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Hambrough, Albert John (1820 – 61)

Posted on April 8, 2012 by Chris

Albert John Hambrough was born 19th November, 1820 near Christchurch, Hampshire. He was educated at The Queen's College, Oxford – matriculated in 1838. He had a brother *Windsor* Edmund Hambrough (educated Christ Church, Oxford), and another Oscar William Hambrough.

His father was John Hambrough and his mother was Sophia (? e) **Townsend** Hambrough – she was a daughter of Gore **Townsend** (who was grandfather to [Frederick Townsend](#) – author of The Flora of Hampshire) and Elizabeth *Windsor*. His father and mother died in February, 1863 – within days of each other. They lived at [Steephill Castle, IOW](#); this was famous for its walks and views. Details of Steephill Castle and grounds can be found [here](#). It no longer exists.

On banks and waste shady cultivated places; very rare, and certainly introduced. Fl. May–October. ☉.
About the grounds at Steephill, Albert Hambrough, Esq. !!! A weed in the garden at Alverstone mill, by Newchurch, id. !!!
The whole plant clothed with soft hairs against the leaves which are needle-

Albert John Hambrough married Charlotte Jane Fleming in 1845 (on the Isle of Wight). In 1851, he is recorded (on the census returns) as living in Ryde, IOW at Althorpe House, Spencer Road. On the 1861 census, he is described as a Magistrate and 'Captain of Industry'.

He died in June of that year, at 14 Prince's Terrace, Hyde Park, London. The Journal of the Linnean Society noted that "had been but a few years a Fellow of this Society, having been elected only in February 1856. His usual residence was Steephill Castle, in the Isle of Wight, and he was well known as a zealous cultivator of the island flora".

OBS. *Silene noctiflora*, L. Must be erased from the Isle of Wight list, as Mr. Hambrough told me that he felt uncertain about the single specimen which he once picked when out shooting.

Sagina ciliata, Fries. In a furze brake at Steephill (A. J. Hambrough); on a bank near Sandown; in the Warren at Alum Bay; at Locombe; gravel pit at the junction of the roads to Fishbourne and Ryde (Rev. A. M. Norman), etc., but far less common than *S. apetala*.

S. ambigua, Lloyd. On sandy banks near the Fort in Sandown Bay, 1856. This is, I believe, a seaside form of *S. ciliata*, with fleshy leaves and stouter habit.

S. subulata, Sw. On Freshwater Down, near the site of the former lighthouse (A. J. Hambrough).

He contributed to the [Flora Vectensis](#), and also helped with locality details for A.G. More's "[A Supplement to the Flora Vectensis](#)" (1871). His herbarium was acquired by [Charlotte Ellen Palmer](#).

Thalictrum minus
Hafford Hills
July 1856
E. Ott



Some of his specimens / sheets can be seen at H@H – click [here](#) to see a list. See also the [Bromfield herbarium](#) and the online [searchable database](#)

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