

FREDERICK PRICE MARRAT (1820-1904)

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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

Frederick Marrat was a mineralogist and conchologist at Liverpool Museum, but also took interest in cryptogams, and was the first to elucidate the bryoflora of the district around Liverpool. Marrat discovered *Bryum marratii* at Southport, added *B. calophyllum* to the British bryoflora, and was a friend of the bryologist Thomas Palgrave (1804-1891).

He wrote a paper on the bryophytes of Liverpool and Southport for the 1855 volume of the *Proceedings of the Literary and Philosophical Society of Liverpool*, and his paper 'On the hepatics and lichens of Liverpool and its vicinity.' was published in the 1860 volume of the *Proceedings of the Literary and Philosophical Society of Liverpool*.

300 of his mosses are at Merseyside Museum, Liverpool, and his letters are in the William Wilson correspondence at the Natural History Museum in London.

Family background and biography

Frederick Price Marrat was born at Broadway, New York on March 16th 1820, the twelfth and youngest child of William Marrat (1772-1852) and Elizabeth (*née* Farrow, 1777-1832). He was named Price after the president of New York State, who was his godfather. William Marrat, topographer and teacher, came from Sibsey, near Boston, Lincolnshire, and went to New York to teach mathematics from 1817 until 1821, and has an entry in the *Dictionary of National Biography*. Elizabeth Farrow married William Marrat at Bracebridge, Lincolnshire in 1794. She was a daughter of John Farrow (1753-1820) who came from Bole in Nottinghamshire, and Isabella (*née* Brown, 1753-1826).

Upon returning to England, William and his family settled at 56, Copperas Hill, Liverpool, near to relatives. There he compiled lunar tables and tide-tables for the port, and wrote *Elements of Mechanical Philosophy* (1825); this and other of William Marrat's writings are held at the University of Michigan. He ran a school at 4, Whitemill Street, at which George Boole (1815-1864) taught in 1833. However, William moved to Exeter from 1833 until 1836, where he taught mathematics at a school, but returned to Liverpool when Elizabeth died.



Frederick Price Marrat. Photograph by courtesy of Leonard Brant.

Frederick worked at a botanical centre at Sefton Park for a time during his youth, and in 1841 he was appointed by the 13th Earl of Derby to arrange the collection of fossils at Knowsley. In 1843 he became a teacher, giving lessons in botany and other sciences in private schools in Liverpool. By 1845, he had a shop in the Lower Arcade, where he sold shells, geological specimens and other objects of natural history. In 1862, he was appointed temporary assistant at Liverpool Museum, and lived at Peveril Terrace, Edge Lane, Liverpool.

Frederick married Mary Ann Chester (1817-1900), daughter of Robert, a joiner, and Elizabeth at Liverpool in 1842. They had several children: Sarah (born 1843/4, who married Hopkin Thomas, a printer and compositor), William (1845-1845), Frederick Price junior (1846/7-1903, who was a printer and compositor in 1871), Jane Elizabeth (1849/50, who married William Haworth, a printer), William Chester (1852-1904, who was an engraver in 1871), Mary Ann (1854, who was an unmarried music-teacher in 1901), and Emma (1857). Thus, three of Frederick and Mary's six surviving children either became a printer or married one.

In 1851 the family lived at 15 White Mill Street, Liverpool (the street where William had taught in the 1830s), with Frederick's now elderly father. Between 1861 and 1871 Frederick and Mary lived at 2 Peveril Terrace, Edge Lane, West Derby, Liverpool; at 2 Kingslake Street, West Derby in 1881; and at 13 Nursery Lane, West Derby in 1891 and 1901.

Frederick died at 13 Nursery Lane, Broadgreen on November 5th, 1904, aged 84, and was interred in the churchyard at Childwall.

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