

ARTHUR WILLIAM WEYMAN (1860-1935)

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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

Weyman found the mosses *Hamatocaulis vernicosus* and *Blindia acuta* on Titterstone Clee Hill late in the 19th century. Weyman, though, is remembered more for his discovery of the rare aquatic moss *Cinclidotus riparius*, new to Britain in the River Teme at Ludlow, where it grows to this day in some abundance. Weyman first found his moss in 1891, and described it in the *Journal of Botany* that year. *C. riparius* differs from *C. fontinaloides* in being tinged black, but is otherwise very similar to its congener - so similar, indeed, that for a long time *C. riparius* was reduced to varietal status. A note accompanying the specimen at Shrewsbury Museum indicates that H.N. Dixon (the leading British muscologist in the early 20th century) was not convinced that *C. riparius* was sufficiently distinct from *C. fontinaloides* to merit specific status. This view prevailed until 1998, when it was realised that the two species can after all be distinguished by differences in thin sections of the leaf margins and a few other subtle differences, whereupon *C. riparius* was reinstated as a species, so enabling Weyman to rest easy in his grave. Weyman, though, was no one-moss wonder, for he is also credited with first discovering the rare *Bryum weigelii* on the Long Mynd in 1893.

Weyman was a founding member of the Moss Exchange Club in 1896, and remained a member until 1908.

Ludlow Museum and Resource Centre holds specimens that he acquired and preserved on microscope slides. Weyman acquired some of these specimens from other naturalists – William Phillips Hamilton, Richard de Gylpyn Benson, Reverend Thomas Salwey, Reverend Augustin Ley, John Whitehead, Robert Braithwaite, and William Edward Nicholson. His herbarium is not known.

Family background and biography

Arthur William Weyman was born in Ludlow on July 13th 1860, the fourth of five children born to Thomas Weyman (1819-1873), solicitor, and Mary Maria (*née* Bluck, 1827-1901), daughter of Samuel Bluck (born 1780/1), a farmer of 422 acres in 1861.

Thomas Weyman was a son of Thomas Weyman (1792-1859), farmer of 410 acres at Berrington Court and Purslow Hall, Purslow, Shropshire, and his first wife Ann (*née* Pitt, died 1840). Thomas Weyman senior was a son of William Weyman (1760-1839) of Stockton and Boraston, Herefordshire.

Arthur four siblings were: Henry Thomas (1850-1941), Maria (born and died in 1852), Stanley John (1855-1928), and Louisa (born 1863). Henry Weyman followed his father into practice as a solicitor in Ludlow, and wrote *Ludlow in Bygone Days* (1913), and other works. He was also sometime mayor of Ludlow. Stanley John and William also qualified in law, but Stanley's nature drove him to become a writer, and he achieved considerable fame as an author of many popular historical novels.

Arthur qualified in law in 1883, and joined the family firm to practice as a solicitor in Ludlow. In 1888 he married Emma Seward Wood (1860-1925), daughter of the Reverend Horace Seward Wood (1826/7-1885) and Sarah Catherine (*née* Hemsley 1833), daughter of Edward Hemsley, solicitor. Horace Wood was a son of the Reverend Benjamin Wood (1791/2-1857), perpetual curate of Haveringland, Norfolk from 1823 until his death.

Arthur and Emma had two children: Arthur (born 1889) who became a major and then Lieutenant Colonel, and Winifred Seward (1892-1967). The family lived in Mill Street, Ludlow in 1891, and subsequently at 54 Broad Street, Ludlow.

Winifred did not marry, and lived and died in Ludlow.

Arthur William Weyman died on December 26th 1935. His gravestone (which also mentions Emma and Winifred) is in the cemetery at Ludlow.