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Coleman, William Higgins (1812 – 63)

Posted on [June 6, 2015](#) by [Chris](#)

William H Coleman was born in 1812, son of John and Constantia Coleman. He was baptised in Finsbury, London. He was educated as at St John's College, Cambridge, graduating in 1836, and awarded an M.A in 1838. He was later ordained deacon and priest by the Bishop of Lincoln.

He was a master at Christ's Hospital, Hertford. Between 1840 and 1847, he was involved in the preparation of the "**Flora Hertfordiensis**" with the Rev. R H Webb. This was the first county based flora that used districts based on river basins / soil / geology. A supplement to this was published in 1851, and then a second in 1859.

Notice of the 'Flora Hertfordiensis: being A Catalogue of Plants known, or reported, to grow wild, in the county of Hertford, with the Stations of the Rarer Species. By the Rev. R. H. WEBB, Rector of Essendon; assisted by the Rev. H. COLEMAN, and by various Correspondents. Pamplin, London. 1848. Part I.'

His paper "[On the geographical distribution of British plants](#)" appeared in **The Phytologist** (Vol 3, p 217).

*On the Geographical Distribution of British Plants.
By the Rev. W. H. COLEMAN, M.A.*

MUCH valuable advice has been given to the authors of local Floras in the several works of Mr. Watson, and the present writer has largely profited by his suggestions. Having been long engaged in a work of this nature, and therefore having, as he trusts he may say without presumption, acquired some experience, he has thought that some account of the method pursued by himself and his colleague may be acceptable to the readers of the 'Phytologist,' and useful to those who shall hereafter be engaged in any similar work.

In collecting materials for a Flora of an English county, it was soon discovered that the work would be extremely imperfect, as a view of the botanical productions of the county collectively, unless not only

He is associated with *Oenanthe fluviatilis*, *Carex boeninghausiana*, and *Rubus colemanni* (dedicated to him by [Andrew Blox\(h\)am](#)).

He also contributed to Sir Oswald Mosley's "Natural History of Tutbury", and later worked on the more difficult of the poetical passages of the Old Testament – publishing a paper on '**The eighteenth Chapter of Isaiah**' (1863) in the Journal of Biblical Literature.

He was sometime a master at The Grammar School at Ashby-de-la-Zouch. He died in 1863 (12th September) at Burton on Trent, and was buried at All Saints and St Johns, Hertford (on the 19th September). His sister, Constantia, was executor of his modest estate.

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