

CHAPTER TWENTY-THREE

HUMPHREY PESHALL

Fifth in Ancestry

Section 1, Humphrey Pershall—Section 2, Helen Swinnerton.

SECTION 1.

5. HUMPHREY PERSHALL, son of Sir Hugh de Peshall, Chapter 22, Section 1, married Helena, daughter of Humphrey Swinnerton of Swinnerton Castle and his wife Ann, daughter of Thomas Swinnerton of Hilton, Chapter 23, Section 2. She was the widow of John Delves (The Delves Family Genealogy of Cheshire). Child:—

1. *4. JOHN PERSHALL, Chapter 24, Section 1.

Humphrey Pershall only survived his father one year, so that he had no opportunity to make any impression upon the records of Staffordshire. His whole life was spent in the turmoil of the Wars of the Roses except the last four years under the rule of King Henry VII. of the House of Lancaster and Tudor. He died in 1489.

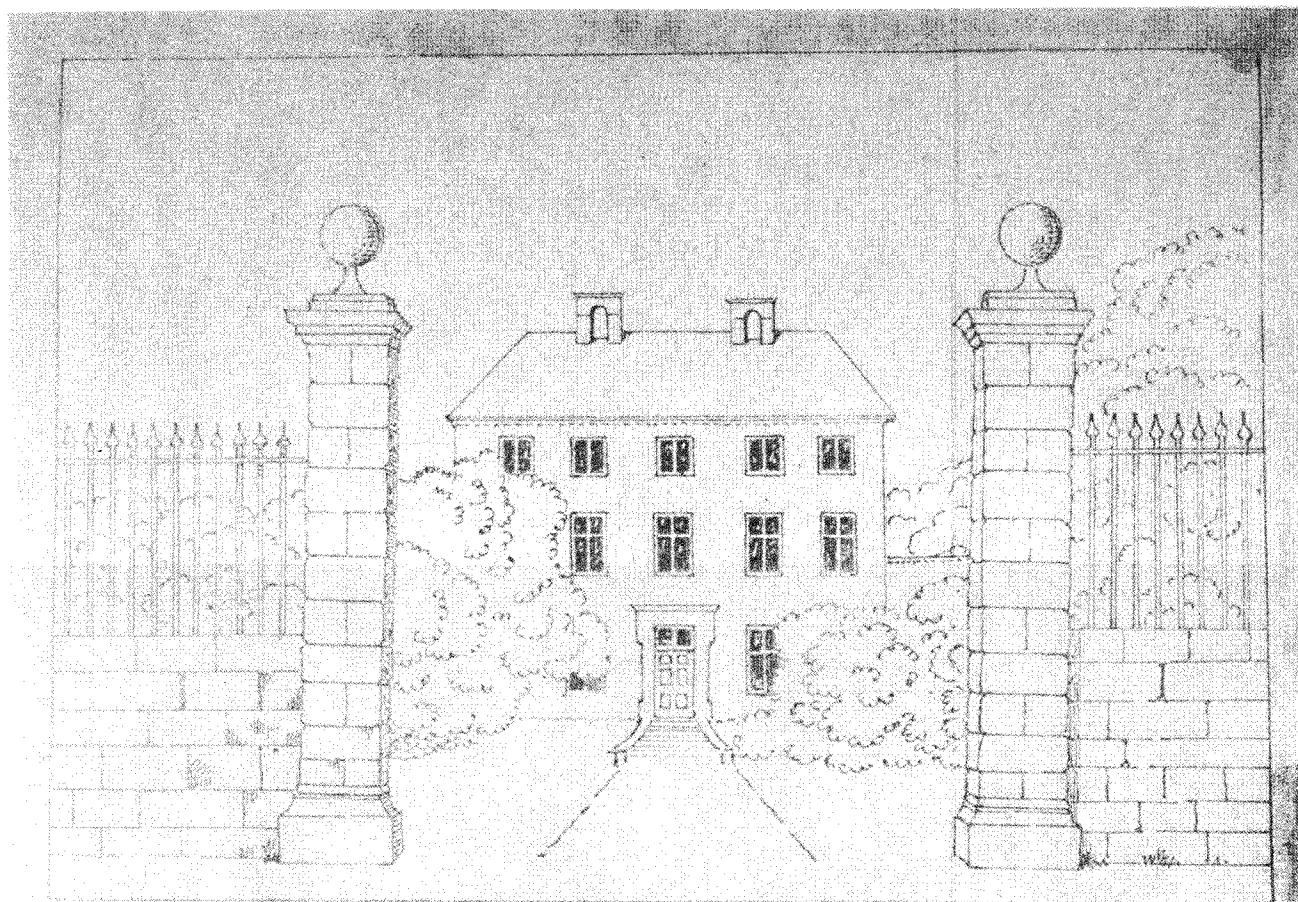
He acted as esquire to his father in the Battle of Bosworth Field, when they fought by the side of Richmond, who became King Henry VII. It tells quite eloquently of the force of the onslaught made by King Richard III., that Sir Hugh died in three years, and his son in four years, after this battle.

Among the Chancery Inquisitions Post Mortem we find the following: Inquisitions taken at Stafford, Monday next after the Assumption, 4 Henry VII. to inquire after the death of Humfrey Peersall, late of Chekeley. The Jurors say Humfrey held 2 messages and lands in Offeley Episcopi and other lands. He died 3 June last past (1488) and John Peersall is his son and next heir aged 4 years and more. [Chancery Inquisitions Post Mortem, series 2, file 5, number 26.]

The political differences between the branches of our family, including Horsley and Ranton, who supported the House of Lancaster, and the Kinlet branch who supported the House of York, had now become so sharply marked that the Horsley family began to call themselves as Peer-saal and spelled their surname as 'Pershall,' thereby retaining the silent h so peculiar to the cockney English of Staffordshire and to which its folks are so fondly attached. In doing this the Horsley family were simply obeying the injunctions and following the example of Sir Hugh Pershall the father of Humphrey Pershall.

The alliance between Humphrey Peshall and his wife is of unusual interest as thereby we became again double Peshalls. The Swinnertons were originally Peshalls and both the father and mother of Helena were Swinnertons, hence by her marriage with Humphrey Peshall she was coming right back into the original line of her own ancestry, even though it was of course many generations removed.

The following chart gives the ancestry of Helen Swinnerton beginning with Stephen the son of John de Swinnerton and his wife Eleanor de Peshale.



CHICKLEY IN CHESHIRE.

H.W.F. 1836.

*1. Stephen (de Swynnerton) de Uselwall, oc. as a juror 1276—Joan de Waure

John, de Swynnerton= de Uselwall. oc. 1283	*2. Roger de Swynnerton= oc. 1278. Lord of Swyn- nerton, 1286, a knight 1290; ob. 1298	Joan, dau. of Sir Robert de Hastang. rel. 1298-1299	Gilbert de Swynn- ton 1289	Richard de Swynn- ton 1293	Stephen de Swynnerton, Parson of Swynnerton 1299			
John de Swyn- nerton of Usel- wall, 17 Ed. II. (1323)	*3. Sir Roger de Swynnerton, Kt. of Swyn- nerton a minor in 1300; sum- moned as a Baron 1337; died 1338	Matilda relict 1357	Sir John de Swyn- nerton of Hil- ton, Knt., died 1340	Anna, dau. & heir of Philip de Mont- gomery.	Richard de Swyn- nerton. living 1350	Nicholas de Swyn- nerton, Clerk; Rector of Muchles- tone, & Barrow. died 1357	Stephen de Swyn- nerton. liv. 1348	Alexan- der de Swyn- nerton; slain by Jas. de Stafford before 1324
Matilda—Sir Roger de Swynnerton, 1327 Knt. eldest son, died v.p. & s.p.	Robert de Swynnerton, Clerk, son & heir, aet. 26 & more in Feb. 1338; died about 1349. s.p.	*4. Sir Thomas de Swynnerton, Knt. Banneret, heir to his brother Robert; died 1361.	Matilda, dau. of Sir Robert de Holand of Yoxhall, Knt.	Richard de Swynnerton, Clerk; died 1346.	Humphrey—Hillaria. de Swynn- ton.			
Elizabeth, dau. & heir= of Sir Nicholas Beck, Knt. 1st wife.	*5. Sir Robert de Swynnerton= knight, died 1385-6	Joan, 2nd wife	Anna, mar. 1st John le Beysin; 2nd. Thomas Latymer.	Alice—Sir John de Gresley.	Roger de Swynn- ton, oc. 1374, 1394.			
Humphrey de Peshale= 1st hus. dead in 1388	Matilda—Sir Wm. Ipstones= Knt. sec. hus. Died Oct. 1399	Sir John Savage Knight, 3rd hus.	*6. Thomas de Swynnerton= Lord of Swynnerton, 1396 1410	Cicely rel. d. about 1436.				
Richard de Peshale superstes 1450.	Christian Alice	Sir John Savage & 6 others	*7. William de Swynnerton= Esq. Lord of Swynnerton. dead before 1429	Elena dau. of Trumwyn.				
Anna, dau. & coheir of Thomas Swynnerton of Hilton, Esq.,= remarried to John Mitton, of Weston-under-Lizard, Esq. died 27. Mar. 1470.								
*8. Humphrey de Swynnerton of Swynnerton, Esq. inf. aet. 1429. dead before 14 Feb. 1464.								
Helen—Humphrey Peshall son of Sir Hugh of Horsley.	Humphrey Swyn- nerton & Hilton died about 1504	Joan . . rel. 1527-8	More —John Swyn- or nerton, gent. Moode oc. 1490-1, 1509-10 Will dated Apr. 1521	William Swyn- nerton ob.s.p.	Roger Swyn- nerton.	Anne—Humphrey Persall of Ranton		

The numbers refer to the divisions of the text which follows.

SECTION 2.

Ancestry of HELEN SWINNERTON. The Swinnertons were originally Peshales and, as we have seen, Adam de Peshale (I) married Alice Swinnerton and therefore, in Chapter 16, Section 2, the pedigree of the Swinnertons was fully set forth. It will only be necessary therefore at this place to continue the line of Swinnerton from John Swinnerton and his wife Eleanor de Peshale. It is an interesting fact that the name Swinnerton was not used by the sons of this marriage, but by the sons of the second marriage of John Swinnerton, who then married his cousin Margery Swinnerton. Their sons died without issue so that the name would have been lost had not the last one of these two sons made his half-nephew his heir, and had he not adopted the name Swinnerton. The oldest son of John Swinnerton called himself John de Uselwell.

*1. STEPHEN DE USELWELL, the second son of John Swinnerton, died 1276; married Joan daughter of Roger de Waure of Great Sugnall. Children:—
*1. John de Uselwell, *2. Roger de Swynnerton, *3. Gilbert de Swynnerton, *4. Richard de Swynnerton, *5. Stephen de Swynnerton.

Stephen de Uselwall (Isewall), Stephen de Aspley, and perhaps also Stephen de Slyndon. He was the ancestor of the earlier Swynnertons of Isewall, and owed

his advancement in life to his marriage with Joan, daughter and heir of Roger de Waure of Eccleshall, who brought him Great Sugnall, Isewall, and possessions at Aspley and Slyndon, all in the Bishops' Liberty of Eccleshall. [Staff. Hist. Col., vol. 3, new series, page 82-85.]

Usselwall, Isewall, or Eyeswell, as it is now called, was an estate, now reduced to a field of four acres, by the town of Eccleshall, at present in the possession of a direct descendant of Stephen de Swynnerton and Joan de Waure. The name appears to have arisen from a little perennial spring, traditionally said to be good for sore eyes. This spring still exists. It fed the now drained moat of the old house of Isewall, in which the Eccleshall Swynnertons lived for centuries, but which stands no longer.

Stephen de Swynnerton appears to have been a great friend and companion-in-arms of his half-brother John de Swynnerton, Margery's last surviving son, and lord of Swynnerton from 1267-8 to 1284. In October, 1265, Stephen de Uireswell (Isewall), John de Swynnereston (Swynnerton), and Henry de Swynereston, together with William de Trumwyne and many others, chiefly of Eccleshall, were impleaded by Odo de Hodenet for having entered the manor of the said Odo, during the disturbances in the kingdom, and taken away his goods and chattels. The defendants did not appear, and the sheriff was ordered to distrain them, &c., and produce them at Hillary. In 53 Hen. III (1269), on the 20th May, before the King, Richard Brun appeared against Robert Cotes, Simon Burgilon, Adam le Febre of Swynnerton, and six others, for having come to his house at Eston, and taken from him *vi et armis* 13 marks in money, and a horse of the value of 6 marks, &c. Defendants did not appear, and the sheriff was ordered to distrain them, and returned that John, Lord of Somerton (Swynnerton), and Stefanus de Aspele stood bail for Robert de Cotes.

In a Standon deed, No. 8, in original, at the Stafford Library, which must have passed about 1272, John, Lord of Swynnerton, and Stephen his brother are the principal witnesses. This deed concerns a concession of lands in Chorlton, a member of Eccleshall, from Robert son of Simon de Chorlton to William son of Robert de Cotes. In three deeds among the charters of Mr. Vernon Yonge at Charnes in Eccleshall, which must have passed not later than 1270, Stephen de Swynnerton appears as Stephen de Espley (Aspley), Stephen de Espeleye, and Stephen de Slyndon.

In 3 Ed. I. (1275), on the Monday next before the Feast of St. Bartholomew (i.e. 22nd August), Stephen de Swynnerton occurs as a juror in an inquisition taken at Stafford, as well as in a suit tried at the Bishop's Court at Lichfield.

In the same year Agnes, the widow of John de Wytemor, sued Stephen de Swynnerton for one-third of a messuage and two bovates in Cherleton (Chorlton), and Roger de Burgilon for one-third of a messuage and ten acres of land in Wytemor as her dower. The defendants claimed a view, and subsequently called to warranty the heir, namely, John son of John de Wytemor, &c. On the Sunday after the Ascension, 4 Ed. I. (17th May, 1276), John de Swynnerton and Stephen de Usewalle are two of the jurors at the inquisition taken after the death of Henry de Audley. He had been killed by a fall from his horse in Ireland.

Stephen de Swynnerton must have died within a year of this date. His eldest son Roger inherited half Great Sugnall, and probably Isewall also; but if so, he must have given Isewall to his younger brother John, when he himself succeeded his uncle John, in 1284, as lord of Swynnerton. But the two bovates of land and the messuage which his father acquired from John de Whitmore in Chorlton must have come to John too, if at least he is the John de Chorlton referred to in the following:—In Trinity Term, 18 Ed. I. (1290), Roger de Swynnerton was attached to answer the plea of Robert Chell, that he, with John de Cherleton, James de Hayton, William son of William de Cherleton, and Gilbert de Swynnerton had ill-treated, taken, and imprisoned at Swynnerton said Robert de Chell.

It is rather odd that in the whole course of this genealogy we have only found two instances where de Peshalls have changed their name, namely when Robert de Peshale became Robert de Swinnerton and when Thomas the brother of the first Adam de Peshale and son of Dr. Walter de Peshall II. momentarily changed his name to le Gulden. As a fact none of John Swinnerton and his wife Eleanor Peshale's sons ever were known definitely as Swinnerton, and particularly is this true so far as his oldest son Stephen is concerned.

Stephen de Uselwell was succeeded by his son Roger de Swinnerton.

*2. ROGER DE SWINNERTON, married Joan, daughter of Sir Robert de Hasting. Children:—*1. Sir Roger de Swinnerton, *2. Sir John de Swinnerton, *3. Richard de Swinnerton, *4. Nicholas de Swinnerton, *5. Stephan de Swinnerton, *6. Alexander de Swinnerton.

This Roger de Swinnerton was the ancestor of all the present day Swinnertons.

We have seen that John de Swynnerton, Lord of Swynnerton, was dead in 1284, and in Michaelmas Term, 1285, Roger de Pywelesdon (Puleston) and Joan his wife, John de Whytemore, Adam son of William de Alsacher, Robert le Mareschal, and Gilbert son of Geoffrey de Aston, sued Roger son of Stephen de Uslewall for half the manor of Swynnerton, excepting one hundred and sixty (octiles viginti) acres of wood in the same manor; and for two parts of fourteen messuages and f e virgates of land with appurtenances, excepting twenty acres of wood and 50s. of rent in Beche, of which John de Swynnerton, their kinsman, whose heirs they are, was seised in demesne as of fee on the day of his death, and who died, &c. And Roger appeared and defended his right, and denied that John de Swynnerton, their kinsman, died seised of the tenements in question, because he had given the said tenements long before his death to him (Roger), by his deed which he produced; and he had made one Philip de Mutton, his attorney, to put him in seisin of them. He produced letters of attorney to that effect, and appealed to a jury. The full history of this lawsuit has already been told in Chapter 16. [Staff. Hist. Col., vol. 7, part 2, page 16-19.]

In Trinity term, 18 Edw. I. (1290), Roger de Swynnerton is in misericordia for several defaults (of appearance). He was attached to answer the plea of Robert Chelle, that he, with John de Cherleton, James de Hayton, William son of William de Cherleton, and Gilbert de Swynnerton, had ill-treated, taken and imprisoned at Swynnerton, the said Robert Chelle on the Monday after the Feast of St. James, 17 Edw. I. (1289), and detained him a prisoner for fifteen days, until he was delivered by the King's precept for which he claimed 100s. damages.

Roger appeared and denied the injury, and stated that after the death of Richard, the brother of Robert Chelle, who had held of him a messuage and virgate of land in Chelle, in villeinage, the said Robert had fined 30s. for entry into the same tenement to be held in villeinage of him, and because he had refused to pay the fine, he had taken him as his villein, and put him into gaol, as it was lawful for him to do.

At the same assizes he appears as a juror on a Grand Assize of Knights to try a suit between Peter de Arderne and the Canons of Lichfield respecting meadow land in Elford. In 19 Edw. I., Roger de Swynnerton, John de Hasting, Philip Naul, Robert de Cotes, John de Whitmore, Reginald Charles, Roger Burgillion, Richard de Lee, Stephen de Okele, John son of Stephen de Swynnerton, and William Badenhale give one mark to have a writ of pone. In the same year Roger de Swynnerton fines half a mark to have a writ of ad terminum.

At the Staffordshire Assizes held before the Justices Itinerant on 7th January, 1293, Sir Roger de Swynnerton is one of the four knights summoned to elect a jury. At the same assizes he is on a jury of Grand Assize in a suit between John de Arderne and John Fynch. Again he appears thereat in another character; Robert de Halghton sued Roger, Bishop of Coventry and Lychefield, for the advowson of the Church of High Offley, stating that a certain Thomas, his ancestor, had been seised of it in the time of King John. The Bishop appeared by his attorney, and denied the seisin of the said Thomas, and offered to defend his right by the body of his freeman Thomas son of William, who was present, &c.; and Robert offered to deraign his right by the body of his freeman Robert son of William, who was present, &c. It is therefore determined that a duel should be fought between them. The sureties of Thomas (the Bishop's champion) are Henry Mauveysin and Roger de Swynnerton, and the sureties of Robert (Robert de Haughton's champion) are Thomas Corbet and William Wyther. At the same assizes Roger de Swynnerton, Reginald de Snockestones, Richard de Swynnerton, and John de Trentham are charged with unjustly disseising John son of Philip de Blakelowe of common of pasture and moor in Swynnerton appurtenant to his free tenement in Blakelowe. Roger stated that he had approved the pasture for his tenement; and the jury found in his favor. Sir Roger de Swynnerton appears once more at the goal delivery for the county of Stafford in 1293, with Vivian de Standon and others, as surety to produce Margaret de Bagenholt to stand to her trial for receiving and harboring Stephen de Bagenholt her son (who had been outlawed). At the same time he is one of the sureties of Philip de Mutton, coroner, for the payment of a fine of 5 marks in which he has been mulcted. In 1294, Roger de Swynnerton, Knight, is appointed assessor and collector in the county of Stafford of the tenth granted in the Parliament at Westminster on the morrow of St. Martin, 12th November, his commission being tested on the same day.

He was dead early in 1298, having been King's Coroner at the time of his decease, and on 8th February of that year the King's close writ is issued to the sheriff to cause another coroner to be elected in his stead. He left a widow Joan surviving him and several sons, of whom Roger, the eldest, was still in his minority. His wife Joan was a daughter of Sir Robert de Hastang of Chebsey, knt.

*3. SIR ROGER SWYNNERTON, married Matilda ——. Children:—
 *1. Sir Roger de Swynnerton, *2. Robert de Swynnerton, *3. Sir Thomas de Swynnerton, Knight Banneret, *4. Richard de Swynnerton, *5. Humphrey de Swynnerton.

At the assizes taken at Stafford before Adam de Crokedeyk and William Inge, Justices assigned, &c., on Monday, the Vigil of the Nativity of the Blessed Mary, 27 Edw. I. (7th Sept., 1299), an assize was held to try if Stephen, the Parson of the Church of Swynnerton, had unjustly disseised Roger son of Roger de Swynnerton of seventeen acres of land in Atton near Whitmore. Stephen stated that the tenement contained only ten acres, and that Roger the father of the said Roger, had held it of the Baron of Stafford by Knight's service; and the Baron, after the death of Roger son of Roger, had demised the custody of it to him until the lawful age of the heir. Roger stated that he had entered into the tenement after the death of his father, and held it until he had been unjustly disseised of his own house in the name of Roger, and had held it for a year, when Stephen took possession; and that the Baron, after the death of Roger the father, had set up no claim to the tenement by reason of wardship nor in any other manner. Roger is therefore to recover seisin of the ten acres which Stephen admitted that he held, and his damages are taxed at half a mark. [Staff. Hist. Col., vol. 7, part 2, page 19-35.]

In the next year at the assizes taken at Stafford before William Inge and Nicholas Fermband, Roger son of Roger de Swynnerton, who is under age, not appearing to prosecute his suit of novel disseisin against Thomas de Tittensovere, the suit is dismissed and his sureties are in misericordia, viz., Adam son of Henry de Swynnerton and John son of Adam de Swynnerton.

In Michaelmas term, 29 Edw. I. (1301), Stephen, Parson of the Church of Swynnerton, was summoned to answer the Prior of Stanes, in a plea in which the Prior sued him for a sum of 23s. 4d. the arrears of an annual rent of 2 marks owing to him according to the terms of a fine levied in 2 Hen. III., between Robert de Swynnerton and William the Prior of Kenilleworth respecting the Church of Swynnerton, which he produced.

In 34 Edw. I. (1305-6), Sir Roger de Swynnerton, knight, had a charter for free warren in all his demesne lands at his manor of Swynnerton, as also for keeping a market there upon the Wednesday in every week, and a fair yearly upon the Festival of our Lady's Assumption.

In 1307, is a deed which reads,—Be it known, &c. that I, Reginald son of John de Charnes have deeded to Reginald my son and Alice his wife, and the heirs of the said Reginald, a certain piece of land called the Oldfield in Charnes and Whittington; Witnesses: Robert de Bromley, Roger de Swynnerton, soldiers, &c. [Staff. Hist. Col., vol. 1914, page 29.]

On the 19th Sept., 4 Edw. II. (1310, at the general proffer of Knight-services to the King, taken at Twedemuth, before Sir Bartholomew de Badlesmere, Lieutenant to the Constable of England, and Sir Nicholas de Segrave, Mareschal of the King's Host, the Earl of Lancaster acknowledged the services of six knight's fees for all his lands in England, to be performed by Roger de Swennerton, John de Twyford, Peter de Lemeseye, and William Trussell, Knights, John de Swener-

ton, John de Nortle, Richard de Lymesy, and Roger de Kent, serjeants, with caparisoned horses.

On iij Kal. April (30th March), 1312, Sir William de Tene, Priest, was admitted to the Church of Swynnerton on the presentation of Sir Roger de Swynnerton, knight. And in the following year, on the 16th October, 7 Edw. II. (1313), John de Swynnerton and Roger de Swynnerton, with many others, received the King's pardon for having been present in arms with Thomas Earl of Lancaster when Piers Graveston was beheaded on Blakelow Hill. Roger de Swynnerton was Steward of Cannock Forest and a tenant in capite, in right of his wife Anna, the daughter and heiress of Philip de Montgomery.

In 9 Edw. II. Sir Roger de Swynnerton is certified, pursuant to a writ tested at Clipston, 5th March (1316), as Lord of the township of Swynnerton in the county of Stafford. In 11 Edw. II. he was made Governor of the town of Stafford. In 14 Edw. II. (1320) the King committed to him the bailiwick of the Hundred of Tatemandeslaw, and the Governorship of the Castle of Harlech in Wales, which last was renewed to him in the following year. In 15 Edw. II. the custody of the castle and manor of Eccleshale was also committed to him to hold during the vacancy of the bishopric of Coventry and Lichfield; moreover he was made Constable of the Tower of London; and was one of the Justices empowered and directed by letters patent and writs, tested at Pontefract, 26th March, 1322, to pass sentence upon Henry Tyes, which he did accordingly, at the Tower of London, on the eve of Palm Sunday, 3rd April of that year. [Staff. Hist. Col., vol. 7, part 2, page 19-35.]

Derbyshire, 11 Edw. II. Roger de Swynnerton by Richard de Peshale his attorney, sued Walter de Montgomery for a debt of 40 pounds which he unjustly detained. [*Ibid.*, vol. 9, page 71.]

There is an indenture by which Thomas de Halthton, John de Chetewynde, Robert de Dutton, John de Ipstones, Vivian de Staundon, Roger, Parson of Blumenhull, Vivian de Chetweynde, William de Weston-Jones, Robert son of Robert de Dutton, Jordan de Peuvelsdon, and James de Poddemore are bound to Sir Roger de Swynnerton, Chivaler, in a sum of 500 marks by a recognizance made in Chancery 2nd May, 15 Edw. II., of which 500 marks the said Sir Roger had received from the said Vivian de Staundon and the others 250 marks, and for which he had given an acquittance. The said Sir Roger de Swynnerton now grants, for himself and his heirs, to the said Vivian de Staundon, that if the said Vivian shall keep the peace towards him and do him no manner of wrong, that the said recognizance of 500 marks shall be void and of no effect. Witnessed by Monsr. James de Audeley, Monsr. Robert de Knytheleg, Monsr. Thomas de Oyli, Geoffrey de Wasteneys, and John de Bromley. Dated at Swynnerton on the Monday after the Feast of St. Thomas the Martyr (12th July), A.D. 1322. [Staff. Hist. Col., vol. 7, part 2, page 19-35.]

In the same year, on Monday and Tuesday next after the Feast of St. Peter ad Vincula, 2nd and 3rd August, 1322, as Constable of the Tower of London, he produces the Mortimers, then in his custody, before the Judges at Westminster and at the Tower.

On the following day a writ of certiorari is addressed to him, commanding him to return the process against Henry Tyes into Chancery, tested at New-castle-on-Tyne, 4th August.

In October, 1322, as Roger de Swynnerton, Knight, he presented a clerk to the Church at Swynnerton. On 2nd December of the same year he was appointed one of the Assessors and Collectors of the tenth and sixth granted in the Parliament of York on Sunday next after the Feast of St. Martyn, 14th November. And in the same year he was one of the manucaptors for the good behavior of Peter de Watervill on his discharge from imprisonment as an adherent of the Earl of Lancaster. In 17 Edw. II. (1324) Roger de Swynnerton, Knight, is returned by the Sheriff of the county of Stafford, pursuant to writ tested at Westminster, 9th May, as summoned to attend the great council of the nation. In 20 Edw. II. (1326) the King committed to him the custody of all the manors, lands, and tenements, with the appurtenances, which had belonged to Hugh le Despencer, late Earl of Winchester, in the counties of Stafford and Chester.

During the troublous times which succeeded the accession of King Edw. II., and for nearly the whole of that reign, the law was practically in a state of abeyance, and the county of Stafford was at that time a scene of unbridled license. The defeat of the Earl of Lancaster, however, at the battle of Borough Bridge, in 14 Edw. II., and the few years of comparative peace and quietness which ensued, enabled the King to inquire into the enormities which had been committed throughout all parts of the kingdom. The inquisitions which were held in Staffordshire between 1323 and 1325 brought to light deeds of rapine and violence in which nearly all the leading families of the county were involved. Among these the Swynnertons were conspicuous. There seems to have been a feud between the Swynnertons and the Staffords of Sandon, in which large numbers were engaged as partisans on either side.

The Hundred further presented that, on the occasion of the enmity existing between William de Stafford, Knight, and Roger de Swynnerton, Knight, Joan, formerly Countess of Lincoln, now deceased, had sent her men with horses and arms, viz., Peter de Lymes, Knight, Thomas Blauntfront, Knight, and many others, into the parks of Heley, Newcastle, Eccleshale, Swynnerton, and Stafford, in the thirteenth and fourteenth years of the present reign, to the great terror of the people, and against the King's peace.

The Hundred of Pirehill presented that John de Swynnerton, Knight, Richard de Swynnerton, John de Wethales, and others, feloniously abducted by force Joan de Greseleye, who was formerly the wife of Peter de Greseleye, from Drake-lowe, in the fifth year of the present reign, and had taken her to Swynnerton, and detained her there for a long time; that Richard de Swynnerton had feloniously killed Henry, the Parson of Pencrich, in the ninth year, and with Thomas Aston and others, had robbed Roger de Marchal, returning from the fair at Newcastle, of stuffs, silver, and jewels, and other goods at Harnegge; and that Roger de Swynnerton had received and harbored his brother Richard after the above felonies. At the Trinity term, 17 Edw. II., John de Swynnerton produced the King's pardon for himself and others for the abduction of Joan who had been the wife of Peter de Greseleye. William de Sharesill, Robert de Sharesill, and

others stand bail for some of the above, and for Adam de Peshale, accused of robbery.

The Hundreds of Offeley, Pirehill, Seisdon, and others, presented simultaneously that Roger de Swynnerton, Knight, John de Swynnerton, Knight, Richard de Swynnerton, Nicholas de Swynnerton, Parson of Moeleston, John de Uselwall, Richard de Whethales, Richard de Chelle, Robert de Aston, and others named, rode with horses and arms about the country, and were common malefactors and disturbers of the King's peace; that they had killed Henry de Salt of Stafford in the first year of the reign; that in the summer of 6 Edw. II. they had broken into the Court where Hugh de Croft the sheriff and William de Stafford were sitting in full Court, and that in the eighth year of the reign Richard de Swynnerton had forcibly impeded Henry de Cressewall, the Coroner, from performing his office and sitting on the body of Henry atte Persouns, who had been killed there by the said Richard.

In 19 Edw. II., when the King sent a special commission into Staffordshire to inquire into the unlawful assemblies, homicides, burnings, &c., committed in the county of Stafford, the following presentments were made before the King at Tamworth on 12th and 13th March, 1326:—

The jury of Lichfield stated that Roger son of Roger de Swynnerton had feloniously killed William le Wolf of Harlaston, the King's forester at Hopewas, in 18 Edw. II. John de Bouleswas and others unknown had killed John de Couleye of the retinue of William de Ipstones, and John, brother of James de Stafford, and William his brother, wounded John de Picheford, who was with William de Ipstones, so that he died at Stafford six days afterwards. Roger son of Roger de Swynnerton and others were ordered to be arrested. The said Roger produced the King's pardon for the death of William le Wolf, of Harleston, in consideration of his serving in the Duchy of Aquitaine, and a certificate from Ralph Basset of Drayton, that he had served there until the return of John de Warren, Earl of Surrey, and the King's pardon in consequence. Here we have mention of Sir Roger de Swynnerton, of Swynnerton, his son Roger, and several of his brothers. The younger Roger, who had served in the King's wars in Aquitaine, and was afterwards, if not already, a Knight, will have been the eldest son of Sir Roger de Swynnerton. He died without issue, in his father's lifetime, about the year 1326, leaving a widow Matilda. Among the Erdeswicke evidences there is a deed of Matilda de Swynnerton in which she acknowledges the receipt of 10 marks of silver from Sir James de Stafford, dated 20 Edw., son of King Edward (1326). It has been stated that the forfeited lands of Hugh de Despencer, late Earl of Winchester, in the counties of Stafford and Chester, were committed to his custody in 20 Edw. II.

In 1 Edw. III. by his charter dated at Westminster, 11th Feb. 1327, the new king confirms his father's grant to Roger de Swynnerton of the custody of all the manors, lands, and tenements in the counties of Stafford and Chester which belonged to Hugh le Despencer, late Earl of Winchester, to hold during the King's pleasure. In 2 Edw. III. being then a Banneret, he had an assignation out of the Exchequer of £145 13s. 8d. as well for his wages of war in that expedition made into Scotland in 1 Edw. III., as for his services in attendance upon Queen Isabella in 20 Edw. II.

In 2 Edw. III., by inquisition taken at Stone on Thursday next after the Feast of St. Lucy the Virgin (15th Dec.), 1328, it was found that it would not be to the King's damage or to that of others, if he should grant to his beloved and faithful Roger de Swynnerton that he may have in his manor of Swynnerton view of frankpledge, with all things pertaining thereto, also Infangenthef and Outfangenthef in the aforesaid manor, and amendments of the assize of bread and ale in the same manor, to have and to hold to him and his heirs for ever. Four parts of the said manor are holden of the Baron of Stafford, by the service of one knight's fee and the fifth part, of Roger de Tytnesore, by the service of the third part of a Knight's fee. The yearly value of the manor is £40, and the view of frankpledge and other liberties would be worth about 6s. 8d.

In 3 Edw. III., 16th Feb. 1329, Sir Roger de Swynnerton was again summoned in the King's name, to withstand the Scotch. On 10th March of the same year a Royal mandate is issued to William le Botiller of Wemme and Roger Hillary, reciting that the King, by his letters patent, had granted to Roger de Swynnerton, the elder, all the lands and tenements with the appurtenances in the county of Stafford, which lately belonged to Hugh le Despencer, Earl of Winchester, the King's enemy and traitor, which had come into the King's hands as escheats by reason of the forfeiture of the same Hugh, to have and to hold to the said Roger, as in the same letters is contained. The King wishing to be certified of the true value of the said tenements, assigns the same William le Botiller and Roger Hillary to cause an extent to be made thereof by the oath of true and lawful men, viz., to ascertain the true value of the same in demesnes, homages, services, rents, villeinages, and all other issues of land; and also in what places the same lands and tenements are situated. Dated at Guldeford. By the inquisition which followed it appears that the said lands in Staffordshire consisted of the third part of the manor of Alstanesfeld and the vill of Ruyshton Spencer and lands in Corneford, all of which were in the Hundred of Tatemoneslowe. These lands, as well as the lands in Cheshire, which had been forfeited by Hugh le Despencer, and which were at first given to Sir Roger to hold during the King's pleasure, were afterwards granted to him in fee, to hold to him and his heirs for ever.

On 26th Nov., 1330, (4 Edw. III.), Sir Roger de Swynnerton was one of the Knights summoned as a jury to try Thomas de Berkeley, before the King in full Parliament, as to his participation in the death of the late King Edward II.; of which the said Thomas was fully acquitted. On 17th Sept., 6 Edw. III., the King conceded to Roger de Swynnerton the Hundred of Pirehill, with the appurtenances, in the county of Stafford, to hold for term of life at an annual rent of £4 6s. 8d. In 7 Edw. III. namely, on 15th July, 1333, he, being then with the King at Berwick-upon-Tweed, was one of the twenty-five English Magnates who were parties to the King's treaty with Patrick de Dunbar, Comte de la Marche, with respect to the surrender of the castle and town of Berwick to the King.

Coram Rege Easter 6 Edward III. 1333 Staffordshire. Roger de Swynnerton the younger by his essoin sued Nicholas son of Adam le Bedel of Madeleye, Henry Jones, servant of John Burgyham in a plea that they together with one John de Uselwalle, Henry de Sugenhull, John Bengylowe, Roger Bengylowe and Thomas Yokkynson of Knulton had taken vi et armis his goods and chattels

from Knulton to the value of £40. The defendants did not appear. [Staff. Hist. Col., vol. 14, part 1, page 28.]

On July 25, of the same year, i.e., six days after the Battle of Halidon Hill, he and Stephen de Swynnerton received a general pardon, dated at Berwick. This battle decided the fate of Berwick, which has ever since remained a portion of English territory; and the services rendered there were doubtless considered a sufficient reason for a general amnesty, which should free them from the consequences of their many lawless deeds done in the time of the late King Edward the second. In the same year the King committed to Roger de Swynnerton the custody of the manor of Littelbarwe (Little Barrow) with the appurtenances, in the county of Chester, late the property of Hugh le Despencer the elder, the King's enemy, to hold during the King's pleasure, at an annual rent of £8 0s. 8½d.

In 8 Edw. III., for the good service he had rendered to the King, he had a grant of the Hundred of Pirhill to hold for term of life, in part satisfaction of three hundred librates of land and rents, at a reduced rent of £4 6s. 8d. On 26th Feb. 1334, Nicholas de Hopton, Priest, had been admitted to the Church of Swynnerton on the presentation of Sir Roger de Swynnerton, Knight.

In 9 Edw. III., by charter dated at Westminster 18th Sept. 1335, the King, reciting that whereas his father, Edw. II., had granted to Robert de Sapy the Hundred of Pirhill to hold in the same manner as John de Knokyn, deceased, had held it, and the present King, not remembering that his father had granted the said Hundred to Robert, had granted it to Roger de Swynnerton to hold during his life; he now, however, in order that his father's said grant to the same Robert may stand good, revokes his own grant to the said Roger de Swynnerton.

On April 23rd, 1337, 11 Edw. III., Sir Roger was summoned to Parliament as a Baron of the realm, but no further, nor any of his posterity. In that year he agreed to serve the King with twenty men-at-arms or more, under the command of Thomas Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, in a fresh expedition to Scotland. And in the same year, by writ tested at Westminster 18th August, 11 Edw. III., he was one of the Knights of the shire summoned to Parliament from the county of Stafford.

On 28th August of the same year, 1337, by letters tested at Westminster, he was joined in commission with Roger, Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, and Ralph Basset, to declare to the people of the county of Stafford the King's difficulties with respect to his dealings with the King of France, who threatens him with war, and will neither make peace nor listen to any treaty for peace, and to seek their aid. In these letters was enclosed a schedule describing the terms which the King had offered to the King of France, among which are proposals for a marriage between his eldest son the Duke of Cornwall (Edward the Black Prince) and the daughter of the King of France without any dowry on her part; for the marriage of his (the King's) sister, the Countess of Gelre (Eleanor, relict of Reynald, Count of Gueldres), to the son of the King of France, and for the marriage of his brother, the late Earl of Cornwall (John of Eltham, who died in 1336), with any damsel of the blood royal of France.

Sir Roger de Swynnerton died in the following year. The date of his death is not given in the inquisition post mortem. He probably died at his post in the

Tower. The writ was dated from the Tower of London, 13th March, 12 Edw. III., 1338, and addressed to William Trussell, King's escheator citra Trentam. The inquisition was taken at Newcastle-under-Lyme on the 20th March, 12 Edw. III., on the oath of Ralph de Grendon, Richard de Verneye, William de Chaveldon, Ralph Burgilon, John de Beresford, Thomas de Rodeyerd, Adam de Narwedale, Robert de Cotes, Henry de Hextal, William de Huggefurd, Richard le Onyleye, and Roger de Knyghteleye, who stated that Roger de Swynnerton, the deceased, did not hold any lands or tenements of the King in capite when he died, but he held certain lands and tenements in Rushton, Corneford, Austanfeld, and Caldon, in the county of Stafford, by the grant of the King, which tenements had come into the King's hand by the forfeiture of Hugh le Despencer late Earl of Wynton, to be held by the said Roger and his heirs of the Lord the King and other capital lords of the fees, by the same services by which they had been held before the said forfeiture; he held at Rushton £8 of rent proceeding from free tenants, and the pleas and perquisites of the court at the same were worth 12d. annually; it was held of the Abbot of Dieulacresse by the service of a pound of pepper annually; and he held in the vill of Corneford a several pasture on the moors which he had demised to William atte Bekke for term of his life for a rent of 20s.; and he held at Alstanfeld the third of the vill, in which there was no messuage, land, meadow, or pasture; but he had rents of assize of the free tenants, amounting to £12 annually; and the pleas and perquisites of the court were worth 10s. annually; and he held at Caldon rents of assize worth 30s. annually, and no other services or profits; and they say that the said tenements in Corneford were held of James d'Audeley by the service of two arrows annually; and the third part of the vill of Alstonfeld was held by Henry Earl of Lancaster by the service of the third part of a Knight's fee; and the tenements in Caldon (were held) of the Prior of Stanes, by fealty only; and they say that Roger held in demesne as of fee when he died, the manor of Swynnerton, in the county of Stafford, of Ralph Baron of Stafford, by the service of a Knight's fee; and in the manor there is a capital messuage worth 6s. 8d. annually, with the profits of the curtilage and garden, and there is a pigeon-house worth 2s. annually; and there are three carucates of land worth 60s., each carucate 20s., and not more, because the land was poor and sandy and there are six acres of pasture worth 4s. annually, and a water-mill worth 13. 4d.; and there are from rents of assize of free tenants £20 annually; and the pleas and perquisites of the Court are worth 6s. 8d. annually; and they say that the said Roger held at Uleshal in the county of Stafford a messuage and sixty acres of arable land of the Bishop of Chester by the service of 6d. annually; and the messuage is worth 12d. annually; and the sixty acres of land are worth 15s. each acre being worth 3d.; and they say that the said Roger held at Uslewall a messuage and forty acres of land of the Bishop of Chester, which are let to farm at 13s. 4d.; and he held at Suggenhulle a messuage and a carucate of land of the Bishop of Chester by fealty for all service, and the messuage is worth 12d., and the carucate of land is worth 13s. 4d., and no more, because the land is poor and stony, and they say that Robert de Swynnerton the son of the said Roger is the nearest heir of the said Roger, and was twenty-six years of age and more at the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Mary last.

This return applies to the Staffordshire estates only; besides which he also died seised of the manors of Great and Little Barrow in Cheshire, in which he was likewise succeeded by his son Robert de Swynnerton, Clerk.

Sir Roger de Swynnerton was a man of great abilities and steered his course with consummate skill through the political difficulties by which he was surrounded. He and his family appear to have sided at first with the Earl of Lancaster in his rebellion; but when Lancaster entered into his dangerous and traitorous alliance with the Scots, many of his former adherents left him, and amongst them Sir Roger de Swynnerton. He was evidently in great favor with Queen Isabella, after the death of Edward II., for some of the grants and offices bestowed on him were made by her when acting as Regent during the minority of Edward III. It was during this time that Sir Roger was Constable of the Tower of London, and, in this capacity, in command of the only permanently embodied troops in the kingdom; and as he retained the favor of Edward III. after he assumed the reins of government, he was probably a party to the coup-d'etat by which Isabella was deposed and the favorite Mortimer sent to the scaffold. It is clear, from the high favor and consideration in which he was held by Edward III., that he must have performed very important services to the young King at this juncture; and though he was a man of great military experience, and served with distinction in the King's wars, he rendered him even greater political services. He was undoubtedly a shrewd politician. If we study his actions, we shall see that he left the Earl of Lancaster at the right moment for his own interests, and he seems to have also left Isabella and Mortimer at the right moment. His active career was a longer one than was usual in those days, and he was probably near upon sixty years of age at the time of his decease. His eldest son Roger predeceased him without issue, so that at his death in 1338, he was succeeded by his second son Robert, a priest.

Besides Robert he left at least three other sons surviving, viz., Thomas, who succeeded his brother Robert, Richard and Humphrey.

*4. THOMAS DE SWYNNERTON, married Matilda, daughter of Sir Robert de Holand of Yoxhall, knight. Children:—*1. Sir Robert de Swynnerton, *2. Anna de Swynnerton, *3. Alice de Swynnerton, *4. Roger de Swynnerton.

Thomas de Swynnerton, who succeeded his brother Robert as Lord of Swynnerton, was trained to arms from his youth. He seems to have distinguished himself during his father's lifetime, and it was as a reward for services rendered in the wars of France that he obtained a temporary grant of the forfeited lands of Thomas de Cresswell. On 3rd Feb., 1336, it was found by inquisition that Thomas son of Henry de Crassewell, who had held of John de Eyton upon Wildemoor the manor of Crassewell (Cressewell), in the county of Stafford, had been outlawed, that the said manor had been given to Thomas de Swynnerton to hold for the King's year, day, and waste, which had then expired, and that it was still in Thomas de Swynnerton's hands. [Staff. Hist. Col., vol. 7, part 2, page 36-41.]

After the death of his father, Sir Roger, in 12 Edw. III., 1338, he acted as the secular head of the family. On June 12th of that year the King's letters of protection were issued to Henry Picard, commanding him to join Thomas de Swynnerton, who is about to go into foreign parts in the King's retinue. On 19th May,

1341, Thomas de Swynnerton was appointed Sheriff of the counties of Salop and Stafford, in the place of Adam de Peshale, and on 19th Nov. of the same year he was appointed Escheator in the counties of Salop and Stafford and the Marches of Wales, and John de Perton is commanded to deliver up to him all things pertaining to the said office.

On 20th April, 1342, Thomas de Swynnerton, then sheriff of the county of Stafford, Robert Mauveysin, Chivaler, John de Aston, Chivaler, William de Perton, and Ralph Basset of Chedele, were appointed to assess the inhabitants of the said county for 125 sacks, $12\frac{1}{2}$ stone, and $5\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. of wool, as their proportion of the 30,000 sacks of wool granted to the King by the Parliament holden at Westminster; and in the following year he was returned, with Richard de Peshale, as Knight of the Shire for the county of Stafford, to the Parliament summoned to meet at Westminster, 28th April, 17 Edw. III., 1343.

In 19 Edw. III. the sheriff of Staffordshire is ordered, by writ tested at Woodstock, 27th Dec., 1345, to take into the King's hands all the lands, tenements, and goods of Thomas de Swynnerton, on account of various contempts and misdeeds done by him the said Thomas. In the following year, 1346, however, we find him again in the King's favor, and letters of protection were issued for Thomas de Swynnerton while serving in the King's retinue. At the same time similar letters were issued for John de Charnes and John de Bromley while serving in the retinue of Thomas de Swynnerton. By a previous writ Thomas de Swynnerton, Richard de Stafford, and the sheriff of Staffordshire had been ordered to array the men-at-arms of Staffordshire and one hundred and sixty archers; so that Thomas de Swynnerton will have been present at the famous battle of Crecy, in the immediate retinue of the King, where he served as a Knight Banneret; as also at the siege and capture of Calais in 1347. On his return to England he had an appointment at Court; and in the Great Wardrobe Accounts for 21-23 Edw. III., the following entry occurs: "*Domino Thome de Swynerton militi et hostiario aulae Regis pro dicto aula inde faciendis ad festam Omnium Sactorum anno Regis xxi. et Pentecoste anno xxij. xj. pannos radiatos.*" His appointment was probably that of Chamberlain of the King's Court and the articles which he had provided, and for which he received payment were benches for the King's guests at the Feast of All Saints, with curtains to hang behind them to screen them; and at the Whitsun Feast six irradiated, or richly embroidered, cloths, which may have been used for the same purpose.

It was at the close of 1348 that England was visited by that terrible scourge known as the black death, which devastated the country from one end to the other, and is said to have destroyed more than half of the inhabitants. Robert de Swynnerton, the head of the family, was carried off by this fearful plague, which fell with great severity upon the clergy. He died in the year 1349, when his brother Thomas succeeded to the family inheritance. In June of the following year he presented to the Church of Swynnerton, as Sir Thomas de Swynnerton, Knight. In 25 Edw. III. (1351) he acknowledged 40s. of rent from Uselwall which he has received from Sir James de Pype, Knight.

Sir Thomas was engaged in the Scotch War of 1356, in the expedition known as the Burn't Candlemas, in which he was taken prisoner. He remained in cap-

tivity for several months; for in the issue of the Exchequer Roll for Michaelmas, 1357, the following entry occurs under 14th Oct.: To Sir Thomas de Swynnerton, Knight, lately prisoner in the War of Scotland, in money paid to him of the King's gift for his ransom, £100. It would seem, however, that the fortunes of war were not all against him in this campaign, for two years afterwards, namely, in 1359, the King issued a commission to levy a sum of money from some of the Scotch prisoners who had been taken by Thomas de Swynnerton, in order to pay to the said Thomas the price of their redemption. In the meantime, namely, in March, 1357-8, a clerk was admitted to the Church of Swynnerton on the presentation of the Lady Matilda de Swynnerton, who claimed the right of patronage for that turn by reason of holding the third part of the manor of Swynnerton in dower, inasmuch as Sir Thomas de Swynnerton, who holds two parts of the manor, had already presented for two turns.

Soon after his release from the Scotch prison, Thomas de Swynnerton proceeded in the King's service to France; and on 7th July, 1358, Noble Bachelier, Messer Thomas de Swynnerton was the King's proxy to receive the oaths of Philip of France (the Dauphin), Charles Conte de Longueville, and others, as manucaptors of Bonabes de Rouge, Sire de Derval, on his release from the King's prison in London on parole. He seems to have been one of those persons charged with the safe keeping of the King's prisoners at the Savoy. By a writ tested at Westminster on 12th December of the same year, the King's treasurer had orders to make certain payments to the undermentioned persons dwelling in the Savoy, for the safe custody of John of France, namely to Roger de Beauchamp, Thomas de Swynnerton, Simon Basset, and Thomas de Kyngeston, Knights, £10 each; and to other persons lesser sums of various amount, of whom Hugh de Swynnerton was one of those who were to receive a sum of sixty shillings. The French King John had been taken prisoner at the battle of Poitiers and imprisoned in the Savoy in London. There is a standard in the College of Arms which is ascribed to Sir Thomas de Swynnerton, Knight, Hostiarius to King Edw. III., and Lord of Swynnerton in the county of Stafford from 1349 to 1361.

Sir Thomas de Swynnerton died in the month of December, 35 Edw. III. (1361). His wife Matilda was the daughter of Sir Robert de Holand, of Yoxall, co. Stafford, Knight, and sister of Thomas Holand, Earl of Kent, by whom he had an elder son Robert who succeeded him. According to Rawlinson, Chetwynd and Huntbache he had also a younger son William, and a daughter Anne. He certainly had a daughter Anne, who was married first to John le Beysin, of Water Eaton, in the county of Stafford, and of Billingsley, in the county of Salop, and second to Sir Thomas Latymer Bochard, Lord of Braybrook, in the county of Northampton, Knight, whom she also survived and died 17 July, 1402, without surviving issue.

*5. ROBERT DE SWINNERTON, married first Elizabeth, daughter and heir of Sir Nicholas Beck, knight; and second, Joan ——. Child of first marriage Matilda de Swinnerton, who married first Humphrey de Peshale. Child of second marriage Thomas de Swinnerton, married Cicely ——.

Sir Robert de Swynnerton, Knight, succeeded his father in 1361. In 38 Edw. III. 1364, he granted two parts of the manor of Barowe, and of the advowson of

the chapel of that manor, and the reversion of the third part then held in dower by Matilda de Swynnerton, to John Beck, Rector of Checkley, and John Heycock, Chaplain, who in the same year re-granted the same to Sir Robert de Swynnerton and Elizabeth his wife, daughter of Sir Nicholas Beck, Knight, and their lawful issue. We have seen that those of his Staffordshire estates which had formerly belonged to Hugh de Despencer had already been settled in the same way. [Staff. Hist. Col., vol. 7, part 2, page 24-47.]

Sir Robert de Swynnerton, Knight, and Roger de Swynnerton, (probably his brother) were among those who had the King's letters of protection for one year, dated 21st October, 48 Edw. III. (1374), to go to parts beyond the sea, in the King's service, and in the company of John, Duke of Brittany, and Earl of Richmond. In August, 1378, Sir Robert de Swynnerton, Knight, presented a clerk to the Church of Swynnerton; and soon afterwards he was returned as Knight of the shire for the county of Stafford to serve in the Parliament summoned to meet at Gloucester, 20th October, 2 Ric. II. 1378.

Robert de Swynnerton, Chivaler, petitions the King that whereas Ralph, formerly Earl of Chester and Lord of the Forest of la Mare, had granted by charter to Thomas le Despencer and his heirs who were seised of the manors of Barwe in fee simple, which manor is within the said forest, and held of the Duke of Lancaster, that the said manor had descended to Hugh le Despencer as cousin and heir, and which Hugh held the said manor until his forfeiture in the reign of King Edward, grandfather of the King; by reason of which forfeiture the said King being seised of the Earldom of Chester, took the said manor of Barowe into his hand as forfeit to the Crown of England, and afterwards the said King gave the Earldom to his eldest son the Prince of Wales, father of the present King, and the same King gave the said manor to Roger de Swynnerton, Chivaler, grandfather of the said Robert de Swynnerton, for term of his life, and by another charter confirmed to him and to his heirs the said manor, by reason of which charter the said Roger held the manor disafforested all his life; and after the death of Roger, one Robert son and heir of the said Roger held it disafforested; and in the time of Thomas de Ferrers and his fellow Justices en eyre of the said forest of la Mare, the said manor was allowed to the said Robert son of Roger disafforested, as appears by the Rolls of the same Iter; and after the death of Robert son of Roger the said manor descended to Thomas de Swynnerton as his brother and heir, and after the death of the said Thomas the said manor descended to the said Robert Swynnerton who now petitions, as son and heir, and the said Robert held it until the Prince of Wales father to the King took the said manor into his hand on the ground that the said manor pertained to the Earldom of Chester by the King's Charter, and delivered the said manor to the said Robert to be held of the said Prince of Wales and his issue, he therefore petitions the lord the King to grant and confirm the said manor to the said Robert and his heirs to be held disafforested as his ancestors held it. The date is not given.

Sir Robert de Swynnerton is said by Chetwynd to have been killed in 19 Ric. II., by the fall of a tower at Brest in Brittany, being then of the retinue of John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, on his expedition into Spain, a clerical error for 9 Ric. II. (1385-6), in which year John of Gaunt made his expedition into Spain

to recover his wife's inheritance. The Duke's train on this occasion consisted of no less than a thousand spears of knights and esquires, two thousand archers, and a thousand tall yeoman. Having landed in Brittany near the Castle of Brest, he was resisted by the garrison of two of the ports, in the assault of which he lost many of his men; but he ultimately triumphed, and having sailed with his fleet to the Garonne, he marched to the Spanish frontier, and carried the town of Bayonne. The Duke returned to England in November, 1389, and on his way home relieved the town of Brest, which was then besieged by the French.

Sir Robert was twice married. By his first wife Elizabeth, daughter and sole heiress of Sir Nicholas Beck, Knight, Lord of Tene and Hopton, in the county of Stafford, he had an only daughter Matilda, who by virtue of the above mentioned settlements, not only succeeded to her mother's inheritance, consisting of the manors of Hopton and Tene and other lands and tenements in Staffordshire, but also laid claim to those parts of her father's estates which had formerly belonged to Hugh le Despencer in the counties of Stafford and Chester. Sir Robert's first wife was living in 1369, but dead before 1374. After her death he married a second wife, Joan, and had a son Thomas de Swynnerton.

Matilda, the daughter of Sir Robert by his first wife, entered upon her mother's inheritance, and was married first to Humphrey de Peshale, by whom she had a son, Richard de Peshale, her rightful heir. After his death she resided in the house of his grandfather, Sir Richard de Peshale, Lord of Chetwynd, in right of his last wife, from whence she was forcibly abducted by Sir John de Ipstones, Knight, and subsequently married to his son William de Ipstones, by whom she had two daughters Christiana and Alice. She was married third to Sir John Savage, of Clifton, Knight.

Sir John de Ipstones, who perpetrated this deed of violence, died in 1393-4; and as he was killed by a Swynnerton, we may naturally infer that his death was accomplished as an act of vengeance for his treatment of the said Matilda. Being Knight of the Shire for the county of Stafford at that time, Sir John was waylaid on his way to attend the Parliament which had been summoned to meet at Westminster in January of that year, and slain by Roger de Swynnerton, Matilda's uncle. At the same Parliament, in February, it was ordered at the request of the Commons, that one Roger Swynnerton, who is indicted for the death of John de Ipstones, Knight, of this Parliament, slain while coming to the same Parliament from the county of Stafford, should not be released from the prison in which he is now detained, by bail, mainprise, or in any other manner, until he has answered the said charge and legally obtained his release.

Sir William de Ipstones, Knight, the second husband of Matilda de Swynnerton, which William de Ipstones was twenty-one years of age in February, 1394, died in October, 1399, leaving issue by the said Matilda two daughters his heirs, of whom Alice, the survivor of them, was afterwards married to Randle Brereton, Esq., younger son of Sir William Brereton, of Brereton, co. Cest., Knight, to whom she brought the Ipstones estates. By Sir John Savage, of Clifton, Knight, her third husband, Matilda had issue John Savage, William, Arnold, George, and Roger, and two daughters, Margaret, wife of John Dutton, and Maude wife of Sir Thomas Booth, of Barton, in Lancashire. The lands which she inherited

were the cause of much litigation, not only in her time, but also to those who came after her. Eventually, however, the manors of Hopton, a moiety of Tene, Caldou, and a third of Alstonfield, came to her eldest son Richard de Peshale, and from him to the Blounts and Lacons. But the other moiety of Tene in Staffordshire, and her interest in the manor of Barrow in Cheshire, were retained by the Savages, and so devolved upon her son Sir John Savage, Knight.

*6. THOMAS DE SWYNNERTON, married Cicely. Child:—*1. William de Swynnerton, married Elena —.

In the meantime Thomas de Swynnerton, undoubted Lord of Swynnerton, the half-brother of Matilda, and rightful son and heir of Sir Robert, did not quietly acquiesce in the alienation of so great a portion of his inheritance. On his father's death, he entered upon the manor of Barrow, and on the 4th July, 1396, John de Macklesfeld, Clerk, was admitted to the Rectory of Barrow on the presentation of Thomas de Swynnerton. In the same year, 19 Ric. II., he was challenged by William de Ipstones and Matilda his wife (calling herself the daughter and heir of Sir Robert de Swynnerton and Elizabeth his wife), who sued him for it. The suit, which was maintained for several years, was apparently taken up again more than a hundred and fifty years later, and ended in a compromise. The main facts are best shown by the record preserved in the Chester Recognizance Roll of 3 and 4 Edw. VI., and the inquisition taken at Chester on the last day of May, 4 Edw. VI. (1550). It begins with an *inspeximus* of the record and pleas taken before Thomas Earl Marshal and Notynggham, lately Justice of Chester, on Tuesday after Michaelmas, 20 Ric. II. [Staff. Hist. Col., vol. 7, part 2, page 47-52.]

William de Ipstones and Matilda his wife sued Thomas son of Robert de Swynnerton for the manor of Great Barwe, which John de Beck, Parson of the Church of Cheklegh, and John Heycok, Chaplain, gave to Robert de Swynnerton, Knight, and Elizabeth his wife, daughter of Nicholas de Beck, Knight, and the heirs of their bodies, and which after the death of the said Robert de Swynnerton, Knight, and Elizabeth, should descend according to the form of the gift to the said Matilda daughter and heir of Robert and Elizabeth. Thomas de Swynnerton stated that, as regards the third part of the manor, he is not the tenant, nor was tenant at the date when the writ was issued, because one Joan, the widow of Robert de Swynnerton, Knight, held it as dower; and as regards the other two parts of the manor, he stated that King Edward, grandfather of the present King, by his letters patent had given the manor, together with the knight's fee and advowsons of churches and chapels, to one Roger de Swynnerton his great grandfather, whose heir he is viz. son of Robert, son of Thomas, son of the said Roger, to hold for life of the said Roger; and afterwards by other letters patent the same King had given the manor to the aforesaid Roger, to be held of the King himself by Roger and his heirs for ever; and the present King had confirmed and ratified the grant to Robert father of Thomas in the second year of his reign. He proffers the King's patent, dated at Westminster, 13th December, 2 Ric. II. (1378), and sought the King's assistance in maintaining his right to the manor, pleading that he could not answer to the writ without the King. William and Matilda stated that at the date the writ was issued, viz., 16th Feb., 19 Ric.

II. (1396), Thomas was tenant of the whole manor. The suit was adjourned to the Vigil of St. Lucy the Virgin next coming. And at the next hearing William and Matilda produced a close writ from the King dated 12th November, 20 Ric. II. (1396) permitting the suit to proceed. In 22 Ric. II. a precept from the King orders Thomas to deliver up the manor to William and Matilda, dated 14th May (1399). This appears, however, to have had no effect, for the suit continues, as stated by the plaintiffs, Thomas attempting to defeat the claim by every sort of artifice and chicanery.

In 6 Hen. IV. (1404-5) Thomas son of Sir Robert de Swynnerton and John Savage entered into mutual recognizances, with many sureties, in 1,000 marks each. This was doubtless in relation to the same suit. In 7 Hen. IV., a rebellion, headed by the Earl of Northumberland, took place, in the course of which the Earl was slain at the battle of Bramham Moor on 27th Feb. 1407-8. During that month his Staffordshire confederates, under the direction of Hugh de Erdeswyk and Thomas de Swynnerton, made an attack upon Newcastle-under-Lyme, which was held for the King by John Blount, the then Steward and Constable of the manor and castle. The Mayor of the town was suspected of having favored the assailants, and he afterwards declined to investigate the outrage on behalf of the government, pretending—perhaps justly—his own danger. The confederates pursued the unfortunate Steward to Lichfield, where he barely escaped with his life; afterwards they returned to Newcastle with the intention of killing one of the principal persons there, John Boghav, who had dared to present them to the court leet of the manor.

In the Parliament assembled at Westminster in February 11 Hen. IV., (1409-10) a petition was laid before the King by the Commons of the realm concerning divers trespasses, misprisions, and felonies committed in the counties of Stafford and Derby, in which, amongst many other complaints, a charge was laid against Hugh de Erdeswyk and Thomas de Swynnerton that they had made sundry disturbances of the King's peace, and on 10th February, 9 Hen. IV. (1407-8), had broken down the house of one of the tenants of the Duchy of Newcastle-under-Lyme, and thrown her goods out of the house, which had been proved against them at an inquisition held at Newcastle before Robert de Waterton, Chief Seneschal of the Duchy north of the Trent, on 20th October of the same year. A similar complaint was made against Robert Swynnerton and others, to the effect that John Myners and William his brother, of the company of Hugh de Erdeswyk, and the said Robert Swynnerton came on the 12th of January in the following year, 1408-9, armed, and with other people, to Stafford, and found there two Receivers of Needwood Chace, namely, John Gardyner, Receiver of Yoxhalewarde, and John Hoppekyn, Receiver of Barton-warde, and another tenant of the said Duchy named Richard Palmer, whom they beat and would have killed had not they well defended themselves. It is ordered that a brief be directed to the sheriff of Stafford returnable at the King's Bench on the Quinzaine of Trinity next coming to take the bodies of the said Hugh de Erdeswyk, Thomas de Swynnerton, and others, among whom the name of Robert de Swynnerton is not mentioned, if they can be found, and cause them to appear at the said Bench, each one to answer for himself and submit to the award of the Justices.

He died soon after this; and on 26th June, 1411, Hugh de Rosyndale, Chaplain, was instituted to the Rectory of Barrow on the presentation of John Savage, Lord of that vill. Cicely, who was the wife of Thomas, son of Robert de Swynnerton, died about 15 Hen. VI. The writ of diem clausit extremum was issued 29th May, 1436, but the inquisition is unfortunately missing. Thomas de Swynnerton was succeeded at Swynnerton by his son William de Swynnerton.

Chetwynd and other Staffordshire antiquaries assert that Sir Robert de Swynnerton, the father of Matilda, left an only daughter and heir Matilda, who inherited as before shown, and that he was succeeded at Swynnerton by his heir male, Humphrey the son of his second brother William; and such of the pedigrees as give the later descents of the Swynnertons of Swynnerton usually insert here a repetition of the names of William and Humphrey, in order to make up the full number of descents. This is only conjecture. There can be no doubt that Sir Robert was immediately succeeded at Swynnerton by his son Thomas. We know too upon good authority that Humphrey son of William had succeeded in 1429, and was then in his minority; and that William was the son of Thomas and grandson of Sir Robert, rather than Sir Robert's brother. Otherwise his great-great-grandson Humphrey de Swynnerton, the Lord of Swynnerton in 1550, could have had no pretext for claiming any right of inheritance to Barrow, which was given to Sir Roger, the Baron, and his right heirs; and if Sir Robert left no other surviving issue, the descendants of his daughter Matilda would have been unquestionably his heirs in preference to those of his supposed brother William.

*7. WILLIAM DE SWYNNERTON, married Elena, daughter of Trumwyn. Child:—*1. Humphrey de Swynnerton, married Anna, daughter of Thomas Swynnerton of Hilton.

William de Swynnerton succeeded in his own person to the Swynnerton estate, for Chetwynd himself tells us that in his time there was on the north side of the Chapel, in Swynnerton Church, a raised monument of alabaster, on which were graven the figures of a man and woman, with this inscription: Here lies William Swynnerton at one time lord of Swinerton, an armiger, and Elena his wife, who have departed the third day of September 1431, for whose spirits God is appeased. Amen. There is an old drawing of this monument preserved in the William Salt Library at Stafford, but probably taken at a somewhat later date, for the month (September) is not given in this drawing, though the dates are otherwise the same. The figure of the man is in plain armour and between him and the female by his side is the figure of an infant (son). There are two shields of arms on the monument, that over the man being the simple cross flory, for Swynnerton, and that over the woman a saltire engrailed, which were the arms of Trumwyn. Unfortunately what remains of the legend is now so defaced as to leave nothing legible but the words, Once Lord of Swynerton, armiger, and Elena his wife who died. . . Notwithstanding the agreement of the transcribers in the dates they give, they have made a mistake in predicating the year as being that of the death of both of them, for in May, 1429, Ann, Countess of Stafford, presented a Clerk to Swynnerton Church by reason of the minority of Humphrey, the son and heir of William Swynnerton lately deceased. [Staff. Hist. Col., vol. 7, part 2, page 53.]

The Lichfield Register gives the record thus: The year of our Lord 1429, also at Heywode, the 28th day of May, in the above mentioned year of our Lord, Lord Peter Watlington the Chaplain, had been admitted to the parochial Church of Swynerton which is vacant through the death of John Coumbe, the last Rector of the same, and he has been established as Rector with his own rights and universal appurtenances for presentation by the noble and venerable Lady, Lady Anne, Countess of Stafford, Bukynghamie, Hereford, Northampton, and Lord Brecheine, for the same church, by reason of the minor age of Humphrey son and heir of William Swynerton, lately relieved of office (in his own existent power) by this vice patron. Also when the same was established he swore obedience and was trusted from that time by the Archdeacon, or for inducing the same one of his office. The Countess of Stafford again presented to the Church 22nd, November 1429.

*8. HUMPHREY DE SWYNNERTON, married Anna, daughter and co-heir of Thomas Swynnerton of Hilton. Children:—*1. Helen de Swinnerton, who married first John Delves and second Humphrey de Pershall, son of Sir Hugh. *2. Humphrey Swynnerton, who married Joan. *3. John Swynnerton, who married More or Moode. *4. William Swynnerton. *5. Roger Swynnerton. *6. Anna Swinnerton, who married Humphrey Persal of Ranton.

Humphrey Swynnerton, Esq., Lord of Swynnerton, himself presented a Rector in 1453, who was admitted 24th April of that year. From 7th November, 1457, to 7 November, 1458, he occurs as King's Escheator for the county of Stafford. And in 1459 he again presented a clerk to the Church of Swynnerton. On 5 October, 39 Hen. VI., 1460, John Birmingham, son of Sir William Birmingham, Knight, grants a lease for one hundred and one years of certain parcels of land to Humphrey Swynnerton, Esq. Though unsuccessful in recovering the ancient family estates, he greatly added to his wealth and position by his marriage with Anna, the eldest daughter and coheiress of Thomas Swynnerton of Hilton, in the county of Stafford, Esq., hereditary Chief Forester of Cannock, by whom he had a son and heir, Humphrey, who succeeded him.

The said Humphrey Swynnerton, the father, was dead before 14th February, 1463, when Anna, late his wife, gave her consent to the institution of a clerk to Swynnerton Church on a presentation made by John Wode of Kele and Elen his wife in right of the said Elen. His widow Anna remarried to John Mitton, of Weston-under-Lizard, Esq., by whom she left issue, and died 27th March, 1470, when her eldest son, Humphrey Swynnerton, was found to be upwards of seventeen years of age. They had a younger son, John Swynnerton, and I think also a son William, and another son Roger, who is said to have had twenty-four children; and a daughter Anne who married Humphrey Persall of Ranton, and a daughter Helen who married second Humphrey Pershall of Horsley.