

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*.

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. He was named Price after the president of New York State, who was his godfather. He was a son of William Marrat (1772-1852), topographer and teacher, who came from Lincolnshire, and went to New York to teach mathematics from 1817 until 1821, and has an entry in the *Dictionary of National Biography*. 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). 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 Mrs Marrat (whose identity is unknown) died.

In 1841, Frederick 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.

Frederick married Mary Ann Chester (1817/8/9-1900) at Liverpool in 1842. They had six children: Sarah (born 1843/4), Frederick Price junior (1846/7-1903, who was a printer and compositor in 1871), Jane Elizabeth (1849/50), William Chester (1851/2-1904, who was an engraver in 1871), Mary Ann (1843/4, who was an unmarried music-teacher in 1901), and Emma (1856/7).

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 on November 5th, 1904, aged 84, and was interred in Childwall churchyard.