

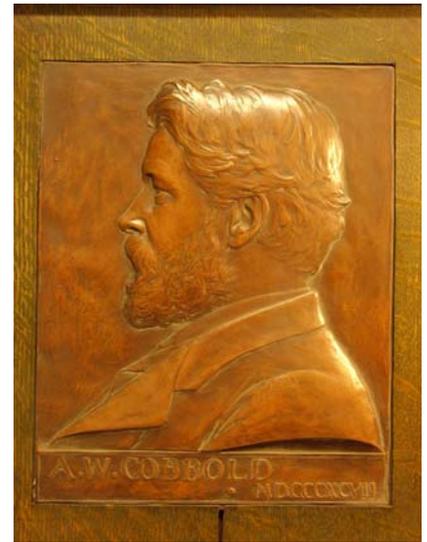
Patron: Lord Cobbold DL
Ivry, Lady Freyberg

ARTHUR WESTHORP COBBOLD

May 2018

Thanks to Steve Ingham who is an independent author and private researcher we have enlarged our knowledge of **Arthur Westhorp Cobbold (1852-1929)** #252 on the family tree. Through Steve we have gained permission from the Curator of the Worcester City Museum and Art Gallery to show his profile on a plaque portrait. Here is our newly written biography paragraph.

Little is known of Arthur's early life except that he was a pupil at Felsted School in Essex from January 1866 to December 1869. There's a ten year gap in our knowledge until he sailed for Colombo, Ceylon on the Viceroy on 26th of February 1876. He was a coffee planter for nearly 3 years returning on 8th December 1878. We experience another gap until 20th September 1880 when he was appointed as Foreman in the Operative Department at the Royal Mint on a salary of £150 per annum rising by £5 per annum up to £200. On this basis his earnings should have reached £200 by 1890. In reality we find that he only achieved a salary of £200 per annum from 1st April 1895 this time increasing by £7-10-00 per annum up to £250.



Earnings were important because in 1891 he had married Kate Elizabeth Mills whose father, a wool merchant had already died. The 1891 census, taken in April, just a couple of months after their marriage has the newly-weds living with his twin brother, Alfred in St. Helens, Ipswich. It's not known whether this was a temporary arrangement but Arthur is shown as a Mechanical Engineer on the census form which suggests that he was already studying for a qualification. On 23rd June 1898 he was promoted to Assistant Superintendent on a salary of £310 per annum rising to £400 by £15 increments. His associate membership of the Institute of Mechanical Engineers was granted on 14th September that year. About this time, maybe a year or two previously Arthur commissioned a Portrait Plaque of himself by the highly respected Royal Mint engraver, George William DeSaulles (1862-1903), who worked with Arthur at the Royal Mint on Tower Hill in London. George was an important employee, on the cusp of a great career when he died aged only 41 in 1903. The Mint struggled to find a suitable successor.

The plaque, a skilfully executed work in low relief, thought to be the first in a series of five by DeSaulles of his senior Mint colleagues, was exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1897 and at the Royal Birmingham Society of Artists in 1903.

The 1911 census tells us that Arthur, then aged 59 and described as a retired Civil Servant was living at 2D Morgan Mansions, Holloway Road, Islington, North London with his second wife, Edith Bates and her (their?) son Herbert Kenneth Bates aged 7 months. The presumption is that he and Kate were divorced as she was still living when Arthur died on 22nd April 1929 at which time he was living at Felde Cottage, The Glade, Hollinbury St. Mary, Surrey. His will was proved by Mildred Swannell, a spinster about whom we know nothing.

At school Arthur was known as 'Clean Cobbold' to differentiate him from his twin who acquired the name 'Dirty Cobbold' from trapping and skinning moles, rats and mice. Within the family Arthur is remembered as a big cuddly teddy bear of a man with a long white beard who smoked incessantly and became known to his nieces and nephews as Uncle Baccy.