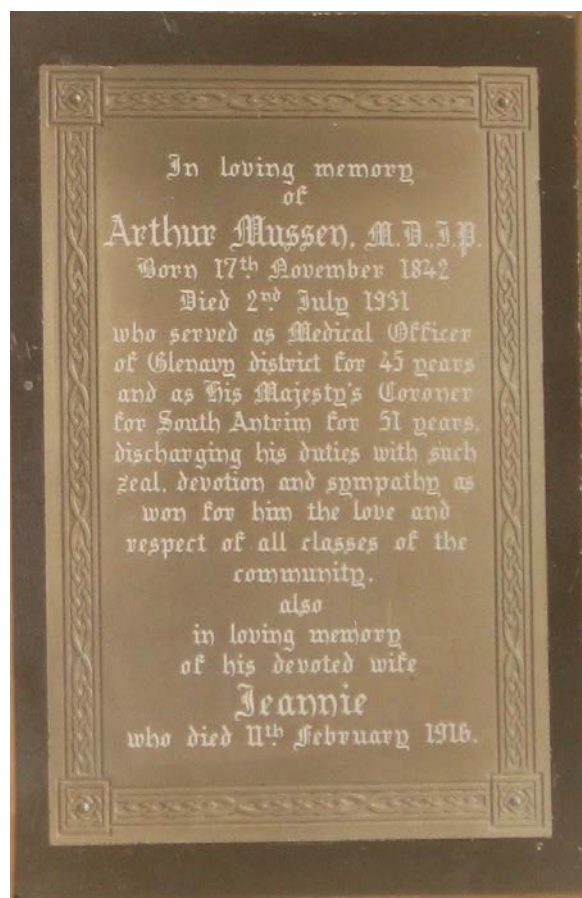


# The Death of Dr. Mussen.

The headstone and grave surround situated in the graveyard of St. Aidan's Parish Church, Glenavy, County Antrim, mark the final resting place of Arthur Mussen and his wife, Jeannie.

It reads "Arthur Mussen M.D., J.P. H M Coroner for S. Antrim died 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1931. Jeannie beloved wife of Arthur Mussen died 11<sup>th</sup> February 1916.

Dr. Mussen's daughter, Mrs. Newell, Templepatrick, applied to the Select Vestry of Glenavy Parish Church in January 1932 to erect a memorial tablet to her father. This application was approved on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 1932. This tablet was destroyed in 1938 when Glenavy Parish Church went on fire. There is a reference to the existence of the memorial on a plaque inside Glenavy Parish Church listing all memorials destroyed in that fire.



A photograph of the original memorial at St. Aidan's Parish Church, Glenavy prior to the destruction of the church by fire in December 1938.

The burial records in Glenavy Parish Church state "Jeannie Mussen, Glenavy 14 02 1916 age 76."

Glenavy Parish Magazine 1916. "The late Mrs. Mussen. Death - Jeannie Mussen.

It is with regret that we chronicle the death of Mrs. Mussen who has for so many years been closely identified with the church life of the parish and with every good work in and around Glenavy. Mrs. Mussen has been in failing health for sometime, but the end came suddenly at the last, and was a sad shock to her many friends who deeply regret her loss. Our warmest sympathies extended to Dr. Mussen in this his irreparable bereavement. We pray God may comfort him and that many more years of usefulness may be his, helped by the sympathy of the many who love and admire him."



The grave of Arthur Mussen and his wife is situated to the left of the path on entering the graveyard through the lych-gate at Glenavy Parish Church.

Dr. Mussen in later life had left “The Cottage” in Glenavy and he was residing with his daughter, Mrs. Newell, in Templepatrick where he passed away on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 1931, aged 88 years. The local papers reported his death the following day.

“The death occurred yesterday at the residence of his son-in-law (Rev. Charles F. Newell, The Vicarage, Templepatrick) of Dr. Arthur Mussen, J.P., who, for 51 years, held the office of coroner for South Antrim.” (Lisburn Standard, Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1931)

The Rev. Charles Newell registered Dr. Mussen’s death on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> July 1931 The cause of death was recorded as “Cerebral embolism,” and was certified for 12 hours. (General Register Office, Northern Ireland)

The obituaries appeared in most of the local newspapers. The obituaries, however state that Dr. Mussen had been the son of Arthur Mussen. The following are several extracts from some of the obituaries.

“A Unionist in politics, Dr. Mussen was prominently identified with the Orange Institution, and was often described as “the grand old man of County Antrim Orangeism.” (Lisburn Standard, Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1931)

“He joined the Orange Institution so far back as the year 1867, and from that time he was always, until his retirement through advanced age, a few years ago, a prominent figure in the Orangeism of Co. Antrim.” (Belfast Telegraph, Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1931)

“For 64 years he was a member of the Order and for the record period of 57 years was District Master of Glenavy District L.O.L. No.4” (Lisburn Standard, Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1931)

“Dr. Mussen was, in July of last year, the recipient of an appropriate souvenir to mark in permanent form the appreciation of his brethren of Glenavy District Loyal Orange Lodge No. 4, concerning the valued services rendered by him as District Master for the record period of 57 years. The gift took the form of an artistically designed and decorated Past District Master’s certificate, enclosed in a handsome frame, the ceremony of presentation taking place at the residence of his daughter and her husband, the Rev. Charles F. Newell, the Vicarage, Templepatrick. The deputation from Glenavy District Lodge consisted of Brs. George Thompson. J.P., W.D.M.; Senator Colonel H.A. Pakenham, C.M.G., D.L., the D.D.M.; T.T. Clendinning, secretary; John Barnes, and Captain Lucas Waring. Br. Thompson made the presentation in graceful terms and, with the other brethren of the deputation, eulogised the whole-hearted services rendered by Br. Dr. Mussen to the District in particular and to the cause of Orangeism in general during the unbroken period of 57 years - from the beginning of the year 1873 till his regretted retirement at the end of 1929 in which he held the office of District Master.” (Belfast Telegraph Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1931)

In 1937 L.O.L. 227 had a banner painted in memory of Dr. Mussen.

“In the early years of this lodge the brethren walked behind a flag. Then in 1937 a banner, painted by Bridgetts, and depicting brother A. Mussen M.D., J.P., was purchased for £37. 7s.6d. This banner was carried for 50 years. The year 1987 saw the present banner, also depicting Brother Mussen, dedicated and unfurled at a cost of £800.” (L.O.L. 227 published history)