

**meiosis.org.uk**

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

---

**Helsby, Isaac (1858 – 1940)**

Posted on [February 12, 2012](#) by [Chris](#)

Many of the sheets that have been 'processed' by the herbaria@home project come from the collection of Isaac Helsby. The notes on the herbarium sheets are in a precise and neat script. To date, some 1300+ Helsby sheet have been added to the H@H database.



Isaac Helsby was born in Rainhill, Liverpool in 1858. He was a civil engineer / draughtsman by training.

He married Alice Smith Holmes in 1880 and they moved to Watford soon after. They had four daughters and one son Frederick George.

His eldest daughter was Elsie, the others were Elizabeth, Alice and Evelyn. Elsie married William V *Copple* and had three sons.

On some of Helsby's sheets – the name ***Elsie Copple*** is to be seen, as is the name of her son *Richard Copple*.

Clearly the botanising 'ran in the family'. Isaac and family lived at Kingsfield Road, Watford for a number of years. He died in 1940, aged 81.



My thanks to Meg Pettitt (nee **Copple**) for the information above, and also **Claire Copple**, wife of **David Copple**, grandson of **Elsie Copple**, and great grandson of Isaac Helsby for the **photographs of Isaac Helsby** above.

Related posts:

1. **[Kitching, Langley \(1835 – 1910\) ...](#)**
2. **[J. Edward Lousley \(1907-1976\)](#)** There is an excellent and detailed biography of Lousley that was written...

This entry was posted in [19th Century](#), [20th Century](#), [Botanists](#) and tagged [H@H](#), [SLBI](#). Bookmark the [permalink](#).

## 2 Responses to *Helsby, Isaac (1858 – 1940)*

**meiosis** says:

July 21, 2013 at 4:51 pm

I have forwarded the above on to Meg.

---

**Elizabeth Booker** says:

July 21, 2013 at 4:22 pm

I found this site by chance as I am tracing my family history. My maiden name is Copple and Richard Copple was my father. Meg is my cousin and would really like to know how I could get in touch with her as I have no contact details. I had no idea the our great grandfather Isaac Helsby was a botanist. I hope you can help. Many thanks.

---

**meiosis.org.uk**

*Proudly powered by WordPress.*