

EUSTACE WILKINSON JONES (1909-1992)

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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

Oxford County Museum at Woodstock has about 800 plants that Jones collected between 1939 and 1991.

Family background and biography

Eustace Jones was born on June 6th 1909, son of Oscar Jones (1877-1938, a civil engineer for the railways in 1901, and a draughtsman in 1933) and Alice (*née* Wilkinson, 1879-1953). Alice's father was Thomas Wilkinson, a self-employed carpenter, joiner and builder of Rochdale, Lancashire. Eustace had an elder sister Dorothy (born 1906) and a younger brother Eric (1915-2009).

Oscar Jones was born in Stafford, which was his mother's (Mary Jane *née* Taylor, 1850) home town. His father was Thomas William Jones (1845-1933), an architectural and civil engineer's draughtsman, whose own parents were Thomas Jones (1816-1856), who sold ale, porter and spirits from the Nag's Head, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston, Staffordshire, and Mary (1815-1887) who was a schoolmistress. Thomas William Jones was a keen botanist, who may have first kindled Eustace's interest in natural history, and showed his young grandson the iridescent moss *Schistostega pennata*.

Mary Jane Taylor was a daughter of Solomon Taylor (1820-1877) and Sarah (1822-1906). Solomon was born in Stamford, Lincolnshire, and moved to Staffordshire, where as a schoolmaster he kept the Forebridge Academy, Wolverhampton Street, Forebridge, which took in boarders. Solomon's parents came from Yorkshire, but his father's family came from Rocester, Staffordshire, where Solomon's paternal great-grandmother Sarah Gaunt (1727-1797) was born. She was a daughter of Ellin Adams (1706-1743) and Thomas Gaunt (1697-1765), whose father was Francis Gaunt (1647-1698), gentleman of Rocester.

Eustace was educated at Queen Mary's Grammar School, Walsall; then at Jesus College, Cambridge (1928-31), where he met Paul Richards. He graduated Ph.D. at Cambridge in

1937, having by then already joined the Forestry School at Oxford in 1934. He retired in 1972.

Jones remained a bachelor, and in about 1958 moved from the city of Oxford to live in the nearby village of Kirklington.

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