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**Crotch, William Robert (Rev), 1799 – 1877.**

Posted on [December 27, 2014](#) by [Chris](#)

William R Crotch was born in Oxfordshire. His father was a noted musician / organist (Principal of the Royal Academy of Music when it was established in 1822).

He studied at New College, Oxford and was awarded his M.A. in 1826. He was later a Fellow of the college.

On 21 Jul 1831, in Bridgnorth Shropshire, he married Elizabeth Duppa (groom's residence given as Kensington Middlesex). In 1848, Elizabeth Duppa Crotch died.

The 1841 Census records William R Crotch at the College, Bishop's Hull, Taunton Somerset, (with his wife – Elizabeth, and daughter Elizabeth (3)). At this time, he is described as a clergyman.

The Rev. W. R. Crotch, A.M. Fellow of New College, Oxford, has been appointed to the Mastership of the College School, Taunton, and will enter upon its duties at Midsummer next. Mr. Crotch is son of Dr. Crotch, the highly distinguished musical professor.

The 1851 Census record that he was still at the College School, Bishop's Hull and notes that he was *Master of the endowed school and chaplain of the hospital*, a widower, living with his sons, and M Crotch (his widowed mother) and servants.

The Rev. William Robert Crotch, M.A., late Fellow of New College, Oxford, and Head Master of the College School, Taunton, has been presented with a handsome silk gown, cassock, scarf, and hood, in the name of the ladies of the congregation of St. Mary Magdalene, as a tribute of their respect and esteem for the Christian zeal and ability with which he has discharged his ministerial duties for the last seven years that he has resided among them.—*St. James's Chronicle*.

He married Elizabeth Bliss on the 5th July, 1853 (Barnes, Surrey). She died in 1856.

snippet below from **London Standard 1853**

On the 5th inst., at Barnes, Surrey, the Rev. William Robert Crotch, of Stoke Court, Somerset, to Elizabeth, eldest daughter of the late Robert Bliss, Esq., of Rose Hill, Oxford.

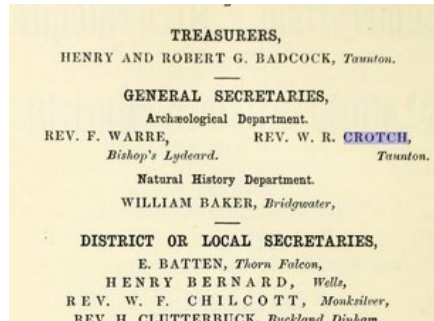
The 1861 Census finds him at Uphill, Somerset – and notes that he was a “*clergyman without cure of souls*“, living with a son and a daughter, a cousin and servants.

He later married again – Flora Laurence, in 1865 (July 21st) at Bleadon, Weston Super Mare.

By 1871, the Census records that he was at The Rectory, Wolverton, Warwickshire, with his wife – Flora, and servants.

He was Vicar of Catherington from 1872 – 77.

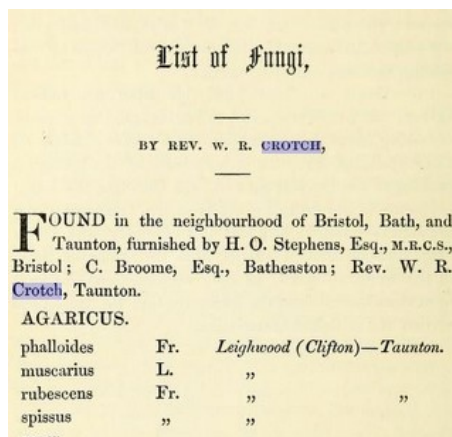
He was a Member of the Botanical Exchange Club (in 1866) and a member of the [Somersetshire Archaeological and Natural History Society](#), and one time secretary of that society.



### **Publications**

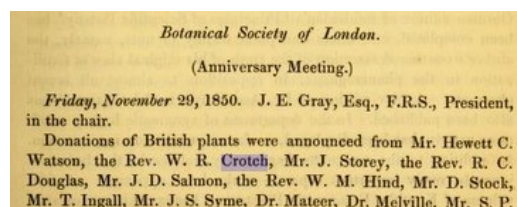
The recent plants and shells of the Weston district; W. R. Crotch 1851; Naturalist's Journal.

Natural history of the past year; W. R. Crotch, Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society (1855) 133.



The above from the Somersetshire Arch and Nat Hist Society 1852.

A number of sheets / collections associated with Revd. W. R. Crotch can be found at [Herbaria@home](#). He also contributed to the Botanical Society of London – sending specimens – see below (From The Phytologist, vol 4).



He died on the 8th May 1877 at **Catherington**, Hampshire.

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