

WILLIAM INGHAM (1854-1923)

Mark Lawley
email: mrbryology@gmail.com

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

Ingham was an excellent field-bryologist, and succeeded Cosslett Herbert Waddell as secretary for the Moss Exchange Club, in which capacity he served from 1903 until 1922.

He found *Calypogeia suecica* at Resipol, West Inverness-shire (where MacVicar had previously found it in 1899).

He compiled a *Handbook of the Cryptogamous Flora of the Yorkshire District* (1906), and edited the *Census Catalogue of British Mosses* (1907) and the *Census Catalogue of British Liverworts* (1913).

Many of the bryophytes that he collected are at Leeds University and the National Museum and Gallery of Wales at Cardiff, with further plants at the National Botanic Garden at Meise, Belgium, the Botanical Museum at Lund, Warwick Museum and Liverpool Museum.

Family background and biography

William Ingham was born at Bradford near Manchester, Lancashire on March 23rd, 1854, the fifth child of seven born to George Ingham (1820-1882/5), collier and labourer, and Ellen (*née* Moffat, Moffet or Moffitt 1821/2-1901). Ellen Moffet was born in Warrington, a third daughter of Francis Moffat (died before 1838), a joiner and chairmaker, and Elizabeth (*née* Aspinall).

George and Ellen married in 1844, and had seven children: Sarah Ann (born 1845/6, who became a cotton-weaver), John (1847/8), Elizabeth (1850, who became a cotton-weaver), then William, followed by Alice (1857/8, also a cotton-weaver), and Eliza Jane (1862, who was a sewing machinist in 1881, and a milliner and dressmaker in 1891).

From what were evidently poor, working-class roots (his father George was a labourer, but unemployed in 1881), William did very well to move from the family background of manual work to a white-collar career. He was educated at York Training College, and

took a degree at London University before returning to York in order to join the staff at the training college. From there, in 1891 he was “Organising Visitor of York Archdeaconry”, and by 1901 had become an inspector of schools. He worked for York Education Office, and latterly became an education officer.

During his time at York Training College, Ingham probably met Ernest Charles Horrell, who was a student there, and stimulated his interest in bryology.

Ingham married Rosalie Hopkins (1861-1917) in York in 1886. Rosalie was a daughter of Thomas Hopkins (1825/6-1893), an organ-builder and organist at St. Olave’s Church, York, and Ellen (*née* Green, 1837/8). Thomas Hopkins was a son of George Hopkins (1789-1869), clarinet-player, who was in turn a son of Edward Hopkins (1757-1790), horn-player. Perhaps Ingham knew Herbert Stansfield (1861-1928), who was a fellow member of the Moss Exchange Club, and a songman at York Cathedral.

William and Rosalie had three children: Mabel (born 1887), Wilfred (1889/90-?1952) who became a schoolmaster, and Bertram Hopkins (1894-1959).

Ingham died at York on May 25th, 1923.