

Arthur Brewin, assistant master at Giggleswick School

The Brewins were London born and bred. **Arthur Brewin** was the third of five children of **Jacob Brewin**, a gardener and his second wife, **Ann Winbolt**. Jacob already had three children with his first wife **Mary Barton**. Albert stands out amongst his siblings as the only one to leave London and had the most successful career by far. His siblings became seedsmen, carpenters and clerks in London.

Census returns tell us that in 1851, at the age of 19, Arthur was a schoolmaster in Mirfield, near Huddersfield, having trained as a teacher at Chelsea Training College. Having moved up north, his next move was to the prestigious St Bees School on the Cumbrian coast^[ph1]. This 16th century school, located next to the Priory Church, was founded by **Edmund Grindal**, the Archbishop of Canterbury at the time, who was born at St Bees. It was a '*free grammar school*' – meaning free from Church jurisdiction, but still fee paying, specifically for the boys of Cumberland and Westmorland who were able to pass a test. At its peak 300 pupils attended and now it teaches about 100. It became co-educational in 1978 and takes in pupils from the age of four.

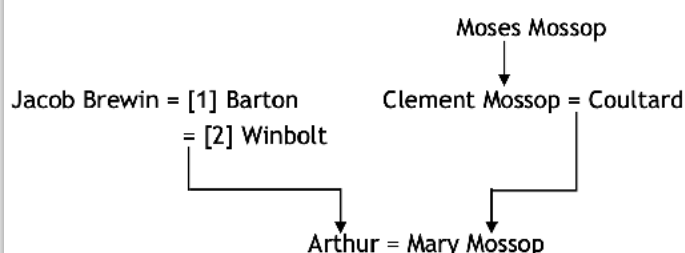


It was here that Arthur met his wife, **Mary Mossop**. Generations of the Mossop family had lived and worked at Rottington Hall, a grand 500 acre farm about a mile from St Bees. It was the manor house for the local area during the 15th and 16th centuries.

Mary and her younger sister **Ann Mossop** were the only surviving children of **Clement Mossop** and his wife **Martha Coultard**. Three others, including Ann's twin, **Catherine Mossop**, died in infancy and childhood. Twins cropped up through the family line. The history of the Mossop family is well documented on the website www.jillcoultard.com. Clement Mossop was known to be energetic and popular. Together with his cousin, **William Fox**, he set about rebuilding Rottington Hall which had become rather dilapidated by the time he took over in the early 1830s.

All was going well until, on 27 March 1845 Martha died from an abscess on the liver when the girls were aged just nine and seven. Clement fell into a decline and he was taken to the recently opened Dunston Lodge Lunatic Asylum in Gateshead, Co. Durham ^[ph2], a private asylum with a good reputation for cures. Its recovery rate was well above average and its peaceful, rural setting must

The Brewins



have been a great factor in its success. However, Clement didn't recover, dying of apoplexy at the asylum on 3 October 1847. Descendants recall that one of daughter Mary's earliest memories was of coming down the hill from Rottington and seeing her relation **William Fox** at the farm window weeping over a letter giving him the news of Clement's death.

Daughters Mary and Ann were left to be cared for by their widowed grandfather, **Moses Mossop** and two aunts. The running of Rottington Hall passed to Clement's brother, **Henry Mossop**. As daughters, Mary and Ann were ineligible to inherit the Hall anyway.

Moses, born in 1772, had inherited Rottington Hall as his elder brother, **William Mossop**, was not interested in farming. The Hall stayed with Moses' descendants until it was sold in 1956. In 1700 Moses married **Mary Fox** at St. Bees and they had at least seven children. The lifestyle suited them — Mary died in 1848, aged 79 years and 'old grandfather' Moses Mossop, 'a hale old man up until the time of his death' died in 1866, aged an incredible 94. The family have impressive memorial stones in the Priory Churchyard.

Mary's sister, **Ann Mossop**, married another scholiast at St Bees called **John MacQueen** [ph3]. They remained in St Bees with their family for the whole of their lives.



Meanwhile, back with Arthur! From St Bees Arthur gained a post as Assistant Master of Preston Grammar School, under the headship of **Rev John Richard Blakiston**. In 1858 John Richard was the successful candidate, out of 40, for the headship of Giggleswick Grammar School. Soon after his appointment a long standing writing master, **John Langhorne** resigned and so Rev Blakiston appointed Arthur to replace him as the Head of the junior/lower school and Writing Master on a salary of £130. This was a privileged position enabling Arthur to provide a good education for his sons and afford the luxury of being looked after by a servant.

The first inspection report after Rev Blakiston's appointment said that the school was 'staffed by very able, young and ambitious young men. Mr Blakiston's intellectual capacity and ability as a teacher were quite exceptional'[A] and it commended the work of the school, especially for the boys under Mr Blakiston and Mr Brewin. However, the report in the next year, 1860 said that 'progress was by no means satisfactory' and in 1861, 'there were no boys whose knowledge corresponded with that of an average sixth form in one of the greater Public Schools.' Oh dear. After Rev Blakiston's departure in 1866, after a whole raft of unsatisfactory issues, Arthur stepped up to share the responsibility of leading the school until a replacement could be found, in the form of the talented **Rev George Style**. Incredibly, Arthur had a long career of nearly 40 years at Giggleswick School in the same role and saw the school's transformation through the widely contrasting leadership styles of two very different headmasters. He would have had some stories to tell!

Arthur was a talented performer and musician, '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 today picture the excitement in the old town with such a great event as a local theatrical production?* [CH] Arthur often performed in a double act with **George Stansfeld (Jnr)** until George left the area in the 1860s, to live in Keighley. They were serious about music – locals remember that in the early 1860s George and William Barnett, organist, visited the Leipzig Conservatoire which had been established in 1843 by the German composer **Felix Mendelssohn**. Upon their return they *‘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’* (brought about by the American civil war) [CH]. The Settle Choral Society had been founded in 1852 and Settle Amateur Dramatic Society, the precursor to the Amateur Operatic Society was founded in 1879, no doubt with Arthur’s involvement.

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.

Mr. Barnett and Mr. George Stansfeld (just returned from the Conservatoire of Music, Leipzig—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.

Arthur introduced George’s retirement presentation at the Settle Choral Society [SC]. *‘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 spontaneously in the minds of several members of the Society that some acknowledgment of his services on its behalf should be made. . . Mr Brewin humorously related how one one occasion, when they were holding a preliminary meeting under the orchestra, Mr Stansfeld came suddenly upon them and, but for the presence of mins of one of the ladies, the secret might have been prematurely exposed.’* Mrs Ellis then presented Mr Stansfeld with a silver tankard inscribed, *‘Presented to George Stansfeld (Jnr) by members of the Settle Choral Society in grateful acknowledgement of his*

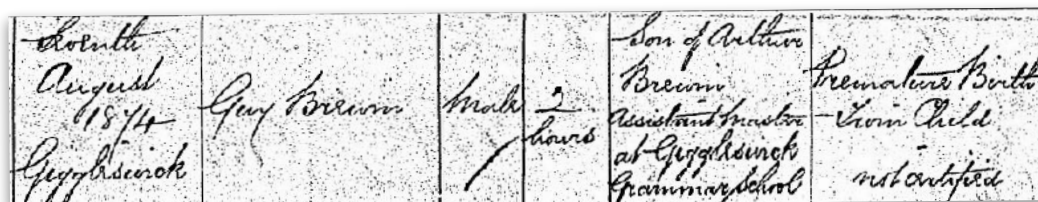


Mr Arthur Brewin Esq, Settle 1865, photograph by the Horner Studio. Horner Collection©NCBPT (CC-BY 4.0)

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 acknowledgement 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 acknowledgement of his zealous services for the welfare of the Society. April, 1866.” Mr.

zealous services for the welfare of the Society. April 1866.' A year before George's retirement Arthur, aged 33, had a photo taken at the Horner Studios [ph1].

Upon his appointment, Arthur and Mary lived at Bankwell in Giggleswick. Despite his busy life Arthur and Mary had a large family of eight children, the youngest two being twins, **Frank** and **Guy Brewin**. Unfortunately they're born prematurely and didn't make it, surviving just a couple of hours. They were buried together with a small memorial stone in the children's corner of Settle churchyard.



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

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]. It was, perhaps, a show of solidarity after the death of his twin sons? Arthur was also the 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.*'

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

Mary died in Giggleswick in 1895, aged 59. Arthur retired two years later, when he was 65, to live a quiet life in Eskdale in the southern Lake District. He died there in 1907, aged 75 but was brought back to Giggleswick for burial with Mary. Their twin sons were buried in Settle's Ancient graveyard but by the time Mary died the Ancient graveyard was closed as it was '*dangerously full*' which may explain why they chose to be buried in Giggleswick graveyard. The gravestone is similar in style to that of the twins and also commemorated the lives of some of 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.

So what happened to their other children? They were enormously successful. Arthur's surviving sons were well educated at Giggleswick School and Oxford/Winchester and so moved in high circles, as did his daughter.

Arthur and Mary's eldest son, **Clement Brewin**, named after his maternal grandfather, became a vicar. He was the Chaplain of Newton Abbot College and then served in Derby, Lausanne in Switzerland, Lincoln, Nottingham, Kettering, finally becoming the Rector of Holcot in Northamptonshire. In 1899, aged 36, Clement began four years of service as the vicar of St Mary's Church in Long Preston, replacing **Rev Kemble**. Clement's

appointment coincided with the departure of **Rev Joseph Wilkinson-Newsholme** who was later found guilty of inappropriate behaviour with two choirboys. Joseph had been very popular with the congregation, so much so they tried to get his conviction overturned, unsuccessfully, so Clement was appointed in difficult circumstances. Clement married **Emily Darby**, had three children and retired to Kettering.

Arthur and Mary's remaining four sons and their daughter had distinguished military careers. Second son **John Palfrey Brewin**, known as **Jack**, entered the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich, moving up the ranks to become a Major. He served in India and Hawaii until WW1 when he served with General HQ in Mesopotamia as a Brigadier General. He retired to London. When he was 64 Jack married 24 year old **Emily Bevan** but they lived apart. Jack spent his last days living at Hermitage, Mentone in the French Riviera. Very nice.

Arthur and Mary's third son, **Arthur Winbolt Brewin**, named after his paternal grandmother [ph5,6] had a career with the Colonial Service in Hong Kong. He became a cadet in the Hong Kong Civil Service and was made a Justice of the Peace and Inspector of Schools. Later, he was made the Registrar General and a member of the Legislative Council and, for a while, Acting Colonial Secretary of Hong Kong. He was awarded the British order of chivalry, the CMG (Commander of the Order of St Michael and St George) in 1911. This was given to those who held high office and demonstrated extraordinary service across the Empire. There is still a building called '**Brewin Court**' in Hong Kong, named after him. In 1903 he married **Ada Russell**, an Irish girl from Limerick but they didn't have children. They spent some time in Ireland as well as Hong Kong. Arthur has his own Wikipedia page.



Arthur and Mary's fourth son, **Lancelot Brewin**, obtained a 1st class degree in Maths at Oxford. From there he served in the Boer Wars with Imperial Light Infantry and Kitchener's Fighting Scouts. After the war he had a career as a Master of Mathematics in Johannesburg, married and had five children.

Arthur and Mary's fifth son, **Bertram Robert Brewin**'s career [ph7] also began at the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich, moving quickly through the ranks to become a



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Pictured on the left is the tree-planting ceremony at Austwick, with 88-year-old Mrs. A. K. Brewin wielding the spade. Also present are Mrs. L. Lord (secretary of the Women's Institute, which entered the village for the competition), and Mr. B. Braithwaite-Exley (who presided).

Lieutenant. He served throughout the Boer wars, some of it with Natal Mounted Police and was awarded several medals including the Queen's Medal and the King's Medal [ph8]. One medal in the photo was thought to have been given to his brother, Lancelot Brewin. Bertram saw horrific action in WW1 as second in command of the 16th Royal Scots and the commanding officer of the 24th Northumberland Fusiliers, being mentioned in dispatches and injured on several occasions. He survived but returning to Blighty must have been a challenge. In 1913 Bertram married **Alice Kinsey Mattinson**, thought to be a distant cousin, who was the daughter of an Austwick agricultural mechanic but died, aged just 50, in 1923. Bertram was buried in Darlington where they also had property. Alice lived at Green Gates in Austwick after Bertram's death.

In 1962, Alice, aged 88 was asked to plant a tree at a ceremony to celebrate Austwick's successful entry to the Best Kept Village Competition. She was pictured '*wielding a spade*'! [ph9]

Arthur and Mary's fifth child and only daughter, **Elaine Helena Margaret (Madge) Brewin**, didn't let the side down. She initially trained as a nurse and moved out to South Africa during the Boer Wars to work in St Faith's Mission Station. There she became the first wife of **Edgar White Lloyd**, originally from Pembrokeshire. Edgar was the priest in charge of a church in Rusape, South Africa. They didn't have children and Madge died in 1928, aged 56. Edgar went on to have two further wives, still in South Africa.

That's really not bad for the offspring of 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. It has been written in good faith with no offence intended. If I have inadvertently included errors or breached any copyright I apologise and would welcome corrections.

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 settlerearch@gmail.com. Latest news and events are on the Facebook page 'Settle Graveyard Project'.

[A] – A History of Giggleswick School, by Edward Alan Bell (1912)

With thanks to the Settle Church for access to their archives and Jill Coultard for the family information on www.jillcoultard.com

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