

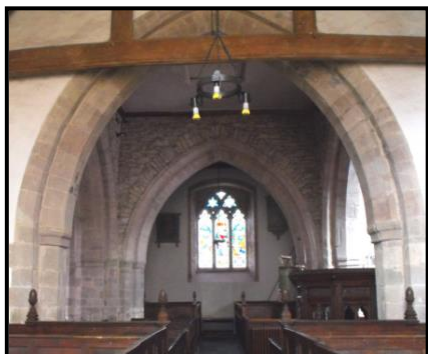
The Rev. Christopher Swainson
BA MA (1775-1854)

Born: Preston 12 July 1775
Died: Wistanstow 1 February

The Rev. Edward Christopher Swainson
BA MA (1810-1874)

Born: Preston 20 June 1810
Died: Wistanstow 27 February 1874

The Swainson Family



1. Introduction

The Swainson family held the living of Holy Trinity at Wistanstow for three generations; Christopher from March 1816 to his death in 1854, Edward Christopher from 1855 to his death in 1874 and John Grandorge from 1874 to 1909 when he was succeeded by William Henry La Touche. Christopher and Edward Christopher Swainson were both members of the Ludlow Natural History Society and donors of fossils to the Museum.

Holy Trinity Wistanstow Photograph: C. P. Canfield

Christopher Swainson was born in Preston on the 12th July 1775 to John and Susannah Swainson. His grandfather was the Reverend Christopher Swainson, vicar of Giggleswick and rector of Staveley in Yorkshire, his brother the Rev. Anthony Swainson (1742-1784) was vicar of St Michael's-on-Wyre. Christopher Swainson was nominated to a Manchester School exhibition in 1793 and was admitted a member of St John's College, Cambridge. He left Cambridge in 1795 and entered Worcester College, Oxford where he took his BA in 1797 and his MA in 1799. He was ordained deacon in 1800 and priest in 1801 by Dr F. H. W. Cornwall, Bishop of Bristol. After leaving college he became tutor to the sons of the second Lord Clive, the future Earl of Powis, and accompanied his pupils to Eton – there were family links to the Clives. He became vicar of Hawkesbury in Gloucestershire in 1802 but was then 'presented to the vicarage of Clun by Powis' becoming the incumbent in 1805. A possible move to Ireland as chaplain to Powis fell through but he then took a prebendal stall at Hereford Cathedral in 1808. Having sold the advowson of the family living at St Michael's-on-Wyre he was offered the crown living in Lutterworth but exchanged this in 1816 with the rector of Wistanstow thus initiating the Swainson reign in this parish.

An intimate, the Rev. Christopher Bird, rector of Chollerton, Northumberland stated that:

"His character was shy and retiring. The qualities of his heart were far more estimable and distinguished than the acquirements of his head, yet he was a sound and accurate scholar, and did honour to the school in which he was educated and valuable service to the pupils at Eton who were intrusted to his care. He was far from doing justice to himself. His attainments, both intellectual and moral, were much higher than his own claim upon others, or his estimate of himself. By those who knew him well he was esteemed a person of sound judgment, good acquirements, and both in principle and practice a sincere Christian, but, not having those demonstrative talents which the world loves and admires, his worth will only be seen when the secrets of all hearts shall be open."

Christopher Swainson married Elisabeth Lowe, daughter and heiress to Thomas Lowe MD of Preston on the 31st August 1809. He died on the 19 December 1854 and was followed by his wife two days later. They were buried together at Holy Trinity on the 21st December. The couple had two sons, Edward Christopher (1810-1874) and Charles Lowe (1813-1895) – Charles Lowe is listed as a landowner/gentleman in the 1881/1891 census.

Edward Christopher Swainson was born at Preston on the 20th June 1810. He was also educated at Worcester College where he matriculated in 1828 and gained his BA in 1832 and his MA in 1843. He was a student of Lincoln's Inn in 1833. He became rector at Wistanstow on his father's death in 1854. Edward Christopher married firstly Alice Miller at Poulton-le-Fylde in Lancashire, she died at Wistanstow in 1835, and secondly married Harriet Rocke, daughter of the Reverend John Rocke at Clungunford in 1838. They had three children:

Harriet Alice Lister Swainson (1840-1875) who married the Reverend Charles Granville Gupp in 1872, He was a schoolmaster from 1864 to 1887, then vicar of Badsey, Evesham and finally rector of Wood Norton;

The Reverend John Grandorge Swainson (1842-1909), the third Swainson at Wistanstow – see below;

Captain Edward Augustin Swainson (1844-1909) was born in France. He married Marion Frederica Eliza Miller in 1882 and retired to Brecon as a captain of the 87th Fusiliers.

John Grandorge Swainson was born at Clun the 18th August 1842. He also took his MA at Oxford and held curacies in London 1866-1872 prior to taking up the position of curate at Wistanstow. He then replaced his father as rector at Wistanstow in 1874. He died in December 1909 and was succeeded by William Martin Dignes la Touche the following year. John Grandorge died unmarried.

2. The Swainsons as Fossil Hunters

All three Swainsons were members of the Ludlow Natural History Society but only Christopher and Edward are recorded as donors of fossils to the Society's Museum. Listed below are brief details of the fossils donated as given in the 1928 La Touche catalogue, some of these are multiple specimens.

The Rev. C. E. Swainson

Silurian

| | | |
|---------|---|----------------------|
| *D/c/53 | Spirifer (Eospirifer plicatellus) Sow. | ? |
| D/d/25 | (Protaster) Furcaster leptosoma Salter | ? |
| D/f/12 | (Rhynchonella) Dayia navicula Sow. | Road to Wenlock Edge |
| D/c/53 | Spirifer (Eospirifer) plicatellus Sow. | ? |
| D/c/59 | Atrypa marginalis Dalm. | ? |
| D/c/62 | (Rynchonella) Rhyncotrata borealis Schloth. | ? |
| D/c/80 | Calymene blumenbachi Brongn. | ? |
| D/d/24 | (Protaster) Furcaster leptosoma Salter | ? |
| D/e/31 | (Rynchonella) Meristina didyna Dalm. | ? |
| D/f/12 | (Rynchonella) Dayia navicula Sow. | Road to Wenlock Edge |

* This specimen remains at Ludlow as G.00128 in the Norton Catalogue.

The Rev. E. C. Swainson

Ordovician

| | | |
|--------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| C/c/79 | Phacops (Acaste) apiculatus Salter | Cheney Longville Silurian |
| D/b/50 | Calymene tuberculosa Salter | Burrington |
| D/b/58 | Phacops (Odontochile) caudatus Brunn. | Burrington |

D/b/60 Phacops (Odontochile) longicaudatus Murch. Onny River
D/c/3 (Stromatopora) Clathrodictyon striatellum D'Orb. ?
D/c/45 Strophomena depressa Dalm. = Leptaena rhomboidalis Wilck. ?

Specimens still held at Ludlow:

G. 00134-138 Leptaena depressa ?

Dr J. A. Gosling
July 2018

Sources

Alumni oxoniensis 1715-1886 archive.org/details/alumnioksienses

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Foster J (1888) *Alumni Oxoniensis 1715-1886* Parker and Co., Broad Street, Oxford.

Finch Smith J (1868) *The Admission Record of Manchester School with some notices of more distinguished scholars*, Chetham Society.

La Touche T H D (1928) *Catalogue of the Palaeozoic Fossils in the Museum of the Ludlow Natural History Society* Typescript, Ludlow Museum Resource Centre.

The Register of Wistanstow www.Melocki.org.uk

Findmypast findmypast.co.uk

Appendix 1: The Swainson Family

John/Mary Swainson

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Rev. Christopher Swainson m. Elizabeth Lister *Giggleswick* 19.12.1736
1714-1755 !715-
d. 26.02.1755

Vicar of Giggleswick – Rector of Staveley Yorks

|

Rev. Anthony Swainson
1742-1784
c. 23.11.1742 *Goosnargh*
d. 07.06.1784
bd *St Michael on Wyre* 1785

|

John Swainson
1746-
c. 05.12.1746 *Goosnargh*
|
m. Susannah Inman *Lancaster* 16.08.1774
|
Rev. Christopher Swainson
1775-1854
b. 12.07.1775, c. 20.07.1775 *Preston*
d 19.02.1854, bd 27.12.1854 *Wistanstow*
|
m. Elizabeth Low *Preston* 31.08.1809
1783-1854
c. 24.04.1783 *Preston*
bd 27.12.1854 *Wistanstow*

|

|

Rev. Edward Christopher Swainson
1810-1874
c. 20.06.1810 *Preston*
d. 27.02.1874
bd 04.03.1874 *Wistanstow*
|
m. Alice Miller *Poulton le Fylde* 03.03.1833
1811-1835 bd 14.02.1835 *Wistanstow*
m. Harriet Rocke *Clungunford* 25.10.1838
1815-1871
c. 03.04.1815 *Clungunford*
bd. 29.11.1871 *Wistanstow*

|

Charles Lowe Swainson
1813-1895
c. 23.05 1813 *Preston*
d. 09.07.1895 *Manchester*
|
m. Elizabeth Sarah Bradley
St Pancras 1858

|

|

Harriet
Alice Lister
1840-1875
c. 03.08.1840 *Clun*
d. *Wistanstow*
|
m. *Wistanstow* 16.01.1872
28.12.1882
Rev. Charles Granville Gepp
1844-1903

|

Rev. John
Grandorge
1842-1909
c. 04.09.1842 *Clun*
d. *Conway*

|

Edward
Augustin
1844-1909
b. *Tours*
d. *Southampton*
|
m. *Folkestone*

Marion Frederica Eliza Miller
1860-1912
d. *Southampton*