BLENNERHASSETT family of Waterford and Belfast, Ireland

Blennerhassett Family Tree (BH10_Waterford_WB.xlsx) revised November 2013, copyright © Bill Jehan 1968-2013
Thanks to all who have contributed to these pages - please send additions & corrections to email: bjehan@BlennerhassettFamilyTree.com

>|>>>>>> William (not Arthur) Blennerhassett >>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>: >|>>

b.c1815 (aged 20 on 1.5.1835); C.of I.

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of Co.Kerry;
His Royal Irish Constabulary (R.I.C.) record has him "...of Co.Cork", but "Irish Constabulary Index 1816-82" p.B24, ref. 6057/10B, has him "...of Co.Kerry";
NOTE: his wife was from Co.Cork

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labourer until 1835,
then police officer, later police pensioner;
enlisted in the "County Constabulary" (later to become the R.I.C.) in 1835 as Constable (No.2091);
Served in Co.Waterford 1835-66, resigned 1866
(one year before the R.I.C. was formed in 1867);
the rank of Constable prior to 1883 was the equivalent of Sergeant after 1883; retired before 1889

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he was recommended for the "County Constabulary"
by Sir John Godfrey, Bart, (1763-1841),
2nd Baronet of Bushfield, Co.Kerry;
(son of Sir William Godfrey, 1st Bart.
who m.1761 Agnes Blennerhassett
of Elmgrove, Ballyseedy, Co.Kerry p.B 17)

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d.Oct-Dec.1887 Belfast, Ireland

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m. bef.1846 to <???>
of Co.Cork; d.bef.1896

NOTES on Arthur William Blennerhassett:

1. In his 1934 memorandum of Blennerhassett family history, William Day Blennerhassett (G 60) wrote that: ***"the last I heard of Arthur [Blennerhassett] was that he was aboard an American Cruiser bound for Cuba [or] the Philippine Islands during the American-Hispano War 1897…";***
here he made an error, he having been told about another Blennerhassett seaman, William Joseph Blennerhassett (p.SFC 02) b.1881, of San Francisco, California, who served in the U.S. Navy during the Spanish-American War of 1898 and was afterwards a stevidore with a U.S. Steamship Company; but not knowing of another Blennerhassett merchant seaman he incorrectly assumed this story related to Arthur William Blennerhassett

2. It has been suggested Arthur William Blennerhassett died at New Orleans, Louisiana, USA after spending two years in hospital there; but in this tale AWB has been confused with yet another merchant seaman, John Wilson Blennerhassett of Liverpool (p.LL 09), a British merchant ship captain who died on 22.3.1859 at Mobile, Alabama, USA "…of inflamed lungs…"; Mobile is only 130 miles from New Orleans

>>|>> Arthur William Blennerhassett >>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>: >|>>

b. 27.4.1845 Claohmore, Co.Waterford;
(not b.c1854/6 nr Tralee, Co.Kerry)

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of Waterford until c1866, his father being stationed there;
rumoured to have been disowned by his family for having "...married beneath his station in life…"
(unsure if this refers to his 1st or 2nd marriage)

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career merchant seaman, volunteered 27.4.1863;
Continuous Service Number. 19973A
[NA - Royal Navy Register of Seaman's services, Cat. Ref. ADM 139/600, Image Ref. 73/173]

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a passenger on SS "Peruvian" ("Allen" & "State" Line),
departing 13.5.1898 from Londonderry, Ireland
to Boston, Massachusetts, USA

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AWB is said to have "...held a high position in the Freemasons and traveled on Masonic business,
to China, USA & elsewhere"

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his son William Thomas Blennerhassett was raised by his (WTB's) mother Jane and her sister Eva "Levi" McShane at their father's painting studio "...because his father was always away in China, USA etc…"

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at the time of his 2nd marriage 1896 until 1898
he was a publican, licensee of "Cliftonville Bar"
72 & 74 Louisa Street, Belfast, Ireland
(is 1898 when when he died, or did he go back to sea?
AWB's death is not recorded at Belfast 1897-1901)

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William Day Blennerhassett of New Zealand (p.G 60)
in 1897 resided for a short time at Belfast;
in his 1934 memorandum of Blennerhassett family history
WDB describes meeting Arthur William Blennerhassett
at his "Cliftonville Bar" in 1897;
WTB told WDB how, as a boy, he had joined the Royal Navy at Waterford, Ireland, later deserting at Jamaica, West Indies "...some 30 years ago..." (i.e. c1867);
also how "…he then joined the American Navy and later on drifted into the Mercantile Marine…" following which he obtained "…a position as Customs Officer, which he gave up in order to travel with his wife for health reasons, and on her death he returned to Belfast…"
(this must refer to his 1st wife who died bef.1896)

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Arthur William Blennerhassett suffered from high blood pressure; it is said he died soon after returning from his travels, having suffered several strokes, while his son William Thomas Blennerhassett was a child

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see NOTES to left: <----<

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m.1st to <???>
(this marriage may perhaps be one of:
Apr-Jun.1891 Tralee, Co.Kerry;
or Apr-Jun.1892 Killarney, Co.Kerry);
she d.bef.1896 (was there any issue?)

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>>|>> William Thomas Blennerhassett >>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>: >|>>

b.3.11.1896 Belfast, Co.Antrim, Ireland;
d.30.6.1954 (or 31.7.1954?) at Durban, Natal, SA

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raised by mother, his aunt Eva "Levie" McShane & his g.father Thomas McShane at Thomas' painting studio,
living with them until he left to serve in army in WWI;
1911 census describes him as "apprentice to painting"

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William Thomas Blennerhassett hardly remembered his father, who died while WTB was still a child;
following his father's death the Blennerhassett family sent a family member who was a police officer to fetch him, to be raised with the Blennerhassett family, but his mother Jane, understandably, would not let him go

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WTB joined British Army in 1913, serving during WWI
in Mesopotamia and India;
after WWI he joined the Indian Army

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emig. to Durban, Natal, South Africa, c1920/1;
of Rossburgh, Durban; served in Durban Borough Police;
later an advertising executive with the Durban Municipal Transport Service; visited India, Iran & Russia

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A well known & admired landscape painter, as his maternal grandfather Thomas McShane had been,
working in oil

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Painter of landscapes of Natal, the Cape and Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe);
President of the Natal Society of Artists 1952-4; Advisor to the Durban Art Gallery;
Exhibited throughout South Africa from 1944; Solo exhibition in Durban c1947;
his work is exhibited at Durban Art Gallery;
see "Dictionary of South African Painters & Sculptors" by G. Ogilvie, 1988;
see: "Art and Artists of South Africa" 1983;
his grand-daughter Judi Blennerhassett has a collection of his watercolours
his "Sampson and Delilah" dated 1926 is owned (in 2001) by Craig de Beer of Rand Afrikaans University
his "Rural Landscape with Figures" 1946, oil on board, was offered for sale on eBay April 2008

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Obituary in **[Who's Who in Southern Africa]**

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m. Durban; Katherine "Kathleen" "Kathy" Donaghy
b.21.12.1900 (or b.19.11.1901 ?) Belfast, Ireland; youngest of four sisters;
emig. to South Africa;
as a widow she lived with her daughter Molly at Cowies Hill, Piretown, Cape Province, SA;

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"…she was absolutely instrumental to his [her husband's] success as an artist because she handled the business side…";
following the death of her husband people approached her wanting to write his biography, but she refused to grant permission

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as a widow she lived with her daughter Molly Kohler at Cowies Hill, Natal;
as a widow she lived with her daughter Molly Kohler in Natal;
she travelled from SA to USA (c1964?) to visit her brother Willie Donaghy at Newark, N.Jersey;
stayed in New Jersey, where for eight years she was nanny to Karen Cowen

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d.?.?.1994 South Africa **[Pietermaritzburg Deceased Estates index]**

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|>> it is suggested that William Thomas Blennerhassett had sisters, but unverified

>>|>> Mary "Molly" Margaret >>>: >|>>

Florence Blennerhassett
b.c1927 South Africa

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as a baby she was taken to
to Ireland c1928, to visit
her grandmother Jane
Blennerhassett (nee McShane)

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of Westville, Natal, SA; as a widow her mother lived with her at Cowies Hill, Piretown, Cape Province, SA

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m. K. (Karl?) "Charles" A.B. Kohler

>>|>> (Terence) John >>>>>>>>>>: >|>>

Blennerhassett
of Carrum, Australia.
b.30.10.1933
Durban, South Africa;
moved to Belfast,
Northern Ireland 1958;
emig. to Australia 1964;
d.2010

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m.?.6/7.1964
Bridget Doreen Watts
of Belfast

| /
| **m.2nd 18.1.1896** St.Anne's Church, Belfast, NI (C.of I.)
| Jane McShane
| b.c1872/3 Co.Antrim; of 27 Peveril Street, Belfast 1896;
| *probably(?) identical with Mrs. Blennerhassett who was*
| *confectioner at 118 Donegall Passage, Belfast 1899-1900;*
| bag maker, of 62 Havana St., Shankill, North Belfast 1911;
| d.c1940s "...aged well into her seventies…"
| /
| dau. of Thomas McShane, a Coach Builder
| and also a painter, "...an artist of some note in his day..." who was "...well known in art circles in Dublin...";
| her sister Eva "Levie" McShane (b.c1878 Co.Antrim), lived with Arthur & Jane at 72 Louisa Street 1896,
| she being witness at their marriage & present at the birth of their son;
| Eva was a bagmaker, still living with her sister Jane and her son at the 1911 census (but incorrectly described as Jane's daughter)
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|>> Annie Blennerhassett; b.c1846 Co.Waterford; hankerchief folder; unm.
| living with her sister Catherine McAllister & Catherine's
| son Arthur McAllister at 65 Tower Street, East Belfast 1911
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|
|>> Catherine Blennerhassett >>>>