

The family of David William Brassington of Dales Green, from 1801

David William Brassington in his day was perhaps the best known & most respected Primitive Methodist local preacher & orator in the Mow Cop area. A lifelong Prim, but not a sectarian, he preached to various denominations & was also a member of the Salvation Army. He moved to the sacred hill from Congleton on marrying Esther Lawton of Dales Green in 1876. His connections however go deeper, as his mother was the famous Primitive Methodist revivalist Jane Brassington (c.1810-1887), one of the great female preachers who were a unique feature of Primitive Methodism; she was a key figure in local Methodism during the 1840s, 50s & 60s & in particular in the 'great revival' on Mow Cop in 1856 – a revival of chiefly local importance, though of course nothing that happened on Mow Cop was purely local in the Primitive Methodism of that time. In spite of Primitive Methodism's credentials as the church of the poorer classes, it comes as a surprise in researching this family tree to discover just how disadvantaged her origins were—see biog below. The various spellings of Jane's unusual maiden name are: Ferribee (1831 bap reg) Ferrabee (1842 m reg inc her own signature, the only known example) Featherbee (1842 m lic, sworn out by Thomas) Featherby (1843+1845 birth certs) Firrabee (1848 birth cert); her 1841 census entry looks exactly like Fennbee but the enumerator may have intended Ferribee; the usual spelling in early 19thC documents of the family at Mobberley, nr Knutsford is consistently Ferreebee; Feather- doubtless follows from the clerks' assumption that Ferra-/Firra- is slovenly pronunciation or dialect.

William Brassington of Audley parish f.1801 farmer/yeoman = 1801 Jan 22 at Acton, nr Nantwich, Ellen Barrington of Baddington, in Acton parish, dtr of William, farmer

Thomas Brassington (1803-1877) b.March 24, bap.Audley; of Congleton, bread baker = 1842 Aug 1 at Astbury, Jane Ferrabee or Featherbee of Hulme Walfield – the famous Primitive Methodist preacher & revivalist **Jane Brassington** (c.1810-1887) illegitimate, born at Knutsford to a member of the Ferreebee family of Mobberley, she did not know her mother's Christian name; presumably she grew up an orphan, whether in institutions or foster families we don't know, & from an early age (perhaps 10 or 12) worked as live-in maidservant in & around Congleton, & also sometimes as a silk reeler in the Congleton silk mills; she was baptised at Congleton Town Chapel (St Peter's) on Dec 7, 1831 (as Ferribee), probably indicating the date of her conversion, as it was the normal practice if unbaptised to seek baptism (whether Methodist or Anglican did not matter) after conversion to Primitive Methodism; a contemporary marginal note in the baptism register states 'Born about 1810', which fits other info; she became a local preacher & married (at Astbury church) another local preacher, Thomas Brassington, a baker in Congleton & descendant of a large Moorland farming family in Staffs & East Cheshire; Thomas & Jane were part of the long-lasting revivalistic spirit that was characteristic of Congleton Primitive Methodism at that period, & along with James Broad of Congleton & Samuel Oakes of MC Jane Brassington was a central figure in the 'great revival' on Mow Cop in 1856; her 10 year-old son was doubtless caught up in it & formed the attachment to the hill that stayed with him all his life, coming to live there on marrying a MC girl in 1876; after her husband's death in 1877 Jane married in 1878 the Yorkshire-born veteran PM minister Revd John Graham, whose first wife Margaret had died in 1860, & whose last postings in a career of over 50 years were at Macclesfield & Congleton, where he retired in 1879; he d.1885; Jane d.1887 & was buried at St

Peter's, Congleton on March 31; a photo of her in later life (as Mrs Graham) is reproduced in Kendall & on the Englesea Brook web site; she had 3 children:

3 Julia Anna (1843-1910) = 1868\3 Congleton reg dist, Frederick Mayer of Newcastle (1845-1902) butcher / m'd either at the PM Chapel or Astbury church; they lived in Newcastle; their 1st child was named Beatrice Barrington Brassington Mayer b.1869

David William Brassington of Dales Green (1845-1926) d.Oct 15; living with his sister & brother-in-law at Newcastle in 1871, his occupation given as draper; later usually called draper or clothier's agent, except 1891 living at Verners Rd, Wood Green, London when he's called 'Salvation Army Officer'; in 81 they're living at Red Lion Square, Newcastle, presumably briefly; subsequently of Meadow Cottage, Dales Green = 1876\3 Wolstanton reg dist, Esther Lawton of Dales Green (1860-1935) dtr of Marmaduke & Hannah (nee Triner, who d.Sept 1860 6 months or so after Esther was b; Marmaduke's 2nd wife her step-m was also named Hannah & was widow of Samuel Oakes (1828-1864), Jane Brassington's collaborator in the 'great revival' of 1856); she was aged 16 on m; d.Aug 30 at Meadow Cottage, DG / in the 1911 census Esther reports 8 children of whom 6 are living, but only 7 birth registrations have been traced & only 1 early death, no parish baps tho presumably they were bap'd in chapel

4 Harriet Lawton b.1877 f.1901 ?d.1951 = 1900 WolstRD, Henry Rowley jnr of Harsehead / living at Biddulph Rd in 1901

Sarah Jane b.1878/9 WolstRD 1879\1, f.1891-with grandparents Marmaduke & Hannah Lawton of Dales Green, 1901-visitor with John Albert & Emma Fox (her friend, dtr of Edwin & Hannah Hancock, sister of PM minister Revd Lewis Hancock) at Cheadle post office; a SJB m'd 1905 CongRD (no groom's name in indexes!)

May (1880-1960) b.on May Day, hence the only child not given 2 names = 1913 Jacob Ball of Rock Side (1875-1955) son of Isaac & Harriet, grandson of Nathan Ball (V) & Mary / their son was Vernon Ball (1917-1995) headmaster of Woodcocks' Well School

Lilian Hannah (1881-1882) bur.St Thomas's, MC June 14 aged 10 months

David William (1884-1964) b.Sept 1; d.Sept 24 at Parkside Hospital, Macclesfield; of Salford, Brighouse, etc, & Mellor St, Packmoor; elementary school teacher = 1909\4 in Salford RD, Daisy (surname unknown) (1885-1961) b.Cong Nov 21, d.Jan 24 at City General Hospital; f.1911 at Brighouse, Yorks, 1921 Odd Rode ie Ches side of MC, 1939 at Mellor St / their only child was DWB III

5 David William (1910-1999) b.Salford Feb 11, 1910, d.Jan 3 in Cheshire EastRD; local government officer = 1933 CongRD, Annie C. Bradbury b.Feb 4, 1911 / living with the Bradburys at Buglawton in 39reg

6 David William (1934-1977) b.Aug 11; school teacher, d.at Manor Cottage School, Langport, Somerset

2 others

4 add'l child unidentified, presumably d.inf

Grace Beatrice b.Wood Green, London Feb 18, 1892 (EdmontonRD), f.1911, at Parkside Mental Hospital, Macclesfield in 39reg, d.there 1979 = 1913 Joseph Sanderson

Herbert Marmaduke (1895-1934) d.July 9 at NSRI; named after his grandfather Marmaduke Lawton, who in turn inherited his name from the original Marmaduke Mellor of Dales Green (1749-1826); lived with his parents at Meadow Cottage; unmarried

3 Harriet Ellen (1848-1849) d.aged 7 months