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Leefe, Rev. John Ewbank (1813-1889)

Posted on [January 7, 2011](#) by [Chris](#)

John Ewbank Leefe was born in Richmond (in 1813) and educated at Trinity College, Cambridge – matriculated in 1831, taking a B.A in 1835, and an M.A in 1838. He then became Vicar at Audley End (1841) but moved back to Richmond, and from there on to Cresswell, Northumberland. He stayed in Cresswell for a long time, 1849 – 87. He married in 1845 in Cockermouth to Maria Favell, who died in 1902..

He was a Fellow of the Linnean Society and a member of the Tyneside Naturalists Field Club, where he held the office of Vice President and then President in 1873/ 74.

He was an expert on the genus *Salix*, most of his letters and plants are at Kew. He also recorded [rainfall](#), temp data up to 1888. He died in Redcar.

snippet from

The London journal of botany: containing figures and descriptions ..., Volume 1 By Sir William Jackson Hooker

British Willows.

We are happy to learn that the **Rev. J. E. Leefe** of Audley End, Essex, is assiduously engaged in studying the British Willows, with the intention of laying the result of his labours before the public, in fasciculi of specimens, at the cost of a few shillings each. The first fasciculus, containing upwards of twenty species, and fifty or sixty specimens, it is expected, will be ready in the course of the next two months.

Mr. **Leefe** will have the able assistance of Mr. Borrer, in reference to the correctness of the nomenclature; but in regard to which should, or should not, constitute a species, he only wishes to retain such as afford readily ascertainable characters, rejecting those which exhibit intermediate forms, or where the supposed species appears to be merely a description of one form amongst many.

With such views, there cannot be a doubt that Mr. **Leefe** will render a most important service to the students of this interesting and important genus.

1. Remarks on some curious metamorphoses of the pistil of *Salix caprea*. By the Rev. J. E. LEEFE, Audley End, Essex. (See Transactions, vol. i. part 2.)

The Phytologist: a popular botanical miscellany, Volume 1 By George Luxford, Edward Newman

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