



Miller Christy
1861-1928

Miller Christy was a respected authority on archaeology and ornithology in Essex, and over a forty year period he published many books and articles on these subjects, plus Natural History and related topics. He was President of the Essex Field Club in the early 1900s and chairman of the Essex Archaeological Society in 1920s. Although he did not live locally, some of his literature refers to the Blackwater region and this has contributed significantly to our local history and the *Goldhanger Past* website. Information on the site about The Stone in The Square, Decoy Ponds, Bounds Farm salt-works, and biographical details of author the Revd J C Atkinson all originate from his published works. This is more than enough to justify the inclusion of biographical details about him on this site, particularly as no extensive biography of him identifying the full extent of his publications has been found...

He was born Robert Miller Christy, never married and had no direct descendants. He lived two miles west of Chelmsford in the small village of Chignal St. James, and is said to have stayed at the Mill House in Fish St, Goldhanger on occasions, probably while undertaking local research work.

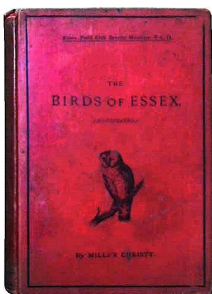
Miller Christy was a member of a well known Quaker family and many of his relatives were successful in business:

- Miller Christy (1748-1820) a hat-making business in Gracechurch Street, London
- William Miller Christy (1778-1858) hat and textile manufacturer, and banker
- Henry Christy (1810-1865) banker, collector, founder of Christy towel manufacturers
- Fell Christy (1835-1918) founded Christy & Norris, in Chelmsford - machinery manufacturers
- Frank & Leonard Christy founded Christy Bros. in Chelmsford in 1833 - manufacturers of electrical equipment

Detailed genealogy of his family is available at... <http://www.pennyghael.org.uk/Christy.pdf> [about these [external links](#)] and an obituary for Miller Christy is at... britishbirds.co.uk/.../Miller_Christy.pdf

Throughout his life Miller Christy was a prolific author and most if not all of his work is still available. The Essex Library on-line catalogue lists 62 items for *Author: Miller Christy* in... <https://classiccatalogue.essex.gov.uk> that are spread around various Essex libraries, and generally not available for loan. Some are hard-back books, most are reprints of articles from published journals of the day, but even these are of substantial lengths ie up to 70 pages in length. Today, much of his work can be found on various websites, and nine different websites are identified below. His many articles in *Essex Field/Naturalist* journals can found with a search within... www.essexfieldclub.org.uk/Archive+Search ...and/or by going to their *contents* page.

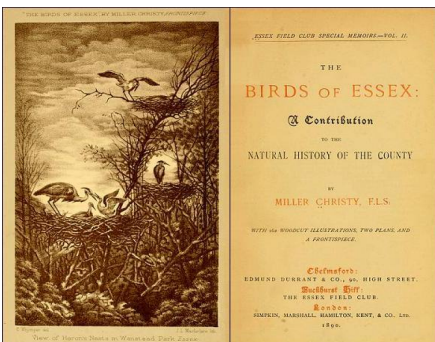
Miller Christy Literature referenced and used on the Goldhanger Past website



Birds of Essex (1890)

This book is perhaps his best known work and has 9 references to Goldhanger in it. He describes the local decoy ponds on pages 62 & 63. The 2-pages are in the Documents and Estuary webpages of this website at... [Goldhanger Decoy Ponds](#). Maura Benham used material from the book in Appendix-III, describing the [Method of working decoy ponds](#) [2-pages down], and also used his drawings.

Chapter-2(p8) of the book is *Biographies of Principle Essex Ornithologists* and includes amongst the many Essex based ornithologists, author [The Revd. John Christopher Atkinson](#) (1814-1900), who was born in Goldhanger, and who would have been well know to Christy. His words are included on our biographical details of [Atkinson](#). The *Birds of Essex* book has over 50 references to J C Atkinson's work.



The Biographies chapter also includes ornithologists the Revd. John Atkinson (1786-1870), Goldhanger Curate and J C Atkinson's father, A E Fitch, mayor of Maldon, H Laver of Colchester. It was Fitch and Laver who excavated the Goldhanger saltworks at Bounds Farm in 1889. It seems that the same small group of Essex men were involved in both ornithology and archaeology.

The 330-page book can be viewed on-line at...

<http://www.unz.org/Pub/ChristyMiller-1890> [about these... [external links](#)]

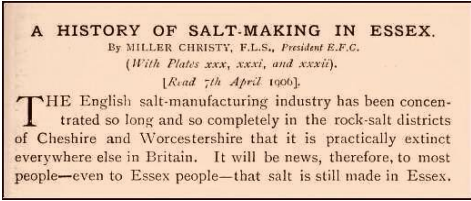
and at...

<http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/50449#page/1/mode/1up>



The Goldhanger Stone: what is it?

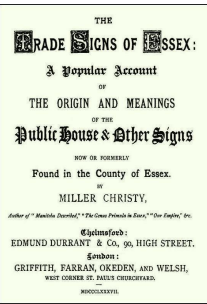
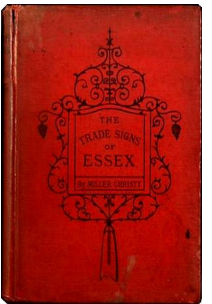
3-pages published in the Essex Archaeological Society journal of 1909. An extract is in [Goldhanger Past - documents](#) for 1909, and can be viewed [here](#).



This 12-page article published in the Essex naturalist: journal of the Essex Field Club in 1906, has extensive information about the saltworks in Goldhanger, Heybridge and Maldon, and was used to create...

[Goldhanger Past - Salt Extraction on the Blackwater](#)

The original article can be seen at.. <http://www.essexfieldclub.org.uk/portal/p/Archive/s/015/o/0193>

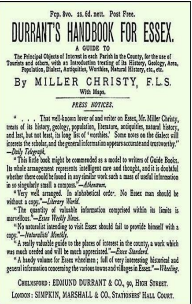
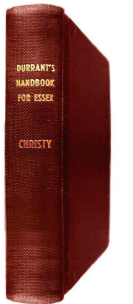


Trade Signs of Essex (1887)

"A popular account of the origin and meanings of the public house & other signs now or formerly found in the county of Essex".

The book contains references to the Goldhanger Bird-in-Hand and Dolphin alehouses, [as seen here...](#) but strangely no references to the Chequers or Cricketers, although the names are covered in the book.

The 207-page book can be read on-line at.. <http://www.unz.org/Pub/ChristyMiller-1887>



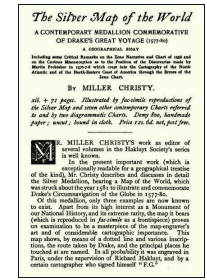
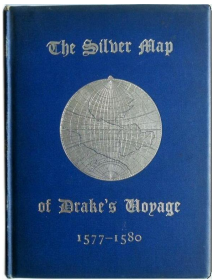
Durrants Handbook of Essex (1887) a 237-page hardcover pocket-size book...

"A guide to the principal places, and objects of interest in each parish In the County; For the use of tourists and others". Edmund Durrant was the publisher and a book seller in Chelmsford and Miller Christy was the author.

The book has a [brief description of Goldhanger](#) and it has an interest description of [Beckinham Hall ruins](#)

This website has six other extracts... [http://blackmorehistory.blogspot.co.uk/search/label/Christy Miller \(historian\)](http://blackmorehistory.blogspot.co.uk/search/label/Christy%20Miller%20(historian))

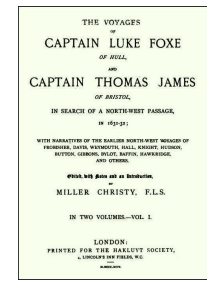
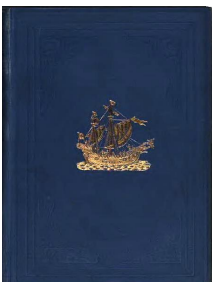
Other publications by Miller Christy of note



The Silver Map of the World

Miller Christy's commemorative interpretation of Sir Walter Drake's "Great Voyage", which included [maps...](#)

The 140-page book can be read on-line at.. at.. <http://www.unz.org/Pub/ChristyMiller-1900> and at.. <https://archive.org/stream/silvermapworld>

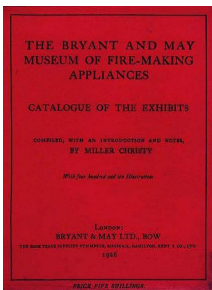


The Voyages of Captain Luke Foxe of Hull and Captain Thomas James

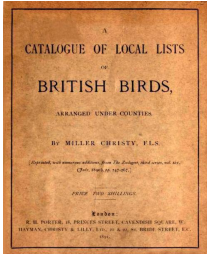
...of Bristol, in Search of a Northwest Passage, in 1631-32

Two volumes of hardback books published in 1894, including [maps](#).

The 526 & 450 page books can be read on-line at.. <https://archive.org/stream/voyagescaptain01wattgoog/page/n11/mode/2up> https://archive.org/stream/cihm_11871#page/n11/mode/2up

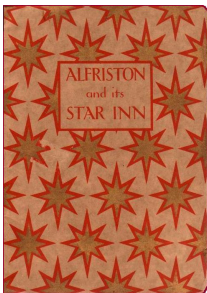


The Bryant and May Museum of Fire-making Appliances
A catalogue of the exhibits in 1926 commissioned and published by the Bryant and May Company. 225 pages long, but not seen.

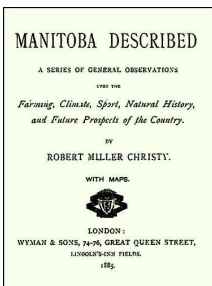


Catalogue of British Birds (1891)
This is a bibliography of all the bird books and articles published in the British Isles at that time, organised in order of county.

The 45 pages booklet can be read on-line at...
<http://www.unz.org/Pub/ChristyMiller-1891>

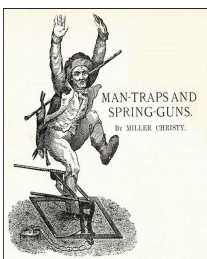


Alfriston and its Star Inn
Commissioned and published by Trust Houses, Ltd. in 1928.
"A 20 page colour and black and white illustrations paperback, one colour tipped in print to fronts piece, the author who died shortly before publication details the history and illustrates some of the architectural features of the Inn". See... [Colour photo & 1st page](#)

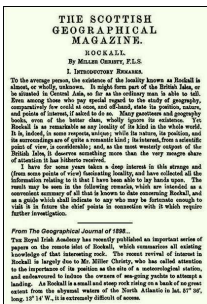


Manitoba Described (1885)
"Being a Series of General Observations Upon the Farming, Climate, Sport, Natural History and Future Prospects of the Country".
As a young man Miller Christy spent a year in Manitoba, Canada and this book is about that region is one of his earliest. The 208 page book can be read on-line at...
<http://peel.library.ualberta.ca/bibliography/1407/4.html>

He also wrote *Notes on the Land & Freshwater Mollusca of Manitoba* in 1885.



Man-Traps and Spring-Guns
This article first appeared in the *Windsor Magazine*, vol.13 published in 1901. It is 7 pages long. A 6-page version of the article in *Outing* in 1902 can be read on-line at...
http://library.la84.org/SportsLibrary/Outing/Volume_41/outLXI06/outLXI06n.pdf



Rockall
Royal Scottish Geographical Society, Islands of the Atlantic, 1898, 12-pages long.
Monthly Weather Review, July 1898...
"Christy suggests that it would be feasible to moor a light-ship on some portion of Rockall Bank and utilize that as a meteorological station... Mr. Christy estimates the cost of the submarine cable at 35,000 or 40,000 pounds; the annual expense of maintenance of the light-ship would undoubtedly be large, but still feasible, and in the end economical, considering its value to British marine." The 21-page article (p392-p413) can be read at...
<https://archive.org/stream/scottishgeograph14scotuoft#page/n438/mode/1up/>
The facing page at the beginning of the article has a fine... [drawing of Rockall](#)

In total, 9 books, 3 booklets, 11 biographies and 79 articles written by Miller Christy have been found to date
there may be many more

A listing of Miller Christy's known literary works

- 1879 *The Occurrence of the Great Bustard and of the Rough-legged Buzzard, near Chelmsford, during the winter of 1879*
- 1884 *Do the Blackbird and Thrush ever Interbreed? The Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists Society*
- 1884 *The Voyages of Captain Foxe of Hull and Captain James of Bristol, in Search of a Northwest Passage in 2-Vols., two hardback books*
- 1885 *The flying serpent: strange news out of Essex*

1886 *Memorial brasses in Hertfordshire churches*

1886 *Notes on the land & freshwater mollusca of Manitoba, 10 pages*

1886 *Manitoba Described, **hardback book***

1887 *Trade Signs of Essex, **hardback book***

1887 *Durrant's Handbook of Essex, **hardback book***

1888 *Sport in Manitoba. Liverpool, England, The Field 23-pages*

1888 *Birds nesting and bird-skinning : a description of the nests and eggs of birds which breed in Britain, **hardback book***

1888 ***Biography** of Thomas Douglas, Fifth Earl of Selkirk (1771 - 1820), proponent of colonization, Oxford Dict. of Nat. Biography Vol-15*

1888 *Visit to an Essex gully, with notes on the birds frequenting the marshes at Tollesbury. (with A E Fitch) Essex Naturalist*

1889 ***Biography** of Henry Doubleday (1808 - 1875), naturalist, Quaker, Oxford Dictionary of National Biography Vol-15*

1889 *On the Reported Breeding of the Scops Owl in Essex, Essex Naturalist*

1889 ***Biography** of John Ellis (1789 - 1862) politician, anti-slavery campaigner, railway promoter, Oxford Dictionary of National Biography Vol-17*

1889 *Essex as a wine-producing county, Essex Naturalist, 14-pages*

1890 *Birds of Essex, **hardback book***

1890 *The Rare Feather-work of Hawaii*

1891 *Catalogue of British Birds, **24-page booklet***

1892 *The Spotted Eagle in Essex, The Zoologist*

1892 *Why are the Prairies Treeless? Royal Geographical Society, 22-pages*

1895 *On Deneholes, 1861-1928, Reliquary and Illustrated Archaeologist*

1896 *An early record of the occurrence of the Narwhal on the coast of Norfolk*

1896 *Two interesting Primula plants, Essex Naturalist, 3-pages*

1896 ***Biography** of philanthropist and Quaker James Hack Tuke (1819 - 1896), Oxford Dictionary of National Biography Vol-57*

1897 *On an Early Chart of the North Atlantic Miller Christy*

1898 *Rockall, Royal Scottish Geographical Society*

1898 *Over the Col Di Tenda on a Bicycle - Alps*

1898 ***Biography** of William Goodday Strutt (1762-1848), army officer, son of J Strutt MP, Terling Place, Oxford Dict. of Nat. Biography Vol-55*

1899 *Note on the occurrence of the White-tailed Eagle at Harwich in 1666, Essex Naturalist*

1900 *A Relic of Richard the Second at Pleshey Essex Review*

1900 *The Silver Map of the World, **hardback book***

1900 *On some interesting Essex brasses 1861-1928, The Reliquary*

1901 *Man-Traps and Spring-Guns, The Windsor Magazine*

1902 *Some Essex brasses illustrative of Elizabethan costume, The Antiquary*

1902 *Two Essex incised slabs, Essex Arch. Soc.*

1904 *On the remains of a Pile-Dwelling at Woodham Walter The Essex Naturalist, Vol. 13*

1905 *William Cole Recognition Fund : first and final report, Essex Field Club*

1905 *East Tilbury Church : was it bombarded by the Dutch in 1667? Essex Review*

1906 *A History of Salt Making in Essex, Essex naturalist*

1906 *On Roman roads in Essex, Essex Review*

1906 *The history of banks and banking in Essex, The Institute*

1907 *Breeding of the Kite and Buzzard near Maldon in the fifties and sixties of the Last Century, Essex Naturalist, 7-pages*

1907 *A History of Ship building in Essex, Essex Review, 6-pages*

1907 *Some Obsolete Farm Implements, Essex Review*

1907 *The Founding of an Essex Windmill, Essex Review*

1907 *The Great Vine of Valentines, Ilford, Essex Review*

1908 *The monumental brasses of Essex part 1 : Alphamstone to Berden, Monumental Brass Soc*

1908 *The monumental brasses of Essex part 2 : Berechurch to Canfield, Monumental Brass Soc*

1909 *The Goldhanger Stone: what is it? 3-pages in Essex Archaeological Society*

1909 *On some early bronze knockers or sanctuary rings existing in England, Society of Antiquaries*

1910 *A history of the mineral waters and medicinal springs of the county of Essex, (with M Thresh) Essex Field Club, 67-pages*

1910 *On the abnormal fruiting of the common elm in 1909, Essex Field Club, 8-pages*

1910 *Burial Urns at Canewdon in 1712, Transactions of the Essex Society for Archaeology*

1911 ***Biography** of Dr Benjamin Allen (1663-1738) of Braintree : a physician and forgotten Essex naturalist; Essex Field Club, 31-pages*

1911 *On some early domestic decorative wall-paintings recently found in Essex, Essex Archaeological Society*

1912 *More about Dr Benjamin Allen 1663-1738 of Braintree, Essex naturalist, 10-pages*

1912 *The Rev John Ousley, Essex Review*

1912 ***Biography** of Joseph Strutt (1749-1802) antiquary and engraver, who was born in Chelmsford, Oxford Dict. of Nat. Biography Vol-55*

1913 *Three More Essex Incised Slabs, Transactions of the Essex Society for Archaeology, 7-pages*

1914 *The indifferent coiling of Arum Spathes*

1914 *The opening of a mound at Chadwell St Mary, Morant Club*

1915 *The excavation of the site of a mediaeval pottery at Mill Green, Ingatestone Morant Club*

1915 *The monumental brasses of Colchester, Essex Review*

1916 *On a strange stone object from a bronze-age interment in Essex*

- 1917 **Biography** of John Gibbs (1822-1892) An Essex botanist, *Essex Naturalist*, 7-pages
- 1917 The Mid-Essex wind-rush and whirlwind of 27th October 1916, *Essex Naturalist*, 12-pages
- 1917 The progresses of Queen Elizabeth through Essex and the houses in which she stayed, *Essex Review*
- 1918 Killegrews anciently Shenfields, in Margarettin, a little-known early-Tudor Essex house , *Essex Review*
- 1918 The Chigwell Row medicinal springs: a late eighteenth-century account of them; *Essex Field Club*
- 1918 The audibility of the gun-fire on the continent at Chignal, near Chelmsford, during 1917, *Royal Meteorological Society*
- 1919 **Biography** of Capt. David Gray, whaler and ornithologist published in *British Birds*
- 1919 Queen Elizabeth's visit to Tilbury in 1588, *English Historical Review*
- 1919 Two recent whirlwinds in Essex, *Royal Meteorological Society*
- 1919 **Biography** of Samuel Dale (1659-1739) of Braintree, botanist, some genealogy and portraits, *Essex Field Club*, 20-pages
- 1919 The ancient legend as to the hedgehog carrying fruits upon its spines, *The Society*
- 1919 The gunfire on the continent during 1918 : its audibility at Chignal St James, *Royal Meteorological Society*
- 1920 Hornets, wasps, and flies sucking the sap of trees, *Essex Naturalist*, 4-pages
- 1920 On the arboreal habits of Field Mice, *Essex Naturalist*, 2-pages
- 1920 **Biography** of Aeneas Macintyre: a forgotten Essex botanist, *Essex Naturalist*, 3-pages
- 1921 On a monumental brass newly discovered in Essex, *Essex Review*
- 1922 A high-road in the sea, 1861-1928, *The Windsor Magazine*
- 1922 Some old Essex words and phrases, *Essex Review*
- 1922 The excavation of foundations on the castle-keep at Pleshey, *Morant Club*
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- 1922 The Origin Of The Hybrid *Primula Elatior Vulgaris* Demonstrated Experimentally, *The Field*
- 1922 Where in Essex are Froissart's "Bondelay" and "Behode"? *Essex Review*
- 1923 Notes on the gizzard contents of birds collected by Mr Miller Christy, (with A Hibbert-Ware), *Essex Naturalist*, 8-pages
- 1923 An Essex brass, *Essex Archaeological Society*
- 1923 The two Chignal parishes : some notes on their history, *Essex Review*
- 1923 Two brasses newly-discovered at Wormingford, *Essex Archaeological Society*
- 1925 The battle of Assandun : where was it fought?, 1861-1928, *British Archaeological Association*
- 1925 On two large groups of marsh-mounds on the Essex coast, *Morant Club*
- 1925 The Battle of Assandun, where was it fought? *British Archaeological Association*
- 1925 The Essex Hundred-moots : an attempt to identify their meeting-places, *Transactions of the Essex Archaeological Society* vol 18
- 1926 Essex rivers and their names : with a map of the rivers and their basins, *Essex Naturalist*, 27-pages
- 1926 The Bryant and May Museum of Fire-making Appliances, Bryant and May Ltd., **hardback book**
- 1927 A perambulation of the parish of Chignal St James in 1797, *Essex Review*
- 1928 The Bull Inn at Long Melford, Trust Houses Ltd., Ltd, **20-page booklet**
- 1928 Alfriston and its Star Inn, Trust Houses Ltd., Ltd, **20-page booklet**
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