

CHARLES LYELL (1767-1849)

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This article is one in a series 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

Lyell collected particularly from 1812 until 1816, when he was sending material to William Jackson Hooker for inclusion in Hooker's *British Jungermanniae* (1812-16). His liverworts include *Gymnomitrium concinnatum*, *Haplomitrium hookeri* and *Moerckia hibernica*. Mosses include *Bartramia ithyphylla*, *Dicranum spurium* and *Pseudobryum cinclidioides*.

Lyell's herbarium is at the Natural History Museum in London. His letters are at the Natural History Museum, Kew, and the Linnaean Society.

Family background and biography

Charles Lyell (1767-1849) was a son of Charles Lyell (1734-1796) and Mary (*née* Beale, 1741-1813), and father of the famous geologist Sir Charles Lyell (1797-1875). In 1796 Charles Lyell (1767-1849) married Frances Smith (1774-1850), daughter of Thomas Smith, Esq., of St. Martin's Lane, London, and of Maker Hall, Swaledale, Yorkshire.

Both Thomas Smith and Charles Lyell (1734-1796) were connected with the navy. Lyell served as a purser on various ships, and in 1770 entered into a partnership to supply His Majesty's ships on the coast of North America. In 1778 he served as secretary to Admiral John Byron during Byron's disastrous expedition to America and the West Indies.

Charles Lyell (1734-1796) was a son of Margaret Ann Mudie (daughter of David Mudie, of Inverkeilor, Forfarshire), who in 1730 married John Lyell (1703-1739) of Meikle House, West Cincary, Forfarshire. John Lyell was a son of Isobel Mitchell (1677-1727) and Charles Lyell (1666-1729) of Carcary, Forfarshire, who was a son of Robert Lyell (died 1692) of Carcary.

Charles Lyell (1769-1849) went up to St. Andrews University in 1786, and then to Peterhouse College, Cambridge in 1787, from where he graduated B.A. in 1791. He then studied law at Lincoln's Inn until he inherited the estate at Kinnordy upon his father's death in 1796. He married Frances Smith in the same year, and their son Charles was born in the following year.