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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 throughout 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.

* * * * *

Considerable progress has been made with our research into the Adbaston, 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.

* * * * *

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 *flory at the ends* and *formy flory at the ends*.¹ It is proposed to here examine the best documented bearers of these two last crosses to the end of the great age of armory, 1350, 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.²

The arms of Siward feature a cross flowered at the tips (fig. 1), 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 *flory*, a cross unknown to the armory of the period.³ The cross is described in late thirteenth century rolls as *une croiz . . . florette* in *Camden* 157 and similar in *Falkirk* 78 and *Galloway* 110, as *crois . . . o bouz flourettes* in *Caerlaverock* vv. 48-50 and as *croys . . . les chefs flurettes* in *Parliamentary* 123.⁴ Both *bouz* and *chefs* mean tips or ends⁵ but for the exact form of 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. 1.⁶

Two earlier occurrences of the Siward arms are to be found in *Matthew Paris* and show a cross *recercly* and a cross *patonce*, both times with four roundels.⁷ 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 *flory*. Unfortunately, it has been mis-catalogued and it has not been possible to examine it.⁸

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 *Wijnbergen* roll⁹ and there is an early fourteenth seal with the cross in the British Museum.¹⁰

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 blazons of the cross¹¹ 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 *crois . . . les chef flurettes* in *Parliamentary* 620, as *crois florite* in *Carlisle* 28 and as *croiz . . . od les boutez fluretz* in *Ashmolean* 185.¹² 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. 2.¹³

The end notes appear on pp. 48 and 49.



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 under *patonce* without comment. A later Swinnerton blazon in *Second Dunstable* describes the cross as *patee et fleuretee*. The blazoning is unique; Barstow suggests it is an error.¹⁴

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.¹⁵

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 *Cotgrave's Ordinary*, both dating from c. 1340. The *Dean Tract* lists twelve crosses among which is the *Croice floreee*.¹⁶ 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 *Cotgrave's Ordinary* the arms of Siward, Paveley, Sefoul, Swinnerton and Trussell are all described as crosses *les bouts flurettes*.¹⁷

Notes

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*.

Notes continued on next page.

3. Brault *op. cit.* p. 158 and fig. 96. Brault misunderstands the conclusion of London's there quoted which is slightly ambiguous. London, it may be assumed, was saying that the distinction between the cross patonce and cross flory of post-mediaeval armory did not exist for medieval armory. He was not referring to the mediaeval *crois fleurette*.

4. Blazons from Barstow or Brault.

5. Brault *op. cit.* p. 134.

6. The original of Herald's has not been consulted. A postcard published by the College of Arms of part of the roll includes the Seward cross. A Hatton-Dugdale facsimile of the lost original of *Collins' roll* (c. 1295) also has the Seward cross as in fig. 1.

7. *Aspilogia* II, MP II 69 and IV 75.

8. *Bain Calendar of documents relating to Scotland* II, Appendix III no. 494; actually the seal of Warenne illustrated on pl. IV.

9. Ed. Adam Even and Jequier nos. 77-80, 455 and 458; four of these are illustrated, see pl. I and fig. 91. There are probably two further examples of the cross in the unpublished *Armorial du Héraut Vermandois* of c. 1300 (Paris, Biblio. Nationale ms. français 2249 ff. 78v and 85r. The blazon is early fifteenth century).

10. *British Museum Seals* 11534, illustrated III pl. iij. The seal is of Nicholas Malmains and is dated 1315.

11. *Barstow op. cit.* pp. 188-191.

12. Blazons from Barstow.

13. *British Museum Seals* 13806 and 13802, both illustrated III pl. v.

14. *Barstow op. cit.* p. 189.

15. *British Museum Seals* 6482.

16. Ed. Dean p. 29.

17. Ed. Nicolas p. 6.

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KNEELERS FOR SWINNERTON CHURCH

At our 1977 Gathering comments were passed on the paucity and thickness 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.

SALOP PARISH REGISTERS (6)

MEOLE BRACE

1797	June 19	Thomas SWINNERTON	Buried
1802	July 11	JANE SWINNERTON	witness at marriage of Richard Feriday and Ann Netherway
1803	July 4	JANE SWINNERTON	witness at marriage of Thomas Hughes and Ann Jones
1813	Dec. 23	JANE SWINNERTON	witnees at marriage of Thomas Harrington and Anne Feriday (widower and widow respectively)
1819	Sep. 5	RICHARD SWINNERTON and Ann Wooley	Married.

SWINNERTONS OF BETLEY

Referring to the confusion between BROMFIELD and BLOOMFIELD (see SFH3 p.55), Mrs. Pauline Litton kindly checked the microfilm of the original Register of Wybunbury and Elizabeth is quite definitely a BROMFIELD - she signed her name quite clearly as did the witness, Sarah. So, as Mrs. Litton says, don't believe everything you read in the newspapers - equally true today.

She also checked the Register of Audlem for her baptism but there was no trace so the Rev. Charles went astray here but presumably he was only going on oral evidence. A check of Wybunbury baptisms also drew a blank. There is a marriage of a John Bromfield of Wybunbury to Lucy Garrett at Madeley in 1808, Madeley is, of course, next door to Betley so these could be her parents. Time will tell.

A draft tree produced the reaction such a tree often does and our member Mr. ARTHUR SWINNERTON has now sent us in some more details which make it even more complete. They are HARRIET (nee Dayson) died 4.6.1916; Edith married JAMES ALFRED Mothershaw; Roderick Alan married ELIZABETH MARY Martin; Anthea Mary married RICHARD Masters; Jennifer Ruth married IAN KENNETH Whittaker; Martin John has a daughter RUTH born on 19.5.1978 Stoke on Trent (RS.86) and Roderick Alan also has a daughter EMMA LOUISE born 28.4.1978 (ES.146)

WILLIAM SWINNERTON of Betley (WS.14)
 (2nd son of Wm.Swinerton of Betley)
 bp 17 May 1772 Betley
 (b.7May)
 d.12 Oct 1839 Betley
 (bur.19 Nov)

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

SWINNERTON of BETLEY
Table 2b
(2nd Revision - Dec 1979)

BETTY (BS.3) bp 31 Dec 1795 (b. 28 Dec 1794)	JOSEPH SWINNERTON (JS.48) bp Betley 13.Apr 1800 (b.1 Mar)	WILLIAM SWINNERTON (WS.24) b.c.1805 d.26Sept = 1887 Betley	(1) Frances Ryles Feb 1832 d.18 Mar 1838	SAMUEL SWINNERTON (SS.31) b.c.1807 d.24 Oct 1855 Little Drayton	= Susannah Harding 2 April 1835 Shrewsbury d.26 Jul 1877 Little Drayton	HENRY SWINNERTON (HS.15) bp Betley 25 Dec 1815 Corn Factor of London	HANNAH (HS.44) = John Johnson, Grocer of Weston. 30 Jul 1832 at SOT.	THOMAS SWINNERTON (TS.26) b.c.1796 Gamekeeper	= Esther Lunt 14 May 1815 Betley b.c.1796 d. 1848
(2) MARY (MS.35) bp Betley 11 Oct 1797 (b.1 Aug) = Benjamin Barrow 21 Sep 1825 Betley			(2) Elizabeth Bromfield at Wybunbury Feb1839 b.c.1810 d.12 Jan 1893						

JOHN SWINNFRTON (JS.280) bp 10 May 1818 Forton	WILLIAM SWINNERTON (WS.102) bp 7 Jan 1821 Forton	(1) MARGARET (MS.46) bp 5 Apr 1816 Betley SAMUEL SWINNERTON (SS.58) bp 16.July1842 Betley d.13 Mar 1847	ELIZABETH (ES.95) b.c.1826 ESTHER (ES.96) bp 10 May 1836 Betley	SAMUEL SWINNERTON (SS.41) b. c.1830 Betley	MARY (MS.96) bp 21 Mar 1821 d. 26 May 1847 Betley	HENRY SWINNERTON (HS.43) bp 19 Aug 1833 Betley d.2.2.1901 Betley Blacksmith	= (1) Ann Machin 9 May 1858 NUL. d.26 May 1877 = (2) Harriet Dayson 23 Dec 1880 SOT. d.4.Jun 1916 aet 71	THOMAS SWINNERTON (TS.71) b.c.1837 THOMAS SWINNERTON (TS.100) b.11 Nov 1881 Madeley d.14 Jan 1956 Kidsgrove	= Gertrude Pearce 19 May 1902 Madeley b.23 Nov 1877 d.4 June 1974
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JOHN THOMAS SWINNERTON (JS.256) b.15 Oct 1907 Madëley d.1 Jun 1963	= Hilda Williams 1935 = (2) P..... Bradshaw 1973	ARTHUR SWINNERTON (AS.89) b.21 Dec 1913 Madeley	= Muriel Hebe Cotton 29 Nov 1941 Silverdale b.17 Oct 1917 Basford	EVA MARY (ES.140) b.8 July 1904 Madeley	EDITH (ES.139) b.29 Jan 1906 Madeley = James Alfred Mothershaw 1928
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MICHAEL SWINNERTON (MS.151) b.4 Sep 1943	= Kathleen Mary Jepson 27 NOV 1965 b.25 Apr 1946	MARTIN JOHN SWINNERTON (MS.152) b.10 Jan 1952	= Sandra Pearson 21 Jun 1975 b.27 Apr 1947	RODERICK ALAN SWINNERTON (RS.85) b.29 Jun 1943 Stone	= Elizabeth Mary Martin 3 Jul 1971	ANTHEA MARY (AS.91) b.8 Jul 1948 NUL.	JENNIFER RUTH (JS.257) b.27 Apr 1950 NUL.
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ALISON JANE (AS.90) b.7 Feb 1974	JENNIE (JS.253) b.16 Apr 1976	RUTH (RS.86) b.19 May 1978 SOT.	EMMA LOUISE (ES.146) b.28 Apr 1978 Wolverhampton	Richard Masters 9 Aug 1975 NUL.	Ian Kenneth Whittaker 4 Aug 1973
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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.

Painter on Pottery

WITHIN a week of the National Portrait Gallery buying the only certain self-portrait of George Stubbs I have heard of another portrait he painted with the same unusual technique, in enamel on earthenware.

This is the portrait of Frank



Enamelled after dinner

Swinnerton, a Staffordshire potter, of which I show a detail. It is now in the hands of Mr. Oscar Johnson, of the Lowndes Lodge Gallery.

Josiah Wedgwood, who helped Stubbs with his new method, recorded on Aug. 13, 1780, "Mr. Stubbs dines with Mr. Swinnerton tomorrow and is to paint the old gentleman when he is done with me."

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

This was, of course, WILLIAM SWINNERTON of Butterton, 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 SYNVERTON, all labourers, to answer for felony and burglary.

Swinnerton, Rich. 1563 at Braintree ASS/35/5/3/4

(this catalogue number is doubtful)

Calendar of prisoners in the gaol, taken for felony.

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

Wm. Garlinge of Stanway, Labourer, 14 Oct.8 Jas.I, there stole a white ewe worth 11d belonging to John Swinnerton knt. Pleads not guilty. Acquitted. Witness. "His examination" (sic)

Swinnerton, Sir John, 1617, Birch, ASS/35/58/H/5

Presentments of the Grand Jury at the Assizes held at Brentwood 10 March 1616.

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That a bridge in the parish of Lt. Birch "in the heighway leading from Layer de la Haye to Birch Affoersayd is quite ruanated and falen down" 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)

SWINNERTON FAMILY GATHERING 1979

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

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.

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