



Arthur Wharton Poem

Written for 26th September Doncaster Libraries Event

Born in Ghana
'Cross the sea
In the Nineteenth
Century *Long Ago!*

Arthur's Dad is
A Missionary
And his Mother's from
A Royal Family *How posh!*

[Chorus: Call and Response]
He's our Arthur!
He's our Arthur!
Arthur Wharton!
Arthur Wharton!
Local Hero!
Local Hero!
Super Sportsman!
Super Sportsman!

Then Henry Wharton
Sent his son
Back in Eighteen
Eighty-One *Off you go!*

Away to England
To go to College
There to study
Bible knowledge *Read those books!*

He's our Arthur (*chorus as above*)

But on the Sports Field
Arthur finds
He leaves the others
Far behind! *Watch him go!*

In just ten seconds
He ran a hundred yards
And a brand-new record
Was on the cards *Hoo- ray!*

He's our Arthur (*chorus as above*)



Cricket, cycling,
Rugby too
Was there nothing
Arthur couldn't do? *Not much!*

He got looked down on
For being black
But did he let it
Hold him back? *No fear!*

He's our Arthur (*chorus as above*)

But it's football
That's in his soul
No-one gets past him
When he's in the goal *Get back!*

The roughest players
Other teams could pick
Arthur fools'em
With his spider kick! *Where'd he go?*

He's our Arthur (*chorus as above*)

He plays for Darlington,
Preston North End,
Rotherham, Sheffield, and
Stockport in the end *He's been around!*

Once he's with Preston
They were on the up
And reached the semis
Of the F A Cup! *Wem-ber-ley!*

He's our Arthur (*chorus as above*)

Later Arthur
Starts a baccy shop
And runs a pub
(He likes a drop!) *Hic! Burp!*

Works in mining
'Neath the ground
Down in Edlington
His grave is found *Down below...*

He's our Arthur (*chorus as above*)



Arthur Wharton: 1865 to 1930

The World's First Black Professional Footballer
www.arthurwharton.info

The first black player
In professional soccer
Then forgotten -
What a shocker! *It's not fair!*

No-one remembered -
What a crying shame!
But now we'll shout... out... loud
Arthur's name! *Let's hear his name...*

He's our Arthur (*chorus as above*)

One last time...!

He's our Arthur (*chorus as above, to finish*).

Alec Williams
26th September 2008