

Arthur Brewin, assistant master at Giggleswick School

E25 Frank and Guy twin sons of Arthur and (Mary) Brewin, . . buried 10 August 1874 IHS. [IHS - the first three letters in the Greek name for Jesus.]



Frank and Guy Brewin were the twin sons of Arthur Brewin, a Middlesex gardener's son and his wife Mary Mossop, the daughter of Moses Mossop, a landed proprietor from St Bees, Cumbria. They came to Giggleswick straight after marrying in 1861 and lived at Bankwell. Arthur worked as an assistant master at Giggleswick School for 35 years. This was a privileged position and he was able to give his four other sons a good education.

In 1865 Arthur, aged 33, had a photo taken at the Horner Studios [ph1]. Arthur was a talented performer and musician, often in a double act with George Stansfeld (Jnr) until George left the area in the 1860s. [SC, CH].



PRESENTATION.—Our readers will all have heard with regret of the coming departure of Mr. Geo. Stansfeld, jun., who for several years has been the life and soul of our musical entertainments. The working members of the Settle Choral Society have seized this opportunity of presenting to one who has contributed so largely to their musical pleasures, some acknowledgment of his unwearied and cheerful services, and accordingly on Friday the 13th, Mr. Stansfeld was invited to attend a meeting of the members in the Music Hall, when after some delay consequent on the arrangement of the Programme, Mr Barnett took the chair, and called upon Mr Brewin to state the object of the meeting. This he did in a humorous speech. He commenced by saying that on a report of Mr. Stansfeld being about to leave the town getting abroad, the idea seemed to arise simultaneously in the minds of several members of the Society that some acknowledgment of his services on its behalf should be made. Accordingly a committee and treasurer was appointed. Mr. Brewin humorously related how on one occasion, when they were holding a preliminary meeting under the orchestra Mr Stansfeld came suddenly upon them and but for the presence of mind of one of the ladies the secret might have been prematurely exposed. He said that the subscription had been confined to the working members of the Society, or it would have been much larger; he hoped Mr Stansfeld would not look upon this small present as an adequate acknowledgment of his deserts, but would receive it in the spirit in which it is given—as a slight token of their good will. After paying a warm tribute to Mr Stansfeld on personal as well as public grounds, he called on Mrs. Ellis to present the piece of plate which is an embossed Silver Tankard (quart) with cover, with this inscription, "Presented to George Stansfeld jun., by the members of the Settle Choral Society, in grateful acknowledgment of his zealous services for the welfare of the Society. April, 1866." Mr. Stansfeld in replying said that some lady had told him he must speak twenty minutes which he did not intend to do.

Mr Arthur Brewin Esq, Settle 1865, photograph by the Horner Studio. Horner Collection©NCBPT (CC-BY 4.0)

In 1877, Arthur was presented with a tea service and a purse containing 56 guineas as a thank you for his generosity and amusing entertainment over the years. [1] Arthur was a choirmaster at Holy Ascension Church. Vestry records of 1893 tell us 'the Church choir, assisted by a number of ladies attended the Northern Diocese Choral Festival in York Minster. The bellringers had gone to Scarborough for their outing. In particular thanks to Mr Brewin without whose careful training such excellent results could not be attained.' Arthur was mentioned in several 'reminiscences' of Settle in the 1920s [CH].

TESTIMONIAL TO MR. BREWIN.—Our readers will all be familiar with Mr. Brewin's name as a constant contributor for many years to the amateur entertainments that have been given in the district, and all who

Mr. Barnett and Mr. George Stansfeld (just returned from the Conservatoire of Music, Leipsic—about 1860) organised an orchestra and gave the Settle folk their first taste of theatrical venture on a grand scale, which provided a handsome sum for the benefit of the Lancashire sufferers during the great cotton famine.

I can just see Mr. Brewin as the widow Melnotte making the pudding, while singing Roly Poly Gammon and Spinach. Heigh-ho says Anthony Roley. Can anyone to-day picture the excitement in the old town with such a great event as a local theatrical production.

Settle Graveyard Project

Mary died in 1895, aged 59. Arthur retired to Eskdale in the southern Lake District. He died there, aged 75, but was brought back to Giggleswick for burial with Mary. The gravestone is similar in style to that of the twins and also commemorated their other children.



Mary Brewin born April 21st 1836 died May 1st 1895. Arthur Brewin her husband born June 21st 1832 died June 23rd 1907. And in memory of their children Clement, John, Arthur, Lancelot, Madge and Bertram.

Arthur's surviving sons were well educated at Oxford and moved in high circles, as did his daughter. Son Clement became a vicar, with a stint at Long Preston. The other sons became military officers and lived all around the world. Daughter Helena Margaret (Madge) became a military nurse and settled in South Africa. Not bad for a gardener's son.



This account has been compiled as part of the Settle Graveyard Project which has recorded gravestone inscriptions, updated church records and researched the lives of those buried. Life stories can be found on dalescommunityarchives.org.uk, 'settle graveyard project'. The 'Old Settle' family tree on ancestry.co.uk includes the families buried in the graveyard. The project is ongoing and welcomes queries and information on settleresearch@gmail.com. Latest news and events are on the Facebook page 'Settle Graveyard Project'.

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ph1 – Image 2022.1.68.112 from the Horner Photographic Studio Collection provided courtesy of the Museum of North Craven Life



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SC – Settle Chronicle, with kind permission of the North Craven Buildings Preservation Trust