

# Dr. Arthur Mussen - the family man

After a period of about three years as the local doctor in the village of Glenavy, Dr. Mussen was to marry Jane Moffett from the Newforge area of Malone, Belfast. She was the daughter of Augustus Moffett, a bank manager. They were married on the 17<sup>th</sup> September 1868 at Malone Church of Ireland, Belfast.

Jane, who was known affectionately as Jeannie, would give birth to two children - a male and female. Arthur Augustus Mussen, named after his father and maternal grandfather, was born on the 4<sup>th</sup> April 1870. Almost three years later on 13<sup>th</sup> January 1873, he was joined by a sister, named Amelia Marguerita. The birth registers from that period show the informant of the births was Jane Mussen, mother. Dr. Mussen was the registrar when his own children's births were registered.



A family photograph taken in August 1893. Mrs. Mussen is to the extreme left and Dr. Arthur Mussen on the extreme right, pictured with their two children, Augustus and Amy. (Amelia)

In the early 1900's Dr. Mussen and his wife employed a domestic servant called Sarah Crawford, at their home. (1901 census - PRONI)

In 1891, a new Church of Ireland curate arrived in the village of Glenavy. Charles Frederick James Newell, originally from County Armagh, took up residence in the village in a house owned by Dr. Mussen. On 5<sup>th</sup> September, 1893 he was to take the hand in marriage of Dr. Mussen's 20 year old daughter, Amelia Marguerita Mussen at Glenavy Parish Church. They were married by the Reverend Charles Watson and the witnesses were Emmelina Newell, and the brother of the bride, Arthur Augustus Mussen. At the time of their marriage, Charles Newell's father, James Frederick Newell was recorded as the Rector of Kilbehenny, County Cork. (General Register Office, Northern Ireland)

In 1894 Charles Frederick James Newell was appointed the Vicar of Templepatrick. He died in September 1946 in California, U.S.A. His wife, Amelia died in the U.S.A. in January 1953.

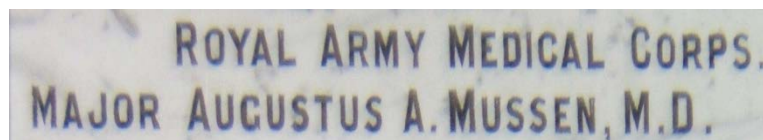
One of their sons, Frederick Arthur Newell born in October 1894 attended Campbell College, Belfast (1909-1912). He is listed in the College register as a Lieutenant in the Machine Gun Corps in the Great War. The following extract has been taken from the Glenavy Parish Magazine, dated September 1915

"We note with regret that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut. A. Newell, a grandson of Dr. Mussen has been wounded at

The Dardenelles. Mr. Newell, who is now in hospital at Oxford, had only just landed and advanced a short distance, when he was blown into the air by a shell close to him. Almost immediately afterwards he was hit in the leg by a bullet and now finds himself in England, a few weeks after he left.”

Arthur Augustus Mussen, son of Dr. Mussen, was also to serve in the First World War. Service in the First World War has wrongly been accredited to his father Dr. Arthur Mussen in several local publications over the years. Arthur Augustus not only followed in his father’s footsteps as a Medical Practitioner, but he joined the Orange Order. Records of L.O.L. 227 show he was initiated in the lodge on the 27<sup>th</sup> June 1891 and subsequently made an honorary member in 1906. In the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century he was residing in the Rodney Street area of Liverpool, not far from the birthplace of William Ewart Gladstone almost one hundred years earlier. At that time he was assistant medical officer of health. He enlisted for military service during the First World War. His military record is confirmed in the inscriptions on the memorials in Glenavy village, and Glenavy Parish Church. He was a Major in the Royal Army Medical Corps. The Supplement to the London Gazette dated 12<sup>th</sup> April, 1915 states that he was granted the temporary rank of Major on the 25<sup>th</sup> March, 1915, whilst serving with the Liverpool Merchants Mobile Hospital in the Royal Army Medical Corps, Territorial Force. A later London Gazette dated 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 1917 states that he relinquished his temporary commission on reposting. A further entry in the London Gazette dated 9<sup>th</sup> January 1919 states “Major A.A. Mussen, M.D., from Sanitary Service, to be Major. 10<sup>th</sup> December, 1918.” He held the post of Medical Officer of Health for the City and Port of Liverpool. He was the godfather to Robert Walsh Mussen who was a doctor (Surgeon Rear Admiral) in the Royal Navy. When Arthur Augustus Mussen died he left Robert Walsh Mussen several paintings. They have the following inscription “Presented to Arthur A. Mussen, Medical Officer of Health for the City and Port of Liverpool by his colleagues and staff of the public health department as a token of goodwill and esteem after 31 years service. 15<sup>th</sup> August, 1931.” Arthur Augustus Mussen had one son, Patrick who died young.

The Belfast Newsletter dated Friday November 15<sup>th</sup> 1912 contains the following entry:  
Births: Mussen - November 13<sup>th</sup> at 13 Abercromby Square, Liverpool, to Dr. and Mrs. A.A. Mussen - a son.



Augustus A. Mussen’s name, son of Dr. Mussen as it appears on the War Memorial in Glenavy Protestant Hall, Glenavy.



Dr Arthur Augustus Mussen  
(Source and date unknown)