



SEVEN SWANS – a – PAINTING

*The story of E W Swann and his family
from Public Records.*

By Paul and Pat Tubb

We had no idea of the journey ahead of us when Neville Maguire suggested that we might like to look into the life of E W Swann, the painter of the Bird Dejeuner set for Belleek. After all, neither Neville nor ourselves knew at that time what the E and W stood for in his name and we were unsure whether he was originally from England or from Ireland or indeed from anywhere else. Neville thought that he might be part of a family of pottery painters operating in the Staffordshire potteries in the 1860s. We had raised with him the possibility that he was one of the bearers at Gallimore's funeral in Trenton, New Jersey in 1900 so his spending some time in the USA was also a possibility.



E W Swann's dejeuner set (signed on the tray), probably commissioned by Armstrong. Now in the National Museum of Ireland

Our starting point was, as always, the 1861 census of England which is the closest in time to the foundation of the Belleek pottery and also to the time when it is thought that men from Stoke on Trent were persuaded to go to Belleek from 1863 onwards. Our first trawl revealed no one with the initials E W, whether the Swann was spelt with one 'n' or two. We tried a few possible names beginning with E – Edward, Edmund, Edgar, Enoch etc – but still no clear candidate appeared although there was an Edward J Swann indexed who looked promising. We cast the net wider to include other pottery areas such as Derby, Llanelli etc but with no better success.

So we went back to the Edward J who turned out to be the eldest son of a family with seven other children. He and his father, John, were listed in the census as china flower painters. The next son, Ebenezer, was stated to be a china landscape painter and the next, Charles, is listed as an apprentice china holloware presser. The remaining five children, four girls and one boy, were either at school or too young so to be. The family, who were obviously heavily into pottery work and, in particular, painting, were then living in Penkhull New Road, Stoke upon Trent.

Penkhull New Road, Stoke upon Trent



This was supported further by the 1851 census return which has John listed as a painter living with his wife, Ellenor, and the three eldest boys at Greville Street, Hanley. En- passant we should note that just 9 doors away in Greville Street lived Elizabeth Stevenson, who was later to become the wife of William Wood Gallimore, with her family[1]. Ellenor is again shown to have been born at Welshpool in Montgomeryshire but, as in the 1861 census, there is no sign of Ebenezer having the second initial W. However, with his age as given in both censuses pointing to a birth in 1844 or 1845 we searched for his birth certificate and found Ebenezer Williams Swann born on June 30th 1844 at Greville Street, Hanley to John and Ellenor Swann. Just as William Wood Gallimore and William Blackwell Henshall were given their mother's maiden names as a second forename so, too, Ebenezer has the name Williams from his mother.

It was at this point in our researches that we informed Neville of what we had discovered and he was kind enough to refer to this article in his inspirational book "Belleek in Context" as one to be published in the future[2]. So we had to go on, only to discover that neither Edward John nor Ebenezer Williams appear in any other census of England. Charles appears in 1871, 1881 and 1891 and consistently remains a china presser in each successive census with his wife Mary, nee Taylor, who he married in 1866. They eventually had four daughters and one son.

John Swann and Ellenor Williams had married in Derby on October 18th 1840, which gives rise to the possibility that he had been doing some decorative work for the Derby porcelain works. Jacqueline Smith, the Curator of the Derby Museum, tells us that the complete employee records from this period are not known but her search of the reference books covering this period did not reveal any reference to a man named Swann. We are grateful to Jacqueline for her response to our request.

Ellenor is noted as a milliner but her father, David, and John's father, Ebenezer, as well as John himself are listed as 'Painters'. John and Ellenor are back in Stoke on Trent at the time of the 1841 census and I cannot say for how long John may have been working in Derby. The marriage certificate certainly identifies two generations of the Swann family as painters and our Ebenezer may well have been named for his grandfather.

The father, John, is recorded in 1871 with a new young wife Ann, nee Baddeley, who he had married at the parish church of Dresden, Staffordshire on December 19th 1870. John is included in the 1891 and 1901 census returns but only Ann and the children are recorded in 1881. With Ann, John had a further three children, thus making eleven in all, but the three eldest boys and their younger brother, Frederick, never seem to live with the new wife after their mother's death in 1866. Frederick, indeed, like his two oldest brothers disappears from the UK census returns after 1861.

The two eldest boys are not lost to the English public records completely as Edward John married Emily Lea in the summer of 1861 and they had three children all born in Stoke on Trent, Edward Stephen born 1861, Annie Emily born in 1863 and Mary Louisa born in 1864. Emily and the three children are living with her father, Samuel Lea, in High Street, Fenton, at the time of the 1871 census but there is no sign of Edward John. However, Emily does not style herself 'widow' but 'married' in the census so Edward was probably alive somewhere.

Ebenezer Williams Swann married Elizabeth Yoxall at the Wesleyan Chapel, Burslem on July 1st 1866 – his mother, Eleanor, died just four days later after two days of diarrhoea – but I have not been able to identify any children to this marriage. On the marriage certificate he is described as a 21 year old Landscape Painter living in Penkhull New Road, Stoke upon Trent and the registrar spells his name as Swan. His father, John, also with just one ‘n’ is noted as a Flower Painter. As for Elizabeth, the marriage certificate says she is of full age, probably because she was older than him, and a dressmaker of Lyndhurst Street, Burslem. How they met, living so far apart, is not, of course, recorded but might indicate that at some time Ebenezer had been employed in one of the Burslem potteries. Interestingly, Elizabeth’s father, Peter Yoxall, is described as a Gentleman, although in the 1861 census he is a Publican in Wharf Street, Shelton. Elizabeth, like her father and siblings, had been born in Middlewich, Cheshire but has no employment listed in the census return.

Elizabeth herself died at 22 Penkhull New Road on August 30th 1870 and is described on her death certificate as the wife of Ebenezer Williams Swann, a china painter. The cause of death is given as inflammation of the lungs, which probably indicates tuberculosis. It could be, too, that the debilitation that accompanies this disease was a factor in their not having any children and in her not having any noted employment in the 1861 census return. Her death occurs a bare seven months before the 1871 census was taken on April 2nd that year but, by then, Ebenezer has disappeared from England, which would seem to support the contention that there were no children to the marriage. His painting of the Belleek ‘Bird Dejeuner Set’ probably indicates that he had travelled over to Belleek at some time during these seven months.

Why he went to Belleek remains a mystery. There were, of course, a number of Staffordshire workers who had gone there and word may have got to Ebenezer that, by following them, he could put enough miles between himself and the sorrow surrounding his wife’s death to help him get over it. Two of his brothers, Edward and Frederick, were, by this time, working on Cape Cod in Massachusetts but America may have seemed too far. There may have been another reason because, quite soon after Elizabeth’s death, Ebenezer married again to an Eliza Guest and with her had a son, John James, who was born at Belleek on June 21st 1872[3]. We must record our thanks to Frank Roofe of Enniskillen who found the birth reference for us.

Superintendent Registrar's District		Registrar's District								
Ballyhamon		Belleek								
1872 Births Registered in the District of Belleek in the Union of Ballyhamon in the										
County of Linnagh										
No.	Date and Place of Birth.	Name (if any).	Sex.	Name and Surname and Dwelling Place of Father.	Name and Surname and Maiden Surname of Mother.	Rank or Profession of Father.	Signature, Qualification, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.	Baptismal Name, if added after Registration of Birth, and Date.
72	Twenty 17th June 1872 Belleek	John James	M	Ebenezer Williams Swann Belleek	Eliza Swann formerly Guest	Flower Painter	C. W. Swann Father Belleek	Twenty fifth June 1872	William Swann Registrar	

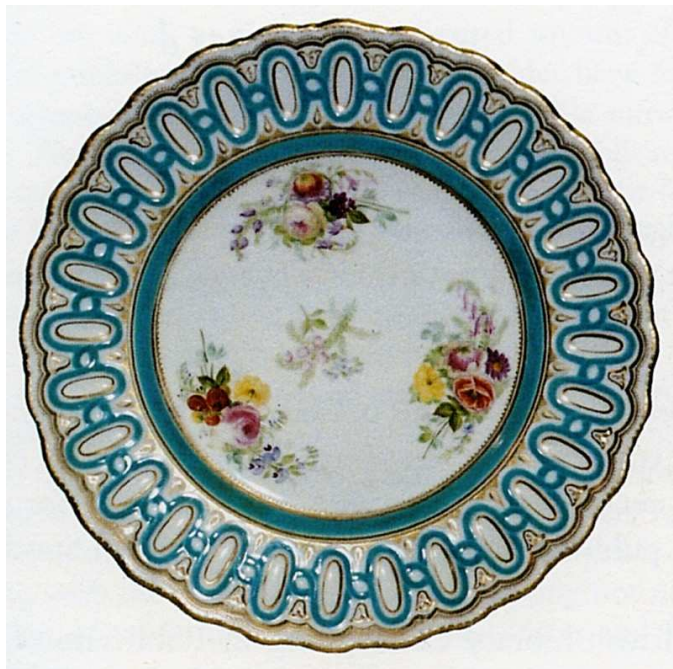
The birth certificate gives Ebenezer’s full name, with the Williams and a double N, and lists his profession as Flower Painter and his abode as Belleek. Eliza came from a Staffordshire pottery family but had spent some of her childhood at Wareham in Dorset where her father and elder brother worked in the Sandford Pottery. According to the 1861 census of Wareham she had been born in Stoke on Trent in 1852 so was only 20 when her son was born in Belleek.

The next event we know with certainty is the birth of a second child, another son who they called Ebenezer Williams, on January 8th 1874 at 52 Spring Road, Longton. Once again Ebenezer is given his full name on the certificate, with the Williams and double N, and is described as a ‘Potters Painter and Gilder’. Given these events we can, possibly, place the painting of the ‘Bird Dejeuner Set’ as happening between August 1870 and January 1874 and, with a certain amount of awareness of the circumstances of Ebenezer’s life, probably a rather narrower time span in fact.

The Bungalow which now occupies the site of 52 Spring Road, Longton where Ebenezer's second son, Ebenezer, was born and from where they emigrated to America in 1874.



The possibility remains, however, that Ebenezer may have gone to Belleek earlier. There is no evidence of this in the public records but prior to and after his marriage in 1866 and before Elizabeth's death in 1870 we have no knowledge of his whereabouts nor of his professional life.



Vega Wilkinson, in her study of Spode and Copeland Spode [4] notes:

“SWAN - Floral artists recorded from 1858 to 1872 as Swan, Swan Senior, Swan Junior, Swan's Boys and Swan & Co. It would seem that father and sons worked together at Copelands throughout this time painting delicate floral studies and small groups of flowers on the D pattern number series from 1308 to 1720.”

As we have seen, Ebenezer is not the only son in the industry so may or may not be included within 'Swan's Boys' or 'Swan & Co' throughout this period. The eldest son, Edward John, had left for America in 1866, possibly with Frederick, so that Ebenezer may have been the only one of 'the boys' still painting for Copeland in the last few years referred to by Vega Wilkinson.

Copeland bone china dessert plate, c.1860, pattern no D1718, painted by Swan

Later in this article we will investigate the evidence from Edward's second wife suggesting the family also did work for Minton and, possibly, Wedgwood so that they may actually have been an independent group to whom various pottery companies outsourced decorating work rather than being directly employed in the factories of these famous companies.

Ebenezer and Eliza had returned to England from Belleek prior to the son, Ebenezer's, birth and they never returned to Belleek because the next event in their lives which can be identified is the birth of a third child, a daughter Ellenor, in 1875. This occurred in Massachusetts as recorded in the 1880 United States Census wherein the family were recorded as living at 87 Adelphi Street, Brooklyn, Kings County, New York and also had further children, Frederick C born in New Jersey in 1878 and Samuel H born in Brooklyn in 1879. Living with them, too, was Ebenezer's mother in law, Elizabeth Guest, and she, like Ebenezer, is working as a decorator.

My contact, Nan Brennan in Chicago, told us that there is mention in the shipping registers on line at ancestry.com of an E W Swan arriving in Boston aboard the ship 'Marathon' from Liverpool on December 4th 1873 but, given the proximity to the date of his son's birth it is doubtful that this is our Ebenezer. There is no other distinguishing information and the description of him as a labourer seems unlikely for a man who has always described himself as a painter. However an arrival at Boston rather than New York is likely as his two



brothers were at work in Sandwich on Cape Cod, not far from Boston, and it could be that he went to look over the prospects there.

Ebenezer's eldest brother, Edward John, had emigrated to America in 1866, following the mother's death, and it seems that Frederick, the fourth child and third son, may have gone with him. In volume 4 of 'The Glass Industry in Sandwich', authors Raymond E Barlow and Joan E Kaiser state that at first Edward worked as a decorator of glass and porcelain for a New York company but moved with his family to Sandwich in November 1872 arriving there on the day of the great fire in Boston. Frederick settled in Trenton and became a partner in a decorating house named Swan, Tatler and Company which decorated lamps and shades.

Edward J Swann, Ebenezer's older brother

The Tatler name is of particular importance in the history of glass and ceramic decoration in Trenton NJ so that Frederick's partnership with Tatler and Edward's prowess with the Boston-Sandwich Glass Company indicate that this family of Staffordshire decorators quickly became established among the leading names in the industry in the North East of the United States.

Examples of the decorative work of Edward J Swann on a lamp and water colour painting

Barlow and Kaiser tell of Edward being:

"a strong, full-bearded man who became a leading citizen of the town of Sandwich and was highly respected as the head of the decorating department" (of the Boston-Sandwich Glass Company).

They go on to record that he was:

"an artist capable of working on many things other than glass. This bear of a man was capable of painting designs with delicate detail." [5]



We must at this point record our thanks and appreciation to Joan E Kaiser who responded immediately to our telephone call for information and sent us, not only a copy of the chapter from her and Raymond Barlow's book which is quoted above, but also other articles she has written about Edward John Swann and, in particular, a copy of the letter written by Lena J Swann, Edward's second wife, to her children which recounts the life story of their father. The value of such immediate source material to any historian is incalculable and we feel privileged to have seen it and be able to refer to it in this article. It is in this letter that Lena tells her children that their father *"entered the large concern of "Minton's China Works", and later some other places - working at one time at "Wedgewards" (sic), where the finest china is made"* [6].

In the same letter Lena makes reference to Edward's father, John, being in Sandwich for a time in the eighties. This would explain John's absence from the 1881 census return in England, as referred to earlier, but the letter also gives further insight into the calibre of work done by both father and son. Lena states:

"His father at one time painted vases for Tiffany's in New York for which they received \$600.00 a piece. E.J.S. was considered the finest china painter in America, after he had been here for some years, except one man, and that was his father, who was in this country about two years (along towards the eighties) then he went back to England."

Lena's letter also clears up another matter referred to above by telling us that:

"His mother had died just before he came over, and that was a great blow to him, as he loved her dearly. His wife and three small children were in N. Y. living on Staten Island, until her mother died and she went back to care for her father until his death."

This, then, explains her presence with her father and her children in the 1871 census. Her mother, Prudence, had died in the summer of 1867, barely a year after they had set out for America and her father died in the summer of 1873 when, presumably, she then returned to Edward in Sandwich with their three children.

However, the burden of our current story is not Edward but his younger brother Ebenezer who, whether he went over to Sandwich in December 1873 or not, was certainly in Massachusetts in 1875 when his daughter, Ellenor, was born there. We can surmise that, given the family connection, the birth was probably in Sandwich but we have no documentary evidence of this. The family did not stay long in Sandwich because when the next child, Frederick, was born in 1878 they were in New Jersey and Ebenezer first appears in the Trenton Trade Directory in 1876 and 1877 [8]. The final child, Samuel, was born in Brooklyn NY in 1879. The family, as noted earlier, were living at 87 Adelphi Street, Brooklyn at the time of the 1880 American census so that this may be where young Samuel was born.

Like his brothers before him, Ebenezer would have used his talents as an artist in each of these locations and probably on a variety of mediums. Within ten years of his first wife's death he had moved from Stoke on Trent to Belleek, back to Longton and then on to the USA firstly Massachusetts then New Jersey and New York. He took American citizenship in the County Court of Kings County, New York on October 20th 1881 and the Brooklyn City Directories of 1888-1890 list him as a Lamp Manufacturer and give his addresses as 146 Grand Avenue and 112 Ryerson, one of which would be commercial premises the other residential [7]. Our thanks to another of our contacts in the genealogy field, Faith Ann Dressler of Florida, for these details of the stay in Brooklyn.

At some time between 1890 and 1891 Ebenezer and his family made a final and permanent move to Trenton, New Jersey where he set up a decorating business in this heartland of the American Pottery Industry and is recorded as being in Trenton in 1891 according to the Trade Directory of that year [8]. This move may be connected with the arrival from England of his brother Charles's daughter, Mary Ellen, in 1891. Charles with the remainder of his family, apart from one daughter who had married and remained in England, arrived in New York on board the 'Teutonic' which had left Liverpool on May 25th 1892 and are recorded as living in Spring Street, Trenton in the 1900 census return. Charles is still, as always, a pottery presser and is never recorded as anything to do with the decoration of ware. We wonder whether Charles' decision to join his brothers in America was influenced by their father's death that had occurred during the Spring of 1892.

34 Spring Street, Trenton - the house where EWS' brother Charles and his family were living from 1898.



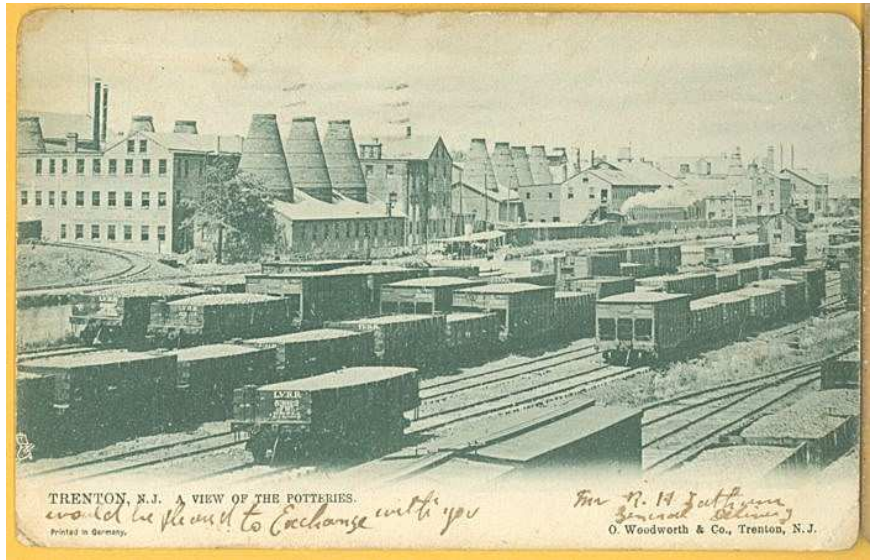
Faith Ann has also unearthed a report from the Trenton Times of October 6th 1899 under the headline:

'DECORATING PLANT ENLARGED'

which says:

"Ebenezer Swann, of Brunswick Avenue, has just completed an addition to his ceramic decorating establishment. He has work enough on hand at present to keep him busy for three months, and the enlargement of his plant was an absolute necessity" [9].

Busy industry. The railway lines and potteries at Trenton, this postcard was posted in 1905.



We have been unable to find the census entry for Ebenezer's family in 1900, probably because the indexers have been unable to read the entry correctly and we have not yet discovered the name they have been given, but the Trenton Trades Directory of 1900 records male members of the family at 627 Brunswick Avenue, Trenton and records Ebenezer as a Decorator, John J as a Decorator also and Frederick C as a Clerk. There is no reference in the directory to the younger Ebenezer nor the youngest son, Samuel H. The female members of the family are not listed in the trade directory either.

None of the boys are recorded at home in the next point of reference, namely the 1910 USA census, in which the older Ebenezer is recorded living at 647 Brunswick Avenue, Trenton NJ and aged 65. It gives his year of immigration as 1875 and his occupation is 'Pottery Decorator'. With him in the house are his wife, Elizabeth, also aged 65; his daughter Eleanor with her husband Henry W Schawn and their children Edward A aged 9 and Eleanor aged 3.

Further analysis of this census return provides unexpected information, firstly that Elizabeth is Ebenezer's third wife since she says they have been married for just 9 years and that she has had 4 children, only one of whom is still alive. These children must have been with an earlier partner. However the entry seems to indicate, by M2 in the appropriate column, that this is a second marriage for each of them whereas it is, in fact, Ebenezer's third.

Similarly Eleanor states that her marriage has lasted for 10 years and that she, too, has had four children but that only two of them, as listed, are still alive. Her husband is noted as having been born in Germany, was then 35 years old and worked as an engineer in an Iron Mill. Another unexpected piece of information, and probably an error, is the recording of Eleanor as being born in England instead of Massachusetts. A further possibility is that the Eleanor listed is the daughter of Elizabeth and not Ebenezer, so that what is recorded is correct except that Eleanor should have been noted as 'step daughter'. Further work needs to be done on this.

At the time of the 1920 census return Ebenezer is in the New Jersey State Hospital at Trenton. His age is given as 75 and he is said to be a widower. This hospital was the one into which many people sought to place their relatives who suffered from mental illness and was, at this time, under the direction of Dr Cotton who was highly praised for his advanced treatments of mental illness- although later generations would be highly critical of his methods[10]. Ebenezer's presence there would seem to indicate that his family were determined to get the best available treatment for him.

How successful Dr Cotton's treatment was in this case we have not been able to discover but Ebenezer is not recorded in the 1930 census so that, given his age and hospitalisation in 1920, the expectation must be that he died in Trenton at some time in the 1920s. There is no obituary indexed for him in the online Trenton Historical Society site but this is far from a complete record yet. So we are dependant upon finding local researchers who

can visit the NJ State Archives and local libraries to seek out such information. To our great good fortune we have, in the final few weeks of writing this article, found such a local contact in Scott Anderson and Judi Wells who have researched in the Trenton libraries and State Archives looking for information on our behalf. They live just across the Delaware from Trenton in Pennsylvania so that visiting the archives is relatively easy for them.

They first contacted us when our article on Gallimore was reprinted in the June 2007 edition of the newsletter of the Potteries of Trenton Society [POTS] and their contribution to our knowledge has already been immense. From the records of the Riverview Cemetery in Trenton corroborated by death certificate copies that Scott and Judi have obtained from the New Jersey State Archives they have found that Elizabeth Swann, Ebenezer's wife as listed in the 1910 census, died on March 6th 1918 from a cerebral haemorrhage with complications from pneumonia at the family home that had been, since about 1915, at 741 Brunswick Avenue. Elenor (sic) was the informant of the death and appears to have still been living with them.

Their researches have also confirmed that this Elizabeth was Ebenezer's third wife because there is also a death recorded in the same records of another Elizabeth Swann (usually referred to as Eliza) who died of carcinoma of the stomach on November 28th 1901 aged just 50. Unfortunately there are no markers on the family plot, but the Swann plot is quite close to the Gallimore grave site.

From the same sources Scott and Judi have discovered that Ebenezer himself died at the NJ State Hospital on March 7th 1923 from 'sclerotic cardio vascular renal' disease with 'senile psychosis' being a secondary cause. He had been in the hospital for about 6 years so must have been there at the time of his third wife's death. The informant of the death was his eldest son, John J Swann, the son who had been born in Belleek. Ebenezer is described as a glass and china artist of 741 Brunswick Avenue and his wife's maiden name is recorded as Elizabeth Guest. We think that this is probably John James misinterpreting what he was being asked by the registrar and giving his own mother's maiden name rather than that of Ebenezer's most recent wife. His date of birth is incorrectly given as July 7th 1844, but after 78 years this is only out by a few days, and his parents names are recorded accurately. Ebenezer was laid to rest alongside his wives and Ebenezer Williams Junior in Riverview Cemetery on March 10th 1923.

From the NJ State Library they have found that Ebenezer W Swann's name disappears from the City Directory in 1917 and this probably coincides with the onset of the illness that later led him to be hospitalised as recorded in the 1920 census return.

This extremely fruitful partnership with Scott and Judi gives us hope that, not only for Swann but also Gallimore, Bromley and others who made the journey from Belleek, there will be further information becoming available as time goes on regarding the lives they led in Trenton during the end of the nineteenth and the early years of the twentieth centuries.

We must now return to consider, briefly, Ebenezer and Eliza's children and their lives as recorded in the US Federal Census returns from 1880 onwards. In 1880, as noted earlier, they are all living in Brooklyn as a complete family unit even including one grandmother. The 1890 census is largely lost and the family unit has not been found by us in the 1900 census as we have already seen. However two of the boys are listed with their father in the Trenton Trades Directory of that year, but only John James is in the decorating industry, Frederick is noted as a clerk.

By the time of the 1910 census John James is recorded as living with his wife, Bessie, and their two children, Howard and Bessie aged 6 and 4 respectively. Their marriage has lasted for 9 years so far and they have had 6 children but only the two listed are still alive. John James records his birthplace as Ireland and his father's as England whilst Bessie was born in New Jersey also of an English father. From other, earlier, census returns we think her maiden name was Alexander. John James' employment is no longer within the decorating trade – he is a driver for a steam laundry!



A view of the start of Brunswick Avenue, from the Battle Statue. John J Swann lived at # 110 in 1910 which was at the base of the monument but is now no longer there.

Ten years later John James has lost his wife and is recorded as a widower but the children are still with him and his sister in law Maud lives with them in Warren Street, Trenton. He still works for the laundry but is now a clerk there. By 1930 he is managing the laundry, has remarried to a lady called Myra who was born in England and gives his own place of birth as 'Ireland Northern'.

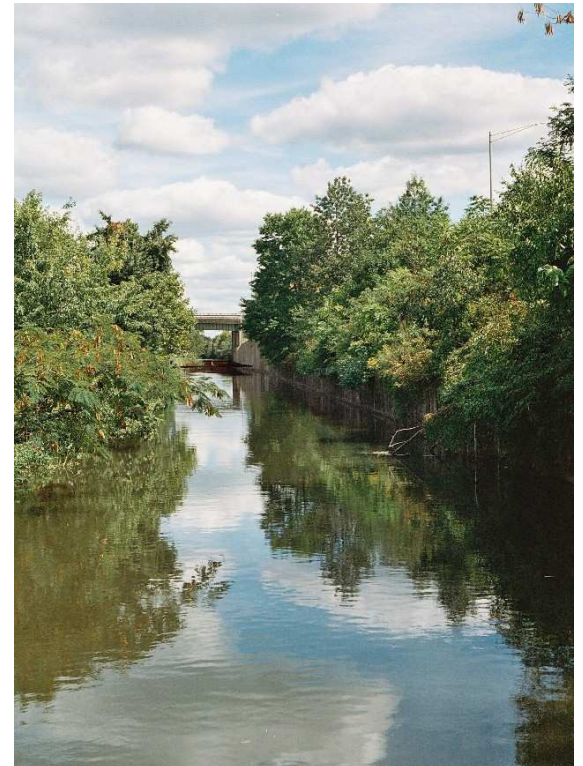
They are in Berwyn Avenue, Ewing Township but the children, still unmarried, live with their Aunt Maud in Walnut Avenue, Trenton and Howard is an accountant and Bessie a secretary with an insurance company.

The second son, Ebenezer Williams, died on June 24th 1891 aged just 17 and the cause of death, as given on the State of New Jersey Death Certificate found by Judi Wells, is asphyxia from an accidental drowning in the Delaware and Raritan Canal. His occupation is given as 'Decorator' and he was the first member of the family to be buried in the family plot at Riverview cemetery. Details of the accident can be found in The Trenton Times, Trenton, NJ, of Thursday afternoon, June 25, 1891 on page 1, column 5 [9]:

"Drowned While Swimming

Ebenezer W. Swan was drowned early last night while bathing in the canal near the Hamilton Rubber Works. He and companions were in the water at the time, when he was seized with cramps and sank. A boat man who chanced to be near recovered the body after twenty minutes search. The boy was the son of Ebenezer W. Swan, a decorator, who lives at 627 Brunswick Avenue. He was in his eighteenth year. No inquest will be held. The County Physician issued the permit of burial."

A view of the Delaware-Raritan Canal. It would have been in a spot like this that Ebenezer Williams Junior met his death.



The third son, Frederick Charles, can also be tracked through the census records. He is a clerk in 1900 and in 1906 he married a lady called Florence, who hailed from Pennsylvania. By the time of the 1910 census they are living in Prospect Street, Trenton and Frederick is a commercial agent for a cigar company. In 1920 they are still childless but Frederick is now a garage salesman and the couple are living in Prospect Street as they had been ten years earlier. His Registration card, issued in September 1918, gives his date of birth as March 9th 1877 and his employer as C R Weedon Motor Company. At the time of the 1930 census the pair are living at 348 Berwyn Avenue, Trenton and Frederick is an automobile salesman. It looks as if he took advantage of the burgeoning motor industry as he owns his own house and he and Florence give all the appearances of a successful couple with the regret of not having any children to pass on all they had achieved.

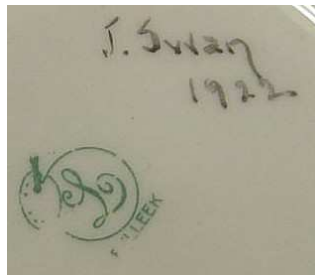
The right hand house is 3 Prospect Street, Trenton where Frederick Charles, EWS's son, was living from 1910 onwards. This house is quite close to Charles' house in Spring Street.



The youngest boy, Samuel H, disappears from the public records after the 1880 census so that the probability is that he died quite young. It is a pity that we have not been able to find the 1900 census return for the family as this may have enabled us to shorten the time span for his possible death. We have found no record of him in subsequent US census returns nor any indication that he may have returned to England or Ireland.

The daughter, Eleanor, as noted earlier had married Henry Schawn in 1890 and they are with her father and step-mother in Brunswick Avenue at the time of the 1910 census. Ten years later the family still live in Brunswick Avenue and Henry is a steam engineer in a laundry – we wonder if this is the same one as John James works for? –and their son, Edward, works in an Iron Foundry. In 1930 Henry, Elenor (sic) and their daughter, Elenor (sic), are still living in Trenton but Edward has married a lady called Minnie and is living with her and their two and a half year old daughter, Claire, in Lyndhurst, Bergen County. In both families the surname is indexed as Schumm in the 1930 census index at ancestry.com. Further information leads us to suspect that this may not be Ebenezer's daughter but his third wife's daughter. We must delve further to clarify this with the help of Scott Anderson and Judi Wells.

It would appear, therefore, that, apart from a brief flirtation by John James and young Ebenezer before his untimely death, none of Ebenezer's children continued the family tradition of ceramic or other fine art painting which thus finished after three generations in accordance with the old adage 'Clogs to clogs in three generations'. During the preparation of this article, nine pieces of a tea and coffee set by Lenox appeared for sale on eBay with some of them bearing the name of their painter, 'J.Swan', and dated 1922. Though we have no evidence yet, we wonder if these might be the work of John James?



Lenox 'Swan' set sold on eBay. Most pieces signed.

This, then, completes the seven Swanns-a-Painting of our title (Unless, of course, you can prove otherwise!!) viz:

- Ebenezer Swann [1795-1840];**
- John Swann [1821-1892];**
- Edward John Swann [1852-1895];**
- Ebenezer Williams Swann [1844-1923];**
- Frederick Swann [1853-19??];**
- John James Swann [1872-19??];**
- Ebenezer Williams Swann [1874-1891]**

It is likely that, thanks to the collaboration we have set up with Scott Anderson and Judi Wells, further items of interest about not only the Swanns but also Gallimore, Bromley and others will come to light from the archives we now have available to us. In that event we will hope to bring anything of interest to the attention of the group through the pages of future newsletters.

- Paul and Pat Tubb

References:-

Resources available for public searching:

England & Wales Census returns per ancestry.co.uk
United States of America Federal census returns per ancestry.com
Ship Passenger Lists – Arrivals at New York per ancestry.com
Birth, Marriage and Death Indexes for England & Wales made available by the Office for National Statistics.
New Jersey State Archives, Trenton NJ
Records of Riverview Cemetery, Trenton NJ.

Books, Articles etc.:

- [1] UK Group of Belleek Collectors Newsletter Vol 27/1 March 2006
- [2] Neville Maguire "Belleek in Context" Viewback Publications, Northern Ireland 2007
- [3] The Irish General Register Office, Co Roscommon.
- [4] Vega Wilkinson "Spode-Copeland-Spode The Works and its People 1770-1970" Antique Collectors Club, Woodbridge, Suffolk UK 2002
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Pictures, many thanks to:

The Belleek Dejeuner Set signed by Swann courtesy of Neville Maguire [2]
Copeland plate painted by Swan courtesy of Vega Wilkinson [4]
In Stoke on Trent - Pat & Paul Tubb
Pictures of Edward J Swann and examples of his work are from The Glass Industry in Sandwich by Barlow and Kaiser [op cit].
In and around Trenton NJ - Scott Anderson & Judi Wells
Trenton postcard from eBay seller michael-vermont
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