

# The Mussen family and Lisburn District

The Mussen surname has appeared in various records over many centuries in the Lisburn area and surrounding district.

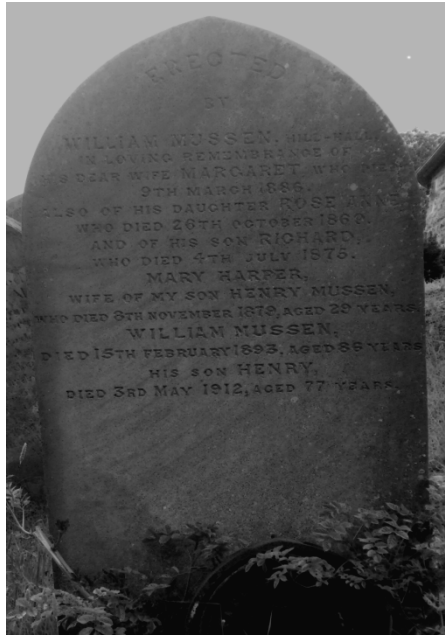
The Hearth Money roll for County Antrim, dated 1669 mentions a “Robert Muson” and “William Musen” in the “Parish of Deragey” (Derriaghy). The records at Derriaghy Parish church show that the Mussen surname was prominent within the parish in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century. In a publication titled “The Oldest Register of the Parish of Derriaghy, County Antrim 1696 - 1772”, edited by W.N.C. Barr and W.C.Kerr in 1981, there is a reference to the Mussen family. It is suggested that the Mussen family were said to have had Germanic origins and were brought over with the Muntz and Wolfenden families by the Duke of Ormonde in the reign of Charles 11 to improve textile manufacture in Ireland.

In Lisburn town the Mussen name was associated with many trades and businesses and can be found in various street directories compiled over many years. The following were listed in Market Square in 1843 - James Mussen, soap and candle manufacturer and haberdasher; Thomas Mussen, Spirit dealer in premises known as “The Pillars” and Robert Mussen a Chandler. In 1861 a Matthew Mussen, was a town commissioner, also believed to have residence at Market Square. James Mussen, listed as a woollen draper and Mrs. Mussen, a pawnbroker were also listed in Market Square. In 1880 the following were listed in Market Square - Francis Mussen as the soap and candle manufacturer and J&A Mussen as woollen drapers. A Miss Mussen was a milliner in Castle Street. Local Lisburn historian, the late Fred Kee, reminds us in his publication “Lisburn Miscellany” that there was once a Mussen’s Court in the town. A regular advertisement placed by an Arthur Mussen appeared in the local Victorian newspapers inviting customers onto his premises at Cross Row, Lisburn where he ran a drapery business.

There are several graves situated close to the vestry door at Derriaghy Parish Church that are worthy of further investigation by anyone researching the Mussen surname. A flat headstone almost illegible, appears to be the oldest one linked to the Mussen family. The inscription on the last line is still legible and reads “William Mussen, from Hillhall who died 30th August 1837 aged 73 years.”

William Mussen appears to have descended from a Mussen family who had resided in the Derriaghy area since the mid 17<sup>th</sup> century. He married into the Mercer family and one of their children, William Mussen, was born about 1807. A separate headstone, in close proximity of this headstone, was erected by this William Mussen (born about 1807), also of Hillhall, in memory of his wife Margaret, nee Murdock/Murdoch, who died on 9<sup>th</sup> March 1889. The death of their daughter Rose Ann in 1869, son Richard in 1875, and Mary Harper Mussen, daughter-in-law in 1879, son Henry in 1912 and William Mussen himself who passed away in 15<sup>th</sup> February 1893. A metal plaque on this grave states “The Family Burying Ground of William Mussen, Hillhall, 1869.” This is the original grave marker used by families to mark out their burial ground prior to headstone erection.

The constant repetition of forenames accompanying the Mussen surname throughout various records over the years make it an extremely difficult task for a researcher to compile an accurate family history chart. That confusion would surface in later years when the obituaries of Dr. Arthur Mussen were compiled for print in local newspapers and biographies.



The headstone at Derriaghy Parish Church, Lisburn believed to mark the burial place of Dr. Arthur Mussen's parents, sister, brothers and sister-in-law.

William Mussen and Margaret Murdoch, from Hillhall, Lisburn are believed to be the parents of Dr. Arthur Mussen. Coincidentally, an older headstone in the vicinity of the Mussen memorials, records the deaths of a family called Murdoach and Murdach. It is interesting to note the Christian names of Richard and Rose appear on this headstone. Although speculative, it may be possible that this headstone may well mark the burial place of several of Margaret Murdoch's ancestors.

Margaret Mussen died on 9<sup>th</sup> March 1886 at Lisnatrunk aged 78 years. Her death was registered by Margaret Young, her daughter. Margaret had been suffering from bronchitis for four years. William Mussen died at Hillhall, Drumbeig in February 1893 from debility. His death was registered by his daughter Margaret on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 1893.

William Mussen and Margaret Murdoch are believed to have resided in the Ballymullan townland, situated in the vicinity of Hillhall Presbyterian Church, just outside Lisburn. They had at least six children -

Richard, Henry, Margaret, William, Rose Anne and Arthur.

From the headstone at Derriaghy we learn that Rose Anne died 26<sup>th</sup> October, 1869, Richard died 4<sup>th</sup> July 1875, Henry (born 1835) died 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1912.

The death of Rose Ann Mussen was registered on 6<sup>th</sup> November 1869. The cause of her death was registered as pulmonary consumption which she had suffered from for 12 months. She died at the age of 33, a spinster. The place of death is recorded as Lisnatrunk. The family would suffer a second loss in July 1875. Richard Mussen died unmarried at the age of 45 years. The place of death is recorded as Lisnatrunk and was registered by Samuel Young, from Largymore, Blaris on 17<sup>th</sup> July 1875. (General Register Office, Northern Ireland)

Henry Mussen (1835 - 1912):

Henry had been married to Mary Harper (born 1850) died 8<sup>th</sup> November 1879. There is a marriage record dated 14<sup>th</sup> August 1863 at Drumbeig Parish Church of a Henry Mussen, Hillhall, aged 29 years, son of William Mussen a farmer, to Eleanor Sloane, Drumbo, aged 25 years, father Hill Sloane a farmer. It is uncertain that this is our Henry Mussen. If this is correct Henry Mussen may have been married three times. A later marriage record dated 13<sup>th</sup> June 1882 states that Henry Mussen,

Dunmurry, merchant, full age, Presbyterian, widower, father William Mussen, a farmer, to Jane Farquhar, Jordanstown, full age, Presbyterian a widow, father James Morrow, a farmer. (General Register Office, Northern Ireland)

Henry was the owner of Carmichael's Hotel, Dunmurry. He also owned 4 houses at Rosemount Terrace, Belfast. When Henry died in 1912 he had six children. The hotel was left to his son Henry Harper Mussen. Another son was called John and he had daughters called Jane and Rose Ann. (Will probate Belfast PRONI). There is a record of the death of a six year old child on 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 1879 at Dunmurry, Drumbeg. She was called Margaret Harper Mussen, the child of a spirit dealer. She had been suffering from a gastric fever prior to her death, which was registered on 27<sup>th</sup> October 1879. (General Register Office, Northern Ireland)

She was most likely a daughter of Henry and Mary Mussen.

William Mussen:

Records show that William Mussen from Hill Hall Court, a farmer, aged 25 years, Church of Ireland, bachelor, previously unmarried, father William Mussen, farmer married Agnes Harper, from Belfast aged 20, Church of Ireland, spinster, previously unmarried, father Hugh Harper, a pawnbroker. Witnesses: Hugh Harper and Arthur Mussen at Drumbeg Parish Church on the 17<sup>th</sup> November, 1864. At the time of his father's death in 1893 William was residing in the Carnmoney area. (General Register Office, Northern Ireland)

A son of William and Agnes - Hugh Harper Mussen, was a well-known Belfast solicitor.

Margaret Mussen:

A record dated 17<sup>th</sup> December 1856 refers to the marriage at Lambeg Parish Church of Samuel Young, Lisburn, an innkeeper, aged 29 years, Church of Ireland, father Mercer Young a farmer to Margaret Mussen, Hillhall, aged 24 years, spinster, Church of Ireland, father William Mussen, a farmer. (General Register Office, Northern Ireland)

Almost 34 years later the local newspapers were reporting the death of Mr. Samuel Young in October 1889. It took place on Tuesday morning last at his residence in Mercer Street, Lisburn at an early hour. About ten months prior to his death we are informed that he sustained a severe shock by the death of his youngest son. This resulted in his health suffering. He was born in Hillhall, not far from the house where he died. He was for many years a highly-respected member of Watson Loyal Orange Lodge, No. 356, and he was also one of the original members of the Beaconsfield Black Preceptory. No 14. He married a daughter of Mr. William Mussen, of Hillhall and was blessed with several children. One of his sons was Dr. Wm. Mussen Young, of Suffolk, England, who, on learning of his father's illness at once hastened to his bedside. Another son was Mr. Richard Young, town clerk of Lisburn and a third son was in the USA. He left a large family of daughters to mourn his loss. He was a member of the Church of Ireland. The remains were removed yesterday afternoon at half past two from his late residence in Mercer Street to Lambeg Cemetery. The chief mourners were :- Dr. W. Mussen Young, of Suffolk, England, Mr. Richard Young, town clerk, Lisburn, Mr. James Mussen, Dublin, half brother, Dr. Mussen Glenavy, brother in law, Mr. Henry Mussen Dunmurry, brother in law, Mr. Samuel Wilson brother in law, Messrs Arthur Mussen, James Mussen, William Blackburn, Richard Murdoch and Wm J Murdoch cousins.

Death: Young - October 15, at his residence, Mercer Street, Lisburn of apoplexy, Samuel Young aged 62 years. (Lisburn Standard, Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October, 1889)

Dr. William Mussen Young died on 14 12 1904. He was residing at Mercer Street, Lisburn.