The Swinnerton Society

A non-profit making organisation devoted to the research and publication of Swinnerton family records and the welfare of Swynnerton Church.
A member of the Federation of Family History Societies.

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From the Editor's desk

Since our last journal much has happened. Our 3rd Biennial Gathering has come and gone - again a very happy occasion.

I have been on a 9 day whistle - stop tour of America and Canada in my capacity as President of the Federation of Family History Societies during which I met many leaders in the genealogical field. Very exhausting but very interesting. The amount of research that is being done on Family History through out the world is simply colossal. Interest in the subject is growing all the while and the work that is now being done on transcribing, indexing and even computerising records is going to prove of enormous benefit to researchers of all kinds in the future.

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Considerable progress has been made with our research into the Adabston, Betley and American Branches. More news of the Betley Swinnertons appears later in this journal and the stories of the other two branches will appear in the next issue.

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This is the first issue of our 4th Volume and a new format has been adopted. It makes the Journal much easier to handle, store and mail and, I hope, results in a more workmanlike periodical.

The production of this issue has been delayed for which I apologise. This was due to several factors my trip to the USA, a bit of technical printing trouble, the usual seasonal coughs and colds but mainly to the fact that there are only 24 hours in each day. However it does give me the chance to send you all my best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.
The crosses flowered at the tips and formy fleur de lis issuing from the ends

At the close of H. S. London's masterly examination of the form and blazon of the crosses patonce and formy is brief mention and illustration of the crosses formy at the ends and formy fleur de lis at the ends. It is proposed to here examine the best documented bearers of these two last crosses to the end of the great age of armory, c. 1250, and suggest that by this date a visual distinction was made between the two crosses that was not observed by the authors or compilers of blazoned rolls of arms. The examination has been prompted by the recent failures of two scholars to properly distinguish the two crosses.

The arms of Siward feature a cross flowered at the tips (fig. i), silver on a sable field, and are the only family to bear the cross in the thirteenth century blazoned rolls used by Brault in Early blazon, who mistakenly describes and illustrates the cross as formy, a cross unknown to the armory of the period. The cross is described in late thirteenth century rolls as une croiz . . . fleurtere in Camden 157 and similar in Falkirk 78 and Galloway 110, as croiz . . . houz fluortetes in Caerlaverock vv. 48-50 and as croiz . . . les chefs flourettes in Parliamentary 123. Both houz and chefs mean tips or ends but for the exact form the cross recourse may be made to two original late thirteenth century painted rolls, Camden and Heralds; both show the Siward cross as in fig. 1.

Two earlier occurrences of the Siward arms are to be found in Matthew Paris and show a cross revercer and a cross patonce, both times with four roundels. It seems probable that the particular form of the cross borne by the family was not fixed at this date, c. 1250, and that when it was the roundels were omitted. The only thirteenth century seal of the family has a cross described as formy. Unfortunately, it has been mis-catalogued and it has not been possible to examine it.

Other families to bear the cross during the period 1250-1350 were Lamplugh (Parliamentary 1003 and Glover's II 217), Noreys (Parliamentary 924 and First Dunstable 226), Paveley (St. George's 504, on which see The Coat of Arms IV p. 361, Collins' 374, Boroughbridge 76 and Ashmolean 274) and Sefoul (Parliamentary 590, on which see The Coat of Arms IV p. 361). There are six examples of the cross in the late thirteenth century French Wijnhergen roll and there is an early fourteenth seal with the cross in the British Museum.

The arms of Swinnerton feature a cross formy with fleur de lis issuing from the tips (fig. 2), sable on a silver field. Barstow lists the blazon of this cross but does not make any distinction between the crosses of Swinnerton and Siward. The cross is described in fourteenth century rolls in identical fashion to the earlier blazons of the Siward cross quoted above, see croiz . . . les chefs flourettes in Parliamentary 620, as croiz florite in Carlisle 28 and as croiz . . . od les boutez flouretz in Ashmolean 185. Due to the paucity of original painted rolls during this period, the exact form of the Swinnerton cross may only be found in two seals of the family, one of 1315 and the other of 1350; both show the cross as in fig. 2.

The earliest occurrence of the Swinnerton arms is in the Nativity roll (c. 1306-8) where the cross is described as paté, Brault lists the blazon undert patonce without comment. A later Swinnerton blazon in Second Dunstable describes the cross as pate et fleurete. The blazoning is unique; Barstow suggests it is an error.

The Swinnerton cross also feature in the arms of William Trussell, gules on a silver field. It is blazoned in two rolls, Boroughbridge 41 and Ashmolean 151, in like fashion to the Siward and Swinnerton cross. A seal of William of 1327 clearly shows the cross as formy with fleur de lis issuing from the ends.

The only other bearer of the cross during this period is Peshale (Carlisle 31; the entry is for Richard who bears Swinnerton differenced with an escutcheon of Mowbray. His first wife was a daughter and co-heir of John Mowbray d. 1322, see Complete peerage IX p. 380, and his son married a Swinnerton, see Collections for a history of Staffs. VII p. 44). There appears to be no continental example of the cross in use at this period.

It is clear from the evidence provided above that there existed early in the fourteenth century two distinct forms of cross blazoned in identical fashion. The evidence of the painted rolls in the case of Siward and of the seals in the case of Swinnerton and Trussell is conclusive. Either the difference between the crosses was not regarded as important by the authors and compilers of blazoned rolls or a subtle enough verbal distinction had not evolved. The niceties did not trouble the authors of the earliest extant heraldic treatise, Dean Tract, or of Cotgreave's Ordinary, both dating from c. 1340. The Dean Tract lists twelve crosses among which is the Croise flourette. As there is no other cross similarly described, it must refer to the cross flowered at the tips and the cross formy fleur de lis issuing from the ends. In Cotgreave's Ordinary the arms of Siward, Paveley, Sefoul, Swinnerton and Trussell are all described as crosses les bouts fleorets.

Notes
1. The Coat of Arms V p. 33 fig. 22 a-c.
2. Barstow in A lexicographical study of heraldic terms in Anglo-Norman Rolls of Arms, 1300-1350 and Brault in Early blazon.

Notes continued on next page.

References
1. The Coat of Arms V p. 33 and fig. 22 a-c.
2. Barstow in A lexicographical study of heraldic terms in Anglo-Norman Rolls of Arms, 1300-1350 and Brault in Early blazon.
At our 1977 Gathering comments were passed on the paucity of the kneelers available! It was suggested by some of our ladies that we might like to make some and Lady Swynnerton kindly undertook to see what she could do about this.

At our Gathering this year she produced a beautiful sample which was admired by everyone and aroused a great deal of interest. The kneeler is Blue and is embroidered with the Society's badge in Black and Gold and is really very lovely. Several ladies said they would like to do one and so did one or two of the men!

Lady Swynnerton has kindly prepared the enclosed drawings and instructions, if you would like to do one - everything is there, all you have to do is purchase the materials and get cracking. She has kindly said that she would be willing to give advice to anyone who needs it - her address is 35 Lower Road, Fetcham, Nr. Leatherhead, Surrey.

(Reproduced by kind permission of the author Mr R. Norton and of the Heraldry Society)
WILLIAM SWINNERTON of Betley (WS.14)
(2nd son of Wm. Swinnerton of Betley)
bp 17 May 1772 Betley
(b. 7 May)
d.12 Oct 1839 Betley
(bur. 19 Nov)

Margaret (Mary) Cooper
13 Oct 1793 Madeley
b.circa 1761

d.

Table 2b
(2nd Revision - Dec 1979)
THE STUBBS PORTRAIT

You will recall the correspondence between Miss C. A. Swinnerton of Abergavenny and Messrs. Wedgwood in Swinnerton Family History Vol. 3 page 18. A few months ago Miss Swinnerton found the original newspaper cutting which she thought had been lost and sent it to me. I wrote to Peterborough c/o the Daily Telegraph to see if they could help us further. They very kindly telephoned with the information that it had appeared in their issue of the 18th July 1967 and that the Lowndes Gallery had eventually sold it. I therefore wrote to the Gallery to ask if they knew its present location and received a most helpful reply by return from their Director, Mr. Peter Johnson saying he would make enquiries.

He wrote again a month later saying that he had traced the owner and that he had decided to sell it and it would be coming back to the Gallery. Would I like to see it? You can imagine my answer.

In October I did go to see it and was very kindly allowed to take pictures of it one of which I hope to reproduce in the next journal.

All along I had been mystified by the title given to it by the Daily Telegraph. Frank is a fairly modern name and the earliest mention ever of Francis is a baptism in 1797 - long after the portrait was painted. In addition I did not know of a Swinnerton potter.

Close examination of the portrait provided the answer - an annotation on the back in black paint read "1780 Guillenmus Swinnerton. Armiger. Aetate annos 63" (1780 William Swinnerton. Bearer of Arms. Aged 63 years).

This was, of course, WILLIAM SWINNERTON of Buttersworth, born 5 Sep. 1717, died 12 Oct. 1790 aged 72. (See Swinnerton Family Trees Vol. I)

By a curious coincidence, 3 days before I went to London to see the portrait, our member Mrs. Haszard, who is a descendant of William, brought me another portrait to see of the same William as a younger man, which had been copied by Edwin Lang from the original painting by Opie in her possession.

And so the mystery is solved. The portrait is now on sale - for £8000.

SOME SWINNERTONS AT ESSEX RECORD OFFICE

Swinnerton, Hen. 1632, Low Leyton, ASS/35/74/Ha/75
A writ of Capias for several persons, including Henry SYNNERTON, all labourers, to answer for felony and burglary.

Swinnerton, Rich. 1563 at Braintree ASS/35/5/3/4
(Calendar of prisoners in the gaol, taken for felony. (this catalogue number is doubtful)

Swinnerton, Sir John, 1612 Birch ASS/35/53a/H/92

Swinnerton, Sir John, 1617, Birch, ASS/35/58/H/5
Presentments of the Grand Jury at the Assizes held at Brentwood 10 March 1616.

That a bridge in the parish of Lt. Birch "in the heighwaye leading from Layer de la Haye to Birch Affoersayd is quite ruanated and fallen downe" so the people could not cross it. To be repaired by the heirs of John Swinnerton Knt.

(ex Mr John Rayment - Chairman of Essex Family History Society)
If the weather didn't exactly smile on the third Reunion, it certainly thought twice about shedding a tear, and the only tears shed that day were the (very) few of the youngest visitor, James Barker Swinnerton, at the ripe young age of 40 days. He was one of the 75 who "booked in" at the Village Hall in Swynnerton — a modern building which proved excellent for the Annual General Meeting and the buffet lunch which followed it — a tasty and varied repast produced by a party of village ladies — the "Fitzherbert Arms" being unable to accommodate us because of a prior booking.

After lunch all repaired to the Church for a Family Service in the capable hands of the Rector and conducted largely by our own Edward Swinnerton who had travelled down from Blackpool bringing his family, including his daughter, Paula, who soon made the congregation aware how well the organ renovation had succeeded. A notable occasion was the unveiling of a plaque commemorating the Society's restoration of the organ, and at the close a collection was taken which contributed a useful sum to the Organ Maintenance Fund.

Then back to the Hall for a "cuppa", a chat, a look at the variety of exhibits ranging from ancestral portraits brought by Sir Roger to the very latest in "trees" explained by our founder/secretary, and a few purchases of "goodies" from the Society stall.

This year saw some notable "firsts" - Ted and Eunice from Australia, who came with husband Jack Byfield; Don and his wife from Canada; Peter and his party of 10 from Manchester (a family record?); Swinnertons from Beaconsfield, Bolton, Blackpool and Barmouth; familiar faces and new faces. We were gratified to note that the arrangements were conducive to "ice-breaking" and animated conversation, with new visitors greeted and old acquaintances renewed. And the general verdict was "Again, please, in two years' time".

Our grateful thanks go to Sir Roger for "chairing" the meeting, to Ian for the brunt of the arrangements, to Colin for getting all his sums right at the "receipt of custom", to Kirsty and Joanna for bringing charm and "salespersonship" to the sales stall, to Edward for leading the Service, to the local ladies for their culinary expertise, and not least to all of you who came — without whom all the arrangements would have come to nothing.

See you in 1981 - and you !

J.W.Swinnerton

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE FAMILY

Dear Swinnerton Family,

During my 18 months association with the One - Namers in this country I have had an ever-increasing feeling that members of these groups have an extra something not experienced by other genealogists - literally the feeling of being kindred spirits.

When your secretary invited me to attend your family gathering in my capacity of Secretary of the Guild of One-Name Studies I was honoured yet rather curious as to what I should find. I was not worried that I would feel an outsider, a pleasant task that befalls me as Guild Secretary is to review One-Name Journals for items of news to be included in the Federation's Journal and consequently I felt I already knew many of you. In no way was I disillusioned. My day with you was super - thank you all for making me so welcome. It was delightful to observe you all so intent on renewing old acquaintanceships, making new ones and proudly comparing Trees and heirlooms. The Church service I found particularly poignant - with so much division in the world today, the unity you have is very precious. Cherish and preserve it in every way possible.

Colonel Swinnerton is, as you know, President of the B'ham and Midland Society of which I am also Secretary so I am in danger of being accused of being biased toward your name. I plead guilty. He works very hard for that Society, for the Federation (of which he is also President) and obviously for you too. Judging by the happiness surrounding him on the 8th of September his efforts have been rewarded in one direction at least.

I wish you all every happiness and the continued success of your family.

Pauline Saul

- SFH.4 p.10 -
FAMILY NOTES

Our congratulations to:

BARBARA SWINNERTON, daughter of Mr. JACK SWINNERTON OF Blackpool on her marriage to John Norman Folding on the 14th September 1979.

NEALE SWINNERTON, son of our Treasurer, COLIN SWINNERTON of Telford who was awarded one of the limited number of special tokens to commemorate the Bi-Centenary of the building of the famous Iron Bridge in Shropshire. Neale's school took part in a pageant organised by the schools in the area and he was one of the 3 Quakers in costume who led the procession.

JOHN and JUNE SWINNERTON of South Africa on the birth of their first child - a daughter, NICOLA.

LAURIE SWINARTON, daughter of Mr. WILLIAM SWINARTON of Ontario, on her Graduation in the Grade 8 Class of 1979 of the Dr. Marion Hilliard Senior Public School.

Our very sincere sympathy goes to our member Mrs. Shirley Elliot on the sudden, totally unexpected death of her husband Bernard aged 46 and also to the family of our member Mrs. Edna Swinnerton of Manchester who died in November. Mrs Swinnerton attended her first gathering this year and had been a loyal supporter of the Society.