

EDWARD CLEMINSHAW (1849-1922)

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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

Cleminshaw assisted the Moss Exchange Club from 1901, and remained a member until 1918. He arranged the moss collection at Birmingham University. He died in Epsom, Surrey on March 25th 1922. His plants are at Warwick Museum, with additional plants at Birmingham University. The National Museum and Gallery of Wales, Cardiff has 448 of his specimens, mainly bryophytes, dated 1889-1916.

Family background and biography

Edward Cleminshaw was born at Chorlton, Lancashire in 1849, a son of Charles Graham Cleminshaw (1815-1884), gent., sometime gas engineer, and his wife Susannah (*née* Stephens, 1821-1908). Edward was elder brother to Thomas Stanley (1851-1899) who became a civil engineer, Elizabeth (born 1852), Mary Isabella (born 1852/3), and Amelia Adair (born 1853/4).

Susannah was a daughter of Edward Stephens (1787-c.1829), a cotton-manufacturer at Manchester. Charles Cleminshaw was a son of John Cleminshaw (c.1786-1840), schoolmaster of Fazeley, Staffordshire, and his wife Amelia Ann (*née* Adair, c.1772-1835). Amelia was a daughter of Captain Jesse Adair (c.1739-1800), who was in the Royal Marines and fought in the American War of Independence.

Edward Cleminshaw was educated at Rugby and at Merton College, Oxford, graduating B.A. in 1873. He became a science-master at King's School, Sherborne, Dorset, where he was interested in geology and helped form a geological collection at the school.

He was still at Sherborne in 1881, but subsequently gave up teaching and pursued a career in business as an analyst at Messrs Chance Bros., glass-manufacturers in Oldbury, West Midlands. He then lived at 7 Duchess Road, Edgbaston just along the street from another member of the Moss Exchange Club, the Reverend Philip G. M. Rhodes. Cleminshaw died at Ewell Park, Epsom, Surrey on March 25th, 1922.