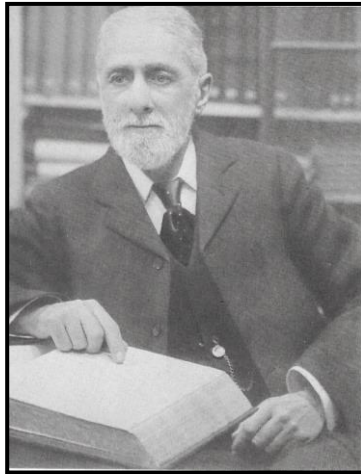


Charles Fortey (1831-1915)



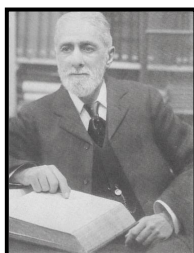
Born: Aymestry 10 February 1831

Died: Bristol 24 September 1915

Charles Fortey (1831-1915)

1. Introduction

Charles Fortey was Curator of the Ludlow Museum from 1888 to 1907. His father, James Fortey, a corn factor at Maidstone Wharf, Queenhithe in London, married Mary Wooton at Norton Canon in Herefordshire on the 12th January 1813. They had eleven children of which three died in infancy and four remained unmarried, Charles Fortey was the youngest born. Of his brothers, John Fortey went to Australia while Henry Fortey gained an M.A. at Cambridge and became a professor of mathematics and inspector of schools in Madras.



Charles Fortey was born in Aymestry on the 10th February 1831 and was baptised on the 19th June of that year. Charles and his two previous siblings were born at Aymestry but the rest of the family were London born - the family retained a house in London. Charles was living with the family at Stanley Place, Chelsea in 1851 but he is absent from the 1861 and 1871 census - a Charles Fortey applied for a passport in 1859 and it is known that he spent time abroad during these years.

Charles Fortey (Photograph: LMRS)

Fortey's time at Ludlow is described by David Lloyd as follows:

The most important influence during the last years of the century was that of Charles Fortey, a person of independent means who was born in Aymestry in 1831. He had travelled widely before moving to Ludlow in 1876. He lived at Abbey House in Lower Galdeford, now the police station, at first with his father (brother), Thomas Fortey. Charles Fortey joined the Natural History Society as soon as he arrived in Ludlow but didn't become prominent until after George Cocking's death in 1888. From that year until 1907, when he left for Bristol, Fortey was virtually an unpaid but full time Curator, the first that the Museum had had. His obituary, written in 1916, recalls 'his careful oversight of the Museum' and many of his meticulously written records and labels survive to this day.'

2. Charles Fortey and the Fossil Collection

As suggested above, Fortey's main involvement with the collection was as Curator. He did however donate a few fossil specimens. These are listed below together with their reference number as given in the La Touche 1928 Catalogue:

Ordovician

C/b/9 *Ampyx nudus* Murch.

Nind Quarry

Silurian

D/b/5 *Monograptus flamingi* Salter

Halfwayhouse, Llandovery

D/g/40 *Orthonota amygdalina* Sow.

Whitcliffe (Reservoir)

D/g/97 Pterichthyid fish

Batchcott

D/h/16 *Leperditia ?marginata* Keys

Forge Bridge, Downton

Carboniferous

F/c/7 *Stigmaria ficoides* Brongn.

Leebotwood

F/c/10 *Lepidodendron* sp.

Titterstone Clee

F/c/19 *Neuropteria tenuifolis* Schloth.

Titterstone Clee

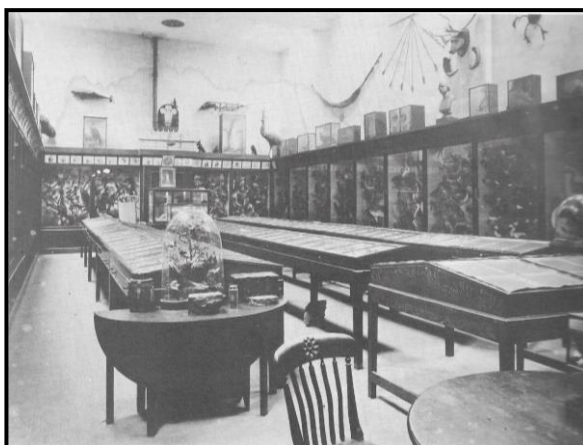
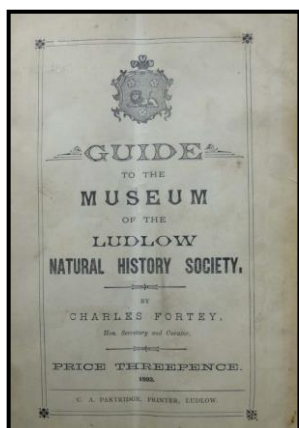
This is a mixed bag of fossils well scattered across the Ludlow area. Of note is the Pterichthyid fish which brought about the following comment from Sir Arthur Smith Woodward:

It is a very interesting specimen, for the radiating structure shows that it is not a Pteraspidian. There is an appearance of an overlapping border on one side, and I should say the plate belongs to an animal something like Pterichthye. It would be well worth while to search for more specimens, for if the occurrence of a Pterichtyidian fish in the Upper Ludlow can be established, it will be a very interesting new point. Such fragments are, of course generically indeterminate.

Shrewsbury Chronicle Sept 29 1893.

3. The Museum Guide

Charles Fortey authored a guide to the museum in 1893 available to visitors for 3d.



The photograph of the Museum shown above was taken ca. 1910 and according to David Lloyd:

In Fortey's catalogue there is no reference to the smallest table case shown on the right of the photograph, but in other respects photograph and catalogue can easily be correlated.

4. Final Years and Death

By 1881 Charles Fortey was living with his brother Thomas Wootton Fortey at Abbey Villas, The Friars in Ludlow. He had removed to Bristol by 1901 and was living with a nephew, Thomas Newstead. He was boarding at 3 Whatley Road, Clifton in 1911 and died in Bristol on the 24th Sept. 1915.

Dr J. A. Gosling
July 2018

Sources

Fortey C (1893) *Guide to the Museum of the Ludlow Natural History Society*. Ludlow Museum Resource Centre.

La Touche (1928) *Catalogue of the Palaeozoic Fossils in the Museum of the Ludlow Natural History Society* Typescript, Ludlow Museum Resource Centre.

Lloyd D (1983) *The History of the Ludlow Museum 1833-1983* Ludlow Museum Resource Centre.

Findmypast findmypast.co.uk

Appendix 1: The Fortey Family

James Fortey m. Mary Wooton Norton Canon, Herefordshire 12.01.1813
 1784-1855 1791-1848
 b. *Westminster* b. 15.05.1791 *Leominster*
 d. 23.08.1855 d. 11.01.1848 *bd Brompton Cemetery*

Anne Mary 1815- b. 07.04.1815 c. 08.07.1815 <i>London</i> - - -	Caroline 1816-1817 b. 24.10.1816 - <i>Holborn</i> bd 25.05.1817 <i>St Augustine</i>	Emma 1818-1819 b. 01.05.1818 c. 27.05.1818 <i>Aymestry</i> d. 05.03.1819 bd <i>Queenhithe</i>	James Wooton 1819-1880 b. 30.12.1819 - <i>London</i> d.12 .03.1880 bd <i>Aymestry</i>	Maria 1823-1910 b. 04.06 1823 c. 30.09.1823 - <i>d. St Asaph</i>
Thomas 1824-1824 b. 15.06.1824 - - bd. <i>Queenhithe</i>	John 1825- b. 31.07.1825 - - d. <i>Australia</i>	George 1827-1909 b. 30.01.1827 c. 15.05.1827 <i>London</i> d. <i>Bristol</i>	Thomas Wooton 1828-1899 b.08.09.1828 c. 05.10.1828 <i>Aymestry</i> d. <i>Ludlow</i>	Henry 1829-1902 b. 06.11.1829 c. 06.11.1829 <i>Aymestry</i> d. <i>Bristol</i>

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 |
 Charles Fortey
 1831-1915
 b. 10.02.1831
 c. 19.06.1831 *Aymestry*
 d. 24.09.1915 *Bristol*