BLENNERHASSETT family of Waterford, Ireland and Belfast, Ireland

Blennerhassett Family Tree, revised July 2011, copyright © Bill Jehan 1968-2011
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); d.Oct-Dec.1887 Belfast;
C.of I. Protestant; of Co.Kerry (or of Co.Cork ?)
/
Labourer until 1835,
then police officer & police pensioner;
His personal 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"; his wife was from Co.Cork
/
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
/
he was recommended for the "County Constabulary"
by Sir John Godfrey, Bart, (1763-1841),
2nd Baronet of Bushfield, Co.Kerry;
and son of Sir William Godfrey, 1st Bart.
who m.1761 Agnes Blennerhassett
of Elmgrove, Ballyseedy, Co.Kerry (p.B 17)
/
m. bef.1846 to <???>
of Co.Cork; d.bef.1896

Arthur William Blennerhassett - RED HERRINGS:

1. In his 1934 memorandum of Blennerhassett family history, William Day Blennerhassett also wrote that: ***…the last I heard of Arthur was that he was aboard an American Cruiser bound for Cuba [or] the Philippine Islands during the American-Hispano War 1897…";*** here he has been told about William Joseph Blennerhassett (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 Co. (p.U 5); not knowing there were other Blennerhassett merchant seaman, he assumed incorrectly this to be 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 3), 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

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

Arthur William Blennerhassett
/
b.c1854/6 nr Tralee(?), Co.Kerry;
of Waterford until c1866, his father 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)
/
a seaman by profession, but he sailed as passenger on
SS "Peruvian" ("Allen" & "State" Line), departing
13.5.1898 from Londonderry, Ireland to Boston,
Massachusetts, USA;
He is said to have "...held a high position in the
Freemasons and traveled on Masonic business,
to China, USA & elsewhere";
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…"
/
at the time of his 2nd marriage 1896 until 1898 (when he
died?) he was a publican, licensee of "Cliftonville Bar"
72 & 74 Louisa St., Belfast, Northern Ireland
/
William Day Blennerhassett of New Zealand (p.G 55)
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…"
(must refer to his 1st wife who d.bef.1896)
/
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 still a child
(AWB's death is not recorded at Belfast 1897-1901)
/
/
m.1st <???>
(this marriage may perhaps be one of:
Apr-Jun.1891 Tralee, Co.Kerry;
or Apr-Jun.1892 Killarney, Co.Kerry);
d.bef.1896 (was there any issue?)
/
/
/
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 the Mrs. Blennerhassett who was a confectioner at 118 Donegall Passage, Belfast 1899-1900;
bag maker, of 62 Havana Street, Shankill, North Belfast 1911;
d.c1940s "...aged well into her seventies…";
/

William Thomas Blennerhassett
b.3.11.1896 Belfast, Co.Antrim, Northern Ireland;
d.30.6.1954 (or 31.7.1954?) at Durban, Natal, SA
/
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"
/
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 would, understandably, not let him go
/
WTB joined British Army in 1913 & served during WWI
in Mesopotamia and in India; after WWI he joined the
Indian Army
/
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
/
A well known & admired landscape painter, as his
maternal grandfather Thomas McShane had been,
working in oil; 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; and "Art and Artists of South Africa" 1983
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
Obituary in **[Who's Who in Southern Africa]**
/
m. at Durban; Katherine "Kathleen" Donaghy
b.21.12.1900 (or b.19.11.1901 ?) Belfast, Ireland; youngest of four sisters;
of Cowies Hill, Piretown, Cape Province, South Africa
/
"…she was absolutely instrumental to his 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
d.?.?.1994 South Africa **[Pietermaritzburg Deceased Estates index]**
/
NOTE: It has been suggested that Gerald Blennerhassett (alias Blenner-Hassett) of Durban, South Africa, b.1883 d.1931 (p.LE 3) was responsible for bringing William Thomas Blennerhassett to South Africa; This is improbable, and no evidence found

?

It is suggested that William Thomas Blennerhassett
had sisters, but no evidence yet found

Mary "Molly" Margaret
Florence Blennerhassett
b.c1927 South Africa;
of Westville, Natal, SA
/
Taken to Ireland as a baby
c1928, to visit her g.mother
Jane Blennerhassett
(nee McShane)
/
m. K. (Karl?) A.B.
Charles Kohler

(Terence) John
Blennerhassett
of Carrum, Australia.
b.30.10.1933 Durban, SA.
left South Africa 1958
for Belfast;
emig. to Australia 1964
/
m.?.?.1964
Bridget Doreen Watts
of Belfast

| /
| 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)
|
|

|>> Catherine Blennerhassett >>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>: >|>> Arthur McAllister; b.c1892 Belfast
b.c1858 Co.Waterford (C.of.I.) Belfast Corporation lamplighter 1911
of 50 Bank Street, Belfast 1889;
of 65 Tower Street, East Belfast 1911
/
m.22.7.1889 (C.of I.) St.John's (or St.Stephen's ?) Church, Belfast;
Alexander McAllister; b.bef.1868; d.bef.1911; Baker;
of 8 Elizabeth Street (or Elizabeth Terrace ?), Belfast (son of Alexander McAllister, Car Driver);
witnesses to the marriage were: Annie Blennerhassett (her sister) and Thomas McShane (father of her sister-in-law Jane)