

ALAN CYRIL CRUNDWELL (1923-2000)

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This is one in a series of articles about prominent British and Irish field-bryologists of the past. The author would be very pleased to learn of any information which supplements its content.

A Social and Biographical History of British and Irish Field-bryologists is also available on-line at <http://britishbryologicalsociety.org.uk/>

Bryological career

Crundwell joined the BBS in 1945, and bryologised with Eustace Jones. During the 1950s he became friendly with Warburg, whom he met at BBS meetings. He was also friendly with the Swedish bryologist, Elsa Nyholm, and became very knowledgeable about the genus *Bryum*, about which he later collaborated with Whitehouse. He added about 20 species of bryophytes to the British list (e.g. *Rhizomnium magnifolium* from Angus in 1977, and *Fossombronina incurva*), and described about six of these new to science.

His herbarium is at the Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh, with additional material in the herbarium at Glasgow University and the British Bryological Society's herbarium at Cardiff.

Family background and biography

Alan Crundwell was born on March 13th, 1923, the eldest of four children born to Ernest Frederic Crundwell (1888-1968), a wealthy second-generation solicitor, and Enid Hazel (*née* Iles, 1900-1985).

Ernest Frederic Crundwell was born at Farnham, Surrey, a son of Ernest Frederick Crundwell, a solicitor who was born in Tonbridge, Kent in 1858/9. Enid Iles was the daughter of John Cyril Iles (1865-1915), an inspector of schools in Wolverhampton, and his wife Enid Agnes Machell (*née* Cox, 1868-1951). In 1919 Enid married secondly Alfred R. Windle, a lock and key manufacturer.

Alan was brought up in Farnham, Surrey. His siblings were Mary and Owen, who became solicitors like their father, while Jane became a geologist. After preparatory school, Crundwell went to Berkhamstead, and then Oxford in 1941, gaining an upper second class Honours in botany. He was interested in natural history as a child, and worked for the Ministry of Agriculture during the Second World War.

He moved north in 1949 to become assistant lecturer (and later Senior Lecturer) in botany at Glasgow, and remained there until he retired in 1983.

Crundwell did not marry, and upon retiring he moved to Headley Down, Hampshire, not far from his elderly mother and his brother. He died on August 20th, 2000.