that she was not told until her marriage in 1922 that she was not a 'Day' and the person she thought was her mother was not.

In the parish marriage register she had begun to sign her name with a 'D' and it had clearly been altered to an 'R' for Ratcliff. She had no further contact with the Day family, none of whom went to the wedding or are in the wedding photos, and who have proved pretty elusive – why would they start calling themselves O'Day in the electoral registers?

I have not been able to sort this out yet but hope to do so. If anyone can help, Sue can be contacted on (suedobbin@lineone.net) or through me.

* * *

Our member Muriel Swinnertonm wrote to say thank you for the very interesting article about the sculptor and his works and says she sees the one in Farm Street Church almost daily as she is a member of that church. She has been to Holywell to visit the well at St. Winifred's .

She also says that the Knights of Malta have often had pilgrimages to Holywell as also have the Guild of Our Lady of Ransome.

David Swinnerton of Eston, Middlesborough wrote sending me some cuttings from his local newspaper which he does regularly (other members please note!) and, in response to a comment of mine about the number of children of single mothers being registered with our name, says it seems to be a way of life now but it has an advantage in that we always used to lose the Swinnerton name when girls married but now we keep it!

That's an interesting viewpoint! He also asks what is the law on birth registration and says presumably the mother can name any one she likes as the father judging by the cases going through the courts at the moment. As I understand it, the father has to consent to be named on the birth certificate. He asks if the child always has to have the mother's surname but says at least it prevents some branches dying out!

Beware!

A certain William Pince, who signs himself as Genealogist and Chairman of the S.G.N. Genealogical Foundation (of which I have never heard) is circulating members of the family offering a copy of the *Swinnerton Family Chronicle*.

He says that over the last few decades, during which he has carried out intensive research into counting genealogical archives, he has repeatedly stumbled across a whole host of sources containing information about the Swinnerton family name.

He says he has now decided to publish the fascinating history of our name in book form and you can have a copy for £34.95 if you order before 12th September, after that it will be £52.95.

With it you will get a magnificent Swinnerton coat of arms he 'came across' in the course of his research printed onto antique-looking parchment paper!

Unfortunately for Mr Pince, whoever he is, he chose to send a letter to my wife, Angela, who was highly amused! You can probably imagine the reply I sent.

THIS IS A SCAM – DO NOT BE CONNED.

The book, if you did order it would be a word processed -document with a few entries from registers and censuses from work I and others have done over the years much of which has been [published in this journal. I know that he is sending exactly the same letter to other families with their name substituted.

It is a straightforward repeat of a scam carried out by an American firm many years ago and which we (The Federation of Family Histories) fought every where we could including in the courts until they eventually gave up trying it on.

Unfortunately, then, one of our members did fall for it and it was rubbish.

BE WARNED!

Did you see?

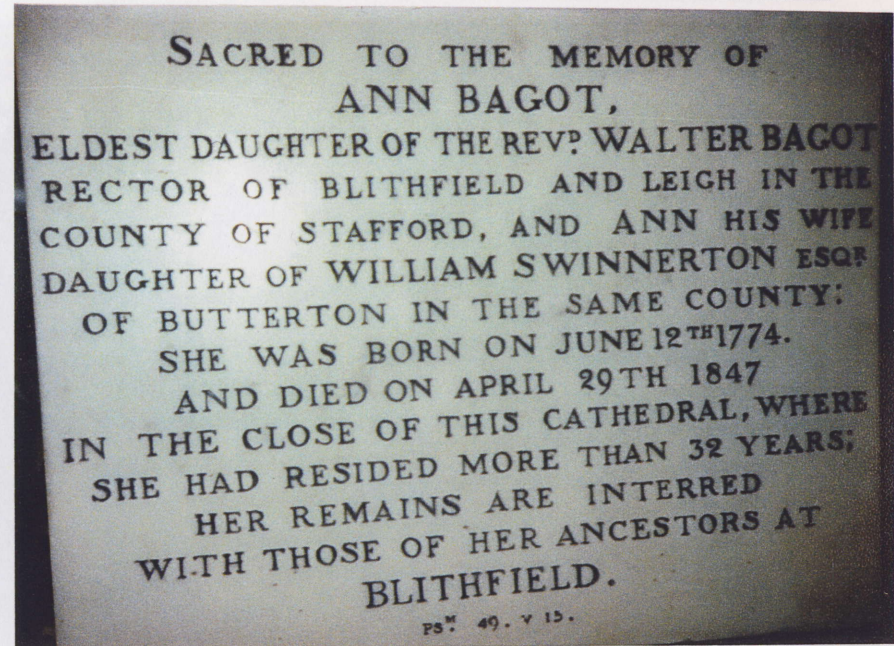
"Going for a song" Wednesday 11th February

Featured a silver quill pen and accoutrements valued at several thousand pounds belonging to a John Swinnerton of Staffordshire – 16th or 17th century.

A multiple baptism

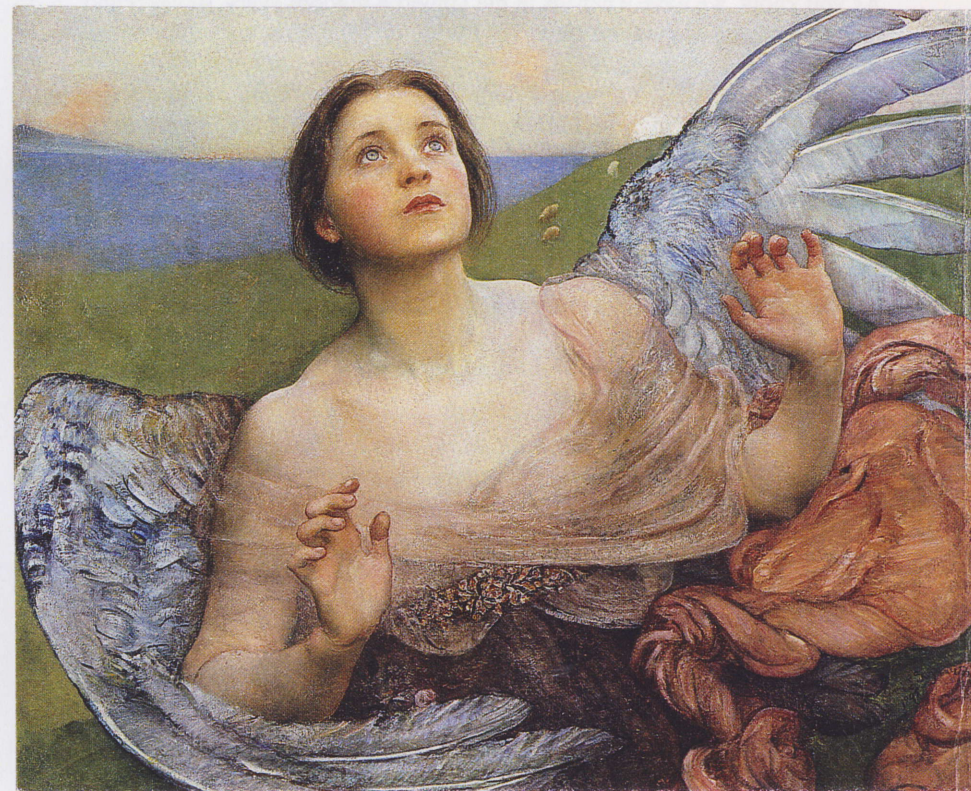
Haberdasher's Hall Independent Chapel

22 Nov 1818 Baptised. Elizabeth born 20 May 1806, Jeremiah born 28 Sep 1810, George born 9 Sep 1818 children of John & Elizabeth SWINERTON of parish of St. Luke's, co. Middlesex





The Young Mother by Annie Swynnerton ARA.



The Sense of Sight by Annie Swynnerton (1895)

Annie Swynnerton, the first woman to be elected to the Royal Academy, was born at Kersal, Lancs in 1844, the daughter of Frances Robinson, a Manchester solicitor. She married Joseph Swynnerton, the sculptor, in Rome in 1883. She belonged to the pre-Raphaelite school of painters and was elected to the Royal Academy in 1922. She died in London in 1933. This is, perhaps, her best known painting.

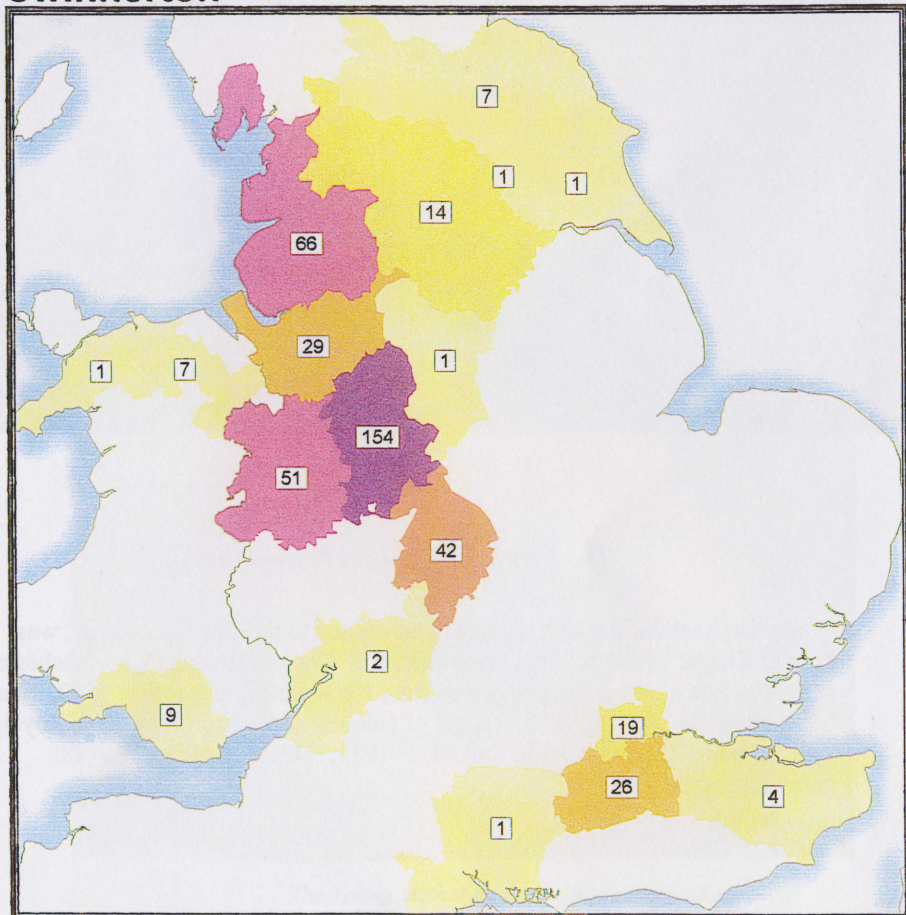
The census

As you know, we have a census in the United Kingdom every 10 years and these have been carried out since 1841 with the exception, for obvious reasons, of 1941.

For 1881, we have a complete transcription for the whole country giving full details of everyone in the country on the night of 3 April 1881, whether they were in their own homes, visiting someone else, in prison, hospital or workhouse and even on board ships in harbour or canal boats.

From the data which has been preserved on computer we are able to obtain a great deal of information not least where the family was living as shown by this map.

Swinerton Actual Numbers



Printed from 'Surname Atlas', © Archer Software, 2003

www.archersoftware.co.uk

The Society's Archives

Roy Talbot has sent in his Annual Report on our holdings which are now quite extensive. We have not printed a report for many years – I think the last was just after the society was formed and I listed what I had collected over the years.

Obviously we have acquired many more records since then and with the help of a number of members over the years, have now put the majority on computer. Despite that, I still have a row of ring binders and box files to be catalogued!

Here is Roy's 'State of the Union' report.

INFORMATION 2003

All relevant information has been extracted from:

- Charter Rolls (1226-1417)
- Liberate Rolls (1226-1267)
- Treaty Rolls (1234-1339)
- Chancery Warrants (1224-1326)
- Inquisitions
- Book of Feudal Aids
- Memoranda Rolls
- Curia Regis Rolls
- Ancient Deeds
- Calendarium Genealogicum
- Black Prince's Register
- Parish Register Extracts
- Great Card Index
- Civil Registrations
- International Genealogical Index
- Swinerton Society Journal

All relevant information has been extracted from the beginning of:

- Patent Rolls (1216) as far as 1328
- Close Rolls (1227) as far as 1281
- Fine Rolls (1272) as far as 1430
- Collections for a History of Staffordshire as far as Vol VIII part 1 series 1
- Pipe Rolls (1189) as far as 1192 (Shropshire Record Office)
- Will index (1383) as far as 1835
- Will index (1858) as far as 1937
- Wills themselves as far as 1796

Relevant information has been extracted from those census entries 1841-1891 located thus far.

All relevant information has been incorporated from various texts:

Complete Peerage

Burke's Peerage

Knights of Edward I (5 vols.)

History of Parliament (3 vols.)

Returns of Owners of Land 1873

Burke's Commoners

Landed Gentry

Dugdale

Visitations of Staffordshire

The above combined with odds and ends from innumerable other sources constitute the existing files and records on the computers of the Swinnerton Society in the form of Pedigrees™, databases, hand-drawn drop-line family trees, and text.

PEDIGREES™

Electronic pedigrees exist for the branches: Adbaston, Betley, Butterton, Mediæval, Warwick and Yew Tree, which can of course be combined to form Mainline if required.

Electronic pedigrees exist for the twigs where a twig is defined as a branch whose connection to the mainline is not yet established. Note that the term is a reflection of size only in a general sense: Yorkshire for example is enormous. The twigs are America (a)³ Australia (z), Beech (¶), Bridgnorth1 (1B), Bridgnorth2 (2B), Bury (†), Essex, Gloucester (g), Ireland (i), Leeds (l), London1 (1L), London2 (2L), London3 (3L), Oswestry (o), Scottish (£), Sedgley & Coseley (c), Shropshire (§), Stoke1 (1S), Stoke2 (2S), Teesside (t), Walsall (#), West Bromwich (f), Wrexham (w), and Yorkshire (y).

Electronic pedigrees exist for twiglets which are small twigs referred to throughout as UFOs (Unidentified Family Offshoots) and identified as (nU) where $1 \leq n \leq 15$.

- 1U: fishmonger Henry William Swinnerton and his military sons
- 2U: Henry Swinnerton, seventeenth century Burgess of Shrewsbury

³ supplied some years ago and now very out of date.

- 3U: descendants of James Swinnerton and Mary née Bourne who married in Burslem in 1824
- 4U: descendants of Thomas Swinnerton, sixteenth century inhabitant of Gloucestershire
- 5U: descendants of Thomas Swinnerton and Mary née McKeown who married in Ireland in 1786
- 6U: descendants of John Swinnerton and Elizabeth née Bellingham who married in Gnosall in 1838
- 7U: the Isle of Man Swinnerton ancestors of Stuart Limb alleged to be descendants of John Swinnerton JS59 & Martha née Whittingham
- 8U: the nineteenth century Devonshire Swinnertons
- 9U: gleanings from the will of Henry Swinnerton dated 10th November 1589
- 10U: gleanings from 2718/94/7 on the 1881 census
- 11U: gleanings from the will of Thomas Swinnerton of Chaddesden dated 16th October 1564
- 12U: gleanings from the will of Henry Swinnerton dated 7th April 1654
- 13U: Carlisle branch; descendants of Joseph & Elizabeth Swinnerton c.1855
- 14U: marriage of Thomas Swinnerton to Mary Humphris in 1838 and subsequent peregrinations
- 15U: Samuel Swinnerton & Mary Key who married in Eccleshall in 1820

Electronic pedigrees exist of passing interest:

STRINGS which records Swinnertons merely as name and number but gives detail of connected descendants and ancestors of other surnames, e.g. the descent of Elizabeth Ann Meek.

BAGOT recording the wealth of detail gleaned from the diary of Anne Bagot.

HASTANG which records the history of the Hastangs, Hollands and Staffords who tend towards endogamy, branching out periodically to marry Swinnertons.

DATABASES

Derived from the above there is:-

BORN: all persons born with the family name and the four progenitors living in an age before surnames. *Name – dob – place of birth – date of christening – place of christening – date of death – place of death – date of burial – cemetery – occupation – reference – branch – parentage – birth type*⁴ – death type – will – spelling. 3,717 records.

⁴ 1 → 1537; 2: 1538-1836; 3: 1837→; 4: abroad; 5: impostors

CENSUS: tape, folio and page of every Swinnerton recorded by British enumerators' 1841-1901. *Name – dob – date of death – branch – 1841 – 1851 – 1861 – 1871 – 1881 – 1901.*

1,237 records.

1841: enumerators' records for Swinnerton entries. *tape/folio/page – place – name – age – occupation – born in county – foreign – reference – comment*

321 records.

1851: enumerators' records for Swinnerton entries. *tape/folio/page – place – name – relation – marital status – age – occupation – birthplace – reference – comment*

678 records.

1861: enumerators' records for Swinnerton entries. *tape/folio/page – place – name – age – occupation – born in county – reference – comment*

167 records.

1871: enumerators' records for Swinnerton entries. *tape/folio/page – place – name – age – occupation – born in county – reference – comment*

60 records.

1881: enumerators' records for Swinnerton entries. *tape/folio/page – place – name – age – occupation – born in county – reference – comment*

1113 records.

1891: enumerators' records for Swinnerton entries. *tape/folio/page – place – name – age – occupation – born in county – reference – comment – employer – employee – neither*

130 records.

1901: enumerators' records for Swinnerton entries. *tape/folio/page – place – name – age – occupation – born in county – foreign – reference – comment – employer – employee – neither*

244 records.

BRIDES: those assuming the title Mrs. Swinnerton. *bride – christian name – groom – reference – date – church – branch – spelt – marriage type – death type – newspaper report*

945 records

GROOMS: those relinquishing the title Miss Swinnerton. *groom – christian name – bride – reference – date – church – branch – spelt – marriage type – death type – newspaper report*

672 records

MRS: those assuming the name of and dying as Mrs. Swinnerton. *christian name – maiden name – date of birth – place of birth – date of baptism – place of baptism – date of death – place of death – date of funeral – cemetery – occupation – husband's reference – branch – death type – will – spelling*

930 records

UNIDENTIFIED BAPTISMS: as supplied either by the IGI or the parish registers or both. *name – date – father – mother – spelling – place – siblings – source*

360 records

UNIDENTIFIED MARRIAGES: as supplied from various sources. *place – date – name – occupations – spouse – age – comment – source*

213 records

UNIDENTIFIED BURIALS: as supplied by parish registers. *cemetery – date – name – parentage – comment*

262 records

PARISH REGISTER EXTRACTS: *date – place – event – name – spelling – parents – spouse – reference – comment*

2,412 records

General Register Office BIRTHS: contents of the indexes in the General Record Office (1837-2000) and of the certificates of which we have had sight. Additionally the first 1,202 entries (1837-1902 inclusive) have been provisionally identified. We have now had sight of all entries to Q3 1851 (the first 183). *date – spelling – name – registration district – comment – mother*

2,675 records

GRO MARRIAGES: contents of the indexes of the General Record Office (1837-2000) and of the 111 certificates of which we have had sight. *date – spelling – name – spouse – registration district – reference*

1,884 records

GRO DEATHS: *date – name – age – registration district – reference – grave – present at the death*

1,804 records

GRAVES: *cemetery – name – age – date – newspaper report – monumental inscription – memorial card – comment – reference – plot*

224 records

KILLED IN ACTION: *name – rank – number – date – location – place of birth – place of enlistment – regiment – reference – comment*

26 records

SOLDIERS: *name – rank – number – date – place of birth – place of enlistment – regiment – reference – comment*

93 records

STAFFORDSHIRE BURIAL INDEX: *name – spelling – date of burial – cemetery – age – abode – reference – comment*

45 records

SHROPSHIRE PARISH REGISTERS: *date – forename – event – spelling – parents – parish – reference – comment*

81 records

BOYD'S MARRIAGE INDEX: *date – name – spelling – spouse – location – reference – aka*

18 records

ELLIS ISLAND: *name – spelling – year – age – residence – reference*

38 records

FREEMASONS HALL: derived from the records of the grand lodge of freemasons. *year joined – name – town – occupation – reference – comment*

13 records

MARRIAGES EN PASSANT: persons not born Swinerton and who did not die Swinerton either, but had been Mrs. Swinerton at some point. *groom – reference – maiden name – date of marriage – church – branch – number of husbands – marriage type – will*

23 records

PRO: data drawn from the 358 Swinerton entries in the Public Record Office Catalogue. Additionally the documents themselves have been perused and quotations therefrom incorporated where significant. *PRO reference – catalogue entry – references – comment*

64 records

AUSTRALIAN BIRTH RECORDS: *year – name – parents – spelling – reference – state – number*

59 records

Sundry other items of interest.

FAMILY TREES

Complete trees exist of Adbaston, Betley, Mediæval, Gloucestershire, Bridgnorth1, Bury, Yorkshire, London1, London2, and Essex.

PROSE

Numerous sundry items of text exist, mainly short monographs on such subjects as “Waggesley”, a word which crops up all over the place but remains difficult to define other than being topographic.

There is also a complete index to the Swinerton Society Journal from page one to date, though note that the Swinertons themselves are indexed by reference and not by name except where no reference number exists.

There are also all those latin texts transcribed from the mediæval rolls which have yet to be translated (mainly the Close Rolls).

For the great majority of the entering into computer we are greatly indebted to our member Roy Talbot who has spent countless hours on this task as well as many more hours in record offices and archives adding to our store of knowledge..

Family Notes

Steven Swinnerton, son of our member and sometime Treasurer Geoffrey Swinnerton was married on the 30th April 2004 at St.Cecilia's Church, Green, Lane, Tubbrook, Liverpool to Jane Moran.

Neale Warren Swinnerton, son of our member Colin Swinnerton, another former Treasurer, is to marry Lisa Taylor at Eltham Palace, Kent next February.

Our best wishes to both couples.

Congratulations to Robert Swynnerton, nephew of our recently retired chairman Roger, and Bettina on the birth of their son Louis Swynnerton on the 23rd June, 2004.

Change of Address

The Revd Ernest Swinnerton to 15 Orchard Close, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 9SL

We welcome a new member, Karle Swinnerton of 12 Brackenhurst Avenue, Mossley, Ashton under Lyne, Tameside OL5 9JS (karle@rtlsystems.co.uk). Karle is a great-great-grandson of William Swinnerton of Betley through his youngest grandson, Daniel who married Emily Jane Smallwood. Both Karle's father Robert Charles Swinnerton and his grandfather Kenneth James are former members of the society so it is good to see Karle carrying on the membership..

In our last journal, I briefly reported the death of our member Mrs Elizabeth May, eldest daughter of Professor Henry Hurd Swinnerton. As a young woman, Elizabeth went to South India with the Methodist Missionary Society. In the Nizam's dominions of Hyderabad, in a corner of a field she trained young mothers to look after their toddlers who were normally tied to the mothers' backs when working. She travelled to nearby villages on bicycle or walking, teaching about the importance of play in the development of small children, creating toys from wood, pebbles, sand and mud!

She was home on leave during the war years and returning in convoy, she met the Revd Peter May who was going out to be Principal of the Bishop's Theological Training College in Calcutta. They married in India and she became very involved with the college families. Back in England, in Portsmouth, she had a SCF playgroup in the vicarage basement and garden.

She taught for the Pre-school Playground Association for many years training volunteers.

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