

WILLIAM HOLMES BURRELL (1865-1945)

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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

Burrell discovered *Leiocolea rutheana* at Flordon, Norfolk in 1909, and was instrumental in helping to distinguish *Orthodontium lineare* from *O. gracile*.

He joined the Moss Exchange Club in 1907, and by 1911 was serving as Distributor of the packets.

His plants are at Leeds University, with further plants at Cardiff and Warwick Museum. The National Museum and Gallery of Wales, Cardiff has 303 of his specimens, of which 265 are bryophytes.

Family background and biography

William Holmes Burrell was born in Norwich, a younger son of John Holmes Burrell (?1825/9-1885) and Ann (*née* ...). John Burrell was a joiner of Holt, Norfolk in 1881, and a son of Edward Elden Burrell (1801/2-1878) and Mary Ann (*née* Holmes, 1794/6 or c.1804) of Holt. Edward Burrell was a basket-maker in 1851.

Ann Elizabeth Drozier married John Holmes Burrell in 1874 (Jun qtr, Erpingham, 4b, 111). So was she JHB's second wife? She died, aged 81 (so born 1829/30) March qtr 1910, Erpingham 4b, 46.

WHB was a chemist's apprentice in 1881, and registered in 1886. He ran a chemist's shop at Sheringham-on-Sea, Norfolk from 1894 until 1903, and lived in Yorkshire from 1914 until his death on March 20th, 1945. Prior to his death, he lived at 203 Hall Lane, Horsforth, Yorkshire. His wife and son survived him.

He married Emily Sophia Midwinter (born c.1860) in 1889. They had a son, Charles Edwin Drozier Burrell in 1896. He became an engineer. Emily Midwinter was a daughter of Charles Midwinter (1821/2-?1905), corn merchant, and Emily Sophia Mary (*née* Allen, 1821/2-1891).

Emily Midwinter's sister Kate (born 1862/3) married William Dean Milsom, journalist, and their son Francis Eric Milsom (1889-1945) became a chemist and amateur bryologist.