

SWINNERTON Family History



*Geoffrey John Swinnerton
Membership Secretary*

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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 or Round the World (in approximately 80 days)

The Chairman

As many of you know, Angela and I left England on the 9th of September and did not get home until the 2nd of December so Christmas came in rather a rush! There was no time to get out a December Journal before Christmas so my apologies for the delay.

We went first to South Africa to visit Angela's mother, who we had not seen since 1995, She now lives at Botrivier in the Southern Cape, a small township near Caledon. The area is famous for its wild flowers. Much of our time there was passed in catching up with family news but we did go whale watching at Hermanus where we were very thrilled to see some very close in to the rocks on which we were standing, including a mother and baby. In the second week, Angela and I went off for three days to Knysna on the Garden Route revisiting some old haunts of ours that, of course, included two boat trips. However, Spring was late and the first week was very cold!

We only had two weeks there and then flew to Perth, Western Australia where I was one of the four Keynote Speakers at the five-day Australasian Millennium Genealogical Congress. I met quite a lot of old friends there from both Australia and New Zealand and gave papers on *Heraldry as an Aid to Genealogy*, *Gone for a Soldier – Records of the British Army 1660-1913* and *World War One Soldiers' Records*. It was an excellent conference in a beautiful setting – the University of Western Australia must have one of the most delightful campuses in the world – and Perth is a very beautiful city, wherever you go can see blue water. Angela had a lot of free time, of course, enabling her to explore the city, South Perth and the famous zoo and Fremantle.

We ended up doing a bush walk on the final day before flying to Alice Springs which Angela had not seen before. It was hot! We explored the town and visited the well-known Transport Museum next door to the head of the Gan. Railway enthusiasts will not need to be told any more but for the others, the Gan was the railway that was built north from Adelaide straight across the desert to Alice. The story of its construction is remarkable, the main carriers of material and equipment being camels many of whose descendants live wild in central Australia today. The Federal government has just sanctioned the funds for it to be extended to Cairns. Some of the old steam engines and carriages are preserved and occasional steam runs are held. Time was short so we did not get a chance to go to the Museum of the Flying Doctor Service which started in Alice and which I had seen back in 1994.

We spent one very long day on a trip to Uluru (Ayers Rock) and the Olgas which I was keen for Angela to see – one of the few places in the world that

really lives up to its reputation, awe-inspiring and quite beautiful. No – we did not climb it, we respected the Aboriginal People's request not to do so because to them it is sacred ground although, sadly, many people ignore their requests. We also visited the Aboriginal Museum which really needed at least a whole day to take in and we had about 45 minutes! We also managed to stroke a baby camel which was very soft and woolly and seemed to be all legs.

From Alice we flew to Sydney to visit my maternal Spencer family who have all been down under since the 1920s. We stayed first with my aunt at Wahroonga, my fourth visit. We had a wonderful picnic on the shore on the Sunday celebrating her 85th birthday with my cousins and then my cousin Richard Watkins, took us up to his organic fruit farm near Foster for three days first calling to see his parents – his mother is my first cousin and my closest relative after my sister. This was a most interesting experience: it was very dry and we spent a lot of time watering to save his young stock. Angela enjoyed feeding his cattle and I was allowed to drive a small tractor for the first time for many years - you will no doubt remember the consequences of the last time I drove one.

Richard took us back to Sydney, where my cousin Ros had vacated her lovely little house in Roseville for us to stay in as she always does. Here, sadly, disaster struck. I woke up at 4am one morning with a terrible pain in my left eye: I spent a goodly part of the day first at a doctor's then in Sydney Eye Hospital where they finally bored two holes in it! The next day, I had to go back for a check up so again spent a large part of the day in a hospital. After that we were driven up to Bathurst by a friend to stay with Angela's sister and in the evening I succumbed to a violent attack of a particularly virulent brand of Australian 'flu. That put me in bed for 3 days, I just about recovered sufficiently on the fourth day to visit our Australian Secretary Glenda Simpson and her parents Arthur and Marjorie Nightingale in Bathurst and the following day we headed back on the train to Sydney and the eye hospital again where they bored two holes in the other eye – I was not allowed to fly until this had been done so we missed our trip to Melbourne to see friends and relatives there.

Having been back to the hospital for a checkup the next day and having been given the ok we flew out to New Zealand the following day. A fairly traumatic two weeks! Fortunately, I know Sydney reasonably well so did not miss any sight-seeing.

In Auckland we stayed with old friends, Keith and Vivienne Vautier whose hospitality was, as always, superb. Their house is high up and the garden has a superb view over one of Auckland's many bays. They took us to see the gannet colony and to the Antarctic Exhibition which was all about Shackleton's expeditions which had a particular interest for us as one of Angela's great aunts married his brother. I was highly intrigued to see, in the

reconstructed kitchen, rows of small tins of Rhubarb! After travelling in a sort of boat on wheels among the penguins we visited the superb walk-through aquarium on the way out. After that we were glad to get out into the warm sunshine.

From there we went by coach to Hamilton, where I had been the Keynote Speaker at the National Conference in 1994, to stay for just one night with another old friend of many years – Virginia Graham. Always a very busy person, she is at present setting up the organisation for the forthcoming census. A frequent visitor to England (actually Cornwall which most say is a totally different place!) she is a key figure in the Pomeroy One-Name Organisation.

From there we went by coach to Levin to stay with our member Eileen Bolitho and Douglas. Eileen is a Swinnerton descendant of the Betley family. We got involved in the top-secret plans to celebrate Doug's 60th Birthday but managed to fit in a visit to the NZAF Base by courtesy of their son who is a Sgt Technician on the base.

From there we were collected by David and Louise Dobson - two more old friends from Wellington. David is an ex-New Zealand Territorial Gunner and Louise under her professional name as Louise Buckingham has just retired as the highly-respected source editor for the NZ equivalent of the Dictionary of National Biography so we have a lot in common. They are both also keen gardeners so they had long discussions with Angela. They took us to the really splendid Te Kapa, the Maori Museum of culture on the waterfront which was beautifully done but, again, we could have done with more time.

Sadly we only had a couple of days with them until they put us on the ferry for South Island – a wonderful trip, we were blessed again with good weather and the scenery is much akin to the Norwegian Fjords. In Picton we picked up a campervan and went on to spend a marvellous two weeks touring South Island. We went down the East Coast which we had not done before and took in all the main attractions including the Franz Joseph Glacier, Queenstown and Milford Sound. By the end of the first week I finally got rid of the really dreadful cough which was a hangover from the flu and began to enjoy it much more.

On the way back we stopped off in Christchurch to visit our family there, and met Rebekah's (our member Mrs Hunt) two new little girls who had been born since we were last there in 1994 – Holly was then one day old. We were also able to get together with Rachel who has had one daughter since we last saw her and is now expecting her second child so the family is flourishing in New Zealand.

On the Otago Peninsular we visited the yellow eyed penguin colony and the Royal Albatross Colony where we were very lucky and saw three flying.

We returned to Auckland for the last three days to stay with the Vautiers again, visited Devonport across the bay with its many second-hand bookshops

and had a final dinner high above the city in the revolving restaurant. An amazing experience to sit there wining and dining and watch while you move slowly round seeing the city from every angle. The meal took 1½ turns!

From New Zealand we flew to Fiji for a rest! We had a delightful five days in a hotel on the Coral Coast staying in a 'Burre' (small villa) right on the beach. Idyllic! The Fijians were so friendly; the food and drink were excellent and cheap and it was quite a wrench to drag ourselves away. However, Thanksgiving called which we were to spend in Boston with young friends and their parents. The flight is a long one (tranship in LA) but we arrived in Boston at almost the same time and on the same day that we had left Fiji! The temperature in Boston was 2 degrees – a very nasty shock after nearly three months in hot countries so we were very glad of the loan of hats, gloves, scarves, anoraks and thick jerseys.

After a very enjoyable five days which included a lot of merriment, eating and drinking and sight-seeing in Boston and Harvard, we flew back to Heathrow arriving in the small hours on November the 29th. We stayed with daughter Jo for a couple of days as we had a Council Meeting of the Swinnerton Society on December the 2nd in London which was preceded by a private visit of the Council to the Ceremony of the Keys in the Tower on the Friday evening. We were shown the record of our ancestor Roger de Swynnerton who was the 69th Constable of the tower in 1321 during the dispute between Stephen and Matilda.

We were glad to finally get home on the evening of the 2nd after a fabulous trip lasting for three months: by then we were getting a little tired and looking forward to not living out of a suitcase. We were thankful to find our home safe and sound after all the reports of the dreadful weather we had received and to be able to buy some petrol.

Now back to some family history! My very best wishes to you all for the coming year.

Jain Swinnerton

* * * * *

OUR ARCHIVES

The Rector and PCC have now given us permission to house our archives in the Church Hall at Swynnerton which, you will remember, we were instrumental in saving for the parish. They will be housed in a suitable fire-proof, lockable cupboard and will be available for inspection by visitors by appointment under suitable supervision by our local representative and, of course, by the members-at-large when we are there for Gatherings and Meetings. Full details have yet to be worked out but it is a great step forward from the present arrangements under which they are scattered at various locations throughout the country and, indeed, some are overseas.

THE ARCHIVES

These consist of a great number of files full of papers of records, letters, photographs etc. which I have accumulated over the last 47 years as well as relevant books (including our collection of books by Swinnerton authors) and some artefacts such as portraits, shields, pottery and even such items as watches.

For some years now, as you know, we have been computerising a lot of our records and copies of the disks containing these will also be held there. These disks contain amongst other things:

In Microsoft Access Databases.

Transcriptions of Swinnerton entries from the 1841, 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881 and 1891 Census.

Transcriptions of Swinnerton entries from the Parish Registers of England and Wales.

The Index to Births, Marriages and Deaths from July 1837 (when they commence) to 31 December 1998.

Our old card index to Swinnertons and their spouses through the ages.

In MicrosoftWord

Transcriptions of a considerable number of Swinnerton Wills or Abstracts from Wills.

Copy for issues of this journal.

We also, of course, have a large number of Family Trees compiled in the Genealogy Program *Pedigree* which include the three main branches of Warks, Adbaston and Betley with other connected smaller branches together with many other, as yet, connected twigs. There is also a MAINLINE tree which is a combination of all the branches which are connected but which, at present, is unsourced as when we amalgamate databases, all the sources disappear! We are trying to solve this problem.

The entering of data has been carried out by many members over the years but the overall co-ordination has been, and still is being, done by Roy Talbot to whom we will be eternally grateful.

It is all a very far cry from those first tentative trees I compiled over 40 years ago from family information and perusal of printed parish registers in Bridgnorth Library on Saturday mornings!

NEW FAMILY MEMBERS

I am still, after all these years, occasionally receiving requests for information that I am not able to answer – at least not instantly - and research is required. Two such received recently include an e-mail from a Mr Roger Hobday asking for any information on a lady named Phillipa Swinnerton Hughes, daughter of the composer Robert Lucas Pearsall. Mr Hodday says he understands that Phillipa was a keen genealogist and perhaps extended her father's research on the Swinnerton family.

This implies that she was using her father's name as a middle name, a custom American ladies observe, and so she may belong to one of the American families on which I am awaiting an update from Bill Swinarton.

The second enquiry is from a Mr Paddy Hoy whose wife is descended from Harriet Swinnerton, the daughter of Thomas Swinnerton, a shoemaker in Clotworthy, Devon at the time of the 1851 Census who said he was born in Staffordshire. At present I cannot identify him but research will continue.

Our new member, Mr Stuart Limb, has been able to give us quite a considerable amount of information about his ancestry: he is descended from the "other Isle of Man family" (*see this journal, Volume 9 No.9*) and may have provided the answer to this family's connection to the main family. I am working on this at the moment.

Reports on progress on all these will appear in due course.

* * * * *

LANDED ESTATES and the GENTRY Vol.III Anthony Ruscoe p.46

In 1787, Sir Corbett Corbett owned perhaps a quarter of the land in Little Drayton. In 1822 he was the only large-scale land owner here, and he seems to have owned about the same amount. But the Corbetts sold land in the 19th century. By 1851, Bagshaw said the land belonged to Thomas Whitfield Esq. Mr Brocklehurst, Richard Corbett and Peter Broughton, also Mr Benjamin Beeston, Mr William Godwin and Mr **Samuel Swinnerton** and 150 small freeholders.

Spotted by Roy Talbot.

A LETTER FROM FRANCE

In the last issue of this journal, I mentioned that the Reverend Brian Swynnerton had deposited a biography of his uncle Noel William Swinnerton in the museum of the Royal Welch Fusiliers at Caernarfon. Now, his cousin, our member Mrs Valerie Dall, has written to me and sent me a copy of a letter which her uncle Noel wrote to her family during the Great War which she thought would interest the family. The letter was written on YMCA paper.

May 9th 1917.

On Active Service
WITH THE BRITISH
EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

Dear Mother and Father.

Since I wrote to you from France before, I have had a terrible experience. We were on one of H.M. Transports when the "Huns" let us have two torpedoes and we had a rough time for while. I was picked up and landed in Italy. We were there 3 or 4 days and came back here. I have lost everything, all my kit and money, what they are going to do with us goodness knows. Thank God I am alive, some of my pals have gone forever. Three of us stuck on to the last and all three saved. It was a big boat and I shall never forget it. Will tell you more if I ever come back to England.

I am in fairly good health and spirits now and am hoping they will send us home to get a new kit.

We are very busy, all over the place in a few hours, but will write again tomorrow.

I hope all at home are well and please remember me to all the girls and Harry. I have enclosed my address and you can just send a short letter, it may get here before I move. Just a word to say how you are and all at home.

God bless you all and I thank HIM for sparing me once again. How is Jim?

Ta Ta for now.

I am

Your affec. Son

Noel

2nd.Lieut. N.W.Swinnerton

3rd (R) Gar. R.W.F. No.8 Rest Camp. APO (S?) BEF. France.

Val explains that Harry was his brother and she guesses that Jim was his eldest sister Dorothy's husband. Val's father was 10 years old at the time and remembers how worried and upset the family were when they received the letter. Noel did survive the war and died in Llandudno in 1985.

Two Swinnertons appear in the Muster Rolls of the Militia for 1781-2. They are to be found in WO13/1536 at the Public Record Office, Kew. The rolls for every county have been transcribed by Stuart Tamblin and Liz Hore and put on to computer disk. I have been amalgamating them in to a national index which I have now put on CD Rom.

David Swinnerton was serving in the Montgomeryshire Militia in that year and Thomas Swinnerton in the Staffordshire Militia. When I have time, I will look up their records. I think this is probably the same Thomas who I spotted when researching a man in the Staffs Militia for a client who appears in the Roll from 25 Dec 1796 to 24 June 1797 "Cpl. Thomas Swinnerton, Discharged 25 Mar 1797" and who has re-engaged.

Researching in the records of the Royal Marines for another client, I spotted Sgt William Swinnerton who was attested at Warwick on the 17th January, 1857 aged 18: enlisted at Portsmouth later that year, reengaged in 1868 and was invalided at Haslar Hospital on the 5th October 1877 from disease of the heart contracted in the service. It says he was in 30 Company and was born in Hull on the 17 January, 1839. Again, when I have time, I will look up his records.

* * * * *

THE SS GREAT BRITAIN

This famous old ship, the first iron ship now in dry dock at Bristol, has been in the news lately. Apparently a lot of the iron plates from which it is constructed are rusting and are going to have to be replaced at enormous cost.

My old friend Laurie Thompson of Melbourne, Australia came across the following entry when going through immigration records.

John Swinerton, 30 Labourer left England on the SS Great Britain 14 Feb 1861 and arrived Melbourne 2 May 1861.

We have not yet been able to identify him.

* * * * *

BREWER'S DERBYSHIRE DIRECTORY 1823-4

Stephen Swinnerton Builder & Stonemason St.Mary's Bridge, Derby

MEET YOUR COUNCIL.

It was suggested by a member at the last Annual General Meeting that we should publish a series of profiles of our Council Members for the benefit of those members who cannot get to meetings. At the next Council Meeting I suggested they should be written by the spouses and this was agreed!

No.1 Geoffrey John Swinnerton – Membership Secretary

Geoffrey was born in Southport on the 17 April 1946, the third child and only son of John and Edna Olive (née Lane) Swinnerton. He has two older sisters Frances and Valerie and one younger, Cynthia, who is our Treasurer.

Geoffrey served in the Merseyside Police for 28 years until 1992 having joined Liverpool City Police as a Police Cadet. When he became a regular policeman his fate was sealed because he was in the same intake as me! He served in all areas of Liverpool in the Uniformed Branch, in C.I.D. and Plain Clothes (Vice Squad) and ended his career in the Crown Court Department.

In 1969 he was attached to the many different police forces serving in North Wales for the Investiture of Prince Charles as Prince of Wales at Caernarfon Castle. From 1977 to 1979 he and his family lived in Herefordshire when he became a rural policeman in Leominster and Hereford.

During his police career, Geoffrey was very much involved in amateur football and became Club Secretary of the Merseyside Police Football Club formed in 1885. He is a qualified soccer coach and Class 1 Referee. From 1993 to 1998 he was Honorary Assistant Secretary of Liverpool County Football Association and is still involved in local youth football and with referees.

He has travelled widely in connection with football – all over Great Britain, Germany and to Minnesota USA to officiate at an international tournament. During Euro 96 he worked for the FA in Liverpool and the North West in charge of providing transport for the VIPs attending the matches and managed to meet many of the top players and ex-players and soccer personalities.

We have been married for 33 years and have two children, Suzanne who is married to Ian and they have a son James who is nearly 3 and the apple of his granddad's eye. Our son Stephen is still single and at home and, believe it or not, is Soccer Development Officer for Liverpool City Council.

Geoff enjoys swimming and all sports (now only watching): his other hobbies are travel, we have been very lucky to visit a lot of the European Countries and major cities. BUT the main problem in our marriage is his collection of over 350 pieces of Swinnerton Pottery which fill the house and which I have to dust!

Carole Swinnerton

AN UNKNOWN JUDGE

AN UNKNOWN JUDGE

On 2nd December 1896 in San Francisco, Wyatt Earp refereed the \$10,000 fight between Messrs Sharkey and Fitzimmons at the Mechanics Pavilion. Following his controversial decision in that fight there appeared in the *San Francisco Chronicle* of the 9th December the following paragraph.

“The troubles of the Tombstone Terror are increasing and his recently acquired notoriety as a prizefight referee seems to be drawing down on his head several legal thunderbolts from all parts of the country.

Judge Swinnerton's attachment for \$170.45 for services already rendered in the courts, and yesterday an application for judgment for \$2121.21 was filed against him. This last is the outcome of two notes executed by Earp and Marshall Williams in Arizona on October 29, 1881 to H.S.Crocker and Company of this city for \$570.74 and \$600. Neother has ever been paid and the combined interest amounts to about \$950”.

(Ed. I think this may be Judge James Guilford Swinnerton the father of Jimmy Swinnerton, the cartoonist.)

* * * * *

MEERUT (India) CANTONMENT CEMETERY 1876 – 1939

The Race Course Cemetery and Military memorials by Alan Hartfield.
Published by BACSA (The British Association for Cemeteries in South Asia)

Died 21 April 1902 Walter Alfred Swinnerton aged 39½years, Mechanic.

* * * * *

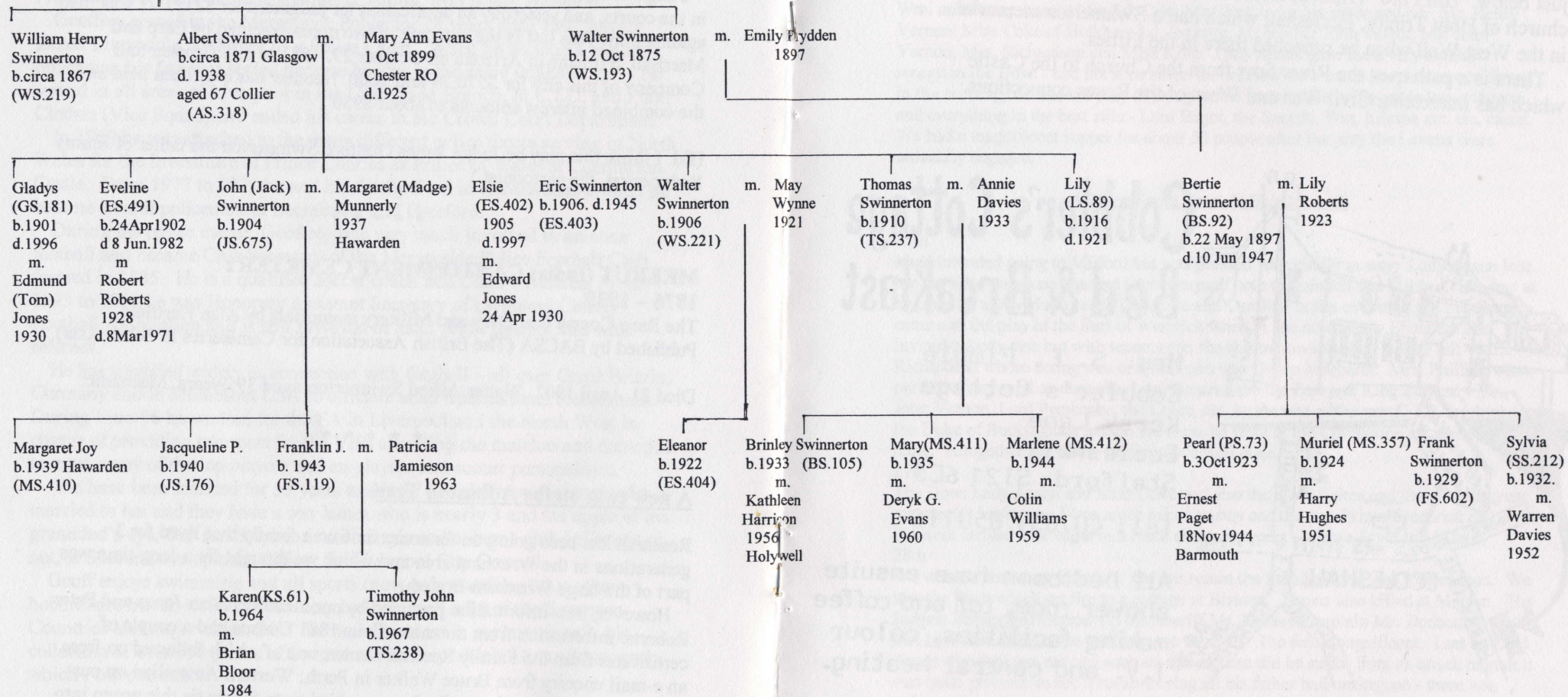
A new twig on the Adbaston Tree

Research has been going on for some time on a family that lived for 3 generations in the Wrexham area and which we thought for a long time was part of the large Wrexham Branch.

However, new information provided by our members Alan Jones and Peter Roberts: information from the marvellous 1881 Census and a couple of certificates from the Family Records Centre, one of which followed on from an e-mail enquiry from Bruce Walker in Perth, Western Australian on our links with the Munnerly family, have enabled us to firmly tie this group into the Adbaston family as shown on the tree on the next two pages.

AN ADDITION TO THE ADBASTON TREE through William (WS.4) grandson of John Swinnerton, third son of William of Adbaston, and Sarah Harding

William Swinnerton = Mary Ann Guest
of the Adbaston Branch
Blacksmith
b.circa 1836 Wombridge
Died before 1899
(WS.4)



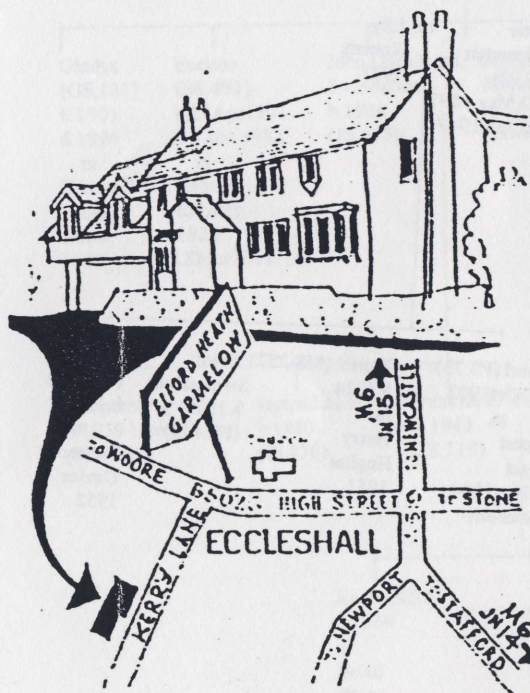
(All events took place at Wrexham unless other wise stated.)

A place to stay with family associations.

The Revd. Brian Swynnerton has sent me the above cutting and says the Swinnertons of the ancient Eccleshall Branch lived in this house for several generations and may even have built it. Their old fortified manor house was nearby – now built over.

He says he thought it might interest visitors as a place to stay: it is just below "Hill Ford" (Elford) Heath and close by the great parish church of Holy Trinity, Eccleshall which had a Swynnerton memorial in the West Wall when he preached there in the Fifties.

There is a path over the River Sow from the Church to the Castle which has interesting Civil War and Wars of the Roses connections.



Cobbler's Cottage Bed & Breakfast

Mrs. S. E. Pimble
Cobbler's Cottage
Kerry Lane
Eccleshall
Stafford ST21 6EJ

Tel: (0785) 850116

All bedrooms have ensuite
shower room, tea and coffee
making facilities, colour
T.V. and central heating.

Ann Bagot's Diary (continued)

1822

July

8th

Louisa came. Levett and Dick met her, the latter had not been well and his father went to fetch him from school.

22nd

Went to Shugborough. Spent an hour with Martha on the way. I found the Dow. Lady Anson, her 3 children, the Fredericks, Ellen and Mary, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Anson Wm. and Henry Anson, Mrs Ed: Coke Mr. Wm. Coke his sister and her Mr. Henry Vernon, Miss Coke of Holkham Ld. Ingestre, his brother John Talbot, Mr. John Vernon, Mrs. Richardson and Miss King. Lady Anson gave me a very cordial reception the Dow: I had not seen since she was a widow many people came to dinner in the evening, we had the play of Douglas the greenhouse being made into a theatre and everything in the best stile - Lord Bagot, the Sneyds, Wm. Martha etc. etc. came. We had a magnificent supper for about 50 people after the play the Levetts were unluckily engaged.

A Magnificent Feast At Shugborough

25th

I had intended going to Milford but was pressed very kindly to stay. Lady Anson lent me her little pony carriage and I drove myself both to Colwich and Milford. She had at my request allowed me to ask Charlotte and Caroline in the evening - the Levetts also came and the play of the Earl of Warwick when as she acted Lady Elizabeth she invited nobody else but with tenants etc. the theatre nevertheless looked full - Mrs. Richardson whose acting was of a first rate was Queen Margaret. Mrs. Phillips who performs very well as does also Lord Anson were the Earl and King Edward - Mr. John Vernon, Lord Pembroke, the Court, etc. by the rest of the party. Ld. Ingestre as the Duke of Buckingham had on the dress he wore at the Coronation as page to the King. Altogether the whole performance well done.

27th

The Dow: Lady Anson and Miss Coke and also the other Cokes and the party in great manner (?) broke up - I was much asked to stay and did so. Prince Frederick of Holstein arrived - He came in a Hack chaise and pair - I drove again to Milford.

28th

We went to church at Colwich. On our return the thunderstorm was tremendous. We saw the flash which set fire to a cottage at Bishton. 2 cows also killed at Morton. The Judges, Bayley and Garrow (?) the Sheriff Mr. Hussey Chaplain Mr. Dodson. Levett Mr. Lyttleton, Wm. came to dinner we were 26. The feast magnificent. I sat by Lord Anson who took me out and such all dinner time did he suffer from an attack of gout it was quite grievous to see it remembering all his father had undergone - there was rather a dilemma who should hand Lady Anson but the Judge settled by coming up to

her and saying he represented the King and therefore took place of everybody perhaps as a foreign prince was of the party he might guess that she was rather puzzled.

30th

Louisa dined here - Levett being engaged to meet Lord and Lady Howe who arrived in the (?) I had never seen her he introduced me and greeted me with all the cordiality of an old friend - very old it makes me feel to find myself living with the 3rd generation of the Talbots, Curzons Ansons, etc. but very comfortable to find how kind they all are to me. The Ansons reckoning in their girl and the 2 old ladies at Oakridge it is actually the 5th. Lady Anson would not part with me to Louisa who however kindly insisted on my dining and sleeping on Tuesday.

31st

Louisa took me to Stafford to buy a pelisse for Lord Bagot's archery. I returned late to Shugborough where Lady Anson said very good natured things. I found Lady Howe busy studying the part of Lady Elizabeth for the play I have actually promised if they cannot get a better to perform.

August

1st

We had a little rehearsal in the theatre. The Prince of Holstein seems doubtful whether he will act or not - The Howes wont say they will come to luncheon with me and go to the Cathedral.

4th

The Prince of Holstein went.

7th

Lady Anson lent me her pony which took me to Colwich to see Miss M. Swynnerton. Miss King walked with me. Louisa brought me back to Shugborough - Louisa came for me to take me to Milford where I found Levett and his two dear children and Henry Legge. Watt. Levett to hold the living of Bray till George Legge is able to have it. Went to Stafford about my Pelisse. Miss King brought the little Anson girl to see Frances.

9th

Went with Levetts to the Blithfield Archery. I have seldom enjoyed a diversion so much. We were somewhere about 130 people on the ground the place looking quite beautiful - my feet seem'd to carry me around - some of my old haunts without my having anything to do with it. Levett won a gold and topaz seal. We were about 38 relations in some degree or other - Lord Bagot appeared to great advantage. The dinner was spread in the 2 drawing rooms conservatory and little library - the piles of fruit were quite a beautiful sight - a shower of rain after dinner prevented much shooting there were several tents so that people were not very much inconvenienced - A few quadrilles were danced. I introduced partners to Charlotte and Caroline and returned to Milford.

10th

Went back to Shugborough. Lord and Lady Howe there and Lord Anson better of his gout.

11th

Went to church at Colwich the church full of the funeral attendants of Mrs. Sparrow's coachman and the mistress of Wolseley Bridge Inn whose deaths were both attributed

to the effects of the thunderstorm last Sunday when they were both likewise at the same church!

12th

About 27 people came to dinner. Mrs. Richardson, Mrs. E. Anson, Mrs. Philips and myself having to perform in the eveg: beg'd to dine in Lord Anson's study which we did - About 50 people came to the play. The play was the Earl of Warwick. To be sure I was rather surprised when I heard the sound of my own voice on a theatre before so large an audience but from rehearsing I was not very much frightened as I expected though my knees did knock a little at first. I did it very tidily. We had a magnificent supper.

End of 3 week's visit to Shugborough. Archery at Holly Bush

August

12th (?)

I returned to Milford having spent a very pleasant visit at Shugborough to be sure when I went there for 3 nights I little imagined I shd. stay for 3 weeks - I had reason to be much gratified for the reception and kindness I met with - Everybody surprised and very much shocked by the act of suicide of Lord Londonderry.

16th

Wm. heard of the Receivership being finally settled much to his satisfaction.

17th

Mr. Bridgeman and Lady Selina, Col and Mrs. Masters dined.

18th

Went to church at Baswich.

20th

Came home in the cold of the evening Called on the Sneyds in my road did not get to my own house till 10 o'clock. Put my birds in their new aviary and work'd very hard in my garden which I found a perfect wilderness.

September

5th

The 3 Mr. Lanes took Charlotte and myself to an Archery meeting at Holly Bush. Nothing could be more beautiful than the day or pleasant than the meeting - Levett won the best prize a Russian leather writing case - everybody pleased and in good humour. We were about 100 people at dinner which was not until 6 o'clock after the shooting was over. Bagots, Legges, Levetts, Ansons, etc. etc. there - A few quadrilles were danced and we returned to Kings Bromley a few minutes after 12. Ed: Monckton was also of our party. We returned home.

Milford - Shugborough, Wychnor - Kings Bromley

6th

I received a letter from Egerton to tell me of his approaching marriage to Miss Elizabeth Bridgeman. I trust he will be very happy. Ralph came from Mr. Bayley in Lincolnshire who had been very kind to him and told him he had no need to fear not succeeding in his examination for orders.

9th

Went to Milford - called on Bess and Harriet Sneyd - My house occupied in my absence during the races by Ralph, Lord Ingestre and his brother.

15th

Louisa and I called at Shugborough, Lady Sophia, Sir R. Gresley, Count and Countess St. Anthonia (?) Mrs. Littleton etc. there - Did not go to Church. Dined at Shugborough with Lady Anson and Henry - Lord Talbot called at Milford to congratulate about Egerton.

16th

Went with Levett and Lou to Wychnor. Mr. Lane and his two sons Mrs. Wilmot, Mr. Norton and Mr. Parish dined.

17th

Walked about the place which is very beautiful.

18th

Went with the Levetts to Yoxall Lodge and from there to Byrkley where we had another splendid and pleasant archery meeting - we dined about 120 - Lydia Gisborne won the best prize - All the Blithfield party and Legges, Sneyds etc. etc. there - Mr. Levett of Wychnor and his brother Tom met for the first time since their reconciliation. We returned to Yoxall about 11.

19th

Return'd home. The Levetts took me to King's Bromley where I lunched or rather dined parted with them and then came home as usual went to work in my garden - where my neighbour Mrs. Gallway called to tell me she could not feel happy without informing me of the iniquitous conduct of my servant Jane.

29th

Left Lichfield with my maid Burton (?) at six o'clock in the morning got to Shiplake 98 miles about 8 o'clock in the evening after a very prosperous journey - found Elizabeth Phillimore and Egerton waiting at the door to receive me. I never was here before and am quite delighted with the place and happy in seeing Elizabeth again her 5 children all very nice - Greville and Augustus were new to me. The church at Shiplake being repairing; we went to Sunning and staid the sacrament.

Shiplake and Park St. with old Aunt Harriet Bagot

October

6th

Left Shiplake - Elizabeth sent (me) to Maidenhead - I came on very prosperously to Park Street where I found a very cordial reception from Aunt Harriet who to be sure is a wonderful woman at 80 with all her faculties so acute and her teeth so good. Went with Aunt Harriet to Park Street Chapel then she lent me her carriage and went to walk in Kensington Gardens a place I had never before seen. I called also on Mrs. Richardson where I found Lady Anson who asked me to dine with them they were only come up for a few days for Miss Philips' marriage to Baron Rutzen to whom they introduced me.

8th

We generally go an airing at two, do any little shopping and sometimes I make a visit. We read when we have time in the morning and most part of the evening. I am very snug.

31st

I have spent most of this time tête-à-tête with Aunt Harriet one month I have spent with her but to me it has been a pleasure. She is quite the last link of the last generation as far as we are concerned much talk of events long past - of people long gone have we had which has I believe been mutually interesting to us both, perhaps more so than similar topics would have been to any other two people in existence. Aunt Harriet is now 80 in possession of all her faculties and says time goes so quickly with her she believes she shall be 100 before she perceives it.

November

1st.

Went to Burlington Street where I joined Sir Thomas Neave, Digby and Charlotte the two latter returning home after an excursion of some months in Scotland - they took me to Dagnam where I had a most cordial reception from my dear old friend - Henry & Caroline were at home.

A dinner at Lord St. Vincent's

4th

We all went to dine at Lord St. Vincent's¹ who received me very cordially - Martial Law seems established in his house as everybody does as he bids them - he told Lord Northesk, and Lord Rosehill to hand Lady Neave and myself to dinner before greater folks than ourselves but we could only do as we were bid - we were a party of 17 all our names pin'd upon the chairs on which we were to sit at dinner. Lord St. Vincent himself 88 with all his faculties as shrewd as ever - He wears a blue coat button'd to the chin and a splendid star - a blue velvet cap without any hair to be seen the costume however singular becomes him. The publick embrace the King gave him calling him his best friend appears to have a good deal softened his politicks.

6th

Lady Neave, Charlotte and I went to Thorndon. Lady Petre let us in - we saw a fine group of motherless children of which she seem'd to take great care. Miss Petre took us over the house which was very fine and cold.

8th

Walked with Caroline and Charlotte to Lord St. Vincent's He shew'd me the Baton of Purple velvet and gold which the King had sent him and a letter from Sir Br. Broomfield written by command of the King to say it was a mark of his sense of his eminent services etc. etc. When he put the Baton into my hand he said it transformed the power of the person who held it. I ordered him to frank my letter to Miss Brenton's great astonishment that I should venture to use such a word to this imperious Earl - He did it immediately and gave me permission to send him other letters to frank whenever I wished it.

A round of Visits in and near London

10th

Went to Church at Weald.

¹ Lord St. Vincent was born John Jervis of Meaford, Staffordshire. Entering the Navy at 10 years of age he was created Baron Jervis of Meaford and Earl St. Vincent in recognition of his victory in the battle of Cape St. Vincent.

17th

Went with Lady Neave to Havering to see an old person called the Goat Woman - she lives in a heap of dirt with a horse 23 goats dog cat and fowls. She is a person of some property with not only civil but good manners as well as language but her person disgustingly filthy. Lord St. Vincent had been at the trouble to have an oil picture taken of her.

22nd

A great battue in which much game was killed seven of the neighbouring gentlemen came and dined.

24th

Went to Church at Weald Lady Neave, Charlotte and I staid the sacrament.

26th

Walked to Rocketts to ask Ld. St. Vincent for franks.

December

5th

My time passes most pleasantly in the society of my old friend and her family mixed with books of several languages which one or other read to me aloud and various bits of work.

11th

Left Dagnam and its friendly inhabitants - Sir Thomas took me to London - I landed at Aunt Harriets who I was very glad to find well in spite of the cold - Charles and Edward Bagot called and George Chester - he accompanied me in my hack chaise to Hampton Court Palace where I had a kind reception from Lou, Anne and Liz Chester.

13th

Came to Shiplake where I found Elizabeth and her 5 younger children.

15th

Phillimore came from London.

18th

I persuaded Elizabeth to go to Dropmore to meet Lord and Lady Liverpool by promising to take care of her children in her absence.

25th

Christmas Day. We went to Church at Harpsden. Thank God for dear Elizabeth's recovered health and the being able to spend this day in peace and competence and happiness with her, her husband and their seven fine children for the amusement of the latter we passed the evening in every gambol we could devise.

A cold journey home via Pipe

May I be thankful as I ought for the many blessings this past year has brought me and as my years increasing may I with increasing piety prepare to meet my God.

1823

January

1st

At Shiplake with Elizabeth Phillimore and their seven fine children - oh - may they be comfort to their indulgent parents.

13th

Phillimore - John Gauge and myself dined at Harpeden it was some years since I had done so. I had a very pleasant dinner - my neighbours Daniel (?) Finch and Lord Mark Kerr - Left Shiplake - (?) lent me her carriage to Benson - I got to Lighthorne time enough to dress for dinner found a very cordial reception from the Barnards. Louisa Barnard and Miss Cotton brought me to the Parsonage at Barford where I found Mrs. Bagot and her 5 daughters very comfortably established by the friendly kindness of the Mills!

15th

Mrs. Charles Mills and Mr. Digby called which rather delayed us so that Mary and I did not leave Barford until 2 o'clock. The Postillion took us to Knowll instead of Kenilworth which lengthened our cold journey about 6 miles. We did not get to Pipe until after 6 but we found a warm reception from Egerton and his bride. She seems very good natured and he thank God looks very happy and that is the main point.

17th

Wm. and Martha came from Elford in their road to London it is nearly impossible any other sister-in-law can be what she is to me.

21st

Returned home. Found my house comfortable. Home is home and at my Age it is doubly so and that I have one, and a competence I cannot be too thankful. How unpleasant it wd. have been to me to have had one now to seek had my residence been Pipe!

22nd

Went in the Levett carriage to Milford. It was a pleasing surprise to me when Dick met me in the hall and that it might be so I had not been told he was not returned to school.

Milford by the Seabridge carriage from Sandon

25th

Sir John Phillimore came.

26th p216

Levett read prayers at home he and I walked to Shugborough.

30th

Dear Dico returned to school.

February

2nd

Lady Anson and the Baroness (Rutzen) had called the former going shortly to be confined at Atherstone - says she will bring her son to shew me in her way back through Lichfield - Went to church at Baswich.

3rd

Left Milford in Martha's little carriage.

4th

The Howards sent for me and I went to Elford found Mary the John Chesters and Anne - Dick, Lady Harriet, little Harriet came - also John Talbot. John Sneyd dined.

13th

Went to Thorpe with Mary quite happy to find Miss Curzon there. Came home.

25th

Went to the Cathedral they are putting iron rails before it and have taken away the Dial of the Clock both disagreeable things. The Levett carriage came to take me to Milford - Levett gone to get a house in London.

28th

I breakfasted with Lou. She and Frances (Baby) began their journey to town I fear it will be many months before I see them again - Walked to Colwich up the green path which I found a good deal more difficult to ascend than I used to. Wm. came by the mail. Went in the little carriage with Martha.

March

1st

Mary Swinnerton came to breakfast from Butterton and spent the morning all that the malevolent tyranny of her unnatural father will suffer her to do. She is a noble minded fine creature.

24th

Passion week. Went to church afterwards to Sandon where Aunt Betty's carriage met me and I proceeded to Seabridge. I found Aunt Betty much better.

26th

Aunt Betty tells me she has not done by me as she had promised after her death, nevertheless this is the least unpleasant visit I have had with her for these 20 years. In my youth I was so welcome so very welcome a guest (It) always puzzles me and makes me almost think impossible the systematic unkindness I have experienced from my mother's family - Aunt Betty pointed to my grandfather's picture and said, "How he wd. have welcomed you for you were his favourite grand-child"

A Walk round Butterton - An Anson is born

26th

I got out yesterday on the Trentham side of Hanchurch Hill and walked All through the Butterton grounds without however trespassing from the road on any part of my uncle's property.

27th

Aunt Betty sent me to Sandon where Martha's little carriage met me and took me back from Colwich - Wm. returned for the Easter holidays in the morning.

28th

Good Friday went twice to Church at Colwich.

29th

Went to church. Walked afterwards to Milford where I went both to plant and gather slips.

April

1st

Wm. Jane and I dined at Great Heywood with the Masters.

2nd

We dined at Mr. Pitchford.

4th

Wm. went to dinner at Uttoxeter given him by his troops. Col. Master accompanied him and told us of his extremes of popularity and how well he had made his speech and done everything.

7th

Walked to Shugborough found Lady Anson her mother and sister at home she showed me her new daughter Anne Frederica.²

16th

Drank tea with Miss Greave. Met the Byrkley Sneyds. I lost my money to say nothing of the bow from my cap as I returned.

19th

Came on to Colwich to Martha.

20th

Went twice to Colwich church.

25th Walked in search of the white fritillary but it was not come out in the meadows.

Races at ShugboroughLd. Anglesea's children die - Packington - Freeford

25th

May 1st

Went to Shugborough found Lord and Lady Anson, Baron and Baroness Rutzen, Mrs. Philips etc.

3rd

Lord Anson, The Baron, Mr. Wm. Coke rode races - we all went afterwards to Stafford to see the God and Tread Mill which was in beautiful order. We had a pleasant expedition on the river row'd by the Baron and Sir George Anson. Got out above the Lanthorn and walk'd back.

7th

Wm. and Dick went together to London Martha went to Seabridge to see Aunt Betty before she went to London and I returned home with a feeling that Colwich would in all probability henceforward be inhabited by strangers and I once hope it wd. have been Wm's own and his homestead also.

June

26th

Ralph called for a minute in his road - I went in the evening to Mr. Whites met the Levetts, Mr. Nares and Lady C. Low the latter in high spirits. Lord Anglesea had two children buried today one has been dead some time but they thought it as well to wait till another died before the funeral took place.

29th

Went to church at Whittington saw there the monument erected by Mr. Levett of Milford to his first wife and thought the inscription singular. The Packington Levetts called.

July

1st

We dined at Packington. The first time I had visited there and a very nice place it is.

² Anne Frederica married in 1843 Francis 9th Earl of Wemyss and March

2nd

We walked in the morning - in the evening drank tea with Miss Dyott at her singular and picturesque old place but pretty as the outside is I should be extremely sorry to inhabit therein.

Archery at Blithfield - Dinner at Shugborough
- Ingestre -

3rd

Mr. Levett called, we walked and then Miss Levett lent me her carriage to go home. I was busy planting flowers.

12th

Caroline Neave came to me this morning and very glad I am. Miss Levett came a little after tea and took Caroline and myself to Blithfield where we met 130 people assembled for the purpose of archery but of that St. Swithin prevented them until after dinner - The great Hall finished and beautiful the fountains also finished - I admired it very much in short nothing was wanting but sunshine it seemed odd to me to be the only one of my branch upon the ground where 16 of us had been born but so it was. Lady Gower there as a bride - Miss Mundy won Ld. Bagot's prize for the ladies - a beautiful gold chain and cornucopia with turquoises - Everybody seem'd pleased and the whole went off very well - Miss Levett brought us home at one o'clock, a few quadrilles were danced.

24th

Mrs. Gresley lent us her carriage to go to Maples Hayes that Caroline might see the pictures.

25th

Went to the Palace in the evening.

26th

27th

Caroline and I went to Shugborough. We found the Dowager and a party of 13 and dined by lamplight malgre July. We almost all went to Colwich Church. How much I miss Wm. and Martha and the Levetts.

* * * * *

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Adam and Eve must have found genealogy very boring!

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