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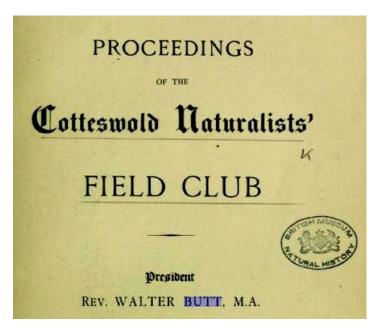
A small site that is interested in things botanical and historical, associated with the herbaria@home project

Butt, Walter William Arthur (Rev) 1849 – 1917

Posted on July 11, 2011 by Chris

Walter W A Butt was born in the 4th quarter, 1849 in Cheltenham. He matriculated at Magdalen College, Oxford in October 1868 and was awarded his M.A. in 1875. In the 1871 census, he was recorded as living with his father and brother in Cheltenham. His father lived at <u>Arle Court, Cheltenham</u>.

Walter Butt was a member of the Cotteswold Field Naturalists' Club. The various volumes of the club's records / activities (available at archive.org) indicate that he was responsible for the organisation of some of their field meetings at the turn of the C19th / C20th. He was later vice President and President of the Club (three times) – see below:



Tuesday, December 14th, 1909

Rev. Walter Butt, M.A., President, in the Chair.

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The President (Mr Butt) exhibited some specimens of calcareous tufa from Sedbury Clift, near Chepstow. The tufa is formed by water containing the bicarbonate of lime evaporating and depositing the insoluble carbonate of lime round moss and twigs. Quite large masses are thus formed at Sedbury, the water deriving its carbonate of lime from the Lower-Lias limestones that cap the cliff.

The image below (also from the records of the club) indicates that he actively involved in the organisation of a county flora (for Gloucestershire).

with these important contributions.

The most serious work which at present engages our attention is the preparation of the Flora of Gloucestershire, the conception and progress of which are due to the energy and scientific enthusiasm of the Rev Walter Butt. I am indebted to Mr H. J. Riddelsdell for a note on the position of this important undertaking. Up to the present we have reached only the preliminary stage, and we are unable to promise early publication of the results of such a complicated enquiry.

He was Vicar of Minety in Wiltshire for many years. He married twice; his first wife, Fanny died in 1886 – in

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Wiltshire, his second wife was Ellen. He had two sons (Walter and Philip) and several daughters (?) Ethel, Maud, Mildred, Win(n)ifred, Hilda and Ursula.

The 1911 census places him at Oakwood, near Chepstow. He died on July 14th, 1917 in Chepstow. His herbarium passed to the Gloucester Museum. He was father-in-law of Rev H J Riddelsdell*; he rescued & restored herbarium of St Brody.

* Riddelsdell (1866-1941), Hedley & Price, editors Fl Glos (1948)

Thanks to David Price for additional information.

A sample of Rev W Butt's handwriting:



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