

geological specimens even from the first line of trenches—and would certainly have rapidly attained a prominent place amongst the younger mycologists. Our science can ill spare men of his character and capabilities.

I am indebted to his father, Mr. E. W. Hart, for certain facts.

---

## CHARLES CROSSLAND

(1844-1916).

*By J. Ramsbottom.*

Charles Crossland, the well-known Halifax naturalist, died in his native town on December 9th, 1916. He was born on September 3rd, 1844, his parents keeping a provision and general store in Halifax; he left school at the age of thirteen to help in the business. At the age of sixteen he commenced to learn the trade of a butcher, and when twenty opened a meat, grocery and general store at Wyke, where he remained until 1873 when he returned to Halifax having purchased a butchery trade there.

About 1880 he began to take an interest in place names particularly those within the ancient parish of Halifax. He found that more than a hundred surnames owed their origin to Halifax place names, which led to the tracing of the origin and significance of English surnames, 45,000 of which he collected and arranged in their respective classes.

In 1884 one of his daughters was making a collection of wild flowers for an exhibit competition in connection with a Sunday school. Without any previous knowledge of botany Crossland assisted his daughter. He had a pocket lens, presented to him by a friend, and by the aid of this he was able to enter a little more minutely into their structure. The plants were mounted and arranged, and his appetite being whetted the collecting was continued. This brought him into touch with the Halifax Scientific Society which he joined. Certain of the members settled down to a technical study of British wild plants by the aid of Hooker's *Students' Flora*; soon they added morphology and physiology, and

purchased the latest text books on the subject. They entered for the South Kensington examinations and eventually succeeded in passing the advanced stages in botany. A formal natural history section of the society was formed which devoted itself principally to the study of the local flora with Crossland as secretary.

He attended the fungus foray of the Yorkshire Naturalists' Union at Leeds in 1888 and here G. Masee persuaded him that he would find ample scope in mycology for any work he cared to do. Crossland set to work with a will and although at first he studied cryptogams generally he later restricted himself more and more to fungi. His first paper on fungi appeared in 1890—*Fungi new to W. Yorks.* The cryptogamic portion of the *Flora of Halifax* (1896-1904)\* is from his pen.

The Yorkshire Naturalists' Union started a mycological committee in 1892 with Crossland as secretary. From 1893 to 1914 he wrote the accounts of the annual forays. Many new species were described by him chiefly in collaboration with Masee, and the two compiled the *Fungus Flora of Yorkshire* (1902-1905). Crossland, in consequence of the inadequacy of dried specimens of fungi, commenced to learn drawing and painting. His paintings, 550 in number (which were purchased by Kew in 1914), are excellent examples of careful work and scientific accuracy and are accompanied by detailed descriptions.

The British Mycological Society was founded at the fungus foray of the Yorkshire Naturalists' Union at Selby in 1896, and Crossland was elected treasurer.† The following year, at his suggestion, the posts of secretary and treasurer were combined in order to save unnecessary expense, and Mr. Carleton Rea took over the position which he has filled so ably up to the present time. Crossland continued a member of our Society until 1914 when he ceased mycological work. Two papers by him appeared in the Transactions, one in 1899 *On Mollisia cinerea and its varieties*, and the other in 1908 on *Omitted asci measurements of some British Discomycetes*. In February, 1914, he had an attack of paralysis which, however, partly passed away in five or six weeks, but left him subject to occasional attacks of giddiness. He took an active interest in Yorkshire mycology until October, 1914: he was presented with a silver salver at the Mulgrave foray as a token of his twenty-one

\* "By issuing it as a separately paged supplement to the *Halifax Naturalist* of which it was the *raison d'être*, the financial difficulty was solved." Preface.

† He appears in the photograph in *Trans. Brit. Mycol. Soc.*, IV., opp. p. 182 (1915).

year's service as secretary to the mycological committee. He then carefully prepared for the end and portioned out his collections to various friends and institutions.

Crossland was a man of many activities and one of the leading citizens of a go-ahead town. He was treasurer of the Halifax Butchers' Association from 1881 to 1908. He retired from his trade—he always called himself a "Knight of the Cleaver"—in 1914, though having taken a managing partner in 1890 he had afterwards a little more leisure, or, as he termed it, became a "half-timer." He spoke the Yorkshire dialect perfectly and was one of the founders, and later the President of, the Yorkshire Dialect Society. He was President of the Yorkshire Naturalists' Union in 1907, and gave as his address *The Study of Fungi in Yorkshire*, paying special attention to the work of James Bolton. This portion he afterwards amplified and published as *James Bolton, an 18th Century Halifax Naturalist*. After he had attained the age of sixty he undertook to prepare a Bibliography of Halifax—a work which appeared in instalments, published by the Halifax Antiquarian Society. He was engaged upon this until the week in which he died having practically completed it.

Crossland was one of the finest of the justly-celebrated north country working men naturalists. Commencing the study of fungi when approaching the age of fifty he made for himself a reputation for reliable work which spread very far beyond the boundaries of the county in which he was proud to have been born. He was careful almost to a fault. Mr. Sheppard, writing in the *Naturalist*,\* says: "When the Fungus Flora of Yorkshire . . . . was ready for the printers Crossland found that it would save the printers trouble, save the Union expense, and enable him to better judge the cost, if his manuscript were re-written; and, though his original manuscript was remarkably clear and distinct, he re-wrote the whole, giving not only the correct number of words, but the correct number of ems to a line and the correct number of lines to a page, so that the book eventually appeared word for word, space for space, line for line and page for page, as it was in manuscript." An admirer of his was so struck with the work that he bound the original manuscript and presented it to the Soppitt Library, Huddersfield. He had all the characteristics of what his county men would call a typical Yorkshireman. He was ever ready to give assistance, and no trouble was too great for him if he considered it worth the taking. His greatest desire was to

\* *Naturalist*, 1914, p. 25.

interest others in those subjects in which he himself excelled, and having roped them in he was ever ready to help and inspire them to put their whole energy into the work. He was an amateur in the finest sense of the word and a man of sterling character.

I am indebted to Miss Agnes Crossland for most of the material from which this note is drawn up.

---

### GEORGE EDWARD MASSEE

(1850-1917).

*By J. Ramsbottom.*

George Edward Massee, the first President of the British Mycological Society, died at Sevenoaks on February 16th, 1917, succumbing to an attack of influenza, and was buried at Richmond, Surrey. Born at Scampston, a hamlet in East Yorkshire, on December 20th, 1850, he was educated at a private school. It was intended that he should become a farmer as was his father, but, according to his own statement, he did very little good at farming. While working on the farm he became interested in wild flowers and in the larger fungi and drew and painted them. He was sent to the York School of Art, where he gained the national medal for the drawing of flowers from nature. His first publication was on *British Woodpeckers* which appeared in the *Intellectual Observer* for 1867. This paper of five pages and a coloured plate was remarkably good for a youth of sixteen. His mother's cousin was Dr. Richard Spruce, the botanist and traveller, and he encouraged him in his botanical studies. Later Massee went into residence at Downing College, Cambridge, but did not stay the necessary time to take a degree. Whether he continued his natural history studies there is not known. Cambridge had not, at that time, awakened from her deplorable sloth towards natural science. Spruce was able to give him the opportunity of going to the West Indies and South America for the purpose of orchid hunting and botanizing generally. He crossed to America on a French boat, traversed the isthmus of Panama, and then sailed along