

# The British Simuliid Group Bulletin

Number 42

July 2014



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# THE BRITISH SIMULIID GROUP BULLETIN

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## CONTENTS

**From the Editor.....** 1

**In Memoriam Jörg Grunewald .....** 2

### FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

**6<sup>th</sup> International Simuliidae Symposium**  
**Torino, Italy. 16-19 September 2014 .....** 3

**12<sup>th</sup>. Annual Meeting of the North American Black Fly**  
**Association (NABFA) .....** 4

### ARTICLES

**Arthur William Jobbins Pomeroy 1891 to 1956**  
**Roger W. Crosskey, Peter H. Adler and John B. Davies .....** 5

#### **End Pages**

The British Simuliid Group  
The British Simuliid Group Bulletin  
Notes for contributors

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#### **Cover Image:**

*The “Mbwa” fly of Uganda, Simulium damnosum female, depicted  
by Ernest Gibbins in the Uganda Journal 2 (4) (unpaged) (1935)*

## From the Editor

In this issue we have the sad news of the passing of an old and much loved friend, Jörg Grunewald. We hope to be able to give more information in the next issue. A reminder about the 6<sup>th</sup> International Symposium to be held in Turin 16 to 19 September 2014. while the main article concerns a little known simuliidologist, Arthur Pomeroy, who led a remarkable life.

### **The future of the British Simuliid Group and the Bulletin.**

Founded in 1979, The British Simuliid Group's objective was to coordinate blackfly research in the U.K. and to provide a means of disseminating knowledge. At that time a stimulus to research was provided by the growth of the WHO Onchocerciasis Control Programme and the research funds available from WHO and other funding agencies and interested countries. Inevitably, due to the passage of time, the completion of the WHO Vector Control Programme and the activities of the Grim Reaper the number of active blackfly workers in Britain has now fallen from its peak of about 40 to a mere half dozen. This raises the question as to whether there is any point in continuing the Group in its present form. Paradoxically as the British group has declined, numbers of researchers in Europe and elsewhere have grown as demonstrated by the very successful biannual International Symposia that have been held since 2008.

A meeting of the Group to be held in Birmingham in the summer of 2015 has been proposed by Charles Brockhouse. One of the topics for discussion would be the current status of the Simulium Genome Project.

The Group's Bulletin, originally sent free to all registered members had a circulation of about 140 members worldwide and formed the medium whereby the Group was bound together. Since publication and postal costs forced us to go "on line" in July 2011 the sense of belonging has been lost as we have no good idea how many actually read the Bulletin. Although records indicate that the on-line Bulletins are visited some 800 times per year, we don't know how many are actually read (there is of course a difference between "visited" and "read").

We therefore have a situation where the physical membership of the Group has dwindled almost to extinction while the Bulletin goes from strength to strength. So for your consideration, I propose that:-

1. The BSGroup be allowed to die gracefully following the 2015 meeting.
2. At the same time the Bulletin should adopt a fully international dimension by:-

- a/ Changing its name to "The Simuliid Bulletin"
- b/ Co-opting 3 or 4 sub-editors from the international community whose duties would be very light but would include encouraging local workers to submit papers, articles and correspondence etc.
- c/ The current editor remain for the time being as Senior Editor in charge of production.

Please give these proposals some thought. I would welcome any comments sent to me at my e-mail address given on the back pages.

**John Davies**  
**Editor**

## **In Memoriam**

**Jörg Grunewald**

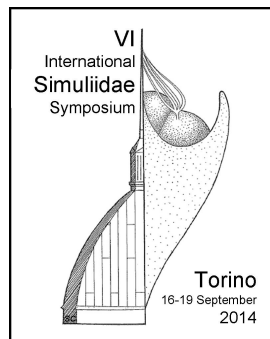
It is with great sorrow and sense of loss that we report the passing of Jörg Grunewald who died during the second half of June 2014. He was a true friend and respected colleague to all who knew him.

At the time of publication no further information was available.

## FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

### **6<sup>th</sup> International Simuliidae Symposium Torino, Italy. 16-19 September 2014**

Let us remind you of the approaching "6<sup>th</sup> International Simuliidae Symposium" that will be held in Torino, Italy, on 16<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> September 2014 and will embrace all areas of black fly research. The registration fee is 150 € for tenured participants and 110 € for students. The venue of the meeting will be the Regional Museum of Natural Sciences and the city is directly served by the airport of Torino-Caselle or can be reached with a two hour bus journey from Milano-Malpensa airport.



Announcements will be made from time to time via the Simuliidologist Mailing List at [www.jiscmail.ac.uk/simuliidae](http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/simuliidae).

Registration forms, organisational details and accommodation suggestions are published on the Blackfly.org.uk website at

URL: <http://www.blackfly.org.uk/symposium2014/symposium2014.htm>

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**North American Black Fly Association (NABFA) 13<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Meeting  
February 2015**

Chair: John Walz; Vice Chair: Elmer Gray

Dates for the next North American Black Fly Association meeting are set for Thursday, February 19 and Friday, February 20th, 2015. The meeting will again be held at the University of Georgia, in Athens, Georgia. This venue provides an opportunity to visit the world's only colony of black flies that is maintained in our laboratories.

. <http://www.georgiacenter.uga.edu/uga-hotel>

As always, feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns.

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# Arthur William Jobbins Pomeroy

## 1891 to 1956

### Entomologist, Soldier and Horticulturist

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## Introduction

**ARTHUR WILLIAM JOBBINS POMEROY:** the name had a pleasing rhythm as we researched this English entomologist and tried to blow away the relative neglect that he had suffered among aficionados of the Simuliidae (blackflies). The eastern USA and tropical Africa were Arthur Pomeroy's (AWJP) working areas so we have thought of ourselves as in as good a position as anyone to investigate AWJP'S life and work. Through what has seemed at times an endless variety of sources (there was no existing obituary) it has turned out to be a fascinating story, one which we think might intrigue the reader and hopefully do justice to its subject. Our article is published as a spin-off from the "Who was..?" series of articles in the *British Simuliid Group Bulletin* and its aim is to make AWJP (1891-1956) generally known.

In 1962 the Russian blackfly specialist I.A.Rubtsov, writing in *Zoologicheskyy Zhurnal* 41:1492, promoted Group II (*cervicornutum* group) of Freeman & De Meillon's *Simuliidae of the Ethiopian Region* (1953) to be a genus. He called it *Pomeroyellum*, in recognition of A.W.J.Pomeroy's "pioneer research". Nowadays it is given subgeneric rank within the genus *Simulium*. There is no blackfly species named after Pomeroy, but some other insects bear *pomeroyi* as specific epithet.

Who was this Arthur Pomeroy, what was his "pioneer research", when was it done?

Our investigation discovered that Pomeroy acquired his interest in blackflies while living in the USA. His talents were spotted early. The US Department of Agriculture (Washington DC) engaged him as Entomological Assistant and published his first paper in their Bulletin (1916). It was a fine work, ahead of its time. However, recognition in the USA was insufficient to keep him there. Quite suddenly in November 1914 he 'jumped ship' and joined the UK Colonial Service, sailing soon afterwards to Nigeria as an entomologist with the Agricultural Department. He now began to assemble a modest *Simulium* collection from Nigeria, Cameroon (Kamerun), Tanganyika and Zanzibar, using the specimens for description of his 10 new species and four varieties. The collection was ultimately donated in 1943 to the British Museum (Natural History) (now = Natural History Museum) and included all the type specimens. The data labels were a boon as they enabled us to track AWJP to a given time and place.

### **Pomeroy's publications**

There are three blackfly papers, published over the period 1916-1922. The first [10], considering Pomeroy's young age (23) when the work was done (1914), surprises by the quality of its original drawings and by the earliest use of male genitalia in the taxonomy of North American *Simulium* (only three years after Lundström's use with European species). The second and third works [19, 20] deal with African *Simulium*, and include descriptions of new species and taxonomic varieties. All material for the second paper (1920) was collected by Pomeroy while he was on military duty in Kamerun (see text). Taken together the African papers provided a timely start point for study of the Afrotropical fauna. Pomeroy's figures of male genitalia and pupal gills were a guarantee of accurate species identification.

In addition to his paper on mosquito control [15] he published at least five others in recognised journals as well as numerous government reports on insects as diverse as tsetse flies, cotton-stainers, termites and silk moths.

Pomeroy's move to Nigeria ushered in a long phase in which he was an agricultural entomologist in Nigeria (1914-1925) and a medical entomologist in the Gold Coast (1926-1931). The government Annual Reports of these Departments proved rewarding search sources, particularly yielding information on his scientific activities and arrival and departure dates for home leaves in England. At this time he was an inveterate traveller, and searches of the passenger lists (manifests) relating to his journeys soon proved to be among the most productive sources of information on 'Pomeroy, A.W.J.' that can be found. Sometimes a discovery made from a manifest was a complete surprise to us, continents away from what had been known before. Two examples suffice: the finding that India was his country of birth, and Jamaica the place where (in 1931 aged 40) he was headed as a migrant. (The latter



astonished us: how to fit AWJP's movements into a pattern that previously was centred around West Africa and England was a conundrum. Jamaica - where had that come from ?)

In 1915, a few months after appointment to the Colonial Service, Pomeroy was in effect seconded as a volunteer Lieutenant in the Nigeria Regiment of the West African Frontier Force. The First World War was getting into gear and AWJP was keen as mustard for military duty - from which he would not be stood down until January 1919. On recruitment he joined the Ikom Column tackling the Germans in Kamerun, initially a failed enterprise [see Box]. The military operations opened up a new style in our search for nuggets that would help us develop our chronology. Sources included the Army List, the London Gazette, and books on the First World War in East Africa (where AWJP was slightly wounded on a known date and time!)

In 1931-1932 retrenchment was in the air for the West African Colonies.

In the Gold Coast funding of entomologists ceased and AWJP faced threat of redundancy. It was this, we think, that prompted his move to Jamaica, helped by backing in London from Jamaica's ex-Governor. Aided by Kathleen Pomeroy (wife) he founded a horticultural business known as 'Pomeroy Nurseries'. All thoughts of entomology had been abandoned, although he might have pursued his old interests as Jamaica has a *Simulium* fauna. Our main source for the Jamaica years (i.e. the last phase of his life 1931-1956) has been the local newspaper, "The Gleaner". This captures everything of serious note in the island, and much that is inconsequential - e.g. where

AWJP stands in the latest billiards match and what they are saying about 'the Major' in the downtown barber's shops! Such references hint that he was a popular settler. Certainly he seems to have been content; he never went home to live and only once to visit England, during the Second World War (? 1943). He died on 27 November 1956, exactly 25 years

#### **Arthur's father William Jobbins**

At the time of Arthur's birth William Henry Jobbins was Superintendent of the Government School of Art, Calcutta. He was born in 1836/7 in Malmesbury, Wiltshire, England. He was a landscape painter and taught art in Nottingham, where he held the post of Assistant Principal of the Nottingham School of Art from July 1875 to March 1878. He began to exhibit at the Royal Academy in 1872.

At some time after 1878 he travelled to Venice where he shared a palazzo with James McNeil Whistler, the eminent American artist. One of William's paintings of Venice is dated 1880. Some time he moved from Venice to India presumably to take up a position at the Government School of Art.

William was the son of Thomas Jobbins (died before 1901) and Sarah Elizabeth Amos 1828-1901 who were married in 1847 in Coventry, England.

after arriving in Jamaica.

We describe his life and immediate family in greater detail below. Unfortunately we have been unable to find a better photograph than the one in the Gleaner article.

## Arthur's Early Years

Arthur had an unsettled childhood. He was born as Arthur William Jobbins on 15 December 1891 in Calcutta, India, to William Henry Jobbins and Jeannette Shepherd neé Hauser [1]. William was Superintendent of the Government School of Art, Calcutta, and Jeannette Hauser the daughter of the Rev. I. L. Hauser of Bareilly, India. They were married on 5 September 1889 at St Paul's Cathedral, Calcutta.

Presumably the family migrated to Darjeeling each year as was customary in the hot season. This was where brother Amos was born on 20 April 1893. When Arthur was 4, life was upset by the death of his father. Apparently, William became ill in 1895. He was invalided home, but died before reaching Suez. The death is registered as taking place in 1895 "at sea" on the "Clan Matheson" [2]. It is likely that he was accompanied by his family. The Clan Matheson made two passages from Calcutta to London that year, in May-June and September. In view of Jeannette's subsequent marriage to James Scalé (an upholsterer) at the end of October the same year, it seems most likely that William died on the earlier voyage between May 11 when the ship left Colombo and its arrival in Suez on 23 May 1895.

### Arthur's mother Jeannette Hauser

Jeannette was born on 22 May 1862 in Bijnor, Uttar Pradesh, India, to American Christian missionaries Rev. Isaiah L. Hauser 1834-1909, businessman (tea), inventor, writer and owner/editor of *The Christian Statesman*, and Jeannette Gallagher Shepherd, 1840-1923 writer and President of the Women's Christian Temperance Union of India. Isaiah was born in Pennsylvania and Jeannette in Illinois but they were married 12 September 1860 at Bijnor, India.

Jeannette Gallagher Shepherd was the author of "The Orient and its People" (1876), published by her husband.

The Hauser family must have returned to USA between 1867 and 1868 as the 1880 census gives the family living in Evanston (a northern suburb of Chicago). Jeannette had two younger brothers Reginald, born 1867, India, and Arthur born 1868, Wisconsin, plus a sister Miriam born Wisconsin 1875.

They returned to India before 1889 as Jeannette's wedding announcement quotes her father being "Rev. I. L. Hauser of Bareilly". Bareilly is over 2000 km from Calcutta, so one wonders how she and William met.

The following year in order to fund her sons' education Jeannette began a cosmetic and beauty treatment business under the trade name *Mrs Pomeroy* which became very successful, with salons in London's Bond Street, Dublin, Glasgow, Birmingham, and Cape Town. In 1905 she visited the USA promoting her business. The 1901 census shows the boys aged 9 and 7 living in Fulham, London with stepfather James Scalé and a governess (no record of Jeannette who may have been away promoting her business). Later the two boys were enrolled into the Wells

### **Arthur's younger brother ROY POMEROY and the film industry**

After arriving in America, Arthur's brother Amos (born 1893 in India and now called Roy) followed an artistic route although he had enrolled at Ohio Wesleyan University to study engineering. In 1913 Roy and his mother moved to Indianapolis where his illustrations appeared in the Indianapolis Star. By 1915 he was enrolled at the Cincinnati Art Academy studying under Frank Duveneck, a contemporary of Roy's father, and doing illustrations for local papers. After graduating they moved to New York where Roy worked as a portrait painter.

During WW1 Roy must have moved to England where he developed a camera for discovering camouflaged objects and was awarded \$50,000 by the British Government. On return to New York he teamed up with Mr Nicholas de Lipsky to create innovative and dramatic stage lighting effects in theatres such as the Hippodrome. It was about this time that Roy met his future wife, Sylvia Jewel, a famous model once described as "the perfect woman", and it is possible that she introduced Roy to Hollywood producer Jesse L. Lasky. This could not have come at a better time because he and his mother had become embroiled in a nasty scandal surrounding de Lipsky, illegal abortion and death. His mother may have had a breakdown as a result, as she was shipped back to England as "deranged".

In 1922 Roy and Sylvia married in Los Angeles and he began work on Cecil B. DeMille's epic "The Ten Commandments" where he created the effect of the parting of the Red Sea and other dramatic effects. The film was highly successful, and Roy rose to be head of the special effects department working on other films such as "Peter Pan" and gaining a reputation as a miracle worker. When "talkies" began in 1927 he was one of the few competent at sound technology and became Director of sound effects. He was also instrumental in adding sound to the actual film, and was responsible for sound testing the voices of stars. With so much control Roy began to be accused of being arrogant and over demanding. He was now earning over \$1 million a year. His next film "Interference", though technically well made, was a flop, and gave Paramount an excuse to get rid of him. Besides there were now many younger technicians with Roy's skills. 1929 the first year of the Academy Awards saw Roy receive an Oscar for "Engineering Effects" for "Wings" which he never collected even though he was a founder of the "Oscars".

There followed an abortive attempt to find directing opportunities in England, and a series of small jobs in Hollywood, but none lasted long and by 1940 Roy had been unemployed for some time. He gave up directing and started his own company Pomeroy Laboratories, Los Angeles. On 3 September 1947 he was found dead in his laboratory having overdosed on Seconal.

*Much of this summary has been extracted from an account by Kate Corbett Pollack [4].*

House Preparatory School in the Malvern Hills. Arthur, but not Amos, attended Clifton College near Bristol from September 1906 to July 1907. There is a citation stating that Arthur was "educated at New College, Oxford" but this has not been confirmed [3].

In 1906 disaster struck. Following a hostile takeover bid, the *Mrs Pomeroy* company went into voluntary liquidation. Jeannette separated from James Scalé, changed her name and the names of her children to Pomeroy, and attempted to start another business, without success. Doubtless this state of affairs forced her to remove Arthur from Clifton College and decamp with her children to her parents in the United States. They arrived at New York on the "Celtic" on 30 March 1908.

### **U.S.A, secondary education and first employment**

On arrival in New York Jeannette with sons Arthur and Roy (previously named Amos) proceeded to Delaware, Ohio, where they boarded with Arthur's grandmother, Jeannette Shepherd [4]. Shortly after, Arthur branched out on his own along the entomology route and by 1910 was occupying rooms with the eminent entomologist Dr. William Barnes at 712 West Main Street, Decatur, Illinois [5]. The following year he was elected member of the Entomological Societies of America and Washington, and became Associated with the University of Illinois, where he studied entomology and collected insects in Illinois State.

For some reason Arthur appears not to have graduated but in June 1912 he became a Field Assistant at a salary of \$58.00 per month to Stephen Alfred Forbes, longtime (1882-1927) Illinois State Entomologist. At this time Forbes was working on a possible connection between blackflies and pellagra, so this is probably when Arthur first acquired an interest in simuliids [6]. He continued with Forbes until about May 1913 when he began to study the biology of *Simulium* species at Spartanburg, South Carolina in association with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington D.C. under the supervision of A.H.Jennings.

This work led to the publication of his only paper on North American simuliids which appeared in The US Department of Agriculture Bulletin in 1916 [10] and which aroused our interest in his career. This paper has all the characteristics of a thesis, leading us to speculate whether Arthur had intended it to be considered for a degree.

These activities continued until November 1914 when he sailed for England on the "Philadelphia", arriving in Liverpool on November 8th [7].

## West Africa and the First World War

The reason for Arthur's sudden departure for England is not clear. It might have been connected with the outbreak of WW1 in August 1914, or he might have heard of a vacancy for an entomologist in Nigeria and been invited to London for an interview. In any case things moved fast. By November 20th he had resigned from the US Department of Agriculture. He was appointed entomologist to the Agricultural Department of Southern Provinces, Nigeria (Colonial Service) on 20th December, sailing the same day for West Africa. In the interim he had presented 51 specimens of Hymenoptera from Havana, Illinois to the British Museum (Natural History) [7]. (Why?).

On arrival in Lagos on January 4 1915 on the "Abosso" Arthur immediately assumed his duties with the Agricultural Department. The departmental Annual Report states "Mr.A.W. Jobbins-Pomeroy was appointed Entomologist, vice Dr. W. A. Lamborn, and assumed duty on the 4th January" [8]. But not for long! In May he volunteered for First World War Army service and was gazetted Lieutenant in the Nigeria Regiment of the West African Frontier Force. As reported in his department's Annual Report: "Of the Agricultural Officers who volunteered to serve with the West African Frontier Force in the Cameroons, Government accepted the services of the Entomologist [Pomeroy] and Mr. A.J. Findlay, Assistant Superintendent, and in May they proceeded to join the Ikom Column. Mr. Findlay assumed his civil duties in September, but the Entomologist was still attached to the Column at the end of the year".

### The Ikom Column

*Extracted from pages 36-37 in: Farwell, Byron. . The Great War in Africa, 1914-1918. : W.W. Norton, NY , 1986, 382 pages*

It was not until 14 August 1914 that Colonel C. H. P. Carter received permission from London to reconnoitre across the frontier. Ten days later he ordered the invasion of the Cameroons at three points: a northern column advanced on Mora... a column from Yola... moved on Garua; and a third column in the south started from Ikom to attack the town and fort of Nsanakang on the Cross River. All three columns came to grief...

The greatest disaster overtook the column from Ikom. On 30 August it captured Nsanakang, but the Germans launched a furious counter attack, almost annihilating the British force. Three of its officers were killed, another was mortally wounded, and four were captured. 71 African other ranks were killed, 19 were wounded, and 24 captured. Also lost were 2 mountain guns, 5 machine guns and much ammunition. "It was only when the trenches were piled with the dead and the position was hopeless that Lieut. A. C. Milne-Home gave the order to bayonet charge, and they went through the enemy into the bush. There they mostly managed to evade the Germans and after days of starvation got back to Ikom".

After the Ikom campaign he continued service with the WAFF, and while doing so collected insects at Ossidinge (close to present day Mamfe) in October 1915 [9]. This must have been during active service as the town was not taken until 26 December 1915. His movements can be traced by his collections. Baliben and Tinto - 10 January 1916, Bangan - 14 February. On 6 April 1916 he took leave from both the WAFF and Colonial Government and proceeded on home leave (curious considering that he was on active service, but being a volunteer may have carried special privileges). He arrived in Liverpool on April 26 on the "Abinsi".

In England Arthur spent some time staying with a friend or relative at Malvern Wells where he had been at Prep. School. He then sailed for New York from Liverpool on 27 May 1916 on the "Tuscania" arriving in New York on 5th June with the object of visiting his mother at 120 Broadway, New York (probably the home of his brother, Roy). The US Immigration manifest [11] for his arrival provides us with a brief description. He was 5 ft. 7¾ in. tall (1.72 m.), of fair complexion, with blond hair and blue eyes, and with a scar on his left thumb. How long he stayed is not known, but we know he returned to England and sailed to Nigeria from Liverpool on the "Apapa" on 26 July.

## **East Africa and the Rufiji campaign**

Arthur arrived back in Nigeria on 11 August 1916. The Ikom action must have whetted Arthur's appetite for the military life as he immediately resumed his attachment to the WAFF in Cameroon instead of returning to civil duties. We know from his collections that he collected *S. damnosum* at Ossidinge in September 1916 and other species at Balibo, while he was presumably part of the Cameroon occupying force. In November and December 1916 the West African Frontier Force, was reorganised and deployed to East Africa. The 3rd Nigerian Regiment embarked at Calabar on the "Mendi" on 27 November and arrived at Dar-es-Salaam on 19 December 1916. It is presumed that Arthur was on board. The Agricultural Department Annual Report for 1917 [12] states that "Captain [sic] A.W. Jobbins-Pomeroy, Entomologist, was attached to the Nigeria Regiment, West African Frontier Force, in East Africa during the whole year".

Almost immediately, the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Nigerian Regiment entrained for Morogoro. Within a few days the regiment was deployed to the Rufiji River theatre, where Arthur was wounded in the Ngwembe action at noon on 24 January 1917. His wound could not have been too serious as he is listed as "Slightly wounded" by his commanding officer Capt. W. D. Downes in his personal account of the campaign [14]. His movements over the next eleven months are vague. We know from specimens collected that he was in Zanzibar on 22 July 1917. In November-December 1917 at Morogoro he and fellow entomologist Arthur Loveridge together looked

for simuliids in the river [13], and Arthur was at Amani on December 14 1917.



**AWJP's medals as offered for auction in January 2013. L to R.**

1. The Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, M.B.E. 1st type military issue breast badge, 1914 - 15 2. Star (LIEUT. A. W. J. POMEROY, 3 - NIG. R.), 1914 - 1920 3. British War Medal, 4. Victory Medal (Both: LIEUT. A. W. J. POMEROY), 5. 1939 - 1945 War Medal (unnamed as issued) [Neate Auctions, P.O. Box 3794, Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 9PQ, United Kingdom]

After playing a significant part in the campaign against General von Lettow-Vorbeck and his *Schutztruppe* the Nigerian Brigade left the port of Lindi during the second week of February 1918, arriving in Lagos on 16th March. Arthur could not have been with them, as he had been assigned to other duties, and made collections in Juja (Kenya) on 14 August 1918.

## Mosquito Control

Between April and October, 1918 Arthur was attached to the Medical Services, East Africa, and charged with organising mosquito control in Dar-es-Salaam (presumably because of his entomological training). These successful activities, which he described in a subsequent paper [15], led to an award of Membership of the British Empire, Military Issue

(M.B.E.) (*for valuable services rendered in connection with military operations in East Africa*) of which he was immensely proud. (It is said that in this campaign more deaths were attributed to malaria and dysentery than to enemy action). He even conducted experiments on Armistice Day (11 November 1918). Somehow he returned to Nigeria by 8 January 1919 to resume civil duty in the Nigerian Agricultural Department at Moor Plantation, Ibadan. He then relinquished his voluntary active commission with the rank of Captain after a military service of just over four years and three months and was transferred to the reserve list.

## **Agricultural Entomology in Nigeria**

Arthur resumed duty as entomologist at Moor Plantation, Ibadan, in January 1919. Here he conducted experiments on the fumigation of stored maize until mid April when he proceeded on extended leave, arriving in Liverpool on the "Akabo" on 1 May 1919. Nigeria had not seen much of Arthur. In the 5 years and 3 months between January 1914 and April 1919 that he had been employed, he had served only 6 months with the Agricultural Department.

He appears to have spent much of his leave in England working on his insect collections, possibly at the Imperial Bureau of Entomology in close association with the Natural History Museum in South Kensington, where he would have been able to identify them. During the course of the year he presented to the Bureau and the museum numerous collections of Diptera and other orders collected in Nigeria, the Cameroons and East Africa, and was elected Fellow of the Entomological Society of London. But he also found time to meet and marry Kathleen Annie Pethick, in Chelsea on 15 December 1919. His mother was present as a witness at the ceremony.

Arthur returned to Nigeria at the beginning of January 1920 after 9 months leave arriving on the "Abinsi" on 19th. He then became fully active as an agricultural entomologist, travelling widely in the South (140 days out of the year) dealing with a wide variety of damaging pests, most notably boll-worms and cotton-stainers. A special study was also made of the wild *Anaphe* silk moth. Many of Pomeroy's publications are from this period, and he kept up a steady flow of specimens of a wide variety of insects to the BM (see box). He was presumably accompanied by Kathleen, and they took the usual 5 months leave in June to November 1921 and again May to September 1923. Their first daughter Patricia was born in Holborn, London during their 1921 leave and the second, Annie Virginia, in Croydon in early 1923, so Kathleen must have returned to England early.



By 1925 Arthur had been promoted to Senior Entomologist, and on proceeding on leave in May he, we believe, applied for or was offered the opportunity to be transferred to the Medical Department, Gold Coast (presumably as a result of his work in Dar-es-Salaam), a move

*Rec. 6.xi.20.*

*Ans. 8.xi.20.*

[In Edwards' hand]

Dear Edwards,

Entomologists Office  
Agricultural Dept  
Ibadan. Nigeria.  
Oct 14 20

I send by this mail some specimens of mosquitoes which I bred from rain water in an old banana leaf. I send the pupae and one larva also. They are wonderful looking things with silver scales on the body and pleurae. I expect they are well known but at any rate they may be useful as specimens.

I also send some Cecidomyidae which I bred from galls from a species of Compositae. The flowers are like yellow Marguerites.

Thank you so much for all the information [on] Simulium. I have found several new species here and am trying to work them up. I scarcely get time for any work of that description. The present D of A\* is against any research work at all and wants me to go chivying around the country looking at cotton and to prescribe remedies to natives who have no earthly intention of doing a damn thing anyway. Its a hard life. My wife stands the climate wonderfully but this is an excessively dull spot. She is very keen on my work but we are looking forward to the end of our twelve months. I hope to get home about April when it starts to get a bit warmer. I send you a separate of the small paper on African Simulium. The more I work on them the more I am convinced that the family will fall into well defined groups correlated by the pupal filaments and genitalia. Excuse my hurried letter but I want to get the mail. More anon. With kindest regards, and best wishes,

Yours sincerely,



Transcript of a photocopy of a letter sent to F.W.Edwards at the British Museum (Natural History) in 1920, with a copy of his signature.

\*Note: D of A = Director of Agriculture

supported by Dr. Guy Marshall, Director, IBE. He was appointed to this position in December 1925 although he had already travelled to the Gold Coast at the end of October on the "Wahene" (before finally deciding

perhaps). On this voyage he met Margaret Fountaine, a Lepidopterist and diarist. He is mentioned in her memoirs [18] as he asked her to look for *Simulium* whilst in the Canary Islands. Kathleen joined Arthur in February. It is presumed that the children travelled with her.

## **Medical Entomology in the Gold Coast**

Work during his first tour in the Gold Coast (now Ghana) almost entirely concerned the problems of termites in Accra and tsetse flies at Yeji on the Volta River. Kathleen preceded him on leave in April 1927 while Arthur followed on in May. On return from leave he was almost totally involved in studies on tsetse along cattle routes near Gambaga, Northern Territories, assisted by K.R.S. Morris, newly appointed Assistant Entomologist, and in liaising with "French Territory" (then French Upper Volta, now Burkina Faso). This occupied him until his next leave in April to November 1929. On return from leave he seems to have concentrated on the mosquito and tsetse problem at Takoradi on the coast. This occupied him until March 1931, when he proceeded on leave once more.

What happened next is not clear. It appears that retrenchment in the Gold Coast caused the redundancy of both Pomeroy and Morris, as no entomologists are mentioned in the Report of the Medical Department for 1932-33. It may be that Arthur still had some time remaining on his contract with the Colonial Office, so with the support of Lord Olivier (ex Governor of Jamaica) he was offered a short term assignment to the West Indies until the expiry of his contract in 1932.

## **Horticulture and a home in Jamaica**

Arthur and Kathleen arrived in Kingston, Jamaica on the "Jamaica Settler" on 27 November 1931 with the task of "Studying the economic and health conditions in the West Indies".

Whether Arthur ever completed his assignment and visited the other islands is not known, but it seems unlikely that he returned to England on its completion. His activities can be tracked through reports in "The Gleaner". Clearly he decided to settle in Jamaica and turn to horticulture as in the following year he joined the Vegetable Growers' Association and was elected to its committee in October 1932. During 1933 Kathleen went to England in May possibly to regularise their affairs and returned with their two children, Patricia and Annie Virginia in November. Prior to this, they must have purchased land at "Agincourt", 77 Hagley Park Rd., St. Andrew, as in 1934 he received planning permission to sub-divide the property into several building plots, presumably to build a house and develop his nursery business. At the same time Pomeroy Nurseries advertised regularly in the paper offering to supply wedding bouquets

and funeral flowers. One particular article describes the nursery as "the only modern scientific commercial nursery in Jamaica" and AWJP as "Mr. Pomeroy, M.B.E., B.Sc., F.R.E.S., now retired, was formerly Acting Director of Agriculture in Nigeria". He also gave regular lectures on tropical health and horticulture.

After the outbreak of World War II in 1939, AWJP left Jamaica for England in July 1941 to take up his reservist commission in the British Army (couldn't resist another stint in the army?) He was transferred to a full commission in the Royal Engineers in December 1941. We have no record of the part he played in the war, but he was removed from the reserve list due to age (51) in October 1942 and was back in Jamaica giving a lecture "Planning a garden" by May 1945.

From then on the flower business thrived. But in 1946 he sold part of the property to a L.W. Goodson, who became the proprietor of Pomeroy Nurseries by August 1950. Arthur was now 59 and may have felt that running a horticultural business full time was too much. It seems that Goodson could not make a go of it and the business was sold in May 1952 and Pomeroy Nurseries stopped trading.

*From "The Gleaner", Kingston, Jamaica.  
Tuesday Dec. 18 1931, p8*

**MR AND MRS. A. W. POMEROY,**  
Entomologist Of Gold Coast  
who arrived on the s. s. "Jamaica  
Settler" from England.



Mr. Arthur W. Pomeroy, Medical Entomologist to the Gold Coast Government, who has seen over seventeen years' service in Africa, is now in Jamaica to study our economic and health conditions, with a view to comparing our systems here with those of Africa. And when it is known that Mr. Pomeroy has come out to the West Indies on the advice of no less a person than Lord Olivier, we may feel certain that our visitor is here to help.

After studying conditions in Jamaica, Mr. Pomeroy will visit other West Indian Islands, including Trinidad, and will then return to England to retire from active service, but nevertheless to continue taking an interest in the medical and economic questions of the British tropical world.

All this time Kathleen had been developing as an authority on tropical gardening and local history. She was elected Secretary of the Historical Society in 1965 and undertook a trip to the Middle East in July to August the same year. She was instrumental in the publishing of *"The Flower Gardener: a survey of the flowering trees, shrubs and plants suitable for the gardens of Jamaica and how to grow them"* [16]. A review written in 1997 states "Kathleen Pomeroy... spent nearly two decades living among the hill farmers of the Port Royal Mountains of Jamaica. During this period she taught them to grow flowers and laid the foundation of a local industry" [17]. Her daughter, Pat was proprietor of a flower shop in Kingston "Pat's Flowers", which might have acted as an outlet for the hill farmers. There was also a Pomeroy Department Store, but a connection to Arthur Pomeroy has not been confirmed.

## Death

Arthur Pomeroy died in Hope Hospital, Kingston on 27 November 1956, aged 65, after a week's illness. He had been 25 years in Jamaica. At that time he was living at Content Gap, St. Andrews. He was survived by Kathleen, daughters Mrs. Anne Moseley and Pat Pomeroy (the proprietress of Pat's Flower Shop).

### Arthur's travels

Because so many of the Public Records are now available for searching on the internet we have been able to track down most of Arthur's extensive sea travel.

His first voyage was Calcutta to England at age 4 (1 month at sea). He undertook return voyages to USA in 1908 and 1916 (2 weeks). He made 8 round trips to West Africa (8 months) as well as one Nigeria to Dar-es-Salaam and return (2 months). Finally London to Jamaica (3 weeks) and during WW2 one return Jamaica to England (6 weeks).

At a rough estimate Arthur must have spent about a year at sea during his life, with the most intensive travel being in the 4½ years between November 1914 and May 1919 during which time he spent an estimated 15½ weeks at sea.

On 2 January 1957 a pulpit and communion table which had been presented by Kathleen was dedicated to him in Content Gap Methodist Church, in the presence of the Governor of Jamaica, Sir Hugh Foot.

Kathleen died on 10 November 1977, aged 81 years. Pat is named as executrix Patricia Marshall Pomeroy, so she is presumed to have married.

## Final comments

Arthur Pomeroy had an unsettled childhood occasioned by the death of his father when he was 4 years old. He also endured changes in name and life in India, England and USA. He seems to have been a personable

young man as he attracted the sponsorship of two eminent entomologists, Dr William Barnes and Stephen Alfred Forbes who roused his interest in blackflies. Later in England he was supported by Sir Guy Marshall and Lord Olivier. Although British by birth, he could have followed a career in USA, but chose to join the British Colonial Service. He also had a feeling for his father, who he can hardly have known, as he adopted his father's name. His working life may be divided into three separate careers each of which he pursued with remarkable single mindedness. The "colonial" phase covered his time as both agricultural and medical entomologist in Nigeria and the Gold Coast. During this time Arthur collected insects wherever he went, and even whilst on active service with the WAFF during the First World War.

A notable feature of his home leaves from the Colonial Service is that they were spent mostly in London, apparently so that he would be close to the British Museum (Natural History). In each of the seven

leaves from September 1923 to November 1929 he stayed at 6 Lexham Gardens in South Kensington, and for his leave in 1931 (his pre-departure leave for Jamaica) he recorded his address in the ship's manifest as the Royal Societies Club in St. James Street, London SW1.

Military life was brand new to Arthur but he took to it like a duck to water. He somehow managed to dovetail it with the home leave voyages to which he was still entitled as a government officer, and with the insect collecting in Africa that was close to his heart. In the event, although

### Names

Arthur Pomeroy was born in India in 1891 as Arthur William Jobbins. After his father died at sea in 1895 his mother Jeannette married James Scalé and the 1901 English census shows Arthur listed as Arthur Scalé. Between 1901 and 1906 Jeannette separated from James Scalé and adopted the name of Pomeroy (after General Seth Pomeroy (1706-1777) an illustrious maternal ancestor and veteran of the American Revolutionary War) and in 1906 Arthur was enrolled into Clifton College as Arthur William Pomeroy.

Sometime after Jeannette and the two boys moved to USA in 1908 Arthur began using the name Jobbins-Pomeroy and is listed in the 1911 Illinois State Entomologist's Report [6] as such. This could be the first indication that Arthur felt more British (his father's nationality and therefore his own) than his mother's United States nationality. He persisted with the double-barrelled name through his employment in USA and recruitment into the British Colonial Service in Nigeria and it appears on the USA Immigration record of his arrival in New York in June 1916. However, The London Gazette records his military career under the name A.W.J. Pomeroy, so it appears that after 1916 Arthur stopped using the hyphen.

Only one of his publications bears the double name, and this is his major work on American *Simulium* [10]. Although published in 1916, it is probable that most of it was written before he left USA in 1914. All of his subsequent publications carry the single surname Pomeroy.

active service began with the Ikom Column in 1915 it was not completed until January 1919. Perhaps as a single man, the army gave him the security and comradeship that had been missing from his childhood. Nevertheless it gave him the opportunity to shine with his work on mosquito control in Dar-es-Salaam for which he was awarded MBE. He was formally stood down as Captain in the Regular Army Reserve of Officers on 15 December 1927 but saw service briefly again in the Second World War as Captain in the Royal Engineers. His final standing down from army reserve was on 1 October 1942 at the age of 51.

His move to Jamaica marked a complete change in attitude and an abandonment of entomology for horticulture. It seems that at that point he put his "colonial" past behind him and devoted his time to his family and to developing his market garden business.

## Acknowledgements

We wish to acknowledge the help provided by the many persons who have contributed snippets of knowledge to this story. In particular, we thank those anonymous contributors to the RootsChat.com genealogical discussion forum and Kate Corbett Pollack of the American Pomeroy Historic Genealogical Association for information on AWJP's brother Roy and his mother Jeannette. Joyce Tole-Moir pointed us in the direction of the Jobbins family in India and the Times of India archive, to Arthur's death in Jamaica and Jeannette's commercial ventures. The auction of the medals was fortuitously discovered by Keith Harris, himself a former Agricultural Entomologist in Nigeria. Details of Arthur's year at Clifton College were provided by Lucy Nash of the Old Cliftonian Society. We thank Adrian Pont for scrutinizing the E.B. Poulton correspondence in Oxford [21]. (Poulton sometimes exhibited specimens at the Entomological Society of London meetings on Pomeroy's behalf but nothing relevant was found). To all these we are grateful.

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