

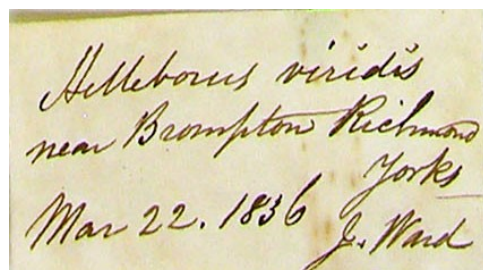
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A small site that is interested in things
botanical and historical, associated with
the herbaria@home project

Ward, James (1802 – 1873)

Posted on [January 22, 2011](#) by [Chris](#)

There are several sheets at H@H associated with James Ward. He was born on Christmas Day, 1802 in Wensley. He was the second son of seven; his father was Robert Ward, and his grandfather – Robert Ward from



Ingerthorpe, nr Ripon.

He was educated at a school in Leyburn, some 2 miles from Wensley until the age of 14. He then went to work with his uncles at Richmond – they were chemists and oil merchants. One of the uncles, John Ward founded the Richmond Floristic Society to promote the cultivation of ‘flowers and fruit’. Uncle John was a botanist, at some stage he went to London to train as a medic but did not take to the

surgical element; he took charge of his nephew’s studies.

Young James worked long hours 7am to 8 pm, but rose early (4 am) in order to find time for botanising; he also used the occasional day off. By 1824, he was able to compile a list / catalogue of plants growing in N Yorks, especially the plants of the valleys of the Swale, Yore and Tees. This catalogue was referenced by H C Watson, in his *New Botanist’s Guide*. Ward and Watson corresponded until his (Ward’s) death in 1873.

Ward also enjoyed a life long friendship with the Rev J E Leefe (*Salix* specialist) and maintained a ‘vigorous’ correspondence with J G Baker, W Hooker, Profs Henslow, Balfour and Babington, Boswell Syme and Arnold Lees. In 1836 Fellow of the newly created Bot Society of Edinburgh and in 1847, he was local secretary to the London Botanical Society.

In 1856, he withdrew from business and concentrated on his garden; he was particularly interested in Saxifrages. In 1863, he traveled extensively in Ireland and in 1864, he went to Switzerland. In 1865, the Richmond and North Riding Naturalists Field Club was founded and he was one of the vice presidents. He established a reference herbarium for them (2000+sp). See jpg below :-

RICHMOND AND NORTH-RIDING NATURALISTS’ FIELD-CLUB.—A General Meeting of the Members of the Richmond and North-Riding Naturalists’ Field-club was held in the Magistrates’ Room, in the Town-hall, Richmond, the 14th of March, for the purpose of electing officers for the ensuing year. The following were appointed:—President, E. Wood, Esq., F.G.S.; Vice-presidents, the Rev. R. E. Roberts, Rev. James Tate, Lonsdale Bradley, Esq., F.G.S., James Ward, Esq., F.B.S. Edin., J. Bowe, Esq., R. Bowes, Esq., T. Thompson, Esq., F. Sanderson, Esq.; Treasurer, C. Other, jun., Esq.; Secretary, Mr. James Aspdin. After some preliminary discussion, a question arose as to the ownership of the Museum, whether it was in the power of the trustees or the committee in management. This matter, however, was left over for further consideration.—E. Wood, Esq., F.G.S., then rose and said: ‘Gentlemen—On taking the chair on this our opening meeting, a few words as to the future of our

By the age of 67, he was greatly troubled with rheumatism and moved ‘south’ in search of a more congenial climate / weather. His last 2/ 3 years were spent at Barton upon Irwell, he died in 1873 and was buried at Chester.

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