

Rev James Brewitt of Storey Square United Free Methodist Church d 13 April 1905



IN MEMORY OF
THE REV. JAMES BREWITT
BORN AT *SLEAFORD, LINCOLNSHIRE*
24TH MARCH, 1843,
ENTERED INTO REST 13TH APRIL, 1905.
FOR 42 YEARS IN THE MINISTRY OF THE
UNITED METHODIST FREE CHURCHES
PRESIDENT OF THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY 1899
PASTOR OF THE STOREY SQUARE CHURCH,
BARROW-IN-FURNESS, 1901-1905.
I have fought the good fight
(2 TIMOTHY IV. 7. R. VI)

The *Barrow News* 15 April 1905 had a brief column:
DEATH OF REV. J. C. BREWITT – The death took place, after a brief illness, at his residence, No. 1, Hawcoat-lane, Barrow, on Thursday morning, of the Rev. J. C. Brewitt, minister of Storey-square Church, and an ex-president of the United Methodist Free Churches. Mr. Brewitt, who was 62 years of age, had been in Barrow four years, and during his connection with Storey-square Church had done very good work, and was much respected, not only by his congregation, but by all he came into contact with. He was the means of considerably reducing the debt on his church, and had recently been doing most excellent work among the

young people of the church, while he had acted frequently on various committees. Mr. Brewitt came from Cleckheaton to Barrow, but during his forty years in the ministry he had travelled in some of the best circuits of the denomination. He was only really taken seriously ill on Saturday, when he had to take to his bed, suffering from congestion of the lungs, and despite the attendance of Dr. Daniel, he died as stated. He leaves a widow and three sons to mourn his loss. The funeral took place to-day, a short service taking place at the Church, Storey-square, at 1.30, the cortege afterwards proceeding to the cemetery.

The research for Rev. Brewitt had already been done, and can be read at <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Brewitt-17> or it is reproduced below:

James Christopher Brewitt: born Jan (*sic*) 1843 in Quarrington, Lincolnshire,

Son of James Christopher Brewitt and Letitia Brittain.

Brother of Edward I Brewitt, Betsy Brewitt, Joseph Wells Brewitt, Alfred Brewitt, Letitia Brewitt, Walter Brewitt, and Annie (Brewitt) Bird.

Husband of Mary Elizabeth (Taylor) Brewitt — married Jul 1870 in Erpingham, Norfolk,

Father of James Edward Brewitt, Sidney Brewitt, Eleanor Letitia Brewitt and Herbert Taylor Brewitt

Died 13 Apr 1905 in Barrow in Furness, Lancashire, England, United Kingdom

James was born into a well off family (two servants) in Quarrington, outside Sleaford, Lincolnshire in 1843.

He had an apprenticeship in Sleaford (Chymist & Druggist) when 18 (1861), and then married in 1870 near his wife's home in Norfolk, aged 27. What he did during the intervening years is not known, but there may be more information in the records of the Methodist Free Church.

After which his life seems to have taken a dramatic change of course. His first child was born in Leeds in 1872, followed by two more children, both born in Burnley. By this time he was a Free Methodist minister, and it appears he was moving around a lot to different industrial 'parishes'.

His travels were widespread - he was in Nottingham in 1881; he was in Jarrow in the north east visiting another Methodist minister at the time of the 1891 census, while his family were living in Yorkshire; and he appears to have travelled from Liverpool to the USA in 1900, for reasons unknown but most probably connected to the church; and ended up in Barrow in Furness, where he died in 1905.

*In The United Methodist publication, 14 July 1910, I found "In 1900, along with the **late Rev. J. C. Brewitt**, president during that year the late Thomas Wakefield, and Frederick Galpin, two of our most honoured missionaries, Mr. Chapman went to New York as a representative to the Ecumenical Missionary Conference ..." (RMW insert)* He seems to have had quite a 'high profile', as he appears in plenty of newspaper articles, for example in the Manchester press (more research needed on these - links to the specific editions he is mentioned in can easily be found on findmypast).

In addition to travelling and raising a fairly large family he clearly did well financially, as all the census returns show that he had at least one servant helping his wife to run the house.

1851 Census Residence: South St, Quarrington, Sleaford, Lincolnshire, England

Household	Role	Gen	Age	Birthplace	Occupation
James C Brewitt	Head	M	38	Lincolnshire	Cheese & Bacon Factor (Master)
Letitia Brewitt	Wife	F	34	Lincolnshire	
James C Brewitt	Son	M	8	Quarrington, Lincolnshire	Scholar
Alfred Brewitt	Son	M	2	Quarrington, Lincolnshire	
Letitia Brewitt	Dau	F	0	Quarrington, Lincolnshire	

This census also includes two servants, Elizabeth Nailor, Housemaid, and Ann Daubney, Nursemaid.

1861 Census Residence: Market Place, Spalding, Lincolnshire, England

Household	Role	Gen	Age	Birthplace	Occupation
Major Shadford	Head	M	44	Tetford	Chymist & Druggist
Ann Shadford	Wife	F	44	Langton	
James C Brewitt	Apprentice	M	18	Sleaford	Chymist's Apprentice

Note: the rest of the Shadford household and servants are in the census but have not been included as they do not appear to be relevant to James' profile.

1871 Census Residence: Highfield St, Holbeck, Leeds, Yorkshire, England

Household	Role	Gen	Age	Birthplace	Occupation
James C Brewitt	Head	M	28	Lincolnshire	
Mary E Brewitt	Wife	F	24	Norfolk	

One servant, Matilda Parks.

1881 Census Residence: 31 Forest Rd, Nottingham St Mary, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire, England

Household	Role	Gen	Age	Birthplace	Occupation
James C Brewitt	Head	M	38	Lincolnshire	Minister of the Methodist Free Church
Mary E Brewitt	Wife	F	34	Cley next the Sea, Norfolk	
James E Brewitt	Son	M	9	Leeds, Yorkshire	Scholar
Sidney Brewitt	Son	M	8	Burnley, Lancashire	Scholar
Eleanor L Brewitt	Dau	F	6	Burnley, Lancashire	

One servant, Mary G Dawson, General Servant

1891 Census Residence: Calvert St, East Wymer, Norwich, Norfolk, England

Household	Role	Gen	Age	Birthplace	Occupation
James C Brewitt	Head	M	48	New Quarrington, Lincolnshire	Methodist Minister
Mary E Brewitt	Wife	F	44	Cley next the Sea, Norfolk	
Sidney Brewitt	Son	M	18	Burnley, Lancashire	Accountant Clerk
Eleanor L Brewitt	Dau	F	16	Burnley, Lancashire	Home Duties
Herbert S Brewitt	Son	M	9	Nottingham, Nottinghamshire	Scholar

One servant, Elizabeth French, Domestic

In the **1901 Census** James is in Jarrow, South Shields, Durham, visiting the house of James A Howarth, who was also a Free Methodist Minister. Mary and the youngest child are living in Cleckheaton, Yorkshire. Herbert is a banker's clerk.

By the **1911 Census** Mary Elizabeth Brewitt (62). widow, born Cley next the Sea, Norfolk, lived at 1, Hawcoat Lane. Other members of the household were Sidney Brewitt (38), publisher's manager, born Burnley; Florence May Brewitt (38), born Norwich, Norfolk; Sidney James Brewitt (11), born Bagillt, North Wales; Herbert Eric Brewitt (9), born Bagillt, North Wales; Dorothy May Brewitt (7), born Bruederheim?, Alberta, Canada; Violet Maud Brewitt (3), born Ulverston, and Mary Fallon (15), domestic servant, born Barrow-in-Furness. The birth-places presumably give an indication of where Sidney Snr. was working at the time.

At no. 3 lived Thomas Harries, a Congregational Minister, and his wife.

The mymethodisthistory.org.uk website says that J. Christopher Brewitt was a Minister from 1863-1905.

To add to the Wikitree information, I found that James C. Brewitt was a Minister in Bristol North in 1883 <https://archive.org/details/unitedmethodist00abergoog/page/n568> and he had chaired a District Conference on 'Temperance Sunday' (the second Sunday in December) in that year.

On *Ancestry*, the **National Probate Calendar for 1905** has:

BREWITT James Christopher of 1 Hawcoat-lane Barrow-in-Furness Lancashire methodist-minister died 13 April 1905 Probate **Lancaster** 26 July to Herbert Taylor Brewitt coal-merchant and John Taylor Methodist-minister Effects £3287 8s 1d.

NB Herbert Taylor Brewitt was his son; his wife's maiden name was Taylor so John Taylor may be a nephew.

Again on *Ancestry*, Herbert Taylor Brewitt, of North Vancouver, British Columbia and Elinor Salome Burton of Perth, Ontario, were issued with a marriage licence on 7 December 1911. H.T. Brewitt is in Real Estate, and his wife-to-be is a farmer's daughter. They can be found returning to North America on SS Megantic in December 1912. In December 1926 he arrives in Southampton on SS Majestic, and is going to stay at Rattlesley House, Walsham, Norfolk. He is described as a merchant.

The Storey Square Church where James was pastor is described:

Originally erected 1874; a new church built 1894 at cost of £2100. It closed in 1952. The main building was demolished in 2010, although the adjoining Sunday Schoolroom is now used by Barrow Christian Fellowship.

<https://www.genuki.org.uk/big/eng/LAN/BarrowinFurness/StoreySquareUnitedMethodistFreeChurch>



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