

U DX21

**Papers of Rev. Marmaduke C.F. Morris
and Rev. Francis O. Morris**

1842-1931

Biographical Background:

Francis Orpen Morris was born on 25 March 1810, the eldest son of Admiral Henry Gage Morris, near Cork, whilst his father was on active service on the Royal Navy's Irish station. His mother, Rebecca, was the youngest daughter of the Rev. Francis Orpen, vicar of Kilgarvan, county Kerry. The family moved to England in 1824, living initially in Worcester, and, from 1826, in Charmouth, Dorset. His interest in natural history began whilst a pupil at Bromsgrove School, when he began to collect birds and insects. He left school in 1828 and, following a year with a private tutor, went up to Worcester College Oxford the following year. He read Classics, obtaining his BA in 1833. However, much of his time as a student was spent in the study of natural history, and one of his part-time tasks included arranging the collection of insects in the Ashmolean Museum.

Having decided to enter the Church, he became curate at Hanging Heaton, near Dewsbury, and was ordained Deacon by the Archbishop of York in August 1834. In January 1835 he married Anne, second daughter of Charles Sanders, of Bromsgrove. They were to have 3 sons and 6 daughters. Eventually, in November 1844, he was given the living of Nafferton near Driffield in East Yorkshire, where he remained vicar for nine years. This relatively small parish of 1400 persons provided him with an annual income of £40. He instigated much repair work on his church before, in 1854, moving to the Rectory of Nunburnholme, near Market Weighton in East Yorkshire, which had a much smaller population (of just 240), but a larger income. He again restored the parish church (under the direction of G. Gilbert Scott), but evidently now had even more time to study, and to look after his large collection of butterflies, moths and birds' eggs.

It was at Nafferton that his reputation as a popular writer on natural history in general and of birds in particular began to grow. His first book had appeared as early as 1834, *A guide to an arrangement of British birds*. However, his association with Benjamin Fawcett, a local printer, was to have remarkable results, particularly for the study of ornithology. Benjamin Fawcett was one of the finest of the nineteenth century woodblock colour printers. Born in Bridlington in December 1808, he was the son of a ship's master. At the age of 14 he was apprenticed for seven years to William Forth, a Bridlington bookseller and printer. In 1831 he set up in business as a bookseller, bookbinder, music seller, printer and stationer, in Middle Street, Driffield. In 1830 he married Mary Ann Woodmansey, and they had two sons before her death in 1834. In 1848 he married Martha Porter, and they eventually had four daughters and six sons.

Many of his early printing projects were childrens' books published by Webb & Millington of Leeds. His first association with F.O. Morris was in 1844 or 1845, and was to last nearly 50 years. Morris produced the text for books that Fawcett financed and printed, which were usually illustrated by A.F. (Frank) Lydon (1836-1917), who had started as one of Fawcett's apprentices. Unlike the earlier work of Thomas Bewick (1753-1828), printing was in colour. This was initially achieved by hand colouring wood-engraved illustrations, and later by printing in colours from multiple wood blocks. Most of the works were published by Groombridge, of London. Their first great success was *A History of British Birds*, work on which probably began in 1848. Publication, which took over seven years to complete from June 1850, was undertaken in monthly parts costing one shilling. Each part contained 24 pages of letterpress and 4 hand-coloured plates. The final six volume work contained 358

coloured plates. One thousand copies of the first part were initially produced, but such was the demand that Fawcett quickly had to move into larger premises (East Lodge, Driffield). *Birds* was quickly followed by *A natural history of the nests and eggs of British birds* and *A history of British butterflies*, followed later by *A history of British Moths*. The last collaboration between Fawcett, Morris and Lydon was *The County Seats of the Noblemen and Gentlemen of Great Britain and Ireland*. This again ran to six volumes, each with 40 coloured plates, and text by Morris. The firm of Groombridge failed in about 1880, and it appears that neither Fawcett nor Morris made much money from their joint ventures. F.O. Morris died on 10 February 1893 and is buried at Nunburnholme. Fawcett had died three weeks earlier.

Rev. Marmaduke Charles Frederick Morris was born the youngest child of Rev. F.O. Morris in 1844. He was at one point Rector of Nunburnholme, like his father, and also wrote several books including *Yorkshire Reminiscences (with others)*, *Nunburnholme: Its History and Antiquities* and *Yorkshire Folk-Talk with Characteristics of Those who Speak it in the North and East Ridings*. Rev. Marmaduke Morris died in 1935.

Custodial history:

Donated by Canon S.L. Ollard from the library of Rev. M.C.F. Morris, 6 Oct 1937

Description:

The collection includes over 100 letters to Rev. Francis Orpen Morris, including six from Professor Alfred Newton (between 1851 and 1870), and seven from Benjamin Fawcett (between 1850 and 1871). As might be expected, most of these letters are on the subject of birds. There are also papers assembled by Morris in connection with his book on Fawcett, with further original letters to F.O. Morris (including from A F Lydon), various loose plates containing engravings by Lydon, and several photographs of Fawcett, F.O. Morris, Lydon, and East Lodge, Driffield. Rev. M.C.F. Morris's papers comprise research notes and letters on the dialect, folk-lore and field names of various places in Yorkshire, possibly in connection with the Victoria County History.

Extent: 3 bundles & 167 items

Related material:

Papers of Rev. F.O. and Rev. M.C.F. Morris [U DP180]

Notes for a lecture on Benjamin Fawcett [U DX91]

Photocopied papers of John Cordeaux [U DCR] (originals held by British Trust for Ornithology)

Records of the Association for the Protection of Sea Birds [U DSB]

Notebooks of F.C. Heaven [U DX37]

Papers of Professor Paul G 'Espinasse [U DX299]

Papers of T Michael Clegg [U DCG]

Access conditions: Access will be granted to any accredited reader

- U DX21/1 Collection of notes and letters relating to Yorkshire dialect, folk-lore and field-names, by [Rev. M.C.F. Morris] c.1888-1919
Includes a notebook on field names divided by village with related letters and a volume of Yorkshire words, phrases, weights and measures and other peculiarities. There is also an article entitled 'The Bibliography of Yorkshire Dialect Literature' (1919), two exercise books of Yorkshire sayings and tales, a short essay by Rev. M.C.F. Morris entitled 'A Strange Hallucination' and a bundle of letters mainly relating to dialect and folk-lore.
1 bundle
- U DX21/2 Collection of notes and letters relating to Nunburnholme, by Rev. M.C.F. Morris c.1890-1931
Includes notes on St James' Church, Nunburnholme cross shaft, Nunburnholme Priory, the Chapelry of Thorpe, the Rectors of Nunburnholme, Nunburnholme priory excavations (1905), Victoria County History for the East Riding and some local family pedigrees. There are notes taken from the parish registers, Manor Court rolls, the Domesday book and Pastor Feilberg's Confirmation Book. Also includes a copy of the register of Nunburnholme Church from 1585 to 1812, a notebook relating to the family Prickett, a carpenter account book of a hundred years, a plan of Nunburnholme Beck (this item is fragile), a copy of Minister's accounts from the reign of Henry VIII, pages from Nunburnholme [parish newsletters], a plan of excavations of Nunburnholme priory (1905), a notebook containing notes on Denmark, four black and white photographs of the Nunburnholme cross and three black and white photographs of bells from [Nunburnholme] church as well as photographs and sketches of different views of Nunburnholme.
1 bundle
- U DX21/3 Collection of notes and letters relating to the Deanery of Harthill, by [Rev. M.C.F. Morris] c.1897-1929
Includes notes on Full Sutton, Pocklington, Goodmanham, Wilberfoss, Bishop Wilton, Millington, Sutton on Derwent, Warter, Everingham, Hayton, Barmby Moor, Fangfoss, Londesborough, Huggate, Catton and Nunburnholme. There is also a notebook containing notes on Roman remains and field names as well as extracts from the Domesday Book and from enclosure awards. A further notebook contains notes on the Victoria County History for [East Yorkshire] and there are also transcripts of the pedigree of the manor of Londesborough, a list of rectors and patrons of Londesborough, copies of poor law forms and a copy of the will of Jeremiah Harrer.
1 bundle

Hull History Centre: Papers of Rev. Marmaduke C.F. Morris and Rev. Francis O. Morris

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| U DX21/4 | <p>Letters to Rev. F.O. Morris</p> <p>The letters mainly relate to ornithology and include 6 letters from Alfred Newton, professor of Zoology at Cambridge, 4 letters from Arthur Strickland, 1 from H.E. Strickland and 1 from R. Scot [Skirving]. There are 34 letters relating to the Wild Birds Protection Act and a further 21 letters generally related to birds.</p> <p>83 items</p> | 1842-1891 |
| U DX21/5 | <p>Letters and papers connected with Rev. F.O. Morris's book on Benjamin Fawcett</p> <p>Includes 9 letters from Benjamin Fawcett relating to books he and Morris collaborated on, several letters relating to insects and ornithology as well as other letters relating to Morris' books from various correspondents, such as A.F. Lydon. There is also a list of birds for possible inclusion in a book, letters relating to Benjamin Fawcett and Morris' book on Fawcett, a short printed biography of Fawcett, a list of the works of A.F. Lydon as an illustrator, a notebook containing chronological notes on Fawcett's life, various loose plates featuring colour engravings of birds and other subjects by Lydon and several photographs of Fawcett, F.O. Morris, Lydon, and East Lodge, Driffield with examples of their signatures.</p> <p>84 items</p> | 1850-1925 |