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Curnow, William (1809 - 1887)

Posted on February 11, 2011 by Chris

William Curnow was born November, 1809 in Newlyn. He married Jane Kneebone? (LDS record) in Oct 1835. The census records from 1841 to 1881 place him (and his family – children William and Ann) as living at Pembroke Cottage, , Newlyn (Penzance). He was a market gardener – who managed some 11 / 12 acres and had three labourers in his employ (1871 census).

There are many of his sheets at H@H, nearly all specimens collected locally.



He supplied some mosses for Rabenhorst – Bryotheca Europaea, this can be viewed on line http://www.archive.org/details/drlrabenhorstskro3rabe . He contributed to The Phytologist, The Journal of Botany and The Penzance Natural History Society.

He died in in January, 1887; a small obituary (written by William West) who records that he was 'a charming and generous correspondent' may be found http://www.paulchurch.co.uk/page27.html

OBITUARY.

On February 24th, 1887, William Currow, of Penzance, died at the age of seventy-eight, and, as I have not yet seen the occurrence noted in this Journal, I thought I would contribute a line in memory of him. There are certainly some readers of the Journal who were personally acquainted with him; my friendship with him was limited to the exchange of long letters and numerous specimens, the latter chiefly consisting in later years of Hepaticæ and Mosses. I always found him to be a charming, generous, and earnest correspondent, his letters being delightful. He did much towards the investigation of the plants of his district, and wrote several papers, among which the following appeared in the 'Transactions of the Penzance Natural History and Antiquarian Society,' of which he was an honorary member:—'The Hepaticæ of West Cornwall'; The Sphagnums or Bog Mosses of West Cornwall'; and, in combination with John Ralfs, 'The Mosses of West Cornwall.' This short notice may induce someone with better knowledge to write a more extended notice.—Wm. West.

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